



Province of Alberta

The 27th Legislature  
Fourth Session

# Alberta Hansard

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Issue 47a

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.

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

[The Speaker in the chair]

### Prayers

**The Speaker:** Good afternoon.

Let us pray. Guide us so that we may use the privilege given us as elected Members of the Legislative Assembly. Give us the strength to labour diligently, the courage to think and to speak with clarity and conviction and without prejudice or pride. Amen.

Please be seated.

### Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I'd like to recognize one of the members of the Legislative Assembly security staff who will be retiring at the end of this session. Mr. Wayne Konner is seated in the Speaker's gallery, and I'd ask him to rise. Prior to joining the security staff here at the Legislature in February of 2000, Mr. Konner served in the Edmonton Police Service for 32 years, retiring in 1997 with the rank of staff sergeant. Please receive the warm wishes of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. [Standing ovation]

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder.

**Mr. Elniski:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly I would like to introduce nine members of the Spruce Avenue Community League. I'll read off their names and have them stand and receive the traditional greeting of the Assembly: Ken Johnston, Elke Siebels, Sue Buhler, Karen Gilson, Verna Stainthorp, Henry Stainthorp, Melanie Ustina, Gavin Curtis, and David Despina. I'll be talking about this group in a few moments in a member's statement. If they could receive the traditional greeting of the Assembly.

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

**Ms Woo-Paw:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly some outstanding community builders seated in the members' gallery. First, Ms Karen Lynch. Many in the House know that she's the executive director of Volunteer Alberta and volunteers her time with Alberta Ballet, public libraries, the *Edmonton Journal* board, and the Lethbridge management advisory council.

Next, Mr. Punch Jackson, who retired from the government of Alberta after 30 years of distinguished service in the areas of community development, public libraries, and the Wild Rose Foundation. He's still involved as a bridge builder between the provincial government and the voluntary sector.

Also in the gallery today is Mr. Ross Tyson. I had the opportunity to meet him this afternoon for the first time. He served 31 years as a teacher and principal with Edmonton public schools. He is now assistant executive director of the recently amalgamated Boys & Girls Clubs and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton.

These generous folks share their insights and experience and great advice with me from time to time. I would like to ask that they all rise and receive the very warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

**Mr. Drysdale:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed an honour and a pleasure for me to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Legislature two constituents of mine. Both of these constituents work for a large forestry company in Grande Prairie called Weyerhaeuser. As they meet with me and other members and ministers today, it's interesting to note that as of today they are a net no-user of power, and they're one of the largest employers in our region. Within a year from now they will be putting a major amount of green power back into the grid. I would ask them to stand as I introduce their names: Wayne Roznowsky, manager with Weyerhaeuser, and Roger Loberg, manager with Weyerhaeuser's timberland. I'd ask this Assembly to give them the warm welcome.

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

**Dr. Sherman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly a strong advocate for Albertans with spinal cord injuries and other disabilities. Mr. Zachary Weeks is a community development communications co-ordinator for the Alberta branch of the Canadian Paraplegic Association. He's accompanied by his caregiver, Rodel. I met Zachary recently at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. What really impressed me about him was his passion for fighting for a more inclusive environment for all. I'll tell you that what Albertans believe is that every Albertan, no matter their disability or circumstance or ability, must be treated with dignity and given a fair chance to fully participate in all aspects of society. Zachary and Rodel are fighting for the same thing, and I'm honoured that they could join us here today. I ask them to rise, and I ask every member of the Legislature to give them the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of this Assembly the vice-president of policy for the Wildrose Party, Mr. Rob Ladouceur. Rob is originally from Fort McMurray. He has done a great job in drafting our 132-page green book and making that come to fruition. We're very happy and thankful for his support. With that, I would like him to rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

**Mr. Elniski:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to introduce my second group today. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly a lovely lady and her husband. I met this woman last year at the Edmonton public school board staff recognition event, where she was receiving an award. Then last night I was there thinking: wow, she won another one. Actually, what she had done was that she had nominated the staff from Hardisty school for an award. I'd just like to recognize Mrs. Kelly Aulenbach and her husband, Jerry. If they could rise and receive the traditional greeting of the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Weadick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce two people today. I'd like to introduce my executive assistant, Natalie Sigalet, who has done a great job for me over the last year – and I'd like to thank her for that – and a good friend of hers, Matthew

Glass. Matthew is a passionate student, currently studying political science at the University of Alberta. He's heavily involved in the community, volunteering and serving on a number of boards. In the past Matthew has served two terms on the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer and as students' union VP at MacEwan University. I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

### Members' Statements

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

#### Spruce Avenue Community League

**Mr. Elniski:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. We have in Edmonton-Calder, like across the city, well-organized and fiscally prudent community leagues. Each of the leagues shares the goal of making their little corner of the world a safer, friendlier, happier place to live. Today I want to acknowledge a group who really took it to heart, the Spruce Avenue Community League.

Seldom, Mr. Speaker, will you meet a group of people who are more dedicated volunteers than the people from Spruce Avenue. Hemmed in by development pressures, LRT expansion, and the ever-growing desire for people to park on their streets during the workday, they could simply have allowed their neighbourhood to atrophy and succumb to inner-city deterioration, but they did not. For four years the Spruce Avenue Community League fund raised, filled out endless grant applications, and drew and redrew their plans until they achieved what they had set out to do.

Yesterday at their board meeting it was my pleasure to announce that they were successful in receiving a CFEP grant to begin construction of a new park, that will not only serve the children of their community but also the children of St. Basil school, Spruce Avenue school, and the Glenrose rehabilitation hospital. By working together as a united front, they have been able to find creative solutions to fund this project. The new park is a testament to the hard work put in by the park and playground redevelopment committee. As school kids and neighbourhood families enjoy the new park for years to come, they will know that they owe it all to the vision, dedication, and perseverance shown by the community partners and volunteers.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that they are as proud of their accomplishment as I am of them. I hope this group of volunteers never loses their passion and drive to improve their community because right now they are a role model for other groups in Edmonton facing the same situation. It's very difficult to maintain community momentum, but the goal has been to make the communities livable, and the best way for that to happen is for people to stand up for what they want.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

1:40

#### Human Services Workers

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our human services workers are the unsung heroes of modern-day Alberta. At all times of the day and night these dedicated men and women are confronting the most painful human situations imaginable and, in most cases, supporting individuals and families back to stability and full function.

But this government has a serious and growing problem. It does not understand that people in the caring professions, from child and youth care workers at various levels, need clear respon-

sibilities and lines of authority, a supportive work environment, and a career path. They cannot, in addition to extreme client demands, struggle daily with inconsistent expectations and ever-changing models of delivery. Management decisions without consulting the front lines, with troubling similarities in health care, mean a cycle of dispiriting change, reversals, and new forms and measures that reduce professional time with their increasingly desperate clients. Lack of a consistent, clear HR strategy and supportive environments means a vicious cycle of stress, leading to the massive staff turnover that we see there every year.

The minister's primary mandate should be to ensure that his organization honours consistent management principles and makes a healthy workforce a priority. To the minister: will he consult meaningfully with those at the front lines? Is he willing to hear and respond to the frustration reflected in their 2011 survey showing progressive loss in confidence, trust, and unity in their workplace? Does he understand what it means when less than 50 per cent of the staff believe their management is concerned with staff well-being or in creating conditions for innovation?

With the formation of a massive, new Ministry of Human Services it is both more challenging and more essential that the minister realize that people, not models and technology, help heal our most wounded citizens. It is critical that he focus now to reduce the stress and high turnover among these essential professionals.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Volunteer Sector

**Ms Woo-Paw:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the United Nations marks the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers this week and will soon be welcoming a new year, a new beginning, I would like to talk about the future of Alberta's voluntary sector today. First, we must recognize that the quality of life in any community depends on three sources of well-being: community, government, and business. It is time we recognized the community of the voluntary sector, the third leg of the stool that provides the much-needed stability to the social and economic well-being of our society.

Mr. Speaker, this recognition must be substantial and backed with meaningful actions. The voluntary sector, like the other two sectors, must position itself with appropriate human and organizational capacities in order to respond to emerging changes so that it can meet its missions and contribute to the common good to its fullest. Research identifies support for research and development as a critical factor to enable this sector to critically examine its current service models and structure, efficiency, and effectiveness as well as needed support and process for potential structural change like the one I mentioned earlier.

Mr. Speaker, another essential area for this sector is human resources. As identified in the study Strategic Drivers of Alberta's Nonprofit Sector,

in order for the sector to prosper . . . it will be necessary for organizations to turn to different groups of the Canadian population as potential sources of volunteers. Four such groups include: youth volunteers, immigrant volunteers, older adult volunteers, and corporate volunteers.

Government needs to play a role to help prepare and enable this sector for this critical demographic shift that would hugely impact its future effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, my key point today is that our government has to have in place the appropriate policies and structure to truly

harness and maximize the potential of our voluntary sector for they are our partner on the ground, building our social capital, building strong communities, and enhancing quality of life for all Albertans.

Thank you.

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

#### Grey Nuns Community Hospital

**Mr. Benito:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to recognize the Grey Nuns community hospital. Located in my constituency of Edmonton-Mill Woods, the Grey Nuns hospital was opened in 1988 by the Sisters of Charity, also known as the Grey Nuns. For 23 years now the Grey Nuns community hospital has allowed my constituents in Mill Woods to receive a full spectrum of health care services locally.

The hospital offers 24-hour emergency care, intensive care, general surgery, rehabilitation medicine, and mental health services among others. There are approximately 2,800 staff members and more than 350 beds. Mr. Speaker, one of the key services offered by the Grey Nuns community hospital is the 20-bed tertiary palliative care unit. The tertiary palliative care unit aims to provide comfort and support to patients who are living with a life-threatening illness. It is truly a great program.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that the positive impact that the Grey Nuns hospital has had in my community for the last 23 years has been amazing. I would like to commend all the staff and volunteers that make the Grey Nuns hospital the great health facility that it is today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### Dr. Fraser Mustard

**Ms Evans:** Mr. Speaker, what an honour today to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable Canadian, the world's leading expert in early child development, Dr. Fraser Mustard, who passed recently.

In his mid-80s he was renowned world-wide because he in the early years discovered that the early years were critically important. He abandoned his neurosurgery as a practice and engaged in 1999 with Senator Margaret McCain in defining what was really important about the early years.

As such, he went to the World Bank and said that if we invested in the early years, we wouldn't have to spend so much in the later years of life. Alberta listened. We established the child and family research facility, which has sought evidence-based opportunities for defining what programs really work for children.

He also, because of his relationship with Mary Gordon, helped her establish the roots of empathy program, which to date has provided programs for 64,000 Alberta children in many of the schools. Mr. Speaker, parent link, also established in Alberta through children's services, provides support for parents in 46 centres.

He truly has been honoured not only in Canada but recognized world-wide because of his contribution to early child development. He was a Canadian that we will remember when we think of the early child, the child's need to have proper parenting. And for us to recognize that establishing what the basic needs of the child are first and then proceeding with the proper care and treatment of the child will stand us in good stead as we advance the support for children, youth, and families.

He was a pioneer that many generations will benefit from because he knew what had to be done. He was bold in articulating

that, and I'm so proud to be in a province that really listened to Dr. Fraser Mustard.

#### Oral Question Period

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

#### Impaired Driving Legislation

**Dr. Sherman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As an ER doctor I know Albertans should not drink and drive, and as legislators we know that we shouldn't speed ill-conceived laws through the Legislature while sleep deprived. More accidents happen on our roads because major highways like highway 63 aren't twinned, cars don't have snow tires, and there aren't enough officers on the street to enforce the laws that we already have. Front-line health staff always listen to their patients, examine them properly, and make good decisions. Why have the Premier and government rushed, used closure to ram Bill 26 down the throats of Albertans without consulting them first?

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, Bill 26 is a fantastic piece of legislation that reflects what we need to do in this province. What we need to do is ensure that we're having honest conversations about changing the culture around drinking and driving. Albertans from across the province have been in support of this legislation, and I'm really proud that this government introduced it and passed it this session.

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

**Dr. Sherman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with changing the culture, that Albertans should not drink and drive. Absolutely, Madam Premier.

Given that even her own government members criticize Bill 26 for giving law enforcement officers too much power, how can the Premier, a human rights lawyer, defend laws that assume guilt and dole out punishments before due process is afforded to Albertans?

1:50

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, what we know is that under legislation we have the opportunity to set standards, and under those standards, which are completely consistent with the laws of this land, we are able to say to people that if you take actions, there will be consequences. What we know, whether we're talking about this legislation or the earlier legislation this government passed with respect to civil forfeiture, is that the courts agree with us that those are the appropriate tests.

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

**Dr. Sherman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that police officers are skilled, very skilled in the art of policing, why are you asking police officers to be judge and jury at the side of the road?

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, this legislation is helpful to police in the same way that our civil forfeiture legislation was because it empowered the police to be able to deal with people that are breaking the rules and to have consequences as a result of that attached to those actions. I have full confidence in the ability of our police services across this province to do exactly what we will ask them to do under this legislation and to have those actions upheld by the court.

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

### Services for Seniors

**Dr. Sherman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my tour of Alberta over the past year many seniors have told me that they feel like their government is failing them. The cutting of public home care and long-term care is causing emergency rooms to overflow and is forcing senior couples, who have been married 50 years, who can't afford private facilities, to face involuntary separation or abandonment in hospitals. The solution for the government is more privatization and to build more private buildings and, of course, nickel and dime our seniors to pay for it all. Will the Premier and the government listen to their own workforce, which is telling them to invest more in public home care and public long-term care and stop looking to private companies and corporations to solve Albertans' problems?

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, the solution to ensuring that seniors in Alberta can live a quality of life with dignity and respect is ensuring that we have enough appropriate spaces that are part of a publicly funded health care system to ensure that they can make life choices. That will mean – and we've been very clear about this – that there will be a variety of options open to Alberta seniors. Alberta's seniors are going to be well cared for, they're going to have access to public health care, and they're going to be able to make choices and continue to make choices that will enhance the quality of their lives, their marriages, and their families.

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

**Dr. Sherman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's exactly what the previous Premier said before we failed the seniors.

Given that some of my constituents and Albertans using the special-needs assistance program for seniors and the Alberta seniors' benefit program are worried about cuts and delays in funding, what is the Premier doing to ensure that when seniors are in need of help from their government, these programs are fully funded and quickly delivered?

**Ms Redford:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the first thing I'll say is that we're going to do exactly what we should do as the government and make sure that we call people that make unreasonable and unfounded statements to account. I think that's exactly what the hon. Leader of the Opposition has just done. There is no suggestion that there are going to be cuts to those programs, and the idea that he would concern or get seniors upset about the fact that this could happen is entirely inappropriate and unfair.

**Dr. Sherman:** Mr. Speaker, the only thing unfounded is this government's action.

My final question is to the Minister of Seniors. Given that I have a letter here from one of your constituents, who is a senior, who's asking why he has to wait 12 to 16 weeks to get a paltry \$200 out of the Alberta seniors' benefit program, will you please look into this and look after the concern of your constituent before Christmas comes?

**Mr. VanderBurg:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that the member brought up this issue, but the one thing that I will refuse to do is bring up personal issues of the people that I represent. The people I represent, whether they be seniors or vulnerable Albertans, deserve some privacy, and I can assure this member that this issue is already taken care of.

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

**Dr. Sherman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was quick. I just talked to him yesterday.

### Alberta Health Services Budget

**Dr. Sherman:** The former president and CEO of AHS and HQCA and even front-line health care workers all agree that despite all of the massive spending in health care, an increase of \$2 billion, we are still dangerously underperforming, missing even the low targets that we have set for ourselves. My questions are to the Premier. When AHS was formed, there was a \$1.3 billion deficit that Dr. Duckett inherited, and the previous Premier and health minister could not explain it. Can you please tell us where it came from?

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, Alberta Health Services was the consolidation of a number of operations across the province. Those were operations that had reflected a number of different business models that had taken place in different health regions across the province, and the consolidation of that brought together both assets and liabilities. I don't think it's a complicated answer. That's it.

**Dr. Sherman:** Mr. Speaker, given that the budgets of all the health regions except the Calgary health region were balanced – we didn't hire any extra nurses or open any extra beds, and we dumped in hundreds of millions of dollars – and there was a \$1.3 billion deficit and given that the current Finance minister was then the health minister and it would be inappropriate for him to investigate himself, will the Premier please call an independent forensic financial audit of AHS and the former Capital health region to find out where that \$1.3 billion deficit came from?

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, there's nothing to investigate. We live in a sophisticated world. We're talking about budgets, but we're also talking about assets and liabilities. We're talking about major capital infrastructure. We're talking about pensions that were on the books. We're talking about a sophisticated business structure that merged. That's why we ended up with what we did. We continued to provide public health care to Albertans. We continued to operate a budget that provided services. There's no doubt that there was an issue there. It's been a completely public and transparent issue. It was dealt with in accordance with normal business practices and appropriate business practices. There is no issue.

**Dr. Sherman:** Mr. Speaker, we do have sophisticated staff. The only thing that's not sophisticated is the government.

Given that last week the hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo asked the Premier to help the Wambolt family, who are faced with a \$240,000 bill for life-saving brain surgery that is not done anywhere in Canada and given that this young man is in danger of losing his home because of the enormous health bill, will the Premier please help this family before Christmas?

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

**Mr. Horne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As with the response earlier by the hon. Minister of Seniors, I too am not prepared to get into an in-depth discussion in this House with respect to the very serious concerns of one individual. What I can tell you is that the individual named by the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition:



we have been in touch with him. He is aware of the appeal processes that are available for out-of-country health care services, and he has been encouraged to avail himself of that full process.

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

### Omnibus Questions to the Premier

**Mrs. Forsyth:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today marks the end of probably one of the most disappointing legislative sessions I've ever been a part of. We have a new Premier, who was elected by promising many things to many people, and over the course of this short session she's broken just about every single one of them. Albertans had a lot of hope for this new Premier, who's promised to be different. Instead, what they've seen are broken promises everywhere. My questions are to the Premier about your promises. Now that your Health Quality Council legislation is passed, will you commit, as you have promised . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Premier. [interjection] The hon. the Premier, please. [interjection] The hon. the Premier, please.

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, we have said very clearly that we're pleased this legislation has passed. It's going to give the Health Quality Council the opportunity that we've asked them to take. The Health Quality Council, as I've said before, is undergoing the work that they need to do with respect to the inquiry that's in place right now. As we move ahead and see the results of that, that's going to allow us to determine what the terms of reference should be for the public inquiry, and we're looking forward to seeing what the results of that report are at the beginning of February.

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

**Mrs. Forsyth:** Premier, you have the ability to call it before the next election.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the Premier: given the millions upon millions of unbudgeted spending commitments you have made both during your leadership race and since you've become Premier and given that you're the only person in Alberta who knows when the next election is, will you commit to table the next budget before you call the election so Albertans can see the full extent of the budget before they cast their ballots?

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, we all know that there is going to be an election next year, and we also know the government will continue to do the business of government. We as a caucus, we as a cabinet, and Treasury Board are meeting and preparing that budget, and we'll continue to do that work.

2:00

**Mrs. Forsyth:** That's what I said: broken promises. She can't even answer the question.

**The Speaker:** Okay. We're going to get on with the question, please.

**Mrs. Forsyth:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this government has known for a long time that the lack of long-term care beds in this province is triggering a crisis in the whole health system and given that just yesterday you said that your government has been heavily involved in addressing this for the last two months, can you assure Albertans and our seniors that before the next election you will commit to building at least 500 new long-term care beds, not continuing care beds but long-term care beds?

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

**Mr. Horne:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, as I think the hon. member knows because it's been repeated in this House many times, this government has a plan to deliver 5,300 additional continuing care spaces over five years. Last year we opened 1,300 spaces. This year we're on track to open a thousand more.

### Legislative Workload

**Mr. Mason:** Mr. Speaker, when the Premier was seeking the PC leadership, she wrote that we must make time for consulting with Albertans before we pass laws. She promised Albertans that there would be time to learn about the issues and to weigh in. She promised to change how the Legislature and MLAs operate. My question is to the Premier. How is a three-week session using late-night sittings and imposing closure on important pieces of legislation changing how the Legislature operates?

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, the session came back in October. We've been in session. As a caucus and as a government we've been introducing legislation. What I know is that the spirit of, ironically, some bipartisan co-operation has led to some pretty good legislation being passed this fall that reflects what we've heard Albertans are wanting to see. We have an independent Child and Youth Advocate. We have the ability to have a judicial inquiry with the Health Quality Council. We have strong enforcement of drunk-driving legislation. This is a good result, and it reflects what Albertans wanted to see.

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Given that this Premier tried to cancel the fall session altogether, how can she now say that her legislation is so urgent that it requires late-night sittings and closure motions to get it approved?

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, what we know is that in this Legislature we have to do the business that matters to Albertans. What I know is that this fall this government delivered on six pieces of legislation that Albertans have told us matter to them. That's what Legislatures should do. We've done it. I've appreciated the bipartisan co-operation and the good debate, but at the end of the day what we see is that Albertans can know that at the end of this session government and this Legislature did its business well this fall.

**Mr. Mason:** Mr. Speaker, I've never seen a less bipartisan government in all my time here.

Given that this Premier has already broken or bent a number of promises, what explanation can she offer Albertans for her failure to keep her promise that she would consult and give time for Albertans to weigh in on legislation before it is voted on? If that isn't a broken promise, what is it?

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

**Mr. Hancock:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Far from a broken promise, this Premier has engaged in a very active agenda this fall when she talked immediately after the leadership process about whether we should have a fall session or not. It was members opposite who along with others said: no; it's important to get on with the agenda that the Premier has promised. We met in the Legislature on October 24, as we needed to do, and then took the time to draft six pieces of important legislation that Albertans wanted and needed, then came to the Legislature and had a spirited

debate on six pieces, that were not complicated but very important. It was a well done piece of . . .

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

#### Funding for Private Schools

**Mr. Chase:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier and the Minister of Education have both spoken in favour of eliminating provincial achievement tests. Earlier this week the minister admitted that these tests do not recognize the number of ESL and special-needs students in a school and that organizations like the Fraser Institute use this information to scare parents into choosing other options for their children than our inclusive public education system. To the Premier: given your caucus's comments and that private schools traditionally score at the top of the achievement test rankings as a result of excluding ESL and special-needs students, why not along with eliminating . . .

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

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, it's been very clear over this year that there is incredible frustration with standardized tests. It's been reflected in my comments. It's been reflected in the comments of the Minister of Education. We are currently in the process, as the Minister of Education goes around the province consulting on the new Education Act, of ensuring that we're reflecting the fact that Albertans think that these don't actually allow us to measure the outcomes that we need to.

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

**Mr. Chase:** Thank you. Again to the Premier: given that the Webber Academy has \$33 million in cash and land assets and that they are clearly not interested in providing an inclusive education system, why is this government giving them another \$4 million of taxpayers' money this year when you've bankrupted the public school systems by depleting board surpluses?

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, whatever private schools may choose to do in terms of the decisions that they make with respect to their assets is one thing. What we know as a provincial government is that we're committed to a public education system. One of the things that we have talked about consistently as a party over the past 12 months, going through the leadership campaign that we did, is ensuring that we did not have a second-class public education system in this province, and we will not.

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

**Mr. Chase:** Thank you very much. My final question to the Premier: given that despite provincial funding some private schools charge parents extra tuition to accept special-needs children, how can the minister defend subsidizing this exclusive and elitist two-tier educational system?

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, one of the great things about this province is that we offer Albertans choice. We ensure that Albertans can have choice with respect to how their children are educated. Our responsibility as a government, our responsibility as public trustees of government expenses and of revenue that's collected from Albertans is to ensure that we deliver a public education system that allows every child in Alberta to thrive, and we're going to do that.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Red Deer-North, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

#### Keystone and Gateway Pipeline Projects

**Mrs. Jablonski:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's the time of year when many Albertans look forward to the new year. I know that my constituents in Red Deer-North, many of whom work in small businesses that service the oil and gas industry, are looking forward to a strong economy. Given that a strong economy in Alberta will depend on being able to deliver our products, can the Premier please provide Albertans with an update with respect to the status of the Keystone and Gateway pipelines?

**Ms Redford:** Well, Mr. Speaker, what we know is that both Keystone and Gateway matter an awful lot to Alberta. We're an economy that exports. We know that we want to be in Asia, and we know that we have trusted partners in the United States. At this point in time Keystone is proceeding through a process where we're starting to see slight variations with respect to the routing. That's going to trigger a regulatory process that will allow the State Department to continue to do their work. Based on my travels in the last two or three weeks to Washington I'm very optimistic that as we move ahead with this and look at the regulatory process, we're going to see a positive outcome next year.

With respect to Gateway . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. member, please.

**Mrs. Jablonski:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the future of the Keystone pipeline is still being decided, what's the Premier doing now, and what are her plans to advocate on behalf of Albertans?

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, right now we have a very fortunate position in the United States. We have a new envoy in Washington who is working very closely with the Canadian ambassador. I've had very good discussions with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs about the fact that Alberta's interests and Canada's interests are completely aligned on this issue. What we saw when we were in Washington was an opportunity to talk about how jobs and energy security are going to matter in the United States. We're going to keep providing scientifically based evidence with respect to Keystone and environmental sustainability of the oil sands, and we're going to ensure that we take advantage of this hiatus in the regulatory process to advance Alberta's message.

**Mrs. Jablonski:** Well, given the strong opposition to both of these pipelines and concerns that Alberta bitumen can be landlocked by the end of the decade, what is the Premier doing to make sure that there's market access for our resources?

**Ms Redford:** Mr. Speaker, I've talked a lot about Keystone, so I won't speak about that just at the moment.

We know as we move forward in the next 18 months that in British Columbia there's a regulatory process going on where communities are concerned about what the impact of a pipeline could be on them. What we know is that we have to share information about what we're doing and what that impact could be. The other thing we have to do is to talk about why these infrastructure projects matter not only to Alberta but to Canada. I've been talking about a Canadian energy strategy with partners across the country where we as Canadians, not just Albertans, decide that infrastructure will matter for our future economic success, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Mental Health Services

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Despite three years and millions of dollars for front-line emergency room changes the ER wait times are not reaching even minimal goals, in part because of the failure of this government to understand the need for systemic change in their long-term strategy, as an example. To the minister: why did he reduce by over 150 beds at Villa Caritas last year? What was the rationale?

2:10

**Mr. Horne:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we did not reduce the number of beds. The introduction of Villa Caritas was, in fact, a new option in continuing care to respond to the needs of seniors with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. In many cases the residents at Villa Caritas are there on a temporary basis in order to have their condition stabilized and put them in a position where they can return to the community either in a supportive living option or, in some cases, independently with the support of family.

**Dr. Swann:** Mr. Speaker, much of the demand in emergency rooms is preventable, yet this government has reduced its spending on prevention to less than 4 per cent of the budget. Why has the minister reduced our investment in prevention?

**Mr. Horne:** Mr. Speaker, this government, in fact, has not reduced any investment in prevention. If the hon. member is referring to the wellness portion of the budget, I would certainly agree with him that I would like to see the resources that can be allocated to wellness increased. In fact, we're finding that through primary care networks and other community-based health care providers citizens are expressing an increasing interest in taking responsibility for their own health. They want to be supported in that, and they want to make sure that the health of future generations of Albertans is better than those of us today.

**Dr. Swann:** Mr. Speaker, I believe this minister understands the connection between mental health services and the emergency room wait times. How does he explain the lack of funding committed to the new mental health plan? How is that going to build confidence?

**Mr. Horne:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe it's been mentioned before in the House. The development of the mental health and addictions strategy – and it is an integrated strategy – was completed only recently, with the involvement of literally dozens of stakeholders in the health care system. We, in fact, are devoting resources to mental health, and I can tell you that in the city of Edmonton we have 21 psychiatrists who are doing clinic time in our primary care networks. Do we need to do more in mental health? Absolutely, we do. As we move forward, our government will present an implementation plan . . .

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

### Landowner Private Property Rights

**Mr. Groeneveld:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Apparently, at the annual general meeting of the Alberta Beef Producers a number of resolutions related to the previous land-use legislation were raised. My first question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural

Development. Can the minister please tell us about the resolutions and what the outcome was of these resolutions?

**The Speaker:** Does this have to do with government policy, or is this the result of a private meeting? Find the connection.

**Mr. Berger:** This has to do with land-use policy, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Go ahead.

**Mr. Berger:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were resolutions brought forward to the floor of the annual convention of the Alberta Beef Producers requesting the repealing of the acts for land use, being respectively bills 19, 24, 36, and 50. I'm pleased to say that those resolutions were soundly defeated. This is very significant. These acts and these resolutions were brought forward and voted on by cattle producers all across this great province.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member, please.

**Mr. Groeneveld:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is also to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. In spite of this good news were there any other resolutions out there that we would like to hear about?

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

**Mr. Berger:** Yes. Mr. Speaker, there was also another resolution calling for a review of those acts, including the Alberta Land Stewardship Amendment Act, 2011, referred to as Bill 10. That, too, was soundly defeated.

Also, I would like to congratulate the new board members, those being Doug Sawyer, Dave Solverson, and Greg Bowie. These folks represent grassroots cattle producers all across this great province, and I thank them for the job they do.

**Mr. Groeneveld:** In spite of the question, it's very important, Mr. Speaker, certainly. Obviously, this government is on the right track.

My final question is to the Premier. Can the Premier tell us in light of these resolutions what actions this government may be considering as we move forward?

**Ms Redford:** Well, Mr. Speaker, it was very interesting to see that resolution at ABP, and the reason is that we know these are pieces of legislation that property owners in Alberta are very concerned about right now. We've already announced a property rights task force as well as a review of transmission with respect to needs north-south. We know that in Alberta we need to grow economically. We know that one of the ways to do that is to ensure that we have an integrated land management system. We know that that has to respect property rights, and what we know is that the best way to ensure that we're doing that is to listen to the people that have those rights and then make subsequent amendments to the legislation.

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

### Services for the Disadvantaged

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans with disabilities face barriers every day in areas that many of us take for granted: housing, transportation, employment, public services. Alberta lacks a comprehensive disability rights law such as the one that exists in Ontario and nationally in the United States. To the

Minister of Seniors: is he prepared to champion an Albertans with disabilities act, and will he commit to working with the disabled-serving organizations and their clients to develop such legislation for Alberta?

**Mr. VanderBurg:** Thank you for the question. Mr. Speaker, you know, in taking on this new ministry, one of the issues that I go to bed every night thinking about is how I can make the world better for people with disabilities in this province. It's an interesting file. I commit to you and to all of the Assembly and all of those with disabilities in this province that I'll do everything I can to make this a better province, to make sure that our programs are better than any other province in this country.

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

**Dr. Swann:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then will the minister follow through on the Premier's commitment to raise the monthly income and index it to inflation, just like everyone in this House receives?

**Mr. VanderBurg:** Thank you again for the question. I think we dealt with this earlier in the session. I heard the Premier very loudly and very clearly, and I had some pretty strong marching orders on how we're going to deal with payments to our vulnerable Albertans. Stay tuned, member; the next budget is coming.

**Dr. Swann:** That doesn't sound like a commitment to me, Mr. Speaker.

To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: given that the demand for special-needs housing in Alberta far exceeds what's currently being delivered through the housing capital initiatives program, can the minister explain how he plans to increase the province's stock of accessible low-cost housing beyond conventional means?

**Mr. Griffiths:** Mr. Speaker, the previous minister had committed to building over 10,000 affordable housing units in this province in a period of five years. We met the target and exceeded it, producing 11,600 homes, affordable housing, in this province in that short period of time. We're continuing with that objective. We just signed an agreement with the federal government for a three-year plan to continue doing it. Our commitment hasn't changed.

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

### Builders' Liens

**Mr. Elniski:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Under the Builders' Lien Act if I was a home builder and hired a subcontractor but that subcontractor did not pay his crew, those workers would be able to place a lien on my project. Rather than affecting the subcontractor who did not pay the wages, I the owner wind up being negatively affected. My question is to the Minister of Service Alberta. When will the act be revised to hold subcontractors accountable?

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

**Mr. Bhullar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under that same piece of legislation a builder can use a mechanism known as a lien fund. Now, if they use that particular lien fund, they can hold back some of the money and, in cases such as that, pay the respective tradespeople.

**Mr. Elniski:** Again to the same minister: given that it's easy to say that these disputes can be settled with some of these mechanisms or in court, the financial and time burdens are nonetheless still on the home builder. Are there any ways to expedite the removal of third-party liens?

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

**Mr. Bhullar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, hon. member. One way to expedite liens is to serve notice. In that case the claimant must initiate an action or lose the claim. It's quite an expedient way for somebody to expedite a lien.

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

**Mr. Elniski:** Thank you. To the same minister: given that an error in judgment in who you hire as a subcontractor can have a major implication for a project owner, will the minister commit today to changing the legislation?

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

**Mr. Bhullar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're committed to protecting consumers, homeowners, tradespeople. But what we really need is actual, tangible suggestions. If the hon. member or any other stakeholders like builders have specific tangible suggestions that will still ensure that we maintain balance and protection, I'd be happy to sit with them, meet with them to see how we can move forward.

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

2:20

### Water Management

**Ms Notley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Parkland Institute report that I tabled yesterday states that to date the Tories have only explored market options to water allocation and are intent on moving towards a deregulated provincial water market. Such a move would leave the allocation of water up to the highest bidder. My question is to the Deputy Premier. Given that this move would extend water rights to foreign ownership and other private interests and would pit them against ordinary Albertans in a bidding war that, at the very least, would result in higher water prices, will this government commit to legislation that declares water a public trust and protects Alberta consumers?

**Mr. Horner:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I think it's pretty obvious that Albertans value their greatest resource in this province, which is water. Right next to that the greatest resource is people, and when you put the two things together you can come up with some research and some planning that will protect our most valuable resource and build for the future of this province, and that's exactly what we intend to do.

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, given that in the current water allocation system Alberta Environment is taking only 10 per cent of its holdback clause for environmental purposes only 60 per cent of the time and given that water markets are priced only on economic indicators, why won't this government commit to a water allocation strategy that makes environmental integrity a priority over the free market and guarantees environmental sustainability for Albertans now and in the future?

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, environmental sustainability is extremely important to this province for a whole raft of reasons, not the

least of which are our economic and our social reasons. In fact, that's why Alberta, I believe, was one of the first provinces to come out with a water for life strategy, which we are pursuing. That strategy is an overarching strategy that combines not only securing water for the future of Alberta's economic development but also environmental protection and agriculture.

**Ms Notley:** Given that Alberta's history of water allocation has failed to respect the long-standing relationship between aboriginal people and Alberta's water resources and given that the proposed water market would further negate aboriginal rights to water, will the Deputy Premier commit to meaningful consultation with Alberta's aboriginal communities about the establishment of a First Nations water council that would have meaningful say about future water allocation in Alberta?

**Mr. Horner:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we're involved in our consultation process with our First Nations as we speak. We have a five-point aboriginal consultative process, of which we have two left to go. We're pursuing that aggressively, and we'll continue to do that.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-North Hill.

#### Protection of Personal Health Information

**Dr. Taft:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. For the second time this week we've heard of a health professional, driven by passion and revenge, grossly violating the privacy of innocent people's health records. In the most recent case a pharmacist unlawfully obtained the prescription medication information of eight people and posted it on Facebook. To the minister of health: has the government considered that personal health information illegally posted on the web will be widely available in cyberspace forever? Are these violations creating permanent victims?

**Mr. Horne:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the case to which the hon. member refers is a very serious matter and is taken very seriously by this government. In fact, the individual in question was prosecuted and fined. I would leave it to others to determine. I think any time personal health information is inappropriately or illegally accessed by anyone, a health professional or anyone else, we have serious cause for concern in this House.

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

**Dr. Taft:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Well, given that the victims in this case were a group of church ladies, who are probably not IT specialists, who have had their medical information posted on the Internet, will the government be providing any support to help these people fully erase their records from all web access?

**Mr. Horne:** Well, Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge this government or my department has not been approached with such a request. Again, I agree with the hon. member about the serious nature of the crime and the impact that the electronic rebroadcasting, if you will, of this information has on individuals. But to this date we have not been contacted with such a request.

**Dr. Taft:** Mr. Speaker, given that cases like these threaten public confidence in electronic health records and maybe even discourage people from disclosing crucial information to health care providers because they're worried that it's going to get spread all over, what steps is the minister taking to better protect Albertans' most personal of personal information?

**Mr. Horne:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we've taken a number of steps over the years to do everything we can to strengthen the protection of personal health information. Unfortunately, it is beyond our ability to legislate or to regulate the behaviour of individuals who would intentionally engage in such behaviour and cause serious damage to others. We will continue to monitor the security of personal health information. It is a subject of constant discussion between my department and Alberta Health Services, and I'm quite confident that wherever we can find an opportunity to strengthen that protection, we will take full advantage.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-North Hill, followed by the hon. Member for Airdrie-Chestermere.

#### Municipal Franchise Fees

**Mr. Fawcett:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. About a year and a half ago an all-party committee of this Legislature recommended to the Minister of Municipal Affairs that he work with municipalities to create a common formula for calculating franchise fees. My question to the minister: can you please provide an update on the progress that you've made with municipalities in this respect?

**Mr. Griffiths:** Mr. Speaker, fundamentally, at the heart of this issue it's about respect. It's respect for the municipalities to work out the agreements to meet their local needs on franchise fees. It's also about respecting consumers, who pay the bills, to make sure that they have transparency, knowing who is collecting the fee and how much they're collecting. We're trying to find a balance, and we're working towards that as we go forward.

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

**Mr. Fawcett:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Given that just recently the town of Okotoks had a levy struck down by the courts because of the reason that these fees are more than fees, that they're more like a tax, has the minister had any dialogue with municipalities about these fees, that actually amount to what is a tax? The courts have said so.

**Mr. Griffiths:** Mr. Speaker, we've done a very extensive review, and those two situations are not the same at all. In fact, the franchise fees are paid by utility companies for exclusive access to right-of-ways for gas, water, electricity, and the like. The off-site levies are paid by developers to recoup the municipalities' cost of installing new infrastructure. They're two completely separate issues, and one won't impact the other.

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

**Mr. Fawcett:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Given that the minister and the government have decided that they will undertake a comprehensive review of the MGA, will the minister put municipalities on notice that as part of that review there will be much stronger language in the MGA that will prohibit municipalities from charging fees that amount to tax revenue?

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

**Mr. Griffiths:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume that there will be a lot of different issues that will come up in the long-term review of the MGA. The specific issue around franchise fees is actually a regulatory issue, and I anticipate that we may be able to address a lot of those while still respecting the autonomy of

municipalities before we get done the review of the MGA and resolve this issue once and for all.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Airdrie-Chestermere, followed by the hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

#### Political Contributions by Municipal Officials

**Mr. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Merry Christmas.

According to the *St. Paul Journal* published today, the town of St. Paul replied to a request from Elections Alberta, disclosing that it had donated almost \$4,000 in political donations and sponsorships to the transport minister's PCCA. Most of these funds came from the town of St. Paul's public relations account. Not only are donations and sponsorships of this kind illegal under the Election Act, but it also just smells bad to Albertans. Will the Minister of Transportation ask his CA to return the funds immediately to the taxpayers of St. Paul?

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, if I may, the question is around the provincial political party donations. We all know in this Legislature that it's against the rules for the municipalities to do that. I'm also certain that that party donation, as all members would do, including as the Wildrose did in Whitecourt, I believe it was – they returned the money.

**Mr. Anderson:** So to that same minister, then: are you saying that the \$4,000 in question here has been returned to the taxpayers of St. Paul?

**Mr. Horner:** My understanding is that the Chief Electoral Officer would look into it if it hasn't, but my understanding is that it has been, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Anderson:** Well, according to the newspaper today, that's not the case.

**The Speaker:** And we all know that that's not considered authoritative.

**Mr. Anderson:** Given that answer will the transport minister or somebody on that side stand up and provide proof to this Legislature that that \$4,000 has been returned to the taxpayers of St. Paul?

**Mr. Danyluk:** Mr. Speaker, as you very much know, that discussion had taken place a number of months ago. In fact, the individual that was in charge of the accounts of the constituency – I guess you can call it the constituency – had reassured me that all contributions that were made illegally were returned.

**The Speaker:** For the benefit of the question period this is not the place for it. This has nothing to do with government financing.

The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview.

#### 2:30 Prequalification Processes for Bidders

**Mr. Mitzel:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently a municipality in my constituency awarded a large contract under the agreement on internal trade using the electronic MERX system. Four bidders participated: three from southern Alberta and one from Ontario. The bidder from Ontario won. The end result was that they did not complete the work before declaring bankruptcy and disappearing. The municipality would now like to contract to the next lowest original tender and complete the project. My question is to the

Minister of Service Alberta. Will this put the municipality in jeopardy with the cross-Canada agreement on internal trade if they do not readvertise?

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

**Mr. Bhullar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is subject to trade agreements. These agreements allow Alberta businesses opportunity, and they allow Alberta municipalities and the nonprofit sector to capitalize on the lowest prices around. Now, I'm not aware of the specifics of this very situation, hon. member, but I would be very happy to work with the municipality in question to see how we can find a resolution to the matter.

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

**Mr. Mitzel:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: given that with many of these projects municipalities use their MSI as a large source of funding, with this previously mentioned process will this affect the present MSI funding approval that they have for the project?

**Mr. Griffiths:** Mr. Speaker, the shortest possible answer is that, no, it will not. The project has been approved. If the municipality needs to amend their project agreement, they're entitled to do so, as every other municipality is, in case they have some cost overruns that may go with this challenge they have.

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

**Mr. Mitzel:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the Minister of Service Alberta: as there was a resolution which was passed at the AAMD and C convention with a large majority, what has been done in order to allow prequalification of contractors?

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

**Mr. Bhullar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member is referring to what is commonly known as standing offers, whereby contractors or suppliers of particular goods or services are prequalified. That is something that's available to municipalities. Again, we would be happy to advance this issue further with our municipalities.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore.

#### Recovery of Tight Gas and Tight Oil

**Dr. Taft:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Energy. In recent years the price of natural gas collapsed and along with it royalties to the government because of technologies that release vast amounts of tight gas. Now, due to the same technologies there are suggestions the oil market could be flooded with so-called tight oil, driving oil prices into the same low, long-term plateau that hit natural gas and of course, along with them, royalties. To the minister: is this government paying attention to the emergence of tight oil supplies? If so, what's it finding?

**Dr. Morton:** Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to respond that we're closely monitoring that. In fact, I'd be happy to show the hon. member a map in my office – it actually just came in last night – that shows all the land sales in the province over the last three years. It's very clear that it's focusing on tight gas and tight oil. While the abundance of natural gas in North America and the world has driven the price

down, so far the exploration of so-called tight oil has been a very positive influence on the Alberta market.

**Dr. Taft:** Well, that's good to hear. Let's just hope it continues because the concern is that it won't.

Does this government have forecasts for the expected impact of tight oil on the Alberta or Canadian or North American supplies and prices?

**Dr. Morton:** Mr. Speaker, our forecasts, of course, are based not only on internal estimates, but we also use a variety of well-recognized commercial sources, banks, and investment companies as well. All of those forecasts continue to show robust growth for demand even with growing supply and gradually rising prices.

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

**Dr. Taft:** Thanks. Again to the same minister: what is the government doing to assess the potential impact on Alberta's royalty revenue from oil supplies and prices if there is a prolonged flow of tight oil onto the market?

**Dr. Morton:** Well, Mr. Speaker, of course, we pay close attention to royalties, both present and projected, but we do not anticipate, nor do any of the other financial institutions that do these projections, a collapse of oil prices. We actually think that one of the areas of growth for royalties will be in tight oil.

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

#### Municipal Funding

**Mrs. Sarich:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government of Canada has recently announced that it is launching a new direction for planning and processing for infrastructure which will extend beyond 2014. To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: given the new federal directions what is the province doing to ensure funding for all of Alberta's municipalities?

**Mr. Griffiths:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we're very excited about the federal government's commitment to working on funding for Alberta and all of Canada's municipalities. The provincial government itself is incredibly committed to supporting our municipalities because we know that we're partners and work hand in hand on all of the projects that Albertans hold so dear. That's why we have the municipal sustainability initiative, which is over \$11 billion supplied to municipalities over a 10-year period, and we have GreenTRIP supplied to Alberta cities so that they can build mass transit.

Mr. Speaker, we're still working on going forward on I guess it would be the son of MSI and a three-year secure funding formula to ensure that our municipalities are properly funded.

**Mrs. Sarich:** Mr. Speaker, again to the same minister: given that large urban centres face challenges meeting infrastructure needs in their local communities, what support is your ministry providing to metro centres like Edmonton and Calgary to help them meet the local needs for their citizens?

**Mr. Griffiths:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we recognize that every single municipality in this province is a partner in building a better Alberta. We work with the large urban centres and we work with the small communities all the same. We provide a billion dollars in MSI funding almost every single year. We're continuing to ramp that up to help municipalities meet their needs. In total,

through this government it's between \$2 billion and \$2.5 billion every year that goes to Alberta's municipalities, and the cities, the urban centres, get their share of that.

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

**Mrs. Sarich:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question is also to the same minister. Recognizing that big-city mayors always like to press the point that their unique needs for their metro centre need to be addressed appropriately, how do you intend to involve the local officials in the decision-making process for the large urban centres?

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

**Mr. Griffiths:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my mandate letter, we are discussing right now with the large cities what sort of challenges they have. Quite frankly, they represent close to two-thirds of the population of this province. But we also work hand in hand with the AUMA and the AAMD and C to address the needs of every single one of the communities in this province. Assisting or helping one or looking at their needs does not mean to the exclusion of others. We're working with all of them to build a better Alberta.

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

#### Courthouse Security

**Mr. MacDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The wheels of justice have slowed in some Edmonton courtrooms because this government has failed to provide the necessary security. Provincial sheriffs are responsible for security details. My first question is to the Solicitor General. How can this happen when over \$33 million is budgeted for court security and prison transfer?

**Mr. Denis:** Mr. Speaker, I would first refute this member's claim that this ministry has in any way failed to provide court security. There are four levels of court security. The final level of court security is only available in high-profile cases. Do you want a sheriff in every courtroom, for even a small-claims case? What about the taxpayers' interests?

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

**Mr. MacDonald:** Thank you. Again to the same minister: can the minister provide a breakdown of this \$33 million budget? What is spent on court security, because court security is lax, and what is spent on prison transfer?

**Mr. Denis:** Once again, I refute this member's claim that court security is lax. There are four levels of security. That includes the perimeter security, the inside security, and the roaming security. On top of that, every courtroom has a panic button, where one of the roaming sheriffs can actually come in if there is an actual need. We do not need – there you go, Mr. Speaker. You have one yourself. I'll take my seat.

2:40

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

**Mr. MacDonald:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think I have pushed the hon. member's panic button on this issue.

Now, given that last year the sheriff and security operations branch had a surplus – listen carefully – of \$1.5 million in their budget and that this year that budget was increased by an

additional \$1.5 million, why are Alberta justices in Edmonton so concerned about their security and the security of the courtroom that they administer over? They're not wimps.

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister, please.

**Mr. Denis:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I agree with this member that the justices are not wimps, but I again disagree that security is, in fact, lax. I've outlined exactly where security is in the courtroom.

If anybody in this House has hit their panic button, it's the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar because he's not running again.

Merry Christmas.

**The Speaker:** That concludes the question-and-answer period for today. Nineteen members were recognized; 114 questions and responses were provided. I know that some colleagues are having a jolly, jolly time, but we're going to just continue.

I'm going to ask the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs to supplement an answer.

### Fire Permits

**Mr. Griffiths:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I realized in reviewing the questions that in the response to the Member for Little Bow I may have given the indication that buying a fire permit completely exonerates anybody from any harm that may be caused by a fire. Although it's responsible to buy a fire permit, I'd still like to remind Albertans and clarify that if you aren't responsible, even with a fire permit you still could be liable for any damage caused by a fire that you allow to get out of control and deliberately mishandle.\*

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Little Bow, an additional question?

**Mr. McFarland:** No. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Okay. We're going to continue with the Routine.

### Members' Statements

(continued)

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

### Out-of-country Health Services

**Mr. Boutilier:** Yeah. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Merry Christmas to everyone and their families.

Two weeks ago I had the honour of introducing to members of this Assembly a young man and his family and son who had brain surgery that basically saved his life. In actual fact, he went to his local doctor, and his doctor said that no one in Alberta or Canada could do this type of surgery and that there was only one place to obtain the rare brain surgery, and that was in Los Angeles. He was going blind. He had to stop his work at Suncor. Ultimately, he went last November, almost a year ago, and had the brain surgery. As you saw when I introduced him in the gallery, he's recovering quite nicely, with full sight back. He's going to live a full and happy life, and I know all of us can join in saying that we're so pleased by that.

In my question Shane Wambolt asked the out-of-country surgery committee to determine when he could get back the \$240,000 that it cost him. It's been over a year. Of course, now that they've had such medical success, they're looking for the success of getting reimbursed by the policy of this government.

I'm very pleased that the Premier committed to resolve this issue, and we are optimistic that before Christmas she will resolve this.

The family asked me to thank everyone involved, specifically when they drove on highway 63 and rented a car and stayed at a hotel. I thank Global television and the *Edmonton Journal* because when they learned about this story the next day, the rental car company and the hotel said, "No charge" because in Alberta we want to help those who need help. I only hope and pray that this Premier and the minister of health will provide the same gift to this family after what they've endured, like any other Albertan who would experience the same thing.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

### Tabling Returns and Reports

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

**Mr. Horne:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two tablings this afternoon. The first tabling is the 2010 annual report of the Health Quality Council of Alberta. The council collaborates with my ministry and other significant players in the Alberta health system to encourage continuous quality improvement in our health system. The council, led by its chair, Dr. Lorne Tyrrell, does excellent work for the users of the health system and supports health providers across the province.

Mr. Speaker, my second tabling is the 2010 annual report of the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta. The report outlines the accomplishments and initiatives of the college over the past year.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Bhardwaj:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today for two tablings this afternoon on behalf of the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness. My first tabling is the 2010 annual report of the Alberta College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

My second tabling is the 2010 annual report of the College of Dietitians of Alberta.

Both annual reports outline the work of their respective college over the last year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Dr. Sherman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have four tablings today. The first one is from *Canada's Health Newsweekly*, HealthEdition.com, February 12, 2010. It's about government health spending jumping almost \$2 billion in 2010-11, making up 41 per cent of all government expenditures.

The other tabling is an article entitled Minister Shows Appreciation of Local Healthcare Group, and it mentions the previous minister, from Edmonton-Mill Creek, where he said that when he became minister "AHS was facing a 1.3 billion dollar deficit."

The third tabling is an article by Jodie Sinnema from the *Edmonton Journal*: Plan To Cut Emergency Wait Times Too Slow, Doctors Say. That's where the minister is quoted, a quote that he denied in the Legislature. He said: although the province hasn't met its targets, the number of patients on emergency stretchers waiting for hospital beds – and therefore blocking access for those in the waiting room – is the lowest it's been in years.

\*See page 1661, left column, last paragraph



The last tabling is from my guest today, Zachary Weeks, who represents an organization for those with disabilities, with regard to questions that he has for the Premier, that I'm hoping the Premier will answer and get back to him about.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Chase:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling the five requisite copies of schedule 6 from Revenue Canada, detailed financial information, Webber Academy Foundation, that I referenced in today's questions.

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

**Ms Notley:** Thank you. I'd like to table the appropriate number of copies of an article referred to by the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood today in question period entitled Government by Exhaustion, which highlights the stark contradiction between the Premier's promise for more democracy this summer and the government's conduct over the last two and a half weeks in this Assembly.

### 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. Hancock, Minister of Human Services, pursuant to the Regulated Accounting Profession Act a Certified General Accountants' Association of Alberta annual report 2011; pursuant to the Government Organization Act the Alberta College and Association of Chiropractors radiation health administrative organization annual report for the year ended June 30, 2011; the Alberta Dental Association and College 2010 radiation health and safety program annual report January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010, with attached financial statements dated December 31, 2010; the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association radiation protection program 2010 annual report with attached auditor's report on radiation protection program, schedule of funds received and disbursed and cash balance; the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta radiation health administrative organization annual report for the period January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010; University of Alberta authorized radiation health administrative organization annual report 2010-2011; University of Calgary radiation health administration organization annual report for the period April 1, 2010, to March 31, 2011, with attached financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2011.

On behalf of the hon. Mr. Lukaszuk, Minister of Education, return to order of the Assembly MR14, asked for by Mr. Hehr on May 9, 2011.

On behalf of the hon. Mr. Horne, Minister of Health and Wellness, pursuant to the Health Disciplines Act the Health Disciplines Board annual report January 1 to December 31, 2010; pursuant to the Health Facilities Review Committee Act the Alberta Health Facilities Review Committee annual report 2010-2011.

On behalf of Dr. Sherman, hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, *The Lancet* website article dated January 8, 2011, entitled Cancer Survival in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and the UK, 1995-2007 (the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership): an Analysis of Population-based

Cancer Registry Data; and the FPinfomart reprint of an *Edmonton Journal* article dated April 22, 2011, entitled 'I am not in a position to testify': MD.

2:50

### Statement by the Speaker

#### Sessional Statistics

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I have some numbers that you may be interested in by way of a comparison between what this Assembly has done in the year 2011 as compared to the year 2010. The number of sitting days we had in the year 2011, including today, was 47. Last year it was 50. The number of evening sittings we had this year was 13 compared to 10 last year.

The total number of minutes in the Assembly this year was 14,029 – that's not including today – as compared to last year at 14,864. The total number of hours in the Assembly this year, not including the hour and a half today, would be 235 and a half hours. Last year it was 248.

The number of words spoken was essentially the same: nearly 2 million. The number of words spoken by members in standing committees this year was significantly lower than last year. This year it was 821,000. Last year it was 1,310,000.

The number of standing committee meetings this year was 58. Last year it was 83. The number of hours in standing committee meetings this year was 94. Last year it was 180.

On 14 occasions we had 18 sets of questions; that is, 18 members were recognized. Last year it was 17. This year on 20 occasions we had 19 members recognized. Last year it was 21. This year we had four occasions in which 20 members were recognized. Last year it was seven. We had one occasion on which 21 members were recognized; none last year. On October 25 of this year we had 22 members recognized, and that was a record number of members recognized at question period in the history of Alberta. The total number of questions and answers during question period this year was 4,954. Last year it was 5,284. The average number of questions and answers per day this year was 103. Last year it was 108.

Twenty-six government bills will receive royal assent in the year 2011. There were 28 in the year 2010. One government bill was left on the Order Paper both last year and this year. The number of private members' public bills that received royal assent this year was two. That's the same as occurred in 2010. The number of private members' public bills that received royal assent since we made these major modifications to our standing orders has now approached 50.

I would draw all members' attention as well to Standing Order 4(a) if one anticipates when one might return to this Assembly.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

### Orders of the Day

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

**Mr. Hancock:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Government Motion 27 it is my privilege to advise the House that the government business for this fall session has now been completed, and we therefore stand adjourned.

[The Assembly adjourned at 2:52 p.m. pursuant to Government Motion 27]



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

**Activity to December 07, 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 -- 328 (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]
- 21 Election Amendment Act, 2011 (Olson)**  
First Reading -- 1203 (Nov. 21 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1240-41 (Nov. 22 aft.), 1337-49 (Nov. 23 eve., passed on division)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1473-78 (Nov. 29 aft.), 1479,1501-09 (Nov. 29 eve.), 1532-43 (Nov. 30 aft.), 1545 (Nov. 30 eve.), 1643-48 (Dec. 5 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1708-11 (Dec. 6 eve., passed on division)
- 22 Justice and Court Statutes Amendment Act, 2011 (Woo-Paw)**  
First Reading -- 1203-04 (Nov. 21 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1236-38 (Nov. 22 aft.), 1349-53 (Nov. 23 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1496-1501 (Nov. 29 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1711-12 (Dec. 6 eve., passed)
- 23 Land Assembly Project Area Amendment Act, 2011 (Johnson)**  
First Reading -- 1204 (Nov. 21 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1238 (Nov. 22 aft.), 1368-78 (Nov. 24 aft.), 1411-26 (Nov. 28 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1465-73 (Nov. 29 aft.), (Nov. 29 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1706-08 (Dec. 6 eve., passed)
- 24\* Health Quality Council of Alberta Act (Horne)**  
First Reading -- 1203 (Nov. 21 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1235-36 (Nov. 22 aft.), 1241-54 (Nov. 22 aft.), 1278-83 (Nov. 22 eve., passed on division)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1479-91 (Nov. 29 eve.), 1561-70 (Nov. 30 eve.), 1648-50 (Dec. 5 eve.), 1666-73 (Dec. 6 aft., passed on division with amendments)  
Third Reading -- 1699-1706 (Dec. 6 eve., passed on division)
- 25\* Child and Youth Advocate Act (Hancock)**  
First Reading -- 1203 (Nov. 21 eve., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1238-40 (Nov. 22 aft.), 1283-85 (Nov. 22 eve.), 1300-06 (Nov. 23 aft.), 1319-23 (Nov. 23 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1426-37 (Nov. 28 eve., passed with amendments)  
Third Reading -- 1681-85 (Dec. 6 eve., passed)

- 26\***     **Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2011 (Danyluk)**  
First Reading -- 1204 (Nov. 21 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1238 (Nov. 22 aft.), 1306-17 (Nov. 23 aft.), 1323-37 (Nov. 23 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1437-46 (Nov. 28 eve.), 1545-61 (Nov. 30 eve.), 1631-43 (Dec. 5 eve.), 1673-79 (Dec. 6 aft., passed on division with amendments)  
Third Reading -- 1685-99 (Dec. 6 eve., passed on division)
- 27**     **Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2011 (No. 2) (\$) (Horner)**  
First Reading -- 1366 (Nov. 24 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1461-65 (Nov. 29 aft.), 1491-96 (Nov. 29 eve., passed on division)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1528-32 (Nov. 30 aft.), 1561 (Nov. 30 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1590-93 (Dec. 1 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Dec. 1 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 1, 2011; SA 2011 c18]
- 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)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1210-15 (Nov. 21 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1392-99 (Nov. 28 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Dec. 1 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 1, 2011; SA 2011 cA-19.2]
- 204**    **Justice System Monitoring Act (Forsyth)**  
First Reading -- 304 (Mar. 10 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 992-1001 (May 9 aft.), 1215 (Nov. 21 aft.), 1399-1404 (Nov. 28 aft., defeated on division)
- 205**    **Municipal Government (Delayed Construction) Amendment Act, 2011 (Taylor)**  
First Reading -- 362 (Mar. 15 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1404 (Nov. 28 aft.), 1611-17 (Dec. 5 aft., passed)
- 207**    **Seniors' Property Tax Deferral Act (Jablonski)**  
First Reading -- 989 (May 9 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1617-22 (Dec. 5 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]









## Table of Contents

Prayers .....	1713
Introduction of Guests .....	1713
Members' Statements	
Spruce Avenue Community League .....	1714
Human Services Workers .....	1714
Volunteer Sector .....	1714
Grey Nuns Community Hospital .....	1715
Dr. Fraser Mustard .....	1715
Out-of-country Health Services .....	1724
Oral Question Period	
Impaired Driving Legislation .....	1715
Services for Seniors .....	1716
Alberta Health Services Budget .....	1716
Omnibus Questions to the Premier .....	1717
Legislative Workload .....	1717
Funding for Private Schools .....	1718
Keystone and Gateway Pipeline Projects .....	1718
Mental Health Services .....	1719
Landowner Private Property Rights .....	1719
Services for the Disadvantaged .....	1719
Builders' Liens .....	1720
Water Management .....	1720
Protection of Personal Health Information .....	1721
Municipal Franchise Fees .....	1721
Political Contributions by Municipal Officials .....	1722
Prequalification Processes for Bidders .....	1722
Recovery of Tight Gas and Tight Oil .....	1722
Municipal Funding .....	1723
Courthouse Security .....	1723
Fire Permits .....	1724
Tabling Returns and Reports .....	1724
Tablings to the Clerk .....	1725
Statement by the Speaker	
Sessional Statistics .....	1725
Orders of the Day .....	1725

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