



Province of Alberta

The 28th Legislature  
First Session

# Alberta Hansard

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Issue 6

The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 28th Legislature

First Session

Zwozdesky, Hon. Gene, Edmonton-Mill Creek (PC), Speaker  
Rogers, George, Leduc-Beaumont (PC), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees  
Jablonski, Mary Anne, Red Deer-North (PC), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Amery, Moe, Calgary-East (PC)  
Anderson, Rob, Airdrie (W),  
Official Opposition House Leader  
Anglin, Joe, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre (W)  
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (W)  
Bhardwaj, Naresh, Edmonton-Ellerslie (PC)  
Bhullar, Hon. Manmeet Singh, Calgary-Greenway (PC)  
Bikman, Gary, Cardston-Taber-Warner (W)  
Bilous, Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (ND)  
Blakeman, Laurie, Edmonton-Centre (AL),  
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Brown, Dr. Neil, QC, Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill (PC)  
Calahasen, Pearl, Lesser Slave Lake (PC)  
Campbell, Hon. Robin, West Yellowhead (PC),  
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Cao, Wayne C.N., Calgary-Fort (PC)  
Casey, Ron, Banff-Cochrane (PC)  
Cusanelli, Hon. Christine, Calgary-Currie (PC)  
Dallas, Hon. Cal, Red Deer-South (PC)  
DeLong, Alana, Calgary-Bow (PC)  
Denis, Hon. Jonathan, QC, Calgary-Acadia (PC),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
Donovan, Ian, Little Bow (W)  
Dorward, David C., Edmonton-Gold Bar (PC)  
Drysdale, Hon. Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC)  
Eggen, David, Edmonton-Calder (ND),  
New Democrat Opposition Whip  
Fawcett, Hon. Kyle, Calgary-Klein (PC)  
Fenske, Jacquie, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (PC)  
Forsyth, Heather, Calgary-Fish Creek (W)  
Fox, Rodney M., Lacombe-Ponoka (W)  
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)  
Fritz, Yvonne, Calgary-Cross (PC)  
Goudreau, Hector G., Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley (PC)  
Griffiths, Hon. Doug, Battle River-Wainwright (PC)  
Hale, Jason W., Strathmore-Brooks (W)  
Hancock, Hon. Dave, QC, Edmonton-Whitemud (PC),  
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Hehr, Kent, Calgary-Buffalo (AL)  
Horne, Hon. Fred, Edmonton-Rutherford (PC)  
Horner, Hon. Doug, Spruce Grove-St. Albert (PC)  
Hughes, Hon. Ken, Calgary-West (PC)  
Jansen, Sandra, Calgary-North West (PC)  
Jeneroux, Matt, Edmonton-South West (PC)  
Johnson, Hon. Jeff, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater (PC)  
Johnson, Linda, Calgary-Glenmore (PC)  
Kang, Darshan S., Calgary-McCall (AL),  
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Kennedy-Glans, Donna, Calgary-Varsity (PC)  
Khan, Hon. Stephen, St. Albert (PC)  
Klimchuk, Hon. Heather, Edmonton-Glenora (PC)  
Kubinec, Maureen, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (PC)  
Lemke, Ken, Stony Plain (PC)  
Leskiw, Genia, Bonnyville-Cold Lake (PC)  
Luan, Jason, Calgary-Hawkwood (PC)  
Lukaszuk, Hon. Thomas A., Edmonton-Castle Downs (PC)  
Mason, Brian, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (ND),  
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McAllister, Bruce, Chestermere-Rocky View (W),  
Official Opposition Deputy Whip  
McDonald, Everett, Grande Prairie-Smoky (PC)  
McIver, Hon. Ric, Calgary-Hays (PC),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
McQueen, Hon. Diana, Drayton Valley-Devon (PC)  
Notley, Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (ND),  
New Democrat Opposition House Leader  
Oberle, Hon. Frank, Peace River (PC)  
Olesen, Cathy, Sherwood Park (PC)  
Olson, Hon. Verlyn, QC, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (PC)  
Pastoor, Bridget Brennan, Lethbridge-East (PC)  
Pedersen, Blake, Medicine Hat (W)  
Quadri, Sohail, Edmonton-Mill Woods (PC)  
Quest, Dave, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (PC)  
Redford, Hon. Alison M., QC, Calgary-Elbow (PC),  
Premier  
Rodney, Hon. Dave, Calgary-Lougheed (PC)  
Rowe, Bruce, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (W)  
Sandhu, Peter, Edmonton-Manning (PC)  
Sarich, Janice, Edmonton-Decore (PC)  
Saskiw, Shayne, Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (W),  
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader  
Scott, Hon. Donald, QC, Fort McMurray-Conklin (PC)  
Sherman, Dr. Raj, Edmonton-Meadowlark (AL),  
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Smith, Danielle, Highwood (W),  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
Starke, Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC)  
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (W)  
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (W)  
Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)  
Towle, Kerry, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (W),  
Official Opposition Whip  
VanderBurg, Hon. George, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne (PC)  
Weadick, Hon. Greg, Lethbridge-West (PC)  
Webber, Len, Calgary-Foothills (PC)  
Wilson, Jeff, Calgary-Shaw (W)  
Woo-Paw, Hon. Teresa, Calgary-Northern Hills (PC)  
Xiao, David H., Edmonton-McClung (PC)  
Young, Steve, Edmonton-Riverview (PC),  
Government Whip

### Party standings:

Progressive Conservative: 61

Wildrose: 17

Alberta Liberal: 5

New Democrat: 4

### Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

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Chris Caughell, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

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Co-ordinator

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Shannon Dean, Senior Parliamentary  
Counsel/Director of House Services

Brian G. Hodgson, Sergeant-at-Arms

Liz Sim, Managing Editor of *Alberta Hansard*

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Robin Campbell	Minister of Aboriginal Relations
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Cal Dallas	Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations
Jonathan Denis	Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Wayne Drysdale	Minister of Infrastructure
Kyle Fawcett	Associate Minister of Finance
Doug Griffiths	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Dave Hancock	Minister of Human Services
Fred Horne	Minister of Health
Doug Horner	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
Ken Hughes	Minister of Energy
Jeff Johnson	Minister of Education
Stephen Khan	Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education
Heather Klimchuk	Minister of Culture
Ric McIver	Minister of Transportation
Diana McQueen	Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Frank Oberle	Associate Minister of Services for Persons with Disabilities
Verlyn Olson	Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Dave Rodney	Associate Minister of Wellness
Donald Scott	Associate Minister of Accountability, Transparency and Transformation
George VanderBurg	Associate Minister of Seniors
Greg Weadick	Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs
Teresa Woo-Paw	Associate Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations

**STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA**

**Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future**

Chair: Mr. Amery  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Bikman

Bhardwaj	Quadri
Blakeman	Quest
Donovan	Rogers
Dorward	Sandhu
Eggen	Sherman
Fenske	Smith
Goudreau	Starke
Hehr	Strankman
Jansen	Towle
Luan	Young
McDonald	Vacant
Olesen	

**Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund**

Chair: Mr. Quest  
Deputy Chair: Mrs. Jablonski

Anderson  
Casey  
Dorward  
Eggen  
Kubinec  
Sandhu  
Sherman

**Standing Committee on Families and Communities**

Chair: Ms Pastoor  
Deputy Chair: Mrs. Forsyth

Allen	Leskiw
DeLong	Luan
Fox	McAllister
Fraser	Notley
Fritz	Pedersen
Jablonski	Sarich
Jansen	Saskiw
Jeneroux	Swann
Johnson, L.	Wilson
Kang	Young
Kubinec	Vacant
Lemke	

**Standing Committee on Legislative Offices**

Chair: Mr. Xiao  
Deputy Chair: Mr. McDonald

Bikman  
Blakeman  
Brown  
DeLong  
Eggen  
Leskiw  
Quadri  
Rogers  
Wilson

**Special Standing Committee on Members' Services**

Chair: Mr. Zwozdesky  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Young

Calahasen  
Dorward  
Forsyth  
Goudreau  
Jablonski  
Mason  
Quest  
Sherman  
Smith

**Standing Committee on Private Bills**

Chair: Mr. Cao  
Deputy Chair: Ms L. Johnson

Barnes	Notley
Bhardwaj	Olesen
Brown	Pastoor
DeLong	Rowe
Fox	Sarich
Fritz	Starke
Goudreau	Strankman
Jeneroux	Swann
Kennedy-Glans	Webber
Luan	

**Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing**

Chair: Dr. Starke  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Lemke

Allen	McAllister
Amery	McDonald
Bhardwaj	Notley
Casey	Pedersen
Hehr	Sandhu
Jansen	Saskiw
Jeneroux	Towle
Johnson, L.	Xiao
Kennedy-Glans	Young
Kubinec	

**Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

Chair: Mr. Anderson  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Dorward

Allen	Hale
Amery	Hehr
Anglin	Kang
Bilous	Pastoor
Calahasen	Quadri
DeLong	Sarich
Donovan	Starke
Fenske	Stier
Fraser	Webber
Fritz	

**Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship**

Chair: Ms Kennedy-Glans  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowe

Anderson	Hehr
Anglin	Johnson, L.
Barnes	Kubinec
Bilous	Lemke
Blakeman	Leskiw
Brown	Sandhu
Calahasen	Stier
Cao	Webber
Casey	Xiao
Fenske	Young
Fraser	Vacant
Hale	

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 31, 2012

[The Speaker in the chair]

### Prayers

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, let us pray. Dear God, as we conclude for this week our important work in this Assembly, let us renew our energies with great thanks to those who have given us the privilege to serve them so that we may continue in our service to them and to the people in the constituencies we represent. Amen.

Please be seated.

### Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Little Bow.

**Mr. Donovan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have two introductions to do. I'd like to first introduce to you and through you to the members of the House the parents and students from the Calvin Christian School just outside of Coalhurst, Alberta. Accompanying the students today are two teachers, Mr. Andrew Krul and Mr. Bill Vanderweide, also in the public gallery. We'd ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Little Bow, you have a second introduction?

**Mr. Donovan:** Thank you. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to introduce Kim and Lavonda Justinick, who have also travelled up from my constituency of Little Bow. Would they please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly?

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.

The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

**Mrs. Towle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to all hon. members 30 grade 6 students from Penhold school in my constituency. Accompanying them today are their teachers, Mrs. Cormack, Mrs. Akins, and Mrs. Cunningham, as well as several parents: Mr. Dean Davis, Mrs. Shelley Davis, Ms Alana Petty, Miss Stacia McKinley, and Mr. Dave DeLong. Just a few minutes ago I had the opportunity to meet and have my picture taken with these excited students, and they've all enjoyed their day at the Legislature this afternoon. I invite all of them to please stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Human Services.

**Mr. Hancock:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it gives me great pleasure to rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a special guest from my constituency of Edmonton-Whitemud, Mark Jacka. Mark attends the University of Alberta, majoring in political science. Although he was studying and writing exams in April, he also found time to help out on my campaign and come door-knocking on several occasions. It should be noted that he's now preparing for his piano exams. Mark is very interested in many political processes, and I'd ask Mark to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

I have a second introduction if I may, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Please proceed.

**Mr. Hancock:** I understand in the public gallery is my friend Mr. Ian Crawford. Mr. Ian Crawford is the son of Neil Crawford, who served for many years in this Assembly. Ian, in fact, was the Wildrose candidate in the constituency of Edmonton-Whitemud. Between Ian and myself and the other candidates we managed to get the Edmonton-Whitemud constituents very engaged in the process. We've had a wonderful political conversation, and I'm very pleased that he's here today to witness the proceedings.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

**Mr. Anglin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all the members of this Assembly 54 grade 6 students from the Rimbey elementary school. The students are joined by their teachers, Mrs. Grahn and Mrs. Hohn. I invite the students and their teachers joining us to rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

**Ms DeLong:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of this House someone who you may have met before, Josh Traptow. Josh is an active member of the PC Party and currently serves on the provincial PC executive committee. He's also the highly respected president of my Calgary-Bow PC Constituency Association. Josh supported the Premier during the leadership campaign as her special assistant. He was a member of the Premier's transition team, later serving as special assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. During the election he worked tirelessly as campaign chair for the party in southern Alberta, and despite this heavy workload Josh also took on the task of successfully co-chairing my campaign. Josh is returning to the business world in Calgary, where he's an avid volunteer with the Stampede and the Calgary Heritage Authority. He recently was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal for his contribution to the community, province, and country. I would ask that Josh rise in the members' gallery and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

**Mr. Olson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my great pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly three guests. As I name them, I'd ask that they stand. My wife, Mardell, and my constituency assistant, Wendy Pasiuk. They're here to help me honour my other constituency assistant, Laurie Huolt, who after 10 years of great service to the people of Wetaskiwin-Camrose and great professionalism has decided to leave me. I guess she's had enough of me. She's got two kids getting married this summer, and she plans on doing lots of golfing. I'd ask that all members of the Assembly give them the traditional warm welcome.

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

**Mrs. Sarich:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all Members of the Legislative Assembly a constituent of mine who is accompanied by two young boys. They are here today to learn and bear witness to democracy in action here at the Alberta Legislature. They are seated in the public gallery, and I would ask them to please rise as I mention their names. My constituent is Ms

Marion Sotski. Ms Sotski has lived in the constituency of Edmonton-Decore for the past two years, having moved to Edmonton from Fort McMurray. She is accompanied by Kayden Sotski, her grandson. By the way, it was on his initiative. An interest in the most recent provincial election sparked an interest in politics, and that's why they're here today, perhaps a budding politician. He is also accompanied by a very good friend of his, Andrew Scrimgeour, who is his best friend. They will be taking in a tour later this afternoon. I would ask all the Members of the Legislative Assembly to please give them the traditional welcome.

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

**Mr. Quadri:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed my pleasure to rise today and introduce to you my core team who helped me during my nomination, followed by the general election, and that is the reason that I think I have reached my goal today. I will ask that when I call their names, they please rise till the end. Dr. Wasim Haque is a scientist, but he has taught me a great deal of the politics of this province, followed by my campaign manager, Indranil Chaudhury, and my very close friend Nusrat Ali Akhtar. I ask them to please rise, and I request that all hon. members please give them a round of applause today as well.

1:40

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-North West.

**Ms Jansen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to the House two of the most important people from my election campaign, my parents. John and Lena Jansen have been married 54 years and are two of the most supportive people I have had with me through this foray into public life. I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the House.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I just received a yellow note from someone, unsigned, about some guests. If you'd please identify yourself as to who you are, then I'd be happy to recognize you.

The hon. Minister of Education, it's your turn.

**Mr. J. Johnson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to rise and introduce to you and through you Robert Woodward, who's sitting in the members' gallery. After graduating with a degree in political science from the University of Calgary, Robert headed south to work on several campaigns in the U.S. before coming back to Alberta and the University of Calgary law school. We're very glad that he came home, and we're pleased to have Robert working in my office as a summer intern this year. While he has only been with us a week, he's already left a great impression. I'd ask that everyone in the House give him the traditional warm welcome.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, Calgary-Acadia, followed by the hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

**Mr. Denis:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two sets of introductions. First off, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly two interns who'll be working in my department's communications office this summer. Shelby Soke is a third-year public relations student at Mount Royal University in Calgary, and Ian Roddick has completed his course work for the public relations program at Grant MacEwan University. Both of them are working on several Justice and

Solicitor General initiatives. I'd ask that they stand and be welcomed by this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** One more, hon. minister.

**Mr. Denis:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Jeff Cook. Jeff is my summer intern in the legislative office before returning to law school at the University of New Brunswick. He was born and raised in Toronto, but don't hold that against him. You may ask what has brought him to Alberta. In his words, he fell for a woman from Alberta. I'd ask that he please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster, followed by the hon. member for Wainwright, who is also Battle River's representative and the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Dr. Starke:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will admit to the House that I was the sender of the – it wasn't unsigned. It was initialed, but it was illegible, so now you know what I felt like in high school when I got all those notes from the girls. It was a lonely six years, I'll tell you.

In any case, Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of the House a group of people who will be presenting a few hundred signed postcards to the hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed this afternoon calling for a ban on flavoured tobacco. This postcard campaign is co-ordinated by the Canadian Cancer Society in its Relay for Life events around Alberta. First of all, representing Lloydminster comprehensive high school and Holy Rosary high school in Lloydminster: students Jianna Marin, Brielle Wall, Kailee Weber, Kayla Scheidt, and their chaperones Sherry Lazerte, Kim Ruptash, and Lorelee Marin. Representing the Campaign for a Smoke-Free Alberta, the Lung Association of Alberta: Leigh Allard, Gina Ibach, and Krista Potter. From the Canadian Cancer Society, Angeline Webb and Sarah Hawkins. From the Action on Smoking and Health: Vikki Pym, Stuart Adams, and Les Hagen. And, finally, from the Alberta Policy Coalition for Chronic Disease Prevention, Shandy Reed. I would ask all members to join in giving the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Griffiths:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure for me to introduce to you and through you to members of this House some very special visitors representing the Church of God in Christ, Mennonite, which has two missions in Edmonton. One is the guest house beside the Cross Cancer clinic, and the other is a unit house for those who volunteer in different hospitals. I'd ask them to rise as I introduce them: Harry and Mildred Isaac, Kristi Jo Penner, Karisa Fricke, Caitlin Giesbrecht, Lindsay Litwiller, Ron and Cheryl Unruh, Chentelle Hiebert, and Kyla Wiebe. I'd ask all members to offer up the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

**Mr. Dorward:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly guests from Braemar school and the Terra Centre here in Edmonton. I'm very pleased that they were able to join us today in the members' gallery. With us today from Braemar school – and I would ask them to stand – we have principal Sandra Erickson, students Gladys Chandiru, Geneva Gylander, Bryann Lohse, Sarah

Plante, Danielle Rochelt-Reid, Erin Simpson, Stephanie Sinclair, and from the Terra Centre the executive director, Karen Mottershead. These guests are seated in the gallery, and I would now ask that they all please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

**Mr. Eggen:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions here today. First, I would like to introduce to you and through you our guest Elisabeth Brosseau. Elisabeth is a student from Quebec working in our caucus for the summer as part of a Quebec-Alberta exchange program. She's studying at the Université de Montréal, completing her master's degree in political science, focusing on federalism. Since arriving in our province, she said that she has been struck by the many similarities between Alberta and Quebec. I would like Elisabeth now to please rise and receive the warm welcome of our Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Do you have a second introduction, hon. member?

**Mr. Eggen:** Yeah, I do if you don't mind.

**The Speaker:** Please proceed.

**Mr. Eggen:** I have also to introduce in the public gallery Eric Musekamp and Darlene Dunlop of the Farmworkers Union of Alberta. They are here to remind us that all paid farm workers here in this country are as equal as every other person in terms of rights and privileges.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, I understand you have two separate introductions.

**Ms Blakeman:** Yes, I do. I have two different introductions.

**The Speaker:** Please proceed.

**Ms Blakeman:** Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a woman who is very well known to many MLAs and to the media for the organization that she started, which is Elder Advocates, and that is Ruth Maria Adria. She is sitting in the public gallery today, and with her is Bev Munro. Now, Bev is a resident of the Edmonton General hospital long-term care. Bev has also long been a self-advocate for improved conditions in that facility. She has actually had information presented in this Assembly previously, and I will be tabling something from Beverley later on. She is particularly concerned at this moment that she be able to have her friends come and visit her at the General. Please welcome them to the Assembly.

My second introduction is a sad one for me and for the fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Centre because we are losing two individuals who have served us very, very well there. John Henry Weinlick has been a faith leader in Edmonton. He's going to stand so you can see him. I want you to honour these two people because he has been a faith leader in Edmonton for 41 years, the last 10 at McDougall United Church downtown. Prior to that, he was put on a number of committees and urged to join URGE. I don't know how many of you will remember the Urban Reform Group Edmonton. They worked very hard to preserve the river valley and establish the LRT. He also started what turned into the Support Network. He has really made McDougall United a central and integral part of downtown Edmonton, and I shall miss him upon his retirement at the end of June.

Now, even more important than John Henry is his wife, Laressa Pawlowski-Weinlick. Laressa is a musical diva, particularly for us downtown. She is a musical theatre star, particularly in comedy roles, and has improved and widened the music that's available at McDougall United over her years of service there as the musical director. Last year I think they did more than 95 concerts there.

Please, please welcome and honour these wonderful Edmonton citizens.

**The Speaker:** Just a brief reminder, hon. members. I've gotten some of your notes. Thank you. To refresh memories, the chair recognizes people to do these introductions, recognizes you as members in the order in which we are notified of your request to do so.

1:50

### Oral Question Period

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

### National Energy Strategy

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Deputy Premier, who you might mistake for the actual Premier by watching the House proceedings this week, said that the western Premiers all supported the Premier's so-called Canadian energy strategy. But here's what one of them, the Saskatchewan Premier, actually had to say, and I quote: it needs specific points, things that you would execute, and I have a hard time discerning what that might be. Unquote. How about that, Mr. Speaker, a western Premier wondering what our Premier is actually talking about? I happen to agree with him. It's been months since she touted this supposed strategy, and no one knows what it is. Will the Premier stop talking airy-fairy nonspecifics and start getting results on the west coast, Keystone, and east-west pipelines?

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Well, first of all, thank you for that compliment, but I could never live up to that of our Premier.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you this. The Premier of Saskatchewan, who, I believe, is being referred to, is a full signatory to the document. As a matter of fact, there is an understanding between western Premiers that we have to have a co-ordinated approach to development and transmission of energy, with full understanding of jurisdictional limitations, and make sure that one part of the country is not getting in the way of another part of the country in developing and transmitting energy.

**The Speaker:** The hon. opposition leader. [interjections] The floor is yours.

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I should help the hon. member by telling the House exactly what the Premier really did say. He also said that the Canadian energy strategy is, quote, mostly about process, and specifics are elusive. How can the Premier claim broad support for a vague scheme, and when will Albertans and our western friends finally see some specifics, some targets, and some deliverables?

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Well, indeed, Mr. Speaker, the Premier of Saskatchewan is a signatory to this document, and he is committed to the process. The whole purpose of developing a strategy is a process. Provinces will continue to collaborate, hopefully from coast to coast to coast, through a process to develop a system through which we can in a very responsible way develop our mutual energy resources and transmit them from part of the country to another and outside of Canada for export.

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

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the hostility toward our oil sands that will no doubt be on full display today with Mr. Mulcair's visit, why can't the Premier see that without specifics a national energy strategy would merely result in overregulation, unwanted interference, wealth transfer, and ultimately fewer jobs not only here but also in the rest of Canada?

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Mr. Speaker, hostility only comes from uninformed sources. Hopefully, we have converted one today and, hopefully, soon the leader of this Official Opposition.

**The Speaker:** A reminder, hon. members, that it is your House rules to not have preambles before supplementary questions.  
Second main question. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

#### Committee Compensation Repayments

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Premier admitted that the PC MLAs on the no-meet committee have not all paid back the money that they owe Albertans. A Wildrose government would stand for keeping promises, transparency, and accountability. The Premier's election promise was not to just make arrangements to pay it back but to return the money or they would not be allowed to sit in her caucus, as they are doing right now. Given that the Premier has not tabled proof, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, from Battle River-Wainwright, who was on the no-meet committee in 2008: has he paid the money in full, and will he promise to table the proof?

**Mr. Griffiths:** Mr. Speaker, I sat on the committee for I believe it was one month, we met a couple of times, and I have returned the money.

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

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations to the hon. member for meeting the standard set by Wildrose MLAs.

Given that the government has not tabled PC MLAs' proof, I'll ask the Minister of Education, from Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, who was on the no-meet committee in 2008, 2009, and 2010: has he paid the money back in full, and will he promise to table the proof?

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Mr. Speaker, let me remind the Leader of the Opposition that the campaign ended on April 23, so campaigning is over, and now we're here to govern this province. [interjections] The Premier has made a commitment that all MLAs of this caucus will live up to her expectation, and such will be done. [interjections]

#### Speaker's Ruling Decorum

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I'm not sure in which part of your own personal credos outbursts like we just heard fit, but I'd ask you to review that, please. We have a wide audience. We have school groups visiting us. We have people who are interested in hearing the questions and the answers.

#### Committee Compensation Repayments (continued)

**Ms Smith:** I guess we can take that as a no, Mr. Speaker.

To the associate minister for persons with disabilities, from Peace River, who was on the no-meet committee in 2008 and

2009: has he paid the money back from the no-meet committee in full, and will he promise to table the proof?

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

**Mr. Oberle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the hon. member for the question. I have paid the money back in full.  
Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** The third main question. The hon. opposition leader.

#### Prohibited Donations to Political Parties

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week the Justice minister told this House that the Chief Electoral Officer asked for a gag law to keep secret the results of his investigations into the PC Party for accepting illegal money. Not so, said the Chief Electoral Officer. Yesterday the Deputy Premier flip-flopped and told us in this House that the Chief Electoral Officer is free to release the results of his investigation, except that days earlier the government said that he couldn't. Can somebody over there please tell us what the government's line is today? Can the recipients of illegal donations be identified? Yes or no?

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Mr. Speaker, the line hasn't changed; the understanding has. We have always been clear that in this House we have introduced legislation that actually gave more powers to the Chief Electoral Officer than any Chief Electoral Officer has in this country, and it was always the intention to allow the Chief Electoral Officer to release the results of any of his investigations. There are legal opinions that say that the wording of the law perhaps may prohibit him from doing so, so we have made a commitment that we will make any changes required to the law to allow him to do what we always wanted him to do, release that information to Albertans.

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

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully, we can provide some clarity because this morning we received a letter from the Chief Electoral Officer stating, "Our legal interpretation indicates that the confidentiality provisions extend to both the process and outcome of investigations." I will be tabling that later. In other words, it is a gag law. Will the government commit . . .

**The Speaker:** Please remember the words I uttered a few minutes ago. There are to be no preambles to the supplementaries, hon. leader.

The hon. Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

**Mr. Denis:** Thank you very much. I'm not exactly sure what to answer there, Mr. Speaker, but I will state the facts on the record once again. Earlier today I spoke with the Chief Electoral Officer. He actually had sent me a letter responding to mine a couple of days ago – I will be tabling the said letter – and it indicates, again, that he's willing to work with us to improve openness and transparency. If there's any legislation we need to table in this respect, we will do so in the fall.

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

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to ask for the government's commitment that they would table the legislation in the fall, and I'm pleased to see that the Justice minister has said so.  
Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

### Protection for Women in the RCMP

**Ms Blakeman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Alberta government contracts with the RCMP to provide policing and other services in many Alberta communities. Now this once respected culture has become rife with proven cases of sexual harassment and abuse, mostly of women. My questions are to the Solicitor General. Was the Solicitor General aware of the cases now proven, and is he aware of current allegations of abuse of Alberta women?

2:00

**Mr. Denis:** Mr. Speaker, obviously, the topics that the member provides information on are very serious. We do take it seriously. I offered to meet with this member to talk about some of these things the other day, and she refused to step out to go and talk to me, so I leave it back to her.

**Ms Blakeman:** Actually, he wouldn't tell me why he wanted me to step out, which is why I wouldn't.

Back to the same minister. I haven't raised this issue, so please take it seriously, Mr. Solicitor General. What has the Solicitor General done to protect Alberta women working for the RCMP, which, I remind him, is under contract with this government?

**The Speaker:** Again, just a polite reminder, no preambles, please, to supplementary questions.

Proceed, hon. minister.

**Mr. Denis:** Mr. Speaker, again, I think this member needs to be advised that although the RCMP is under provincial contract, they have a dispute resolution process, and I do respect their process today.

**Ms Blakeman:** Mr. Speaker, to paraphrase, all that evil needs is for good men to do nothing. Mr. Solicitor General, why have you done nothing?

**Mr. Denis:** Mr. Speaker, I am really happy that this member refers to me in this House as a good man. That really warms me. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, the RCMP has an internal process, and I think we have to respect that. The RCMP – I don't know anything more Canadian than the RCMP – in fact, has been here since 1874. They have their own policy, which we do respect.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder, followed by the hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

### Pace Oil & Gas Ltd. Pipeline Spill

**Mr. Eggen:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. On May 19 a large oil field spill was discovered 20 kilometres southeast of Rainbow Lake. The spill released more than 22,000 barrels of oil and water emulsion over four hectares of land. It is essential to our economy and to the environment that we put in place more stringent laws and independent monitoring of our energy industry. To the environment minister: why has this government failed to deal with this situation properly: better laws, stiffer fines, more independent monitoring?

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

**Mrs. McQueen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, hon. member, for the question. In fact, hon. member, both the Environ-

ment and SRD ministry and the ERCB were on location right away when the spill was there. We have a very stringent regulatory process and a monitoring process that, I would say, has been ramped up with both the federal government and the provincial government over three years to increase and to actually double the monitoring in the oil sands.

**Mr. Eggen:** Mr. Speaker, it's interesting. This spill carried on for more than four days before another company happened to fly by and notice the leak. It's obvious that self-monitoring is, in fact, a dismal failure. Does this environment minister have any plans to toughen the laws, increase the fines, strengthen independent monitoring, or is it just business as usual, breaking records for larger and larger and more frequent spills?

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

**Mrs. McQueen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, in this government and in this province we have very stringent environmental regulations and processes in place to make sure that those cleanups happen. If there are fines to be added, those are looked at as well. This leak has been stopped, and clearly the cleanup is under way. We have been there to make sure that we were on-site, as was the regulator. There seems to be no impact to wildlife there. So we move forward to make sure that if there are charges to be laid, we'll look at that. But, first and foremost, we want to make sure that the site has been cleaned up, job one.

**Mr. Eggen:** Mr. Speaker, you know, this leaking oil well was more than 35 years old. Aging infrastructure, lax safety laws, lax environmental laws: it adds up to a recipe for disaster. This government claims to be such a big booster of the oil and gas sector. Then why don't they . . .

### Speaker's Ruling

#### Preambles to Supplementary Questions

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, I'm going to lay the law down right now. No preambles during supplementals. So, please, those of you who are on the question list order, rephrase your questions accordingly, or you will not be recognized to proceed with the rest of the question. That's firm as of right now.

Hon. minister, if you wish to respond.

### Pace Oil & Gas Ltd. Pipeline Spill

*(continued)*

**Mrs. McQueen:** Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to reiterate that we have a very, very strong monitoring program here in Alberta. We're doubling that. We make sure that if there are charges that need to be laid against companies, we go through the process, and we do that. We have a remediation plan that's in process right now and being executed by the company with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. So we are on top of this file, and we were on this file as soon as this leak was reported.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, followed by the hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

### Seniors' Benefits

**Mrs. Towle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government keeps telling Albertans that they want to keep seniors in their homes, but

actions are a lot different than words. Due to reduced funding to the special-needs assistance program effective July 1 seniors will now have to pay more for their life-saving personal response devices. This program helps keep some of the most vulnerable or low-income seniors in their homes instead of forcing them into acute-care facilities. Can the Associate Minister of Seniors please tell Albertans why this government is doing more to keep seniors out of their homes than in them?

**Mr. VanderBurg:** Mr. Speaker, Alberta hosts some of the most important and generous programs for seniors across this nation. If there are specifics that this member has about her constituents, don't wait and make it political. Come to my office, and we'll talk about it.

**Mrs. Towle:** To the Associate Minister of Seniors: as it is the government's duty to tell the residents of this province what programs they're cutting – these funds are being reduced and will be targeting our low-income seniors, our most vulnerable – what other benefits have been reduced, and when will you tell our seniors what you are cutting?

**Mr. VanderBurg:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the budget was clearly debated. There are no seniors' benefit programs being cut. It was the Wildrose that proposed to Albertans to cut spending, not the PC government.

**The Speaker:** The Opposition House Leader has risen on a point of order. It has been noted.

Please proceed with your final question.

**Mrs. Towle:** To the Associate Minister of Seniors. On July 1, effective this year, you are cutting the program by 25 per cent. Given that this government is ready to commit billions of dollars to more corporate welfare with its AOSTRA 2 project, how can this government justify its continued nickel and diming of our seniors?

**Mr. VanderBurg:** Mr. Speaker, once again – I'll say it slower this time – we have a very generous program here in Alberta. The seniors' benefit program offers income supports for low-income Albertans. We're very proud of the program. We've had a good discussion in our debates in the House with the past budget. I can assure the member that if there are circumstances and constituents that have concerns, come to me, and we'll discuss it.\*

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky, followed by the hon. Member for Little Bow.

#### Thomas Mulcair Visit to Alberta

**Mr. McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Weeks after making remarks about Alberta's oil sands industry, federal NDP minister Thomas Mulcair has finally decided to grace us with his visit. He says that the oil sands industry has resulted in the Canadian dollar suffering Dutch disease, and he says that our air, land, and water are dumping grounds. My question is to the Deputy Premier. Today you met with Mr. Mulcair. What did you possibly hope to accomplish with a leader who has made such inflammatory statements about Alberta?

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Mr. Speaker, first of all, just a correction. He's not a minister; he's the Leader of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that leaders in our country, particularly leaders of the opposition, are familiar with Alberta and with the importance of the impact of Alberta on the rest of the

Canadian economy and the fact that we as Albertans wish other provinces had vibrant economies because we know that we are just one part of Canada, and we want Canada as a whole to be successful. We want also leaders of this country to know that we are as passionate about our environment in Alberta as others are in their provinces, and that's what I tried to convey to him.

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

**Mr. McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back to the Deputy Premier: given that Albertans know that the oil sands are developed responsibly and that processes are constantly improving, was the Deputy Premier successful in having Mr. Mulcair inform himself?

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Well, the proof will be in the pudding, Mr. Speaker, and I guess we'll hear and read about it. However, I have provided him with a comprehensive body of articles, that I hope he reads on his flight back to Ottawa, I have provided him with open lines of communication with our ministers in this cabinet, and I have assured him that we will continue being advocates not only for the environment in Alberta but for Alberta's role in the Canadian economy. I have also advised him that Alberta prides itself in uniting Canada, and we will not play into the gamesmanship of pitting one part of the country against another for political gain.

2:10

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

**Mr. McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the Deputy Premier: can the Deputy Premier inform the House about the serious allegations of Dutch disease?

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if we should even be discussing that because it is not founded on any facts. We do know that Alberta is a net contributor to the Canadian economy. We do know that we attract Canadians from all over Canada, and we welcome them, and we wish more of them came here to work in our province. We do know that we employ Canadians outside of Alberta, in Quebec and Ontario, and we hope to create more jobs in those provinces, and we know that when one part of the country grows economically, the tide goes up and all ships go up. That is the message we will be hammering. We pride ourselves in collaborating with other Premiers and the Prime Minister, and we will continue to do that.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Little Bow, followed by the hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont.

#### Compensation for Victims of Crime

**Mr. Donovan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On January 14 my constituent 77-year-old Otto Loose was brutally murdered. Under the Victims of Crime Act the family deserves compensation for their loss, yet they've been denied it due to a frivolous charge based on Otto's dementia. This decision lacks basic human compassion and is devoid of decency. Now, the family, who is with us today, is not only suffering loss of a loved one but is also faced with a financial burden. To the Minister of Justice: are you willing to take this under review and help this family in their time of need?

**Mr. Denis:** First off, I would like to congratulate this member on asking his first question in the House.

Please accept our government's condolences for the loss in your constituency, which was rather public.

\* See page 128, left column, paragraph 1.

Mr. Speaker, the Criminal Injuries Review Board reports to my department, and it is an independent board that decides payouts in this respect. I am not aware as to where the specific situation is, but we can look into this. Specifically, though, it is an independent board designed to avoid political interference.

**Mr. Donovan:** Mr. Speaker, I'm disappointed in the minister's response to this. Given that the government is ignoring the rights of the victim's family in this heinous act of violence and given that the family was offered assistance in the first place but now is being denied it, how can this minister possibly refuse action to take on this important case?

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

**Mr. Denis:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to advise this member that last year \$29.4 million was allocated for victims of crime, including this particular situation. But, again, I defer to the independent body, the Criminal Injuries Review Board. I'm willing to discuss this further with this member, and I thank him for bringing it to this House's attention.

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

**Mr. Donovan:** Thank you very much, and I look forward to the meeting.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-McCall.

#### Western Premiers' Conference

**Mr. Rogers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Western Canadian economic opportunities have been at the forefront of discussions in Edmonton this week as Alberta hosted the Western Premiers' Conference. My question is to the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations. Were there any significant accomplishments at this year's conference?

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

**Mr. Dallas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, this was the eighth time that Alberta has had an opportunity to host this conference. I know that the Premier was very pleased that she had an opportunity to meet with western Premiers, to have a discussion with those Premiers about issues that matter to our residents and to their families. The Premiers had a full agenda. They talked about the importance of the west in Canada and the need to move forward on the Canadian energy strategy, they talked about ways to address western Canada's labour needs, and they agreed on priorities for the upcoming Council of the Federation meetings in Halifax in July.

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

**Mr. Rogers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question is to the same minister. Did the Premiers leave the conference with a real plan to advance a Canadian energy strategy?

**Mr. Dallas:** Mr. Speaker, in a word, yes, they did. Through the Canadian energy strategy provinces and territories will work together for mutual benefit. They'll include ways of talking about moving energy to market, creating jobs, building economic diversity, building economic capacity, all at the same time

creating more manufacturing opportunities, advanced research and technological innovations.

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

**Mr. Rogers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is to the same minister. With the world's eyes on Alberta and Canada did the Premiers discuss or make any new progress on the issue of sustainable resource development?

**Mr. Dallas:** Mr. Speaker, there was significant discussion around responsible resource development. Premiers welcomed the federal government's proposal to move to a regime of one project, one assessment, a proposal that could result in more streamlined environmental assessments. The goal is to help avoid potential adverse effects to the environment from major projects while reducing overlap and duplication for project reviews.

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

#### Fiscal Accountability

**Mr. Kang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday the Minister of Finance said that we aren't in a fiscal problem in Alberta. Yes, there has been a recession, but Alberta has more energy revenues than any other province in Canada, \$11 billion this year. This is more than we took in in personal income taxes. To the Minister of Finance: given our energy wealth why have we done five straight deficits, and why are future balanced budgets based on very, very rosy and risky predictions of oil sands revenue and land sales?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister and President of Treasury Board.

**Mr. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. As I understand it, there were a number of different questions in there, one of which was, "Why do we have rosy projections?" or something along that line. I would remind the hon. member that our projections are not based on what the government thinks is going to happen. They're based on what the industry thinks is going to happen.

Budgeted projections are, of course, spot prices or pictures in time. We budget not for the moment but for the annual expenditures. It is our expectation that our departments will follow those budgets. That will allow us to finish the year on target in 2013-14 with the balanced budget.

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

**Mr. Kang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister again: if we don't have a revenue problem, why are our children subject to teachers being hired and fired based on the price of oil and having the government admit it doesn't know how to pay for new and renovated schools?

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, I would take exception to that in the sense that we have introduced a budget in this House, debated it in this House, passed it in this House, that actually sets out three-year predictable funding for our education, for our health care, and for a raft of programs. We intend the departments to work within those budget confines and the predictability of that three-year funding agreement.

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

**Mr. Kang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister again: if we don't have a revenue problem, why has the government put only a tiny bit of money into the heritage trust fund for inflation-proofing, and why has that fund lost 35 per cent of its real value in 20 years?

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, there are a number of interesting statistics that the hon. member threw out there. I would also remind the hon. member that we paid back \$25 billion in debt over that same period of time. We have put \$25 billion into infrastructure in this province. We have also created a sustainability fund during that same period of time with some \$17 billion that allowed us to continue to build the infrastructure that Albertans want us to build, the schools, the hospitals. We will continue to do that.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, followed by the hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

### Environmental Monitoring

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Canadian Natural Resources Limited was recently charged with releasing excessive amounts of hydrogen sulphide gas from its Horizon oil sands facility. CNRL was penalized for similar charges twice in the past year and a half. To the environment minister: why doesn't this government recognize that its failure to hold polluters accountable damages both our environment and our international reputation?

**The Speaker:** Is there a response? The hon. Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

**Mrs. McQueen:** Thank you. I would say that the system is working. There have been releases that have happened. The companies were charged, and that proves that our regulations and our process are in place, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that CNRL has been penalized twice in the past for exceeding limits of sulphur dioxide emissions and for failing to report such incidents and given that the penalties have been less than \$25,000 and given that these incidents raise questions internationally about Alberta's environmental record, to the environment minister: will the minister admit that the government's reliance on self-monitoring and self-reporting by industry is inadequate for the protection of our environment and our health?

2:20

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

**Mrs. McQueen:** Thank you. No, Mr. Speaker, I will not admit that because it shows that what's happening is that the system is working. They had a release, and they were penalized. We've dealt with that issue, so the system is working that's in place.

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

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the government has a responsibility to protect the health and safety of Albertans and given that high concentrations of hydrogen sulphide can cause respiratory failure, to the minister: why does this government continue to fail to enforce environmental laws and protect the health of Albertans?

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

**Mrs. McQueen:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. The answer would be the same. We are making sure that we have strong regulatory processes in Alberta, very, very stringent regulatory processes. If there are releases and people do not make those regulatory processes, they are charged. This is an example of where the system is working.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, followed by the hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

### Electricity Retail Market Review

**Mr. Anglin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year electricity prices more than doubled, small businesses were penalized, and in particular low-income and senior citizens on fixed incomes were adversely affected. In March of this year this government appointed a Retail Market Review Committee to investigate retail electricity prices. My question to the Minister of Energy: in light of recent issues around transparency and accountability how can he reassure Albertans that the review will deliver a fair and open account of the subject?

**Mr. Hughes:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from the hon. member. I would say that the proof will be in the pudding in that the report will clearly be transparent, it will be open, and it will be made available to all Albertans to review. The government will use that information and the feedback based on that in order to make thoughtful and appropriate judgments about the future regarding the volatility of electricity rates for retail consumers.

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

**Mr. Anglin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We now learn that one of the committee members is also the chairman of the board of a retail energy company that stands to benefit financially from the committee's findings. How can the minister claim this is an independent committee?

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

**Mr. Hughes:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the representation from the hon. member. This committee was established with a group of people who are knowledgeable in the industry, who have appropriate advice to give. But at the end of the day the judgment will be made in the public interest by the government of Alberta on behalf of the people of Alberta.

**Mr. Anglin:** It's amazing, Mr. Speaker, that somebody would put their profits behind. Will the minister agree to reconvene a truly independent committee to give the attention that this committee, this investigation deserves?

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

**Mr. Hughes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I would contend that the committee is an independent committee and, more importantly, that all Albertans can participate. I would encourage all Albertans to participate in this process so that we have before us the full facts and feedback from people with all perspectives and that what we ensure at the end of the day is that we have all the facts on the table and that this government then can make a fully informed decision with that feedback from all Albertans.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake, followed by the hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

#### APEC Education Ministerial Meeting

**Mrs. Leskiw:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past April 23 Albertans overwhelmingly elected to build bridges instead of erecting walls around our province. Although, no doubt, this includes fortifying links with the rest of Canada, it also includes strengthening our ties abroad. However, while popular opinion suggests that economically things are going well in this province, my constituents are still concerned about big expenditures such as major foreign travels while our belts are still tightening here at home. Can the Minister of Education enlighten this Chamber about his recent trip to Korea, particularly with a view to justifying this expense to all Albertans?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education.

**Mr. J. Johnson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Yes, this government is committed to building bridges in a global economy, and this trip was very important to Alberta. It's very seldom we have the opportunity to represent ourselves on such a global stage. The conference that I attended was the APEC conference for education ministers, which is only held every four years, with the 21 member economies. Only one minister of education from Canada is selected to go to represent the entire country. Alberta sat at the table with the secretary of state for education for the United States and the ministers of education from China and Korea and Singapore and Thailand and Taiwan and all these countries. It was a very worthwhile trip, and it profiled Alberta on the global stage.

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

**Mrs. Leskiw:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, it's a point of pride that Alberta was chosen as the Canadian representative at this important global meeting. Can the minister accentuate some of Alberta's specific highlights from this trip?

#### Speaker's Ruling

##### Preambles to Supplementary Questions

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, let's just be reminded about preambles, please. I've made the statement. I was sidetracked momentarily. Please rephrase your supplementals so that they are questions. If you are not able to do that quickly, please just jump ahead to what your main question is for the supplemental so that we can conclude this day on a wonderful note.

#### APEC Education Ministerial Meeting

*(continued)*

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

**Mr. J. Johnson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. In addition to the APEC conference that we attended, while we were in Asia, we visited Hong Kong, Macau, and mainland China. The purpose of those visits was to visit some of the schools that are accredited with Alberta curriculum and, indeed, grow that business for Alberta. There is an incredible amount of opportunity down there in terms of exchanges for our teachers, exchanges for our students, and to be able to create even more market for our postsecondaries as the students from those Asian countries are looking for places to go.

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

**Mrs. Leskiw:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Without a preamble, what did the minister learn to make our education system even stronger?

**Mr. J. Johnson:** Thank you for that short question. Mr. Speaker, the one thing I would say, to emphasize how well Alberta is doing, is that when I was at the APEC conference, one of the very first presentations the education ministers from the 21 member economies had was from some of the brightest thinkers with respect to education in the world, and they profiled jurisdictions that are doing well on the global stage. Along with the logos and flags of countries there was the logo of Alberta, and the province of Alberta was profiled at the APEC conference.

In addition to that, we're going to be able to work with the APEC countries on research that's being done by the APEC group on teacher quality and 21st century skills and learning.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

#### Drumheller Sunshine Lodge Security System

**Mr. Strankman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to represent the good people of Drumheller-Stettler. It has been brought to my attention that the security system in Drumheller's Sunshine Lodge has not worked for over a year. This leaves the seniors in the facility in great danger, especially those with dementia. At night the residents and the hard-working staff are also at risk of intruders. Is the Associate Minister of Seniors aware of this alarming situation, and can he tell me what is being done about it?

**Mr. VanderBurg:** Well, our department in conjunction with the Department of Health sets the standards, and we do regular inspections of complaints like this. This is something that our staff would take care of on a regular basis, and if there is more information that the member would like to pass on, I'll make sure that the inspections branch gets that.

**Mr. Strankman:** Sir, I'm aware of the regulations. Who is enforcing these standards according to your own regulations?

**Mr. VanderBurg:** Well, between the local foundations and the departments of seniors and Health the accommodations and the standards group will enforce those regulations.

**Mr. Strankman:** This is not the case.

This has been going on for over a year. Who is neglecting these vulnerable seniors?

**Mr. VanderBurg:** If any member here in the Assembly has any idea of neglect of seniors, please make sure that we are aware of it. We have a hotline set up for that. I think you have a duty not only just to report it but to take action as an MLA for that local region. We have inspectors. We have people that take this job very, very seriously, and I would expect action from you, sir.

2:30

#### Aqua 7 Regional Water Commission

**Mr. Rowe:** Mr. Speaker, to the Environment and Sustainable Resource Development minister. In 2001 the Aqua 7 water commission began servicing municipalities. It soon became clear that the funding formula was not going to be sustainable. Eight

years later a financial audit was ordered. The findings of the report were released in August 2010 with three key recommendations, the main one being an immediate \$6.2 million cash injection to buy down the debenture. Other recommendations were met but not the most important one. What does the minister have planned to find a long-term solution?

**The Speaker:** The minister you wished to address this to was . . .

**Mr. Rowe:** The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

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

**Mrs. McQueen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. Welcome to the House.

Certainly, this is a difficult situation for the seven communities with Aqua 7 but one that we know can be resolved. Our government has met with members of the Aqua 7 commission in the past and will continue to do so as well. But I do have to say – and I know the hon. member knows this – that our government has already approved a special \$1.8 million to help with the financial difficulties, to help with the debenture payments, to spread them out from 20 years over to 30 years, something that those communities have asked for and something that our government has delivered on.

**Mr. Rowe:** We do thank you for that \$1.7 million, which went to pay the penalty fee for the debenture change.

Given that there seems to be a lack of continuity with managing water-related issues across the province, with multiple ministries having a hand in the bucket and Transportation left holding those purse strings, what is the Minister of Transportation willing to do to find a long-term solution? Will he also meet with the stakeholders and act immediately?

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

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the hon. member for the question. I guess the short answer is yes, and I'll just expand on that slightly. I earlier today spoke with the reeve of Rocky View county, who is looking at what their options are. I have agreed that we will meet with the Aqua 7 people and interested parties and see if we can find solutions that end up being amenable to everyone.

**Mr. Rowe:** I thank you for that commitment, Mr. Minister.

Lastly, adding confusion into the spray of water challenges is that municipalities typically work with Municipal Affairs on issues such as water. What is the Minister of Municipal Affairs doing to help communities navigate these multiple ministries?

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

**Mr. Griffiths:** Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I appreciate the question. I know that water is one of the most critical issues we deal with as we go forward in this province, and it's one of the most valuable resources that we're going to have. I have already met with Aqua 7, and we came up with the \$1.785 million to help with the refinancing, which allowed them to lower their water costs to their residents by almost 40 per cent in the short term. We're going to continue to work, as the Minister of Transportation said and as the minister of environment said, on a long-term

strategy to deal with water co-ops and water commissions and the provision of regional water services across the province.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Banff-Cochrane, I will recognize you next, and I'd just ask House leaders again: if there are changes in your batting order for question period, please get them to us in advance.

### Provincial Economic Strategy

**Mr. Casey:** Mr. Speaker, the 2011 census numbers were just released, reporting that Alberta had the largest population growth in the country as well as the youngest average age in Canada, five years younger than the national average. This is great news for Alberta's growing workforce needs, but being that housing costs are near an all-time high, I'm concerned that these young workers will simply not be able to afford the high cost of living in Alberta. My question is to the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance. What is this government going to do to ensure that we keep our province a viable place for young people who are just starting out?

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

**Mr. Horner:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a good question because we do have a fairly significant influx of young people coming to our province. The reason they are coming is because we are creating jobs. We're creating more jobs than anyone else in this country, and we also have the lowest overall taxes of any province in this country. We are going to keep us there. We are going to keep us as one of the lowest overall jurisdictions, if not in Canada, perhaps even in North America. We're also going to provide the infrastructure that these young families need, including recreational opportunities, which is one of the reasons, you might notice, I'm wearing a Whitecourt Wolverines jersey, based on a bet that I had with the hon. Member for Whitecourt-Ste. Anne when they beat the Spruce Grove Saints, another great team in the province of Alberta.

**Mr. Casey:** Again to the minister of Finance: is this government doing anything to ensure that low- and middle-income families have access to adequate child care?

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

**Mr. Horner:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a good question. In Budget 2012, which, again, was debated and passed in this House prior to the election and which we ran our campaign on – obviously, we can see the results – we invested an additional \$21 million in child care subsidy, so approximately 9,000 Alberta families will receive new or increased funding to offset the cost of accessing child care. I'd add, too, that our government anticipated this growth, and we have been providing 20,000 new child care spaces since 2008. Access to affordable child care is critical for working parents and for new Albertans as they move into our province and create more wealth for future generations.

**Mr. Casey:** My last question is to the Minister of Education. Will there be enough desks, schools, and teachers for these kids when they reach school age?

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

**Mr. J. Johnson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We certainly will have a great demand for school desks, and the only way to prepare for those is through infrastructure. Contrary to demands by opposition parties, this government is not going to cut infrastructure and is in the process of building 88 schools with promises to build 50 more and renovations on another 70.

I'd like to add that, yes, I have made arrangements to pay back those funds. It's very disappointing, as important as education is, that the one question I got in this House from the opposition was not on education.

### Calgary South Health Campus

**Ms L. Johnson:** Mr. Speaker, South Calgary and area residents have been waiting a long time for a nearby hospital where they can access the care and services they need closer to home. When construction of the new south health campus began, we were pleased, but now it seems that it's been a while since we've seen or heard much about the new hospital and when it will open. To the Minister of Infrastructure: why has it taken so long to get this hospital built and up and running?

**Mr. Drysdale:** Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that hospital construction is now complete, but there are still a few things to be done. Systems critical to supporting hospital services need to be installed and tested to ensure safety and working order prior to opening the first phase of the facility. I'm proud to say that as the largest undertaking of a new health care facility in Alberta's history, the \$1.3 billion south health campus is on budget. As with most projects of this size and complexity, it's not unusual for construction schedule to vary from the initial schedule. Since this was started over five years ago, it's been consistent progress.

**Ms L. Johnson:** To the same minister: when can Calgarians and area residents expect to access care at this new facility?

**Mr. Drysdale:** Mr. Speaker, we're completing installation and testing of equipment critical to the neurosciences and academic family medicine clinics. These clinics are expected to begin serving Calgary and area patients this fall as the first of a phased-in opening schedule.

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

**Ms L. Johnson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question to the minister is: will the minister outline for us what this facility will mean to the people of Calgary and surrounding areas?

**Mr. Drysdale:** Well, Mr. Speaker, this is a great facility for the Calgary and south area. It's going to fill a void that's been there for a while and, hopefully, increase health care services in southern Alberta.

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

### 2:40 Labour Protection for Paid Farm Workers

**Dr. Swann:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. It's now nearly a decade since the Westray bill, C-45, was passed in the federal Parliament following on the mine disaster in Nova Scotia. The bill amends the Criminal Code to make owners, employers criminally liable when they put their workers at risk of injury or death on the job. Farms in Alberta in 2012, especially large

industrial operations, are incredibly still exempt from occupational health and safety standards. They are therefore placing not only workers but farm owners at huge liability. To the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General: do you agree that employers, including many large Alberta farm operations with paid farm workers exempt from OH and S, are at significant risk in Alberta with C-45?

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

**Mr. Denis:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let me assure this House that my ministry doesn't hesitate to pursue criminal charges where the investigation indicates that it is warranted. With respect to occupational health and safety I would defer to the Minister of Human Services or perhaps the minister of agriculture.

**Dr. Swann:** Nice dodge, Mr. Minister.

With thousands of injuries and 15 to 25 farm deaths in Alberta per year, including children, what is he going to do to protect farm employers from criminal liability under C-45?

**Mr. Olson:** Perhaps I could address the hon. member's question. I'd like to thank him for the question. This is an issue that is important to us. Agriculture is Alberta's second-biggest industry. It is our biggest renewable resource industry. Obviously, it's driven by workers, by farm workers, and they are key to this. Their safety is of utmost importance to us. This is a matter of constant attention from my department. As you may know, Mr. Speaker, early last year there was a committee that was struck to give us advice on that. We've received their recommendations.

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

**Dr. Swann:** Yes. There have been several such committees in 10 years, and nothing has come of them.

Bill 1, the new bill in the House, recognizes the importance of emergency responders to Albertans with enhanced WCB protection.

**The Speaker:** Question, please.

**Dr. Swann:** So what about basic farm worker rights, Deputy Premier?

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that in my previous capacity as minister of employment and immigration we have gone a long way working with Alberta farmers. Let's not forget that the majority of farms in Alberta are family-operated farms where farmers not only cultivate land and raise cattle, but they also live and play on that very same land. So bringing in occupational health and safety standards, as you would into any other plant, is definitely much different. But there is collaboration right now between the ministers of Justice and Agriculture and Human Services to work with Alberta farmers, to work with Alberta farm families, and to strengthen safety on the farms in a manner that is appropriate to farm life and that in any way doesn't hinder their ability to live, play, and cultivate the land.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, it's been the long-standing tradition of this House that if a minister wishes to supplement or clarify an answer that he or she gave earlier in question period, that minister will be allowed to do so. Accordingly, that will allow the person who asked the question to pose one further question without preamble. In that vein I believe the hon. Associate Minister of Seniors has a comment to make, and that will entitle Innisfail-Sylvan Lake to a supplemental.

Proceed.

### Seniors' Benefits

(continued)

**Mr. VanderBurg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To supplement the answer to the Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, the 2012-13 Alberta seniors' benefit budget is \$350.7 million. This is an increase of \$21.8 million, or about a 7 per cent increase, from last year's budget. As well, the special-needs assistance and project grants for seniors budget is \$28.5 million. This is an increase of \$6.9 million, about a 32 per cent increase. No talk about a decrease. I will make sure to send the member a copy of the last budget passed by this House.\*

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

**Mrs. Towle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I actually have that budget. We're talking about your special-needs assistance program. That's where the actual deduction is taking place.

**The Speaker:** There's no question there. Do you wish to comment, or are we done?

**Mr. VanderBurg:** No. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a program that has a 32 per cent increase in the budget.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. members.

### Statement by the Speaker

#### Member for Lesser Slave Lake 23rd Anniversary of Election

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, today marks a very special day in our Assembly because today one hon. member, specifically the one from Lesser Slave Lake, has achieved an important milestone. As of today she becomes the longest serving female member in the history of our Legislative Assembly of Alberta. [Standing ovation]

As we all know, on April 23, 2012, this hon. member was elected to her seventh term of office, serving a total of 8,474 days, or 23 years, two months, and 11 days. The hon. member thereby now surpasses Cornelia Wood, a former Member for Stony Plain, who served from March 21, 1940, to June 29, 1955, had a break in service, and then served again from June 18, 1959, to May 23, 1967. The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake has served continuously since March 20, 1989.

She is also the first Métis woman ever elected to this Assembly, and I know she's proud of it. The hon. member developed the first native language program that was introduced to Alberta schools, and she worked to establish education policy and curriculum to further strengthen Alberta's First Nations and Métis communities. She was responsible for developing the Cree language program for adult students.

She has tirelessly advocated for and spoken out on behalf of her constituents, as recently evidenced during the 2011 fire in Slave Lake.

In addition to serving on numerous committees throughout her legislative career, she also has served as a minister without portfolio responsible for children's services, the associate minister of aboriginal affairs, and the minister of aboriginal affairs and northern development.

The hon. member has been honoured many times over the years for her tireless work for her community, including being presented with the national aboriginal achievement award for public service,

the Esquao circle of honour award, and the aboriginal role model award.

This milestone is a testament to the Member for Lesser Slave Lake's steadfastness and endurance. In fact, out of the 829 members who have served in this Assembly since 1905, only 16 – 16 – other members have ever served seven or more terms. The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake becomes the 17th member to do so.

She is also the honorary chief of Tallcree First Nation, an honorary member of Kapawe'no First Nation, and she was inducted into the Blackfoot women's society.

For that and on behalf of all Albertans we will thank her in a moment. Let me just say: [Remarks in Cree] Today is a great day. Hai, hai.

Hon. members, join me in recognizing this wonderful milestone. Hon. member, I'll ask you to rise and receive their thanks. [applause]

### Members' Statements

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

#### Braemar School and Terra Centre Partnership

**Mr. Dorward:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today and recognize the tremendous work being done by two organizations in Edmonton. Braemar school, located in the beautiful constituency of Edmonton-Gold Bar, in association with the Edmonton public school board is doing great things for teen parents and their families. In partnership with the Terra Centre, a charitable not-for-profit organization that serves pregnant and parenting teens, this junior high and high school is helping young moms to reach their full potential.

These young mothers not only have the option to complete their education through self-directed or class-based studies, but they also have access at Braemar school to on-site child care, counselling, financial literacy programs, and a number of other valuable services that will enable them to graduate and go on to fulfill their dreams.

The program is working. In fact, this month Terra Centre hosted a Mother's Day breakfast at the school to celebrate the academic success of over 60 students.

Mr. Speaker, the relationship between Braemar school and the Terra Centre is an excellent example of the great things that can be achieved when organizations work together towards a common goal.

2:50

To support their important work, our government has collaborated with them to establish a learner's bursary program and now provides child care subsidy funding directly to the school, eliminating the need for the teens to apply directly to the government. This helps these young women access the right supports at the right place at the right time.

Mr. Speaker, our government is so excited about the work being done for our young people at this school and others like it. Through this type of co-operation we will continue to accomplish more for Albertans. Let's look for more opportunities to bring together those working in our communities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View, followed by Lesser Slave Lake.

\* See page 122, left column, paragraph 8.

### Labour Protection for Paid Farm Workers

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Alberta today we have industrial agricultural operations masquerading as family farms to take advantage of provisions designed to protect the family farm. The result is that family farms in Alberta are in greater jeopardy of injury and death as well as huge legal liability. All farms, including the family farm, are subject to Bill C-45, which makes owners, employers criminally liable when they put their workers at risk of injury or death on the job. Since these operations are not subject to occupational health and safety and workers' compensation protection, this opens the door to both increased worker risk and owner criminal liability.

The Premier supported extending occupational health and safety standards to paid farm workers during her leadership campaign, affirming that this loophole for industrial operations needed to be closed. In addition, the lack of regulations for paid child labour, regulated in all industries but agriculture in Alberta, contributes to injury and death for many children each year. Fair-minded Albertans, who continue to benefit from the labour of paid farm workers, expect this government to honour the Canadian Charter of Rights and the Alberta Bill of Rights. They want it recognized that paid farm workers are equal in rights and stature to every other paid worker in Alberta. All paid farm workers deserve to work in conditions where occupational health and safety standards apply along with workers' compensation. As indicated earlier, farm employers' liability would also be reduced if these basic rights were in place.

A business model that is dependent upon the use of disenfranchised workers and unregulated child labour is untenable, unethical, and unconstitutional. It cries out for reform. When will this government make it happen?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore to comment on the tribute about the Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

### Dreamspeakers Film Festival

**Mrs. Sarich:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to recognize an outstanding international indigenous event, the Dreamspeakers Film Festival, which is currently being showcased in Edmonton. It is a vital event hosted every year by the Dreamspeakers Festival Society. Edmonton, Alberta, has become the location for gathering dream-talkers, directors, scriptwriters, actors, musicians, storytellers, and artists. The Dreamspeakers festival attracts talented artists from all over Canada and beyond, drawing connections between the indigenous peoples while celebrating artistic expressions of respective cultures.

Mr. Speaker, the Dreamspeakers festival program is always engaging and entertaining, with a wide range of local, national, and international indigenous films being screened to a diversity of audiences. One of the most successful activities within the festival is Youth Day, which is filled with exciting opportunities for youth to meet renowned filmmakers and attend workshops and a career fair.

Congratulations and sincere best wishes to all of the Dreamspeakers festival board of directors; to the executive director, who is related to the hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake; and to the tremendous number of volunteers involved to make the Dreamspeakers festival a success for all the world to enjoy. The commitment of this organization to the promotion of arts and culture is a treasure to be experienced, and I would invite all hon. Members of the Legislative Assembly to make time and attend this event over the next few days in our capital city.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-South East, followed by Medicine Hat.

### World No Tobacco Day

**Mr. Fraser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in this Assembly to acknowledge a significant day. Each year on May 31 we observe World No Tobacco Day. It took an international effort between all member states of the World Health Organization to inaugurate this day in 1988. Twenty-four years later we continue to mark this day on our calendars as a step forward to reducing the harm caused by this substance. The purpose of this event is to abstain from tobacco products for a period of 24 hours.

The World Health Organization estimates that each year 6 million people will die from diseases that are directly linked to tobacco use. Each year here in Alberta, Mr. Speaker, more than 3,000 people die a preventable death from tobacco-related illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, we know that strategies like the government's tobacco reduction strategy have made significant inroads in helping people to kick the habit. That's why this government is committed to further enhancing the strategy to discourage tobacco use by both youth and at-risk people, to protect Albertans from second-hand smoke, and to offer more support for tobacco cessation.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, this government announced yesterday that it will initiate legal proceedings against tobacco manufacturers. The lawsuit will attempt to recover a portion of health care costs associated with smoking-related diseases which resulted from the industry's misrepresentation of negative effects of tobacco products.

Let's observe this day, an important step in reducing the harms caused by tobacco use.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Medicine Hat, followed by Calgary-Bow.

### Addiction Services in the Palliser Health Region

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The city of Medicine Hat is the only one of the seven major cities in the province that does not have an addictions residential detox program, that does not have a treatment program, and does not have a transitional living/aftercare program. We are all aware of the human costs involved with addiction issues, with mental health, and the fact that this government continues to neglect the growing concerns of Medicine Hat and the surrounding area is disappointing.

In typical PC government fashion there were a couple of approved locations for a facility promised to the residents of my constituency, but they have since been cancelled or postponed. Numerous local groups, families, and individuals requiring access to such facilities are frustrated by the lack of commitment by this government, and for good reason.

Mr. Speaker, the McMan foundation of Medicine Hat has advised me that the delay in having this addictions facility operating is endangering the lives of their clients. In fact, in a publication released by the McMan foundation in March of 2010, which I will table in the House, we see that the Palliser health region, with a population of over a hundred thousand people, is being completely neglected. Right now patients in detox who need medical attention are asked to wait in acute-care beds in hospitals, and those chosen for treatment have to leave the region.

I stand before all members of the House representing all the constituents of that Palliser health region and the many vulnerable families and residents at risk to implore the government to stop sitting on its hands. Mr. Speaker, today I ask this government to

commit to this project and work closely with both myself and, more importantly, the support groups of Medicine Hat to ensure we start and complete this much-needed facility by 2013, as was originally committed to by this government. To continue to wait is no longer an option.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Before I recognize the next speaker, the hon. Minister of Justice.

**Mr. Denis:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to ask for the unanimous consent of the House to waive rule 7(7) so that we can continue with the Routine past 3 p.m.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Justice and Solicitor General and Deputy Government House Leader has moved his motion. Those who are voting now must be reminded that it requires unanimous consent. Is there anyone who objects to the motion? Please say so now.

[Unanimous consent granted]

**The Speaker:** Calgary-Bow.

### Seniors' Week

**Ms DeLong:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, members of the Legislature. I'm pleased to rise today to speak to all Members of this Legislative Assembly about an important annual event, Seniors' Week.

Every year during the first week of June we set aside time to celebrate and honour the contributions of our seniors. This year's theme, A New Energy, speaks to how seniors are redefining what it means to be a senior and the many roles that seniors play in our province: as our parents, as our grandparents, employers and employees, and volunteers and caregivers. In those roles and more seniors continue to be leaders in our communities.

Every single day there are a hundred new seniors in Alberta, and these new seniors and all the seniors bring a new energy with them. Older Albertans volunteer with charities, are involved with their families, or may still be busy at work. No matter what they're doing, their involvement is certainly felt all around us. We need to recognize this and pay tribute to seniors for all that they do.

Seniors' Week kicks off in Red Deer on June 4, with special events being held in communities across Alberta throughout the week to recognize and celebrate seniors. More information on Seniors' Week events for your area is available online at [seniors.alberta.ca/seniorsweek](http://seniors.alberta.ca/seniorsweek).

**3:00**

I'm pleased that the Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta coordinates and supports these events. As chair of this council our work focuses on raising government's awareness of the issues and concerns regarding seniors in our province, but we know it is equally important to recognize and celebrate the successes. That's why one of the highlights of the week for me is the minister's senior service awards, that recognize Albertans who volunteer their time to make a difference in the lives of seniors.

Mr. Speaker, Seniors' Week is also a great time to personally thank so many wonderful Albertans for their continued contributions to a stronger province. I hope you can join me in celebrating and recognizing Alberta seniors.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.

### Introduction of Bills

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

#### Bill 202

#### Public Lands (Grasslands Preservation) Amendment Act, 2012

**Mrs. Jablonski:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill I request leave to introduce Bill 202, the Public Lands (Grasslands Preservation) Amendment Act, 2012.

It's an honour for me to rise today to speak to this legislation. The purpose of Bill 202 is to ensure the continued protection of public grasslands that contain ecologically significant and sensitive wildlife habitats. It will not affect privately held lands. It will develop a clear, publicly accessible, understandable, and objective process to review the sale of public grasslands. In addition, it will also provide for a period of receiving public feedback on proposed grasslands sales. I look forward to hearing the rest of the debate.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 202 read a first time]

### Statement by the Speaker

#### Tablings

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, before we recognize anyone under this item in the Routine, I would like to correct the record in connection to the first document that was purportedly tabled yesterday by the Leader of the Official Opposition. As noted in *Hansard* at page 92, the opposition leader refers to her tabling as "a letter from Ken Kowalski indicating the members who were on the no-meet committee, the Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing."

However, there was, in fact, no letter tabled from Mr. Kowalski. Rather, the documents that were tabled are as follows: a document dated May 30, 2012, on the letterhead of the Leader of the Official Opposition titled PC Members of Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing Re-elected on May 23, 2012, and attached to that document was a letter dated March 9, 2012, from the former Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo to Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, regarding Mr. Boutilier's assignment to that committee. These documents have been recorded in the official records of the Assembly as sessional papers 16/2012 and 17/2012, and they are described in the Votes and Proceedings as outlined above.

Hon. members are just reminded that they must take due care to be accurate and succinct when describing the documents that they are in fact tabling since these documents do become official records of the Assembly. Accordingly, this error has been corrected.

### Tabling Returns and Reports

**The Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Justice, you have a tabling?

**Mr. Denis:** Yes, I do. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I heed your earlier direction with respect to tablings.

I'm rising today to table a letter dated May 31, 2012, to myself from O. Brian Fjeldheim, Chief Electoral Officer, in which he

provides an independent opinion as to the confidentiality of his investigations, and I will provide five copies of same to the Clerk.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Eggen:** I do. Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table the appropriate number of copies of a report by the Edmonton public school board which shows the gap between the amount that the board receives from the province for special-needs students and the amount that the board actually pays for supporting those same students.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

**Ms Blakeman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have three sets of tablings today. The first set is on behalf of my colleague the Member for Calgary-Mountain View. He has asked me to table five copies of a series of letters from the Canadian Mental Health Association in Edmonton letting clients know that the funding has been cut and then response letters back from a Mrs. Twila Riopel decrying the job and program losses and how this underfunding is going to have a huge effect on people with mental health issues. That's one set.

The second is in response to some facts I presented yesterday during my questions. The first is entitled 2012 Property Taxes FAQ, a frequently asked questions sheet from the city of Edmonton, downloaded from their website, which notes that for every dollar a typical Edmonton household pays in all taxes, 6 cents go to the city.

The second one is an article from the *Globe and Mail*, which is the fastest way I could find this, in which Mayor Nenshi of that city says, "The City of Calgary gets 8 cents of every dollar Calgarians pay in taxes." So that's those two.

The final one is reflective of the guest that I had in the gallery today, and that is a letter from Beverley Munro and signed by Beverley Munro, who is a resident of the Edmonton General long-term care facility. She had written on February 21 with concerns. Despite her submission at that time none of the violations she reported have been addressed, and she feels she's continued to struggle to receive health care and safe accommodation. She did follow through on all of the points with people she's supposed to talk to but really feels that she has not been successful and is particularly concerned that she's no longer permitted to spend time with her best friend.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

**Mr. Saskiw:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a document dated May 31, 2012, from Drew Westwater, who is the director of election operations and communications at Elections Alberta, which outlines the interpretation of section 5(4) of the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act. I have the requisite copies.

I also have one more tabling. The second tabling is a letter outlining the PC MLAs that at one point sat on the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing, whose members collected \$1,000 a month to sit on it even when it never met, with the requisite copies as well.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Medicine Hat.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to my member's statement I would like to table a map document titled Residential Detox and Treatment Facilities in Alberta, March 2010, and I have the requisite number of copies.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have several thousand signatures on a petition from the Falun Dafa Association of Calgary. These have been gathered over the last three or four days. They are urging the Minister of Culture and community services to "request a written apology from [the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium] management for the above incidents," referring to, of course, issues concerning privacy, where some workers barged in on some of the actresses while disrobing, as well as some of the safety and lighting issues that hurt the performance. They're asking for an apology from the southern Jube as well as a written agreement that the orchestra net will be removed for all Shen Yu performances and are also requesting "an invitation to Shen Yun from the [southern Jubilee] management, in an attempt to repair the relationship and get them back to Calgary for future performances."

I must say that my office has been inundated with all sorts of letters in this regard, and I hope that the Minister of Culture can work with these folks to make sure that we bring this fine cultural event back to our great province.

### 3:10 Projected Government Business

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're anticipating that the spring sitting will adjourn later this afternoon, and therefore there is no projected government business to share at this time. The Order Paper will disclose any business for the fall sitting.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** We have one point of order. The hon. Opposition House Leader.

### Point of Order Factual Accuracy

**Mr. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The citation for this point of order is in our Standing Order 23(h), (i), and (j) but specifically (j). They talk about: "uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder" and also "imputes false or unavowed motives to another Member" and "makes allegations against another Member." The comments I'm referring to were from the Associate Minister of Seniors, who said in his comments very clearly that the Wildrose proposal, our alternative budget, would result in significant cuts to, I'm assuming, seniors but also just to government services in general. This is an often cited and, frankly, very flawed and untrue statement that continues to come from that side of the House.

The hon. member is welcome to go onto our website at any time, and he will see three consecutive alternative Wildrose budgets. I'll refer only to the last one, but the other two were similar. The last one saw between a 2 and 3 per cent increase in overall government spending and a significant increase, in particular, for the Ministry of Seniors. What we did propose was not cuts to government services but cuts in things like corporate welfare.

This party here, unlike the party opposite, clearly believes that we should be putting the building of schools and infrastructure over corporate handouts to their friends and consumer power builders of power lines across this province. We're the party that takes schools over corporate grants. We also believe very strongly, of course, Mr. Speaker, that we should not mortgage our children's future in order to spend whatever we need to spend or say whatever we need to say in order to remain in power. That's not what this party is about.

I get very interested in a party that claims that half their name is conservative and has a supposedly conservative member over there, the former alderman, who was known as Dr. No for being such a fiscal conservative that he would join a group of individuals over there claiming to be conservative that have overseen the greatest increase and the most out-of-control increase in spending in this province's history.

To say that because we want to slow it down instead of ramping it up by 7 and 8 per cent per year – we want to hold it to 2 or 3 per cent a year so that we can at some point in the future balance our budget. I think this is something that Albertans overwhelmingly wanted to see. It certainly was not the reason that the Leg. is as it is today. It was because of, frankly, fear tactics like this member used today, which are untrue, unfounded. He knows it, and he should withdraw the remark.

**The Speaker:** The Opposition House Leader has clarified his point. The chair would allow a government response if they wish. If not, we could simply move on and accept the clarification as uttered.

The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at citation 23 (h), (i), and (j), that the Member for Airdrie cites, I don't see any issue at all here where the hon. Member for Whitecourt-St. Anne violated any of these citations at all.

Also, I think that the Member for Airdrie just gave a very good political speech. If we were in an election, I would be wondering when we'd have our chance to give the same speech. I think that the minister just made a comment that he believed that the Wildrose would cut spending and that the PCs would not. I think that sometimes our Member for Airdrie has a bit of a hair-trigger, and he jumped up a little too soon on this point. I think we should just move on.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I listened very carefully to the point of order. I reviewed the *Hansard*. In fact, the Associate Minister of Seniors said this according to the Blues: "Well, Mr. Speaker, the budget was clearly debated. There were no seniors' benefits programs being cut. It was the Wildrose that proposed to Albertans to cut spending, not the PC government."

Hon. House leader, you have given a good point of clarification on it. The Deputy Government House Leader has augmented his minister's comments. The point of clarification has been registered and noted, and we shall now move on.

### Speaker's Ruling Allegations against a Member

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, yesterday a number of points of order were raised during Oral Question Period. On a point of order raised by the Government House Leader in response to comments made by the Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills, the chair deferred making a decision yesterday so that he could review it through the night. The chair has since had an opportunity to

review the *Hansard* and the context in which the remarks were made.

The two questions posed by the Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills which caused the Government House Leader to rise on a point of order are found at page 86 of yesterday's *Hansard* and are as follows:

Given the Premier made a funding announcement to Mount Royal right before the election and then during the election the Premier's picture appeared on the cover of their alumni magazine together with a puff piece, is it fair to say that Albertans should be concerned about this obvious unethical conflict of interest?

In a separate quote:

Given that the Premier herself is at the core of the problem by passing a law that makes convicted political parties unaccountable to Albertans and now that her own riding has accepted illegal donations, how can Albertans believe that the Premier . . .

These were the comments made by the particular member.

In speaking to his point of order, the Government House Leader stated that the question violated Standing Order 23(h), (i), and (j), and other authorities. The authors of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, second edition, state at page 614:

Remarks directed specifically at another Member which question that Member's integrity, honesty or character are not in order. A Member will be requested to withdraw offensive remarks, allegations, or accusations of impropriety directed towards another Member.

The same authority also provides at pages 502 to 503 that a question should not . . . reflect on the character or conduct of . . . members of the House.

Members may also wish to refer to the December 4, 2007, ruling by Speaker Kowalski at pages 2391 to 2392 of *Hansard* for that date, in which the Speaker found a member who had alleged that the then Premier had involvement with accepting illegal campaign donations to be out of order and required the remarks to be withdrawn.

In speaking to the point of order yesterday at page 94 of *Hansard*, the Official Opposition House Leader denied that his colleague was saying that the Premier did anything illegal but, rather, that it was her constituency association. First, I think the Opposition House Leader is trying skillfully to avoid the inescapable conclusion that the member is creating the impression that the Premier is doing something illegal.

Second, if the question really was about the funding of the constituency association, then clearly it would be out of order totally. The authorities on this matter are very clear. The chair would refer members to *Beauchesne*, sixth edition, paragraphs 409(6), 410(5), 410(17), and to the *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, second edition, at pages 501 to 503, on these points. For instance, *Beauchesne's*, sixth edition, states at paragraph 410(17): "Ministers may not be questioned with respect to [their] party responsibilities."

In fact, the chair cautioned the member on this point after the member's main question in this same sequence. The primary purpose of questions in Oral Question Period is to seek information from the government about government programs, government services, government funding, government policies, and other government issues that call the government to account for its actions as a government. Oral questions involving party matters or party responsibilities do not come within the administrative authority of the government. As such, they have no place in question period.

While the chair is aware that it is only the fourth day of regular business of our 28th Legislature and that many new members are adjusting to their new roles, allegations of this nature against another member of this Assembly are simply not acceptable, and they will not be tolerated.

The chair finds a point of order with respect to the allegations made against the Premier and also finds a point of order based on the fact that these questions dealt with party, not government, responsibilities. Members must therefore be reminded that they can and will be called to order if they violate the standing orders, which you have all pledged to uphold and abide by, or if they violate parliamentary traditions and authorities such as I have alluded to in *Beauchesne's* or *Erskine May* or *Montpetit* or the *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* or any of our other revered books of tradition as was done yesterday.

As such, the chair will now recognize the Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills and invite him to do the honourable thing and simply withdraw his remarks.

**Mr. Saskiw:** I withdraw.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member has withdrawn his remarks. Thank you very much.

### 3:20 Statement by the Speaker Page Recognition

**The Speaker:** Just before we proceed to Orders of the Day, we are nearing what may well be the end of this particular sitting. Before we conclude, I want to thank our pages on behalf of all of us for their dedication and commitment. We have five retiring pages: Sydney Petrovic, Kaylin Bechard, Braden Smyth, Zachary MacGregor, and Katarina Michalyshyn. They leave us with some final words, which I would like to read to you and which thereby will be recorded in *Hansard* forever for those members who are here as well as for those members who are no longer in this Chamber but were served by these particular pages during their own tenure.

From the pages' letter to all of us:

Mr. Speaker,

As another session comes to a close, we face the regrettable reality that some of us will not be returning in the fall. We would like to express our gratitude for the wonderful opportunity we have been provided to serve in the Legislative Assembly.

We would like to sincerely thank you, Mr. Speaker, the Table Officers, the Sergeant-at-Arms, the lovely ladies in 315, the Security staff, and all the other staff of the Legislative Assembly Office. Of course, we would be remiss not to thank all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly, without whom, our role in the Chamber would not exist.

Being on the floor of the Chamber has presented a unique perspective that very few others will ever experience. For no other part time job would we be able to see news in the making, before we turn on the TV or read the newspaper. The enriching experience of working alongside a diverse group of people, each dedicated to improving our province, means we leave as more informed individuals with insight that will undoubtedly assist us in our future endeavours.

The relationships we have forged, the memories we have created, and the skills we have developed are priceless. As we have grown in this environment, our appreciation of this opportunity has grown with us. From our encounters with the influential men and women who help shape our province to

firsthand participation in important ceremonies, we will take these experiences with us for the rest of our lives.

It has been a great honour and privilege to be able to work with everyone in this Assembly, and for this, we are greatly appreciative.

Yours sincerely,

Sydney Petrovic, Kaylin Bechard, Braden Smyth, Zachary MacGregor, Katarina Michalyshyn.

Hon. members, I ask you to thank these pages. [applause]

I would now ask the Deputy Speaker if he wishes to make a few remarks.

**Mr. Rogers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you have mentioned, we have five hard-working pages who will be leaving us at the end of the session. Just for the record again: Sydney Petrovic, the head page; Kaylin Bechard; Zachary MacGregor; Katarina Michalyshyn; and Braden Smyth. I would ask you to join me in recognizing the efforts of our diligent pages, who daily show patience and understanding of our many demands. They carry out their tasks with attention to duty, including some very late nights of work with us.

On behalf of all members each departing page is given a token of our appreciation. These gifts are from the personal contribution of every member of our Assembly. Along with the gifts are our best wishes. We are honoured to have our pages work with us in the Legislature to serve all Albertans. I'd ask the Deputy Chair of Committees to hand a gift to our head page, Sydney. Sydney is representing all of the pages, and Sydney in turn, Mr. Speaker, will present each of the retiring pages with their gift from us.

Thank you very much. Good luck. God bless.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. members. We'll take a brief break for about 30 seconds, and then we'll move on to Orders of the Day.

### Orders of the Day

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

#### Consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

Ms Olesen moved, seconded by Mr. Luan, that an humble address be presented to His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows.

To His Honour the Honourable Colonel (Retired) Donald S. Ethell, OC, OMM, AOE, MSC, CD, LLD, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

[Adjourned debate May 30: Mr. Scott]

**The Deputy Speaker:** I recognize the hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Conklin.

**Mr. Scott:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to rise today to respond to the Speech from the Throne. First, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your new role as well as all the new and returning members of this House. I am truly honoured to be among all of you.

I'd like to begin by thanking His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for delivering a brilliant speech that encapsulates the vision this government has for the future of our great province.

I'd also like to take a moment to just recognize my parents. I was recently reminded of how important our parents are in the role that we've taken on in this Assembly. They've all encouraged us and inspired us. My father was among my many campaign workers out on the campaign trail pounding in signs. He couldn't be here with us today, but I know that he's thinking of me. He knows of this today, and I'm going to be talking to him about this.

I'd also like to thank my daughters, Jenna and Jeya, who have stood by me knowing that their dad would be away from home. They often remind me on the phone that they know I'm doing good work, and they encourage me to carry on. I'm often reminded of how important families are as we carry out this good work.

We all know and acknowledge that Alberta is a very special place, and this Speech from the Throne sets out a vision that does justice to all of the citizens of Alberta. Allow me to express my thanks to our hon. Premier for setting a bold agenda for us all to fulfill over the next four years. This agenda will improve the lives of all Albertans no matter where they reside in the province. I am proud to be part of a government with a mandate to listen to all Albertans and respond to change.

Mr. Speaker, I must also extend my thanks to the Premier for entrusting me to become the province's first Associate Minister of Accountability, Transparency and Transformation. I am particularly honoured to work with the Minister of Service Alberta. What an honour it is to take on this responsibility. I am pleased to be part of effecting fundamental change to the way that this province operates, ensuring that Albertans can easily make sense of how their government does business. As the name of the job title suggests, we will move boldly forward in this transformational process guided by the principles of accountability and transparency.

Part of the mandate will be a review of Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. We will also be examining conflict-of-interest issues, seeking out a legislative solution that entrenches more accountability into government. This will include whistle-blower legislation to encourage people to come forward with allegations of wrongdoing and to offer protection from reprisal. Along with my colleague the Minister of Service of Alberta I am excited to be undertaking this important endeavour on behalf of the hon. Premier.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to also thank the wonderful constituents of Fort McMurray-Conklin. I would like to graciously accept the confidence and trust that they have placed in me. Over the course of my legal career I am proud to say that my colleagues and I have strived to be actively involved in our community. I have always believed that when individuals come together and donate their time, ideas, dedication, and service to the community, much can be achieved. Some of my constituents will confirm what an important role organizations such as the United Way have played in our region, and I am gratified to have been part of that effort.

**3:30**

The constituency of Fort McMurray-Conklin has the distinction of being one of the most charitable in Canada per capita, and I can personally attest to the presence of that generous spirit in our region. It is precisely this spirit of service that I wish to continue as the elected representative for this tremendous constituency.

My constituents expect me to convey their perspective to this Chamber and to express their vision of how they want their communities and our province to look in the future. Mr. Speaker, I will deliver on those expectations and faithfully represent this diverse group of people that inhabit the constituency of Fort McMurray-Conklin. As a long-time resident and business owner in Fort McMurray who has raised children in the community, my outlook parallels that of my many neighbours.

I understand the challenges that are faced by this region. We are a place blessed with abundance and economic prosperity. Our tremendous growth is only rivalled by our region's tremendous opportunity. I am very proud of the fact that my constituency along with that of the hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo is part of the important economic engine for the province of Alberta and indeed for the entire country.

Fort McMurray and the surrounding towns such as Fort MacKay, Anzac, Conklin, and Janvier all offer boundless opportunity and an excellent quality of life. From listening to the throne speech, I know that our hon. Premier understands the importance of securing Alberta's economic future and continuing to create the conditions that will foster growth. This is the reason why so many people flock to our province and likewise to my part of Alberta. I would venture to say that the ever-changing face of Alberta has its most acute expression there, with high immigration rates and rapidly shifting demographics. We are a vibrant and diverse population. On the streets of our towns you can easily meet people from numerous countries, other Canadian provinces, and from various parts of Alberta. The region has a tremendous concentration of opportunities available to newcomers.

We continue to need entrepreneurial and self-driven people to come to settle, to make a better life for themselves, and to help play a part in the exciting future of our region. It has been my experience that newcomers usually arrive armed with a passionate attitude, adding to the enterprising spirit of our long-time residents.

Mr. Speaker, not only is Fort McMurray-Conklin an economic driver in Alberta; the fact is that this constituency is simply a beautiful place to live, full of stunning scenery, lakes, and endless boreal forest. For my fellow members who have not had the chance to visit, I strongly encourage all of you to visit to explore the wonderful sights the region has to offer. I know that our hon. Premier has had the pleasure of visiting several times.

Mr. Speaker, the incredible bounty of natural resources that characterizes this province is a blessing to all Albertans. They expect their government to provide world-leading responsible stewardship over our energy, land, and water resources, not to mention maintaining the pristine natural beauty of Alberta.

Previous governments have put in place strong safeguards to preserve the natural environment, and I am pleased that this government's throne speech has acknowledged the continued importance of that. This government will continue to work with industry to ensure conscientious development, which allows us to grow our markets while protecting the environment for future generations to enjoy.

In recent months we have made a great deal of progress as we move to implement a comprehensive environmental monitoring system for the entire province. The first priority was addressing the need to strengthen monitoring for the oil sands regions. At present a working group is considering the role of governance and funding as we work to ensure that environmental monitoring is scientifically credible, open, transparent, and easy to access. As we consider the bigger picture, our next step is to determine how to best implement the effective and scientific oversight of the provincial environmental monitoring program.

Mr. Speaker, the constituency of Fort McMurray-Conklin encompasses a large area, stretching north all the way to the Northwest Territories. Fort Chipewyan, for example, is a spectacular place, situated on the shores of Lake Athabasca. It has the distinction of being the oldest settlement in the province as well as being the home of many proud First Nations people. My

constituency also stretches in the opposite direction south past Fort McMurray all the way down to Conklin and Janvier.

Fort McMurray, of course, is the urban hub for the entire region. Other smaller communities like Conklin and Janvier are areas of new growth for the oil sands industry and represent some of the fastest developing parts of the constituency. Anzac is another town in my constituency that I enjoy visiting, especially for their recent all-terrain vehicle rally, which was just held this past weekend. I might add that that was my second time on an ATV, and it is not easy to drive one.

Mr. Speaker, we also recognize that along with the blessing of high economic expansion and development, the region faces massive growth pressures. As a result of this fast pace of development our region must overcome the challenge of providing infrastructure and services in a timely manner that meets the ever-growing needs of the population. This government will work closely with all levels of government and stakeholders in continuing to develop the necessary infrastructure and to offer the services that Albertans deserve. From the throne speech I know this Premier understands that investing in infrastructure is essential for growing our economy and for creating the types of communities that people want to call home. Having the critical infrastructure in place is the foundation for a healthy and prosperous society.

The residents of my region are passionate about many issues, and I am proud to carry these issues into the Legislature on their behalf. I love my region, and I feel passionately about it. Communities in this province need efficient transportation links, including highway 63. They need land for shops and services and for housing, they need schools for their children, and they need hospitals and family care clinics that provide timely, accessible health care. My constituents have reminded me many times that they need the quality of life found in other regions.

This government recognizes that Albertans outside our major urban centres need to have equitable access to our world-class health care system. We also know that planning for future development in a proactive and forward-thinking manner is sound policy. We will certainly foster this type of thinking within our caucus.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to say that I have enormous faith in the compelling vision that the Premier has put forward. She has remarked that Fort McMurray is not just a boom town but a hometown. I agree.

This is a plan for the future that works for all Albertans. That is why I am extremely proud to be part of this amazing team of professionals, who collectively bring to the table a wealth of ideas and experience. Mr. Speaker, the throne speech contains a vision that I believe will ensure that Alberta's best days are ahead.

I am passionate about my region. I look forward to working with all of you to serve our great province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Seeing none, may we revert briefly to Introduction of Guests before I acknowledge the next speaker?

[Unanimous consent granted]

### Introduction of Guests

(reversion)

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-North West.

**Ms Jansen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to the House my parents, John and Lena Jansen.

### Consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

(continued)

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Member for Calgary-North West, you may proceed with response to the Speech from the Throne.

**Ms Jansen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to add my comments to those already offered by my colleagues in consideration of the Speech from the Throne and, of course, to welcome my parents to the House.

It is also my great honour to represent the constituents in Calgary-North West, who are so blessed to live so close to the gorgeous Rocky Mountains and enjoy all the best that Alberta life has to offer. They work hard, and they work smart, and they want to know their government is doing the same.

I know and respect a commitment to enterprise and labour. My father came from Holland with nothing more than a plan to work hard and build a good life in Alberta. He spent his entire career with the Alberta government in public works and is very proud of his time and his accomplishments there.

The Jansen kids were taught that hard work was the only way to guarantee success, and I held that value close to my heart as I took my broadcasting career from its humble beginnings in Medicine Hat to channels 2 and 7 in Calgary and on to Montreal, where I reported on the national unity referendum. I then moved to Toronto, where I spent 10 years in the CTV national newsroom covering some of the most important stories that decade, including the Bosnian conflict, the Gulf War, and the September 11 tragedy.

I was always a dedicated advocate for the western perspective during my time in national news. I knew that the perceptions of Alberta and Albertans that Canadians outside this province had did not match what I knew to be true. We are smarter, we are more sophisticated, and we are more thoughtful in our politics than we are often given credit for.

I saw those qualities in our Premier, Alison Redford, more than 27 years ago, when we worked on the Ron Ghitter PC leadership campaign together. So when she decided to seek the PC leadership herself many years later, I devoted my time as a campaign volunteer to help her achieve that goal and to realize her vision. The lessons that we learned from Ron about integrity, tolerance, and understanding are what I believe to be the bedrock of how we approach the weighty responsibility of government leadership.

3:40

I see those qualities in our caucus. The warm support and encouragement I received during the process has made me stronger. The advice and mentorship newly elected MLAs have received has been very much appreciated. We are a strong, united caucus with a focused goal, which is to make Alberta better by investing in our families and in our communities, by advancing our world-leading resource stewardship, and by strengthening and improving our provincial economy in the global marketplace.

As an MLA I pledge to remember every day the mandate of the people of Calgary-North West, who gave me a chance to represent them. I spent many long hours, as did my colleagues, at the doors of my constituency listening to people's concerns. They spoke passionately about issues that made them happy, that made them angry, and that sometimes kept them up at night. They told me they needed a playground for their elementary school because four years is too long to wait for a chance to climb and slide and swing at recess. They told me they needed a middle school so they wouldn't have to watch children play in a schoolyard they could

see out their kitchen window, knowing their kids were too far down a list to attend.

That's why I'm so supportive of this government's commitment to building and modernizing a number of schools across the province's fast-growing communities and its commitment to stable, long-term funding that will ensure every child in Alberta gets a world-leading education in up-to-date facilities.

My constituents also told me they need a government that listens and then acts based on a commitment to doing what is right, and they were very clear with me about what doing what is right entails. It means committing to infrastructure dollars, public health care, education, and building bridges with the federal government and the rest of the country so we don't shut ourselves out. Many of my constituents are teachers, health care workers, oil and gas professionals, and they want a government that believes our oil and gas industry functions not just for Albertans but as the economic engine that drives our country's economy with efficiency and a high standard of environmental protections.

To conclude, I'd like to thank the constituents of Calgary-North West for giving me the opportunity to represent them as a member of a government that will continue to work hard for its citizens and communities. I am honoured and humbled by their choice, and I will work very hard to make sure their voices are heard.

To His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, thank you for presenting the Speech from the Throne and shedding light on what is in store for our great province. To all my hon. colleagues, may we work together towards the common goal of making Alberta better in every possible way so that our province's legacy of entrepreneurship, leadership, and innovation continues as we move towards a very bright future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.

Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available.

Seeing none, I will acknowledge the next member. Before I do that, I'll tell you the list that I've got going. The next member will be Edmonton-Centre, followed by Edmonton-Mill Woods, followed by the Member for Little Bow.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

**Ms Blakeman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I always appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Speech from the Throne because it's one of the few times that members can speak unfettered, without the limitations and the confines of the rules of debate over bills. The only other time is in budget debate.

I hope that everyone here is aware of how fabulous my constituency of Edmonton-Centre is, and I know that brings a smile to many people's faces because I've branded it like that, and I insist that everyone talk about my fabulous constituency that way. But there's a reason, and I'm going to tell you why. I thought this might be of interest to you.

I'm going to kind of walk you through the neighbourhood of the fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Centre, and we're going to start in the river valley, which I hope all of you take advantage of and enjoy, with the wonderful walking and cycling and multi-use trails that the city of Edmonton and the government and the federal government have made available to us.

Also in the river valley, of course, is our baseball park, which is no longer a triple-A but will be something. So those of you that have apartments and condominiums in the fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Centre and even across the river in Edmonton-Strathcona and elsewhere, please come down and enjoy a good

old-fashioned baseball game, beer, peanuts, hot dogs, and all the rest in the river valley sometime over the summer.

We have the old, now decommissioned, Rosedale power plant. Please watch this because over the next couple of years we will be working with the city, the province, and the federal government to build this into something wonderful and new, something probably about artists, but we're not too sure about that.

Of course, the Legislature Grounds and the building that we're in is also in the fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Centre, and you must, if you have not already experienced it, come during the summer and watch the hundreds of people who come to enjoy the grounds here and especially the wading pools. For many, many people in Edmonton-Centre and in other places, this is their local pool, their community pool. It was one very brave decision by one of the bureaucrats here in the government that, when told that there were kids playing in the reflecting pool, said, "Oh, okay," and there have been kids in the wading pool from then on. Rather than taking a negative, "They shouldn't be in there; get them out," they have tried very hard to accommodate people. To be fair, it was not a pool that was built to have chlorine in it, which is why you keep seeing them repairing it over and over again. God bless them for doing that because it really is a wonder.

July 1 is a wonderful day on the Legislature Grounds here because, of course, the Chamber is open, the only time of the year, and one of the few Legislatures that allows people onto the floor of the Legislature at any time. But if you come on July 1 – you'll probably be in your own constituencies – please bring your family onto the floor here.

I have five communities. The first one that is closest to here is Oliver, and a sort of subset of that is Grandin, which honours one of the first Catholic religious leaders here in this area. Oliver, of course, is our high-rise area. I talk about my constituency as being 20 blocks by 20 blocks by 20 storeys high. That's pretty much it. At a good clip I can walk across my constituency in 45 minutes, but most of the people live up. I have less than 500 single-family homes now, and I am pushing 46,000 people. Most of them live in a high-rise building, and most of them live alone. My average per door is less than two people; it's like 1.8. Most of you, I imagine, will have four people or so behind every door. I tend to have one, sometimes two people behind every door.

Oliver was our first high-rise community. We have learned over time how to make that a community because high-rises don't lend themselves to talking to each other very much. We've developed things like board game nights and a lot of activity out of the community league, which is really cool. We have a number of community gardens, where people get little plots where they can grow flowers or vegetables. They do so with great gusto in a number of places across the constituency. The community league there offers hayrides and all kinds of summer festivals.

Queen Mary Park, which is the district that's on the far north of my riding and the most easterly section, is my last single-family dwelling area. These were homes that were on the original Hudson's Bay preserve, so a number of them did come with caveats when they were first sold about how big they were and how they were built. If you ever get a chance to go through it, they're mostly those old postwar homes, little bungalows you all recognize, six concrete steps up – and my legs can tell you about every one of those – big picture window on one side, smaller window on the other side, lovely little places, and very affordable for people. Originally, we had mostly Polish and Ukrainian and United Kingdom people settle there.

3:50

Now, the district, while I've been serving it, has completely turned over. Those rental houses that were there: a lot of them have been bought, and you can tell the second you walk up the sidewalk. It's really cool. They're fixing stuff up, and a lot more of the people that have been moving in are younger families, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and it's really a pleasure to see that community reinvent itself. They also have a brand new spray park, which they're very proud of and worked very hard to get.

Unfortunately, that is one of the inner-city schools that got closed, and we really notice it. It left a literal and figurative black hole in the middle of that community. The school is used by some other groups, but at night there are no kids there, there's no lights on, and it's literally a black hole for us. It took all of the kids out of the community. So it is hard to get families to move in there. Unfortunately, a lot of those homes that are being bought, they don't have kids. I know a couple of families that do, but mostly they don't.

Moving eastward we have Central McDougall. This is a very old community in Edmonton-Centre, considered right downtown or inner city. This is a community that I am fiercely proud of because they have worked so darn hard to keep their heads above water. They have a poverty index that is triple what is normal. They have very low capacity there. People mostly live in three-floor walk-ups, and they really struggle. There are a lot of social service agencies there that work in the community, and the community is inundated with a lot of transition houses, shelters, and even some kind of old-fashioned boarding houses. But they're really struggling with the amount of at-risk people that they are expected to accommodate in their community, and they've started to push back against that. So I've worked with them on that quite a bit.

They have also managed to build themselves a really spanky playground and a nice park for the parents to sit at as they watch the kids on the playground. Their community as well is working very hard and co-operates a lot with the social service agencies. The school is John A. McDougall school. If you're paying attention at all to Alberta sports history, that was the original home of the Edmonton Grads. That was the school they went to. Their coach was J. Percy Page, and that is where they all started and all went through school there.

I have to say that all of my schools are tremendously motivated. The parents cannot support the students very much. Parents are working often two and three minimum wage jobs, so it's the teachers and the administrative staff that raise the funds for those schools, and they work damn hard to do it.

We've had a lot of revitalization downtown, which makes it very fun, and it's been nice to watch that happen over the years. Make note of this and check *Hansard* very quickly. Some of the new restaurants that we're really excited about: Blue Plate; Credo is a coffee place, excellent coffee, by the way; the MRKT; Cafe Select. Some old favorites: Rigoletto's; the Bistro Praha has reopened there. A new one that has got a brand new NAIT graduate is Corso 32. Cafe De Ville is an old one, a beloved. Ruth's Chris for those of you that really like the meat. The Pampa is also a meat eater's paradise, right across from my constituency office on 109 Street.

Now, for those of you that like new urban fare, we are attracting some of the truck diners, as they call them. They are coming into the neighbourhood, especially around here. They're new entrepreneurs, chefs, and they are starting their restaurant in a truck by making gourmet sandwiches and really neat ways of presenting things. So I like to support them in that.

Edmonton-Centre also has a really wide range of arts organizations: the Citadel; the Winspear; the Stanley A. Milner Library; the CBC is downtown; the Art Gallery of Alberta; the new Royal Alberta Museum, which will happen right behind city hall – we have, of course, city hall; they also have a wading pool, very smart; they make theirs into a skating rink in the winter, even better – Azimuth Theatre; SNAP, which is the Society of Northern Alberta Print-artists; Latitude 53 society of artists; Harcourt House; the art walk on Jasper and 124; a number of dance studios, including Dance Alberta.

But really what Edmonton-Centre is about is the people. I have very strong communities of artists. I have a fabulous community of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, two-spirited, and/or queer that I am very proud of. I have a very high percentage of seniors, which is unusual. The other communities with very high percentages of seniors are Medicine Hat and Camrose. The highest in the province is 15 per cent. I have 13 per cent of my constituents who are seniors.

June is a great month for us. The first week is Seniors' Week, and I do 16 seniors' teas in a week. The second week is Pride Week, and we have a number of wonderful events that happen around Pride Week, including the best parade you will see on Jasper Avenue. Well, wait. There's Cariwest later in August, so two great parades on Jasper Avenue. If you're around, please take it in. That's going to be the second Saturday in June. Then film festivals, art displays, lectures, a bus tour and lecture about how the gay and lesbian community came into being. It's a great time in Edmonton-Centre.

We also have a lot of students attending NAIT, the University of Alberta, Alberta College, Grant MacEwan University, Athabasca University. It's wonderful to have so many young people in Edmonton-Centre.

A number of service workers, young professionals, the 104th Street market community: it's really about the people. When I get excited and talk about Edmonton-Centre, that's what it is for me. Yes, we've got great stuff there and great communities, but it's the people that really make it happen.

While I was campaigning, I heard a number of issues that people wanted me to bring forward and to work on. The first one really shocked me, but I heard it enough times that I'm telling it to you now. My constituents would like to launch a public discussion on euthanasia. They feel very strongly about it. They think it's time we grow up – we're grown-ups – and talked about this issue. They would like to see that happen.

There were lots of concerns and talk about long-term care and home care.

They're particularly interested in saving the nonrenewable resource revenue money, which is of concern to all of us. I've heard it all happen today during question period and Members' Statements. So, like, good for everybody.

My downtown people, of course, want more money on urban priorities, like cycling and walking infrastructure, but also on public transportation, like bus routes and LRTs. They're looking for – this is controversial – arena funding that is not going to come from the MSI for the city. We'll see how that one plays out. It should be interesting.

They're also very interested in advanced education, having the tuition fees come down, and loved our platform of eventually working to public payment for a first university degree, apprenticeship, or college diploma.

They're also very interested in fair and progressive taxes – I did not put those words in their mouths; they brought it up – and concerned about homosexual bullying, violence against women and girls.

Mental health is a huge issue in my constituency. Out of the casework that we do in my office – and I now have two caseworkers that work there all the time – mental health issues are underlying 80 per cent of our casework.

Funding to the arts is very important for Edmonton, Calgary, and for the province.

I really have to say that these are good people who work very hard. They embrace big ideas, and they embrace the move towards better government.

Thank you for letting me walk you through my neighbourhood of the fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Centre. I know that the people I represent are quite different in many ways and quite similar in other ways from the ones that you represent, but I'm very, very proud to speak for them. I'm very proud to represent them. In my fifth term here, in opposition, I think I'm a little unusual in keeping coming back to represent them.

Thank you.

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

Seeing none, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

4:00

**Mr. Quadri:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise today and respond to the throne speech and address my colleagues for the first time in this House. I would like to congratulate all of the members on their recent success in the election, and I want to let them know that I'm looking forward to working with them.

I want to congratulate you, Deputy Speaker, for your success in this election. It gives me great pleasure to see you, as I have followed you as an MLA, and your achievements are tremendous.

I would like to also thank the hon. Lieutenant Governor for sharing with each of us and with Albertans his perspective on the tremendous future that lies ahead of us. Listening to such a distinguished leader relate this optimism and driven vision was truly inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, in my view, your service is an excellent example of how the government is building bridges around us instead of putting up walls, which we heard mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. It is something that I'm very proud to be part of.

I would also like to recognize all the employees of the Legislative Assembly who have provided my colleagues and me with tremendous support as we learn our new role. In supporting a mere 87 Members of this Legislative Assembly, they are actually serving over 3.8 million Albertans that we work for.

Mr. Speaker, as a new MLA I am still in a state of euphoria and slowly trying to comprehend the fact that I have realized my dream of representing the people of Edmonton-Mill Woods in this Legislature. Having come to Edmonton almost 25 years ago from Karachi, Pakistan, I brought my hopes, my dreams – this is a little emotional – for the future with me to my new home called Canada. When I stand for *O Canada*, you know, I get goosebumps because I feel for that.

I just want to acknowledge the Member for Calgary-Shaw. Yesterday he was talking about that he had married a woman of Egyptian heritage. That just starts me thinking about the beauty of this Canadian mosaic. This is our strength. Our multiculturalism is our strength that today is reflected upon any Assembly, in Alberta or in Ontario or in Ottawa. That is actually our strength, and I'm very proud of it. I call myself a Canadian because I feel great pride that I brought my hopes and dreams with me, and people have helped me, accepted me, and on top of that, they have elected me to represent them. This is a very emotional time for me.

I know the importance of having a strong, accepting community, which I found in Edmonton-Mill Woods. I am

committed to supporting this constituency so that it remains a welcoming place for newcomers. As you know, Mill Woods has been a diverse community. It was multicultural before it became fashionable to use the word. It is here that one can witness an assembly of different nations having a common dream, a common desire to seek a better and more prosperous future. It is an honour to have been selected to be their voice in this province.

After listening to the Speech from the Throne, I have an even stronger sense of excitement about the great things this government will be accomplishing for our communities over the next four years.

Mr. Speaker, as a new immigrant to Edmonton I started my career in the local fashion world selling designer clothing to Edmontonians. So this is a free tip. If anybody needs any tips on fashion design, their suit, I can give you free tips. My service is available. As I was walking in today, you know, the guy was telling me that this suit looks good. I said: well, because of the way I put it together, it looks good. So anybody wanting fashion tips, I'm here to offer them for free.

Mr. Speaker, you know, having at that time recently graduated with my bachelor of commerce, I excelled in the industry and worked over time to recognize my gift of working with people. My interaction with the public taught me tolerance and gave me a better understanding of how to connect with others. This new career also taught me important lessons in business, which paved my way to becoming an entrepreneur. I eventually bought a printing business, which connected me to people of various walks of life and helped me to learn about a number of organizations involved in community work. As I began to work with these community organizations, I came to understand the diverse needs of Albertans around me.

I also realized the importance of having a capable and responsible government, one that can effectively provide essential services while maintaining fiscal discipline. As we so clearly heard in the Speech from the Throne, that is the kind of government we will be. As a member of this government I will actively champion the voices of Mill Woods' growing seniors' population, who need our continuous attention. I will work to support the recreational and academic programs that are so valuable to our children. Those programs are provided by 25 terrific schools in my riding and countless other organizations. I will also strive to ensure that our health care system is responsive and effective for our residents.

[The Speaker in the chair]

Mr. Speaker, in addition to my experiences that I mentioned earlier, there are also a number of people who have had a profound impact on my life. First, my grandmother. My grandmother often told me that a tree which is laden with fruit leans toward the ground, a symbol of productivity, simplicity, and humility. I must also acknowledge my exemplary parents, whose guidance in everyday life has inspired my siblings and me to achieve our goals. They have inculcated in us the values of humanity, acceptance, and tolerance. I'm also thankful to my wife, Sarwat, who has stood by me as a true companion for the last 17 years and many more to come.

My passion for the game of cricket has also greatly affected my life as it has taught me the importance of sportsmanship, the art of winning and losing happily.

These people and experiences have helped shape who I am and have prepared me to venture into the world of public service. Mr. Speaker, it was a joyous first step for me when I won the PC

nomination for Edmonton-Mill Woods, and the election campaign followed soon after. One of the most memorable events of my campaign was the hon. Premier accepting our invitation to come and speak to an enthusiastic crowd of over 800 people. The audience was a true mix of all religions, backgrounds, and ages, a true representation of the diversity of Edmonton-Mill Woods. The massive applause as the Premier entered made my team and constituents very proud. After all, it was her determination and commitment to Albertans that changed our political landscape and inspired many of us to run for public office.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the results on election night were electrifying, but in the morning I realized that we have an immense responsibility ahead of us. We are now part of a team that is working toward an even better future for Alberta than that which we have already experienced. Nothing less than success will be acceptable. We all know that Albertans are the hardest working individuals in the world, and they deserve the highest quality of life, excellent and accessible services, and low taxes so that we can each spend our hard-earned money as we see fit.

As His Honour the Lieutenant Governor related in his speech, we are fortunate to have this high level of economic freedom. This freedom has fostered an incredible sense of entrepreneurship, creativity, and motivation among our residents. As I have already discussed, I experienced my own entrepreneurial transformation when I moved here, and I am sure it is no different for many newcomers to our province. Mr. Speaker, Edmonton-Mill Woods currently has a population of 45,845; about 30,000 eligible voters. With Alberta's growing economy, there is likely to be an influx of new immigrants and migration from other provinces in the near future. If we continue to promote an environment of free enterprise and low taxes, I know that newcomers to our province will continue to be successful.

In addition, in my constituency it will be important to facilitate job opportunities for newcomers, including pharmacists, engineers, IT experts, clinicians, and other skilled workers so that they can be effective partners in building our province. This government is already doing that. Budget 2012 expanded the role of pharmacists.

**4:10**

As we heard in the Speech from the Throne, we are going to continue investing in our markets for new technology, including clean energy, which will be creating many new exciting jobs. Mr. Speaker, in listening to the speech, I know our government will continue to provide Alberta with the quality-of-life services and the wealth of opportunity we have been fortunate to experience until now.

The Speech from the Throne has renewed the energy and excitement that I felt throughout the nomination and campaign period and also given us a focus. Mr. Speaker, as I move forward, I assure you that I will serve the people of Alberta to the best of my ability, keeping with the goals and the values from the Speech from the Throne, and will be an effective voice for the constituents of Edmonton-Mill Woods.

I'm looking forward to working with all of my hon. colleagues here today in the spirit of true democracy to ensure the best path forward for Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also move that we adjourn debate on the Speech from the Throne.

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, did I hear you move a motion to adjourn debate?

**Mr. Quadri:** Yes. That's what I just said. I can repeat it.

**The Speaker:** I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you.

**Mr. Quadri:** Mr. Speaker, I move adjournment of debate on the Speech from the Throne.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member from Edmonton-Mill Woods has moved the adjournment of debate on the Speech from the Throne. All in favour of this motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Aye.

**The Speaker:** Those opposed?

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**The Speaker:** I'm sensing that there's some sort of a tie here.

[Several members rose calling for a division]

**The Speaker:** Call in the members, then. We'll sound the division bells and sort this out.

[The division bell was rung at 4:12 p.m.]

[Ten minutes having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Amery	Horner	Quadri
Bhardwaj	Jansen	Quest
Calahasen	Jeneroux	Rodney
Campbell	Johnson, J.	Rogers
Cao	Kennedy-Glans	Sarich
Casey	Kubinec	Scott
Dallas	Luan	VanderBurg
DeLong	McDonald	Weadick
Denis	McIver	Webber
Dorward	Olesen	Xiao
Fraser	Olson	Young

Against the motion:

Anglin	Fox	Saskiw
Barnes	Hale	Stier
Bilous	McAllister	Strankman
Blakeman	Pastoor	Towle
Donovan	Pedersen	Wilson
Eggen	Rowe	

Totals: For – 33 Against – 17

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Government House Leader I'd like to advise the House that the government business for the spring sitting is now completed and we stand adjourned pursuant to Government Motion 7.

Thank you.

### Statement by the Speaker

#### Decorum and Parliamentary Behaviour

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, just before the House rises at the end of the first sitting of the 28th Legislature, the chair finds it

necessary to offer two minutes of brief reflections on decorum and parliamentary behaviour. As noted in my comments on Monday, I encouraged all of you to adopt your own personal credo to serve as a guide as you fulfill your duties as members to the constituents you serve and to your colleagues and to this Assembly. The long-standing tradition of respect, dignity, and honour for each other and for this institution must be maintained.

We have had a very productive first few days in this House, but I know and you know that we can do even better. Realizing that 38 of you are new to parliamentary procedure and protocol, the chair offered considerable leeway in various aspects of the proceedings of the House. Nonetheless, the chair would like to offer all members a few friendly reminders before the Assembly adjourns for the summer.

Number one, members should always speak through the chair.

Number two, preambles will not be permitted on supplementary questions during Oral Question Period.

Number three, members are not permitted to refer to the absence of another member.

Number four, members should not refer to other members by their proper names. They should use their constituency names or their ministerial titles.

Number five, when a member comments about a document that is about to be tabled, the member should be brief and should accurately describe the document in no more than one or two sentences to avoid taking up precious time of the House.

Number six, when introducing guests, which is important to all of us, I would ask you to please be very brief to allow the maximum number to be introduced.

Also, with respect to the rotation several notes were sent up to the chair yesterday and again today, and they concern in what order we speak or don't speak and so on. Please understand that there is no specified order in our rules that dictates how this should go. There is a respected tradition to alternate between the government member or minister and an opposition member and go back and forth and to and fro, but the chair can only be as effective as the information with which he or she is provided when chairing. I have asked before to receive speaking lists of members who wish to speak, and we do our best to include them. Today was an example where we had one list from one particular side, and we did not for some reason have the list written out on the other side. We're looking at that. I've met with some of the House leaders and spoken with them about it. Please keep that in mind.

Also, please know that today the chair did allow some leeway to go back to a member who had been skipped over because of circumstances. We had a similar circumstance yesterday when we

had some health issues that arose with a couple of people, so we allowed some of those speeches to be made. The chair will continue to be lenient in that respect, and you will find that it will work for your advantage as well as for others' advantage from time to time.

Members should also be mindful that when the chair is speaking, he appreciates your attention. Let's add that to the list.

Members should also be aware that when we are in Assembly, members must take their seat and should not move freely about the Chamber. Again, we realize that there are new members here who are here for the first time who don't know all these rules, so we've permitted some leeway. The Sergeant-at-Arms also permitted some leeway. You are permitted to move freely about the Chamber during Committee of the Whole or Committee of Supply or any of the committees. That's when the chair leaves the throne, as it's called, the dais, and the Deputy Chair takes over at the Clerk's table here. At that point you're free to move around. You're free to go and sit at other people's desks and chat with your colleagues and discuss world affairs. Remember that.

If you wish to speak to your colleagues in any event, please use outside the Chamber to do that. We have excellent services also that are provided by pages, who would be happy to send notes back and forth to other colleagues.

Finally, the chair would like all members to do a little bit of parliamentary homework, please, over the summer since there have been some transgressions this week in connection with statements uttered that amount to serious allegations against other members both during question period and also during Members' Statements. I would ask you to review in your good conscience what the purpose of Members' Statements really is. It is not an opportunity to stand up and deride or throw derogatory comments at another member. That is not what it's all about.

Finally, finally, we are all referred to as honourable members, and the basis of the word "honourable" is integrity and respect. There is little point in you arriving at orders for the House, called standing orders, or having rules or guidelines in parliamentary books and traditions if you aren't prepared to abide by them yourselves. The Speaker's job, as with the Deputy Speaker's job and the Deputy Chair's job, is simply to enforce your rules and the long-standing parliamentary traditions that have guided hundreds of others across this great country.

Hon. members, pursuant to Standing Order 3(4)(b) the House stands adjourned until Monday, October 29, 2012. Thank you for your attention.

[The Assembly adjourned at 4:30 p.m. pursuant to Government Motion 7]

## **Bill Status Report for the 28th Legislature - 1st Session (2012)**

**Activity to May 31, 2012**

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 1 to 199 are Government Bills. Bills numbered 200 or higher are Private Members' Public Bills. Bills numbered with a "Pr" prefix 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 a Bill comes into force "on proclamation," "with exceptions," or "on various dates," please contact Legislative Counsel, Alberta Justice, 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 chapter numbers until the conclusion of the Fallittings.

- 1            Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2012 (Redford)**  
First Reading -- 8 (May 24 aft., passed)
  
- 201        Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Identification Act (Quest)**  
First Reading -- 92 (May 30 aft., passed)
  
- 202        Public Lands (Grasslands Preservation) Amendment Act, 2012 (Brown)**  
First Reading -- 130 (May 31 aft., passed)



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