



Province of Alberta

The 28th Legislature
Third Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Issue 12a

The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 28th Legislature

Third Session

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Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (W)
Bhardwaj, Hon. Naresh, Edmonton-Ellerslie (PC)
Bhullar, Hon. Manmeet Singh, Calgary-Greenway (PC)
Bikman, Gary, Cardston-Taber-Warner (W)
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 New Democrat Opposition Whip
Blakeman, Laurie, Edmonton-Centre (AL),
 Liberal Opposition House Leader
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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Casey, Ron, Banff-Cochrane (PC)
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Dallas, Cal, Red Deer-South (PC)
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Hale, Jason W., Strathmore-Brooks (W)
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Johnson, Hon. Jeff, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater (PC)
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Rowe, Bruce, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (W)
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Sarich, Janice, Edmonton-Decore (PC)
Saskiw, Shayne, Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (W),
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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)
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Towle, Kerry, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (PC)
VanderBurg, George, Whitecourt-St. Anne (PC),
 Government Whip
Weadick, Greg, Lethbridge-West (PC)
Wilson, Jeff, Calgary-Shaw (W),
 Official Opposition Deputy House Leader
Woo-Paw, Hon. Teresa, Calgary-Northern Hills (PC)
Xiao, David H., Edmonton-McClung (PC)
Young, Steve, Edmonton-Riverview (PC)

Party standings:

Progressive Conservative: 63 Wildrose: 14 Alberta Liberal: 5 New Democrat: 4 Independent: 1

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Eggen	Rogers
Hehr	Rowe
Horne	Sarich
Kennedy-Glans	Stier
Luan	Towle
McDonald	

Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Casey
Deputy Chair: Mrs. Jablonski

Amery	Lukaszuk
Barnes	Mason
Ellis	Sherman
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Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Ms Olesen
Deputy Chair: Mr. Pedersen

Cusanelli	McAllister
Eggen	Quest
Fenske	Rodney
Fox	Sandhu
Fritz	Swann
Jablonski	Weadick
Leskiw	

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Bilous	Rowe
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Jablonski	

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Calahasen	Pedersen
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Olesen	

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

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Jansen	

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Bikman	Johnson, L.
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Cao	

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 4, 2014

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Hon. members, let us pray. May the joyful spirit that surrounds us today remain within our hearts all year long, and may our actions be guided by the messages of sharing and of giving to those in need. Amen.

Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-East, followed by Little Bow.

Mr. Amery: Thank you. Today is indeed a very blessed day here at the Alberta Legislature. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the newly appointed bishop of the Lebanese Maronite church of Canada, Bishop Paul-Marwan Tabet, who is located in Montreal. Today he is visiting Edmonton. Also, we have Father Michel Kassas of the Lebanese Maronite church of Calgary. Accompanying them are Mrs. Kassas – I should put it this way; Mrs. Kassas is the mother of the Father – and five very active members of the church: Mrs. Hanan Samia, Mrs. Rola Abi Badra, Mrs. Najwa Machaalani, Mr. Francis Machaalani, and Mr. Tony Shallala. They're seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Member for Little Bow, followed by Leduc-Beaumont.

Mr. Donovan: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all the members of the Assembly my lovely wife, Serena. She's sitting up in your gallery. As we all know, everybody that's in this Assembly, you need your spouse and your loved ones to be part of what you do, and my wife has always been a rock. I thank her for all of her support. If she'd please rise now and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Speaker and Member for Leduc-Beaumont.

Mr. Rogers: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and hon. members, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize a group of individuals in the galleries today who play a key role in the democratic process in the province of Alberta, the staff who work in our constituency offices. They often provide the first point of contact for our constituents and represent our offices and this Assembly. These special individuals are here today participating in the winter constituency employee seminar, which provides an opportunity for them to network with other LAO staff and obtain an overview of numerous programs and services available through the LAO. Each year the service and contributions of these individuals are celebrated with an employee recognition dinner, which the Speaker will be holding later this evening. Today approximately 65 office employees are with us from all corners of the province. They're in both galleries, and I'd ask that they all rise and receive the warm traditional welcome of members of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. members.

Are there any school groups to be introduced today?

If not, we have a number of other important guests to introduce. We have 20 more introductions, so please keep your introductions as short as possible so that we can get all 20 in.

Let's start with the hon. Member for Sherwood Park, followed by the President of Treasury Board.

Ms Olesen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly three of my constituents from Sherwood Park. They are seated in the public gallery. We have today with us Thomas Moore, Regine Moore, and Eric Inch. Mr. Moore visited me in my constituency office to raise awareness of the issues many vulnerable Albertans are facing with life leases. If we could have them rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. President of Treasury Board, followed by Edmonton-Centre.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly some very special guests. We will be meeting with renowned private-sector economists to discuss Alberta's economic forecast in advance of next year's budget. The perspectives these individuals bring to the table are invaluable to our budget planning process. Sitting in the gallery we have Craig Wright, senior vice-president and chief economist, RBC Financial Group; Rob Kavcic, vice-president and senior economist, BMO Capital Markets; Avery Shenfeld, managing director and chief economist, CIBC World Markets; Stéfane Marion, chief economist and strategist, National Bank Financial Markets; Mary Webb, senior economist, Scotiabank; Leslie Preston, economist, TD Economics; and Marie-Christine Bernard, associate director, provincial forecast, Conference Board of Canada. Along with them are members of my department: Katherine White, assistant deputy minister; Mark Parsons, acting chief economist; and Sarla Sharma, senior economist. I'd ask them all to rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, followed by Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Saturday is the 25th anniversary of an event we call the Montreal massacre. A group of women came together and started to plan a memorial for that event, and I have brought them all together again today. We became lifelong friends and peer support for each other. I'd like you to please welcome to the Assembly Catherine Hedlin, Bonnie Thompson, Sonia Bitar – please rise – Carol Hutchings, Shelley Williams, Michelle Andrews, and Janet Pavlic. Thank you so much for all the help over the years and for being such stalwart warriors for women. Thank you.

I'm also really flattered, Mr. Speaker, to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a very special young woman who is the official president of my fan club, and that is Ms Imogen Randall. Imogen, would you rise, please. She's done great work. Please welcome her. With Imogen is her mother, Kim Bewick, who works in my office as the caseworker and is a great social activist.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner, followed by the leader of the ND opposition.

Mr. Bikman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to introduce to you and through you to all members of this august Chamber the Wildrose caucus constituency assistants. They are on the front lines of service and deal with the everyday problems of Albertans while providing them with solutions, and with the exception of those who work for the hon. leader and the Member for Calgary-Fish Creek, they have to work very hard to make the rest of us look good. If they would please stand as I say their names and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly: Julie, Angela, Keith, Mandy, Melanie, Alex, Lynn, Terri, Brenda, Lana, Barbara, and Laura. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: The hon. leader of the ND opposition, followed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly my guests Lori Sigurdson, David Von Haller, and Joey Shaughnessy. Lori is the senior manager at the Alberta College of Social Workers, vice-president of Public Interest Alberta, and the NDP candidate for Edmonton-Riverview in the next provincial election. David Von Haller and Joey Shaughnessy are both fourth-year bachelor of social work students at the University of Calgary. They are doing their field placements at the Alberta College of Social Workers, and Lori is their field supervisor. I would like to ask my guests to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

1:40

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs, followed by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Mrs. McQueen: Well, 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 two outstanding young men, Colin Aitken and Scott Thomson. Colin I've had the pleasure for knowing for a few years. He's an outstanding young man from Devon and door-knocked with me in my last campaign. Colin will be attending Grant MacEwan University in January, studying history and political science. Scott has travelled from Scotland, where he is currently studying electrical and mechanical engineering at the University of the Highlands and Islands. Welcome, Scott, to Alberta. We'd love to bring you here as a temporary worker in Alberta. I ask both of you to rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, followed by the leader of the Alberta Liberal opposition.

Mr. Olson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a constituent of mine by the name of Joan Bishop. She's from the centre of my constituency, near Gwynne, and lives on a lovely acreage. She's been a home-schooler for many years, and she came by today to just watch the proceedings. She and her husband, Barry, have five kids and three grandkids. I've known Joan for a long time, and I know her to be a very committed parent and community volunteer. I believe she's in the public gallery. If she could rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. leader of the Liberal opposition, followed by the minister of environment.

Dr. Sherman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions. Firstly, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Brian Gregg, Joanne David, and Mac Walker from the organization called Poor Vote Turnout. Poor Vote Turnout is on a quest in Edmonton to increase voter turnout by encouraging and assisting the poor population to vote in elections. I'd like to thank Brian, Joanne, and Mac for the work that they do and ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Leah Koska. Leah is a student at the University of Alberta, graduating this year from the department of human ecology. Leah is passionate about policy development; specifically, providing healthy and affordable nutrition to all Albertans. In fact, Leah's solutions will fix the health system, and I think she'd be a great MLA for Edmonton-Meadowlark in the future as she is my constituent. I'd like to ask Leah to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. minister of environment, followed by Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Mr. Fawcett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a good friend of mine, someone that I've gotten to know over a number of years and a constituent of Calgary-Klein, Mr. DJ Kelly. DJ is the community president of the Winston Heights-Mountview Community Association in my riding. He's a tireless volunteer in the community, takes a very keen interest in all of the affairs going on in the community, in our city, and in our province, and is very well known on Twitter. I know he's here in the public gallery. I'd like to have him rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake, followed by Calgary-Glenmore.

Mrs. Leskiw: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a journalist from Newcap News in my constituency of Bonnyville-Cold Lake, Frazer Snowdon, his first time at the Alberta Legislature. It's a testament to our great province that we have such a vocal and proud media. Mr. Snowdon is a valuable contributor to our community and a valuable voice of the people of Bonnyville-Cold Lake. He's seated in the visitors' gallery. I'd ask him to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore, followed by the Associate Minister of Persons with Disabilities.

Ms L. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions as well. It is my pleasure and honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a special visitor. Seated in the members' gallery, from Beaverlodge, is Rochelle Martian. I met Rochelle this summer as we worked together on the Premier's leadership campaign. Her energy and calmness were an asset to our group. I would like her to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

My second introduction, Mr. Speaker, is on behalf of my colleague the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster and myself. We'd like to introduce Linda Cerra. Linda is our legislative assistant, and I would observe that Linda keeps us going. She keeps her sense of humour as she works. They all work hard, but I

bet Linda is one of the hardest working in the Assembly. Thank you, Linda, and thank you for having our back.

The Speaker: The hon. Associate Minister of Persons with Disabilities, followed by Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Bhardwaj: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour for me to rise today and introduce to you and through you on behalf of my colleague the Minister of Human Services and myself three new government of Alberta employees. They're here today to represent some of the actions our government is taking under Alberta's employment-first strategy. This strategy was put in place to improve employment for persons with disabilities, to help address current labour shortages, and to create more inclusive workplaces and communities. I'm proud to say that our government is leading by example, creating 20 paid internship positions for persons with disabilities. The members are here today. Please rise as I call out your names. Vivek Agnihotri will be working in human resources recruitment, Christina Amador is a research intern in disability services, and Kate Walker will be working as a case aid with AISH. Joining them also today is Gisela Kwok, director in charge of the employment-first internship program. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore, followed by Calgary-McCall.

Mrs. Sarich: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour and a privilege for me to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all Members of the Legislative Assembly Ms Segen Tesfamicael, an outstanding constituent from Edmonton-Decore who is here this afternoon to observe democracy in action. Segen is in her final year of the human ecology program at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences. She's a born and raised Albertan who is a dedicated, ambitious, and highly motivated individual. Best wishes, Segen, in all of your future endeavours. I would now ask Segen to please rise and remain standing for the Assembly would like to provide to you this afternoon a traditional warm welcome.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall, followed by Banff-Cochrane.

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly my right-hand man, jack of all trades, and, most importantly, my constituency manager. Mr. Robb Aishford has been working for the constituency of Calgary-McCall since May 2012, when I was able to steal him from our caucus, where he was formerly doing communications. Mr. Aishford is a proud University of Alberta political science graduate and, like most in this Chamber, an intense political news junkie, who day in and day out helps keep me on track and organized. Most importantly, he takes great care of my constituents in Calgary-McCall. I will now ask Mr. Robb Aishford to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Banff-Cochrane, followed by Whitecourt-Ste. Anne.

Mr. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a woman with absolutely no interest in politics whatsoever. It truly is an honour to have her here today. She's

actually stood by me through 17 years of political life, but she's also stood by me through 42 years of marriage. I'd ask my wife, Pennie, to rise and please accept . . . [applause]

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Whitecourt-Ste. Anne, followed by Lesser Slave Lake.

Mr. VanderBurg: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly the legislative assistants that support our government members each and every day. We're all dependent on our legislative assistants to help us navigate our way through sessions such as this one. I know that I speak for all my caucus colleagues when I say thank you for all the hard work you've done and continue to do. I'd ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Hon. members, we have three left. Bear with me as we complete these. The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake, followed by the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education and by Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Ms Calahasen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have two introductions. It is an honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly an individual whom I had the pleasure of welcoming as a new staff member in 1998, when I was a minister without portfolio responsible for children's services. Throughout the years as I moved offices, she moved with me. This is rare. In all the years that she has been with me, I have not had the ability to introduce her because she's always been too darn busy. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce to you Ms Rhonda Checknita. I call her the historian of all legislative assistants, and I thank her for all the work and the honour of having her work for me. I'd ask that Rhonda rise and receive a big thanks from me and a traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

1:50

The other, Mr. Speaker, an individual I never get to introduce as well, is number three of six sisters. That's my sister Louise. She comes from Red Deer, and I know she's here to do a number of things. I'd ask her to rise and receive the warm welcome as one of my little sisters.

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to introduce to you and through you somebody who suffered with me for many, many years not only as my constituency assistant; she used to assist me in my law firm. That is Diane Edison. Please rise, Diane Edison, and receive the traditional warm welcome of the House.

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

Mr. Bikman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I inadvertently missed the opportunity to introduce to you and through you to this Assembly the two hardest working assistants because they have to make the hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat look good, and that's nearly impossible: Kendra and Shelley, please.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: Hon. members, we're going to start Oral Question Period. Thank you for allowing me to delay it a bit to get all those introductions done.

Thirty-five seconds maximum for the question, 35 seconds maximum for the answer. Let us begin. The hon. Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Hospital Infrastructure Maintenance

Ms Smith: Mr. Speaker, Albertans are shaking their heads at all of the examples of how this government has mismanaged our health system. They've allowed our hospitals to crumble because of lack of maintenance. The condition of many hospitals is abysmal, and many of the ones in good condition aren't being properly utilized. We all know that the system for allocating infrastructure maintenance dollars is politicized and rife with manipulation. Will the Premier commit to fixing his government's record of neglect on this file?

Mr. Mandel: Mr. Speaker, we allocate money on the maintenance of hospitals. The decision is made by Alberta Health Services of allocating \$70 million a year. That's done based upon their evaluation of what's needed. We don't interfere in that process at all.

Ms Smith: Mr. Speaker, the facts say otherwise. The files speak to chronic neglect of many of our hospitals. Problems with sewers, heating and ventilation systems, fire alarms, electrical systems, and water infiltration are common. But there are also problems that are shocking in that they didn't cause anyone's attention to perk up. The Lloydminster hospital may have a problem with radioactive contamination. Sundre has ant infestations. The Rockyview has issues with mould and moist drywall. These are issues that directly compromise patient safety. To the Health minister: how could it have gotten this bad?

Mr. Mandel: Mr. Speaker, let's be very clear. Health safety is the number one issue for this government, Alberta Health Services, and Alberta Health. Our standards are some of the best in this country. Even though we have some challenges in some of our facilities, we do maintain some of the highest levels of cleanliness within any hospital in this country.

Ms Smith: Mr. Speaker, hospitals are where you go to hopefully get better, but the information in the maintenance file suggests that this government has actually made many of our hospitals unsafe and unhealthy for both patients and front-line workers. All of this happened during a period when AHS paid for executives' country club memberships, authorized exorbitant expenses, and funded executive coaches and art consultants. Doesn't anyone over there know how to set priorities and look after the interests of Alberta patients?

Mr. Mandel: You know, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leader's zeal, but the fact of the matter is that we make sure that Albertans are properly taken care of in the hospitals. We have very good care. Alberta Health Services has decreased the number of people in their upper management by a substantial number. They will continue to do that. They're committed to making sure that our system is the best, and we'll make sure that happens.

Ms Smith: They changed the names on the business cards, and the minister knows that.

Hospital Infrastructure Priorities

Ms Smith: The politicization of the funding of critical health infrastructure is disappointing, but it's not new. Almost two years ago we raised in question period the issue of the sewer system at

the Wainwright hospital. We pointed out that all acute and long-term care spaces were at risk if sewers failed. Our documents make it crystal clear that this hospital was a top priority for AHS, but when the decision got to cabinet, the hospital was ignored. To the Infrastructure minister: why does this government insist on ignoring these top-level priorities from AHS?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Infrastructure.

Mr. Bhullar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I've said this point before. Our capital plan is \$19.2 billion, nearly \$7 billion in capital spending in a capital year. The opposition, I'm glad, is now starting to get very interested in infrastructure spending because they are a party that has year after year after year asked us to reduce our infrastructure spending. On this side of the House we believe that the people's priority is to build and refurbish their infrastructure, and that's exactly what we're doing.

Ms Smith: Mr. Speaker, we'd get better value for money if we'd spend it on priorities and not pet projects.

This isn't just a Wainwright issue. It affects patients across Alberta, who expect hospitals to be there for them when they need them. Stories of wheelchairs not fitting into bathrooms, leaky roofs and windows, failing water valves: these are the direct result of this government putting politics above priorities. Priority lists are ignored. There is no accountability for how money is spent, and the result is that projects with the greatest need languish in this broken system. Why won't the minister release an objective, public, prioritized infrastructure list and . . .

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bhullar: Mr. Speaker, speaking of prioritized infrastructure lists, the members opposite came out with a proposal to build a certain number of schools, yet not one single municipality was singled out to receive a school. [interjections] How would they make those decisions? I find it to be quite amusing. In addition, yesterday they spoke about facility condition index reports. [interjections]

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Let's have the final supplemental, with no interruptions if possible, please.

Ms Smith: Mr. Speaker, we all know that releasing a prioritized, public infrastructure list means that politicians won't be able to go back home to their ridings and make big promises. Albertans care about fairness and objectivity. They want projects with the highest need to be taken care of first. The only way we will ever start to clean up the crisis facing our hospitals is to have predictable funding and a transparent priority list. Minister, I will ask again: why won't this government do the right thing and finally release a prioritized . . .

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Infrastructure.

Mr. Bhullar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the members opposite how and what projects they would cut to achieve a \$1.7 billion cut in infrastructure funding. A \$1.7 billion cut. On this side of the House we believe that infrastructure spending is incredibly important. We will invest where our communities are growing and where the greatest need is to make sure that Albertans are well served and looked after.

The Speaker: The hon. leader. Third and final main set of questions.

Child Protective Services

Ms Smith: Two weeks ago the independent Child and Youth Advocate released his annual report and slammed this government for its failure to respond to many of his recommendations. Yesterday we learned that Dr. Lionel Dibden resigned as chair of the council for quality assurance. This body of experts is tasked with working with the ministry and making recommendations to improve and strengthen the child intervention system. Dr. Dibden resigned after ministry officials rejected the council's recommendations. To the minister: why is her department dismissing all efforts at independent, objective scrutiny?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Human Services.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated yesterday, I thanked Dr. Dibden for his services. I have had the opportunity to meet with the council twice as well, and he was not able to be at those meetings. I guess, at the end of the day, for this ministry it's about accountability. Accountability is expected from government, and I expect accountability from the quality council as well. I'm looking forward to them filing their report, which has not been filed for two and a half years.

Ms Smith: Well, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Dibden is very well respected and was doing his best to fulfill the mandate this government gave to the council for quality assurance. The Human Services ministry seems to be at odds with the council's mandate. They also seem to be at odds with the Child and Youth Advocate. This minister has rejected the recommendations of the council. Apparently, she has set out new expectations for the council. To the minister: what are the new expectations, and what was wrong with the old expectations?

2:00

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, I did file yesterday the two letters outlining the new expectations and direction. At the end of the day, with respect to the work that the Child and Youth Advocate does and the recommendations that have come forward, of the 96 recommendations they have brought forward, 55 are completed, 12 are ongoing, 25 are in progress. We've only not accepted four of those 96 recommendations. I think that says it all there.

Ms Smith: Well, Mr. Speaker, that's not what Dr. Dibden is saying. This government has a very poor record when it comes to learning from the deaths of children in care. The fatal care series shocked Albertans. The government said that it would do better. They asked thoughtful outside experts to come in and help them fix a broken system. Now it appears the ministry doesn't want to follow outside recommendations. We all want to do right by these children. Will the minister release the reasons why she is not acting on the recommendations of the council for quality assurance and the Child and Youth Advocate?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The safety and well-being of children remains a huge priority for this government and this ministry. I want to make it clear that we review every incident and every fatality in the child intervention system. We also have numerous bodies assisting with that, including the medical examiner, the Child and Youth Advocate, and the Fatality Review Board, in addition to our own internal reviews as well.

Again, from my perspective, how many people do we need to review the reviewers? It's time to get past reviewing again and get on with the job at hand.

The Speaker: The hon. leader of the Alberta Liberal opposition.

Hospital Infrastructure Priorities (continued)

Dr. Sherman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Health care has been in crisis for over a decade while this PC government has been playing politics with hospital funding, plain and simple. The *Edmonton Journal* found that hospital condition ratings were lowered in constituencies with PC MLAs in order to justify queue-jumping them onto the funding list while the majority of projects that AHS identified as priorities were not funded. The government can try and deny it, but the areas represented by the hon. members for Grande Prairie-Wapiti, West Yellowhead, and Whitecourt-Ste. Anne all got more money while others got less. Will the Minister of Health release the PC cabinet's health infrastructure priority list so that we can compare it to that from AHS . . .

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Mandel: Mr. Speaker, we've built projects in Medicine Hat and across the province to make sure that all Albertans get the opportunity to have the kind of health care they desire. We evaluate through Alberta Health Services various projects. We make decisions. There is not an unlimited amount of money. We try to allocate that money in a way that we get the best value for it. There are projects that are being done. For example, in Calgary the south campus hospital is a phenomenal facility. We're looking at building a new cancer clinic in Calgary. You know, there is only so much money that we have. We try to allocate it effectively.

Dr. Sherman: There's only so much money to be had, and it's spent on pork-barrel politics.

So far this government has gotten a failing grade on their report card for openness, transparency, and accountability, not to mention their handling of Alberta's finances. The PC government is wasting money by prioritizing facilities with less need in PC ridings and letting others with higher need, like the Misericordia and Royal Alex in the city of Edmonton, that the former mayor was in charge of, fall into disrepair. To the Health minister: why is the government still ignoring AHS and its own department's recommendations for what can only be seen as partisan purposes?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Mandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. I've had an opportunity to visit both the Misericordia and Royal Alexandra hospitals. They both need work. There is a need for us to evaluate what we can do in those two hospitals to bring them up to a standard that would be commensurate with what we want to see in the province of Alberta. But, you know, there is not an unlimited amount of money. We're putting through some ideas on how we can help rebuild both facilities so that Edmonton can have the kind of facilities they need like we're doing across the province with every region all over this wonderful, phenomenal province.

Dr. Sherman: Mr. Speaker, the Royal Alexandra and the Misericordia serve not only the city of Edmonton but all of northern Alberta and central Alberta and surrounding regions of

the whole province. I know this government doesn't appreciate the fine work done by the media and the opposition to uncover their misdeeds, but that doesn't explain why it didn't listen to Alberta's Auditor General, who recommended that this PC government clean up its act when it comes to how it maintains, evaluates, and funds infrastructure projects. To the Minister of Health again. Your government doesn't listen to your department. It doesn't listen to AHS. It ignores the Auditor General. So who really is calling the shots?

Mr. Mandel: Mr. Speaker, to do with the Royal Alexandra hospital and the Misericordia hospital, we've said time and time again that we've invested almost \$40 million in the Misericordia and about the same amount in the Royal Alexandra. We're doing everything we can to make sure hospitals are maintained in an effective way; \$70 million a year is being spent. Large capital projects: over \$2 billion. We're committed to making sure our province has the best health care. Walk into in any hospital in this province sometime; you'll see the best health care that exists anywhere in this country.

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

Gay-straight Alliances in Schools

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This PC government has never shied away from trampling on the autonomy of school boards. They took away their power to tax. They took away their power to appoint their own superintendents. They've even fired entire school boards when it's suited them. Now the only school board power this government is prepared to defend is the power to discriminate against gay students. To the Education minister, please. We'd really like to hear from you on this. Why is it government policy to protect school boards' ability to discriminate against LGBTQ students? Why?

Mr. Dirks: Well, Mr. Speaker, as a former school board chair I can tell you that I have no intention, no desire to discriminate against anybody. Nobody on this side of the House wants to do that. We are committed to ensuring that all students in all Alberta schools have a safe, caring, respectful environment for LGBTQ students, for students of other faiths, for any student who comes to an Alberta school. They are going to be assured that they have a quality, safe learning environment.

The Speaker: Thank you.
First supplemental.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is very difficult to accept the minister's statement that they don't want to discriminate against LGBTQ students when he has just tabled legislation that legalizes that very thing for school boards. Why, Mr. Minister, have you tabled legislation that allows school boards to discriminate if you are so committed to protecting people against discrimination?

The Speaker: Let's not get into debating the bill here, please. Keep it to government policy, government services, government programs.
Your answer, please.

Mr. Dirks: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very encouraged that our school boards are deeply concerned about providing an environment where bullying is not tolerated, where all students have an opportunity to be respected and cared for. This side of the

House: we declare that we support GSAs. We support any activity of a school board that is going to do anything it can to provide safe, caring, respectful environments for their students.

The Speaker: Final supplemental, hon. member.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, this government has made the province of Alberta a laughingstock across Canada because of its knuckle-dragging policies and its refusal to embrace equality across the board. The Premier said that no rights are unqualified. Well, it's pretty clear that this government believes that the rights of gay students are certainly not unqualified because they are legalizing discrimination against them. Why are you doing that, Mr. Minister?

Mr. Dirks: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that this government listens to Albertans and responds to their priorities, and what Albertans want is to ensure that we have schools that are safe, caring, and respectful. There is no room for bullying. There is no room for intolerance. That's what we're committed to, and we'll sustain that every day our schools are open.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek, followed by Leduc-Beaumont.

High Prairie Health Services

Mrs. Forsyth: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Doctors in High Prairie are speaking out after this government decided that their highly successful medical practice would not be welcome in the new High Prairie health complex, currently under construction and set to open in 2016. Instead, AHS will spend millions to open a competing government-run clinic in this new facility. To the minister: why won't you allow the existing, highly successful High Prairie medical clinic to lease space in the High Prairie hospital when it opens?

2:10

Mr. Mandel: Mr. Speaker, we've invited everybody who wants to participate in the new hospital to participate. We've encouraged people to come together. Sometimes politics in communities is just as difficult as politics within this building.

Mrs. Forsyth: There's no politics in this one, Minister.

Given that the minister has said that the future of primary health care in Alberta was dependent on expanding primary health care networks and given that these were in the process of forming a PCN specifically to expand chronic disease and mental health services, a process that's now in question: Minister, what are you doing?

Mr. Mandel: Mr. Speaker, we're increasing primary care networks. We're encouraging in any community for doctors to come together to offer the services that will help their communities. We believe that that's the foundation of our system, the doctors delivering service. We'll continue to do that, whether it's in High Prairie or in High Level or in Calgary.

Mrs. Forsyth: Thank you, Minister, for that answer. That is exactly what they're doing.

Given that these physicians running this existing clinic in High Prairie have over 70 years of combined experience serving this community and given that this existing clinic offers physicians, pharmacy, and dental care under one roof: Minister, will you please let them rent space?

Mr. Mandel: Mr. Speaker, we're not excluding anybody from doing anything in High Prairie. We are encouraging people to work together. Our zone people are working together to bring more doctors into High Prairie because we had a shortage of doctors and there is a competitive concern, but the fact of the matter is that we'll try to work to solve the problems. The reality is that High Prairie is a very, very significant community that supplies health services to a tremendous number of people, not just that community but a lot of First Nations' communities, and we need to make sure they get the kind of service they need and not through politics but through medicine.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont, followed by Livingstone-Macleod.

Highway 19 Twinning

Mr. Rogers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The twinning of highway 19 has been an issue of grave concern in my constituency for far too long. This project has been on and off the province's capital plans, and this is the second time that I've asked the minister for a definitive answer on this important project. To the Minister of Transportation: can the minister provide an update on his ministry's plans to finally twin highway 19?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the hon. member for the question. He always works hard for his constituents. I understand how important this is to local residents along highway 19 and to the future development of that area. My department has been working with local municipalities, residents, and the Edmonton International Airport to develop a plan to twin highway 19 that works for everyone. Discussion at this point is ongoing.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Rogers: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the same minister. Mr. Minister, you have mentioned working with the International Airport. What I'm wondering is if the plans that your department is working on will take into account the important third runway that the airport is planning.

Mr. Drysdale: Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to coming up with a design that accommodates the planned runway while minimizing the impact on the surrounding area. We continue to work closely with the airport and other stakeholders to achieve this goal, and we're making good progress.

The Speaker: Final supplemental.

Mr. Rogers: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the same minister: can you give any assurances that my constituents will see some tangible signs of progress any time soon?

Mr. Drysdale: Mr. Speaker, again, I understand how important this project is not only to this member but to other members in this Assembly as well. My department is currently engaged in the capital planning and budget process for 2015 as are the rest of my cabinet colleagues. So we'll wait for the budget. But I can assure this member and his constituents that there is a lot of work going on today with the Edmonton International Airport in the purchase of land and design work by my department to move this project forward.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod, followed by Lethbridge-East.

Infrastructure Project Prioritization

Mr. Stier: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've seen queue-jumping in health care. We've seen queue-jumping in education. Now we're learning about queue-jumping in infrastructure thanks to the *Edmonton Journal's* ongoing report into this government's political manipulation. According to the report this government manipulates the facility condition index so they can ignore funding recommendations and promote political projects. To the Infrastructure minister. We've seen the negative effects of queue-jumping before. Why are you letting this happen again?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Infrastructure.

Mr. Bhullar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This member alleges that facility condition index reports are manipulated. I have in my hands the reasons why reports and results have been changed. For example, in 2013 – and I'll table this later this afternoon – a flood occurred due to a sprinkler failure, which damaged a significant portion of a building. As a result, the condition of the building had to change.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Stier: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this report that I mentioned outlines multiple cases where facilities with a dire FCI, or facility condition index, rating are not granted funding and given that 23 projects, mostly in PC ridings, had their FCI ratings altered by this minister's department without explanation in order to receive funding, will the minister just admit queue-jumping, or facility roulette, is happening?

Mr. Bhullar: Mr. Speaker, I have in my hands the reason why the facility index reports were changed, and every single one of them – 34 reasons why the reports were changed. If these members are alleging that somehow in 2010 Alberta Health Services could predict what the outcome of the 2012 election was going to be, man, I'm going to give Alberta Health Services a lot of money to buy lottery tickets for me.

The Speaker: Final supplemental.

Mr. Stier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, the minister promised to do things differently, but so far all we've seen is photo ops, queue-jumping, spending promises he cannot deliver on, appalling reports like today, and sod-turning on projects that haven't even been put out to tender. Given that the minister specializes in making political announcements, how does he really think he's going to end this culture of political manipulation in infrastructure?

Mr. Bhullar: I'll tell you what. I've been to places like Airdrie, where seven new schools are either completed or under way, where contracts have been tendered. If they don't want them, let me know. We've been to Brooks. New schools are open. Medicine Hat: new schools are open. I would like to know from that party opposite where they are going to cut projects to reduce \$1.7 billion. That's \$1.7 billion, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, followed by Edmonton-Centre.

Long-term Care Facility Staffing

Ms Pastoor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many Albertans have become optimistic now that new long-term care beds are promised. However, I know from my 16 years as a geriatric specialist RN front-line worker that beds are only a part of the equation. Beds are just beds without the qualified staff to meet the existing and projected numbers of residents. To the Minister of Health: how do you plan to tackle the challenge of the increased number of properly qualified staff required for our existing long-term care facilities?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Mr. Mandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. You know, Alberta Health Services realizes that it's an ever-growing industry, and we're planning in the future to look at what we can do, working with the minister of advanced education. Last year, the first half of 2014 – I should say this year – 145 new front-line care workers were provided for the continuing care staff. Ongoing recruitment measures are in place to staff facilities and home-care programs. You know something? AHS has offered education support to our staff. We're working as hard as we can. We realize that with the new 464 beds opening up and the new beds put forward by our minister, we're going to need more people.

The Speaker: Thank you.
First supplemental.

Ms Pastoor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: given that current regulations state that each long-term care patient is to receive a minimum of 1.9 hours of care per day as a staffing standard, is this enough, and does it truly represent the unique personal needs of each resident that enable them to retain their dignity?

2:20

Mr. Mandel: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member said it quite clearly: dignity. Dignity is the most important issue in dealing with continuing care individuals and those who are in our long-term care facilities. Currently there's a minimum standard of 1.9 hours, which is legislated, but the fact of the matter is that we mandate 3.6 hours. We also on top of that encourage providing rehabilitation, recreation therapists, bringing the minimum average to almost 4 paid hours per person. We are above the standard, and we'll continue to do that because the dignity of our people . . .

The Speaker: Final supplemental.

Ms Pastoor: Thank you. Again to that same minister: how do we ensure that long-term care facilities are adequately staffed when staff call in sick and they are not replaced, which is known as working short, in a way that will not compromise the quality of care?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Mandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very important that Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services have an oversight of care provided in long-term care facilities in Alberta. You know, ensuring both the right level of care and the right number of staff working each shift is vitally important. My ministry is working with AHS to improve audits of long-term care operators to verify that residents receive the right type of care. I know that the

Minister of Infrastructure – there are new programs coming from the federal government, which is encouraging.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, followed by Edmonton-Strathcona. [interjections] Edmonton-Centre. [interjections] The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, third time.

Energy Development Hearing Participation

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year I stated that the Responsible Energy Development Act severely curtails who gets to intervene for energy development hearings, where only those directly and adversely affected get to do so, which, for all intents and purposes, means that no coalition, no First Nations, no NGO will ever be able to present to a hearing on anything to do with cumulative effects on the environment. To the minister of the environment: how is it democratic, fair, or ethical for a government to keep concerns about cumulative effects out of approval hearings?

Mr. Fawcett: Mr. Speaker, the Alberta Energy Regulator is responsible for doing the hearings for approvals of energy projects, and it's important to remember that just because someone has an interest in a hearing doesn't mean that they're directly and adversely impacted by the project. It's up to the Alberta Energy Regulator to make that determination as to whether they have standing at the hearings. It's important that that independent, arm's-length body has the ability to do that.

Ms Blakeman: Mr. Minister, you need to practise your listening skills.

Let me try this again. Over the summer an environmental group got excluded from an energy regulator hearing on CNRL's re-steaming application at the Cold Lake air weapons range, where bitumen continues to ooze, by the way, because of the directly and adversely affected rule. To the same minister: can he name a single environmental organization or First Nations band granted standing by the energy regulator?

Mr. Fawcett: Mr. Speaker, again, we have the Alberta Energy Regulator that is in place that makes that determination. It's very clear in the legislation that those that are granted status in these hearings have to be directly and adversely affected. It's an independent, third-party body, through the Alberta Energy Regulator, that makes that determination, not me as the minister.

The Speaker: Final supplemental.

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Given that this government changed the regulations, the rules, the legislation that the energy regulator is operating under to narrow it to only those people that are directly and adversely affected – and, as a result, no First Nations group, no NGO, and no one except for those that live across the road are able to ask to appear at these hearings – no cumulative effects have been able to be discussed as part of these hearings. Why are you allowing that?

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, the information that the hon. member provided, while heartfelt, I'm sure, is factually incorrect. First Nations are directly consulted through the aboriginal consultation office, and they are able to file statements of concern before the Alberta Energy Regulator's process. First Nations are completely and fully and meaningfully consulted in this province, and I wouldn't want Albertans to think that anything other was the case.

The Speaker: The hon. leader of the ND opposition, followed by the hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

Child Protective Services
(continued)

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this spring this government has resisted all of the NDP caucus efforts to have the children's advocate fully and transparently and independently investigate every child fatality. Now they're refusing internal comprehensive investigations, and they've lost a respected public official as a result. I'm asking the minister to ignore her rather insipid talking points and actually answer the question: what is your government afraid of?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Human Services.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the good work that the office of the Child and Youth Advocate does as well as the oversight committee and the quality assurance council: it's important to note all the resources we have at base to support children and families and to make those investigations. I am more than happy to repeat that.

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that the advocate has identified that the government's so-called accepted recommendations have actually been frequently and regularly ignored by this government, my question to the minister is simply this: when will you actually start implementing the recommendations of the children's advocate that he says you are habitually and repeatedly ignoring?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to give one really good example of a recommendation that was made that we are implementing, the child intervention practice framework, that all social workers and individuals on the front line do, working with continuous improvement, strength-based connections, family preservation, collaboration, critical thinking, and case analysis skills. That's an example of a recommendation that is ongoing and that we have certainly accepted.

Ms Notley: Well, given that the minister can only refer to one accepted recommendation out of the dozens and dozens that the children's advocate is concerned about and given that the advocate only investigates about a third of deaths at this point – that means that the majority of the 18 deaths which have occurred so far this year will go unexplained – to the minister: how can Albertans ever believe that your government cares about protecting kids over protecting itself?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said before, the safety and well-being of children remains a priority for this government and especially children who pass away under tragic circumstances. I know of the meetings that I've had with all of the individuals. We review every incident. We have an internal process that we put in place. Again, of the 96 recommendations that we have accepted, 55 are completed, 12 are ongoing, 25 are in progress. We have only not accepted four. I encourage the hon. member to take a look at the website for Human Services.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks, followed by Stony Plain.

Environmental Protection

Mr. Hale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Directive 074 is one example of how this government has failed to protect our industry by writing policy without consultation. The directive issued by the ERCB in 2009 set unrealistic targets for the reduction and reclamation of tailings ponds. As most everyone knows, the oil sands producers have failed to meet directive 074's overly ambitious targets. Despite this fact the government has allowed this failed directive to remain on the books. To the minister: what will this government do about tailings ponds?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Fawcett: Thank you very much. The member asks a really good question. We're working right now, actually, with industry on a new directive that should be made public in the new year. What is very, very important is that we understand that having tailings ponds on our landscape does present significant environmental and financial risks to taxpayers, and we want to deal with it. Industry wants to deal with it. Directive 074 wasn't a complete failure. It has incited a number of investments in technology, which will be the answer to solving this problem, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hale: Mr. Speaker, given that industry has stated that directive 074 is an example of setting a misguided, unachievable policy that sets everyone up for failure, industry and regulator, and given that there was supposed to be a report and revamped policy scheduled to be released this past summer, to the minister: where is it, what's in it, and why is it being delayed?

Mr. Fawcett: Well, Mr. Speaker, this government is under new management, and as a result there's been a whole lot of review of the new things that we're bringing forward. We wanted to sit down and make sure that we do have it right. Again, I want to say that directive 074 has incited a lot of the companies operating in the oil sands to do the right thing. In fact, I was just up at the Syncrude site, where I toured a \$2 billion investment that Syncrude is about to commission that will start to reduce their tailings ponds being released out onto the landscape.

2:30

Mr. Hale: While we're on the energy policy, Mr. Speaker, given that the former environment minister was considering implementing a Liberalesque Bill 44 type carbon tax placed on industry, will the new minister clear the air and tell this House what plans he has to increase the carbon levy on industry?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Fawcett: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Right now, again, one of the things that we're doing under the new management and the leadership of our Premier is reviewing a promise to bring out a renewed climate change strategy. The member is right. At the end of this month, actually, the current regulation, the specified gas emitters regulation, expires, and we're going to have to make a decision on that. We haven't made any final decisions at this point in time, but we're having those conversations, that will be part of a larger package in order to meet our greenhouse gas emission targets.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Stony Plain, followed by Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Drinking Water in Parkland County

Mr. Lemke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've learned that arsenic and manganese have been found in groundwater in Parkland county. This is a very disturbing discovery. There are many residents who use private wells for drinking water. My first question is to the hon. Minister of Health. Do people in Parkland county have safe drinking water?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Mandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm that there have been private water wells tested in Parkland county with higher than recommended levels of arsenic and manganese. I can also confirm that these elements are naturally occurring and levels are not an immediate danger to health. Health risks associated with arsenic and manganese are long term, meaning many years, even decades, of exposure is needed for any health impact. The fact is that we do not know if all the private well owners in Parkland county have safe water, so today Alberta Health Services is beginning a campaign to inform well owners that they need to be inspected.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Lemke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Excellent answer, Mr. Minister.

If water from these private wells is not safe, what are you going to do about it?

Mr. Mandel: Excellent. Mr. Speaker, Alberta Health Services will be holding open houses in the new year so that environmental public health officials can meet face to face with the private well owners to discuss test results and take any recommended action. This is why it is so important for private well owners to bring in samples for the testing, and it's free testing, as a matter of fact. As these wells are on private property, health officials cannot test without permission, and officials need to understand that we need to work with them. There are over 6,000 wells in the targeted area.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Lemke: Wow. Absolutely excellent answer again.

If there are 6,000 wells in this area, why are we only discovering this contamination now?

Mr. Mandel: Excellent question. This issue emerged with high results from a cluster of properties in northeast Parkland county. This alerted officials to the need for nearby testing and collaboration with hydrologists in finding the source. Now, we know the source is natural, but we don't know how the distribution of these elements happened. This is why we're casting a wider net, further in Parkland county and surrounding portions of Sturgeon and Leduc counties. When it comes to potential health impacts, it's better to know more than less.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills, followed by Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Victims of Crime

Mr. Saskiw: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Justice minister and I have something in common. We both got married over the summer. Unfortunately, that is where the similarities end. He believes in putting the comfort of criminals before the rights of victims, so much so that we didn't even see a single mention of

justice for the victims of crime in the throne speech. Not once. Did the Justice minister's soft-on-crime, hug-a-thug policies rub off on the Premier?

Mr. Denis: Well, Mr. Speaker, I got married October 11, which is actually in the fall, so there we go.

We continue to put victims first in Alberta Justice. That includes adding more police officers, but that also includes passing new legislation like amendments to the Victims of Crime Act, that we passed last year, that this member gave some good input on.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Saskiw: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that staff in correctional services recently posted a blog about an art show, not just any art show but an art show created by convicted criminals, on public display using taxpayer dollars, when is this Minister of Justice going to realize that it's his job to put criminals behind bars and not paint pretty pictures with them?

Mr. Denis: Well, Mr. Speaker, my job is also to put victims first today, tomorrow, and every day, and that's what we'll continue to do.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Saskiw: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this minister denied funding to the Be Brave Ranch, that helps child victims of sexual abuse, and that now he is unwilling to put the rights of victims before art classes for criminals, how on earth can Albertans trust this former Liberal staffer to keep our communities safe?

Mr. Denis: Mr. Speaker, this member continues to work as a criminal defence lawyer, and he talks about victims. Really? [interjections]

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, followed by Drumheller-Stettler. [interjections] All right. All right. Enough.

Let's go. The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Home Care Services

Mrs. Towle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seniors in this province want to age in their homes with safe and secure resources. They want to remain with their communities, their families, and their loved ones. The current hospital-centric model is not working. Seniors housed in acute-care beds are affecting all levels of emergency care and causing the burnout of our front-line professionals. To the Health minister: will this government rethink its current model and make home care a priority for Albertans?

Mr. Mandel: Thank you for that wonderful question. We agree that seniors want to age in their homes and communities and really close to their families and friends. That's why we're working hard to ensure Albertans have access to effective, quality health care when they need it, including home care. You know, Mr. Speaker, in the last three years we've increased home care by 26 per cent, to over half a billion dollars. The number of Albertans accessing home care has also increased to more than 112,000 Albertans. That's a substantial number, up 12 per cent over the previous year. We understand the critical role home care plays in supporting Albertans, and we really thank the member for the question.

Mrs. Towle: Given that studies show that keeping seniors in their homes, in their communities, and with their loved ones improves their quality of life and given that other countries like Germany have already seen a 40 per cent reduction in acute-care costs, will the Minister of Health commit to ensuring that Albertans have access to home care as their first option, not their last option?

Mr. Mandel: Mr. Speaker, I can commit to working to make sure that Albertans have access to the right care in the right place at the right time, including home care, and we will commit to working with the member to ensure that home care is an incredibly important part of our health care delivery system.

The Speaker: Final supplemental.

Mrs. Towle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I appreciate that, but given that our seniors population will continue to grow, what can this government do today to ensure that the quality of the home care that seniors are receiving is the appropriate quality?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Mandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the hon. member that I strongly support seniors remaining in their homes as long as possible if it's safe for them to be there and their care needs are being met. The primary consideration is the seniors' well-being and helping to provide the best, most appropriate accommodation and care on an individual basis. If it can be in their homes, that's where the priority should be. I am also a strong supporter of aging in communities. My ministry and this government are making significant investments in seniors' housing. This includes, as I said earlier, more than \$500 million in home care.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler, followed by Calgary-North West.

Medevac Services

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the coming years we will see just how badly the province mishandled changes to the fixed-wing medevac system. Forcing an aircraft to land at the International Airport can mean the difference between life and death in that golden hour. I know the Health minister is very familiar with this file. Surely he must recognize concerns that all Albertans have about the delivery of timely emergency health care. Knowing the damage this has caused, can he tell Albertans what he will do to cut down on ballooning transfer times for fixed-wing medevac services?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Mandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government of Alberta has set up an excellent system at the International Airport to ensure that patients can move in and out in an expeditious way and get the kind of health care that they need. For those members who haven't been out, they should go take a look at what an outstanding facility it is and how it's improved the operations and care for Albertans.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Strankman: Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. The people in my riding in the Consort and Oyen regions have a right to know why they now have to wait 30-plus minutes extra for fixed-wing transit after serious accidents. Given that there are still Health Quality Council recommendations that have not been implemented for

these fixed-wing medevac emergencies, does the Health minister have a plan to implement them, and why?

2:40

Mr. Mandel: Mr. Speaker, the safety and the expeditious way in which any Albertan can be moved from an accident to a place of safety is a priority with this government. If there are issues, we'd gladly look into it and report back to the hon. member.

The Speaker: Final supplemental.

Mr. Strankman: Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. Given that I've heard numerous stories from families in my riding about how this poor medevac system has negatively impacted their lives, my constituents want to know: when can they expect positive changes to this critically dangerous situation?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Mandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta makes every effort to ensure that every Albertan who has a challenge and needs to be moved by medevac has that opportunity. Not always can we have a plane at everybody's service. We do make every effort to ensure that access is available to people when it's needed. I can assure the member that we'll do all we can to ensure that people in his riding and every other riding have proper access to proper transportation.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-North West, followed by Chestermere-Rocky View.

Postsecondary Education Funding

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to voice the concerns of our postsecondary students, parents, and supporters of postsecondary education. They're concerned that the cost of this important level of education continues to increase. Now our government is considering allowing special tuition increases under a plan called market modification, that could drive the rates up by double-digit percentages in certain areas. My question is for the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education. If we value postsecondary and understand its importance, why are we going around the tuition cap and considering these market modifier increases?

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you very much. I'd like to commend the member for her efforts to support Albertans. Market modifiers are one tool that programs have to remain competitive throughout Alberta and with other jurisdictions. I'm considering 26 different applications that have been made from 10 different institutions. Consider this, Mr. Speaker: a University of Toronto law student pays \$60,000 more for a law degree than a University of Alberta law student. That's exactly the kind of anomaly that makes it necessary for us to review these kinds of market modifiers. Our goal isn't to be the cheapest education; our goal is to deliver the best education.

Ms Jansen: Mr. Speaker, my next question is to the same minister. Like any parent, I'm worried about accessibility when tuition goes up. At the end of the day isn't that what market modifiers do, reduce accessibility?

Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, access is a priority for this government. I'm very proud of our record on access. We invest \$234 million in

student aid. That includes scholarships, bursaries, and grants. We also make available \$408 million in student loans. Our students are extremely successful, and they have a very successful rate of paying back their student loans. Of the loans that were given this year, we can expect that 90 per cent will be paid back.

Ms Jansen: Mr. Speaker, again to the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education: will government properly fund postsecondary education so that our students aren't stuck paying tuitions that price them out of the market to even attend colleges and universities in this province?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Scott: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. As every member in this House knows, no final decisions on the budget have been made yet. But let me put some facts on the table with respect to tuition in Alberta. Despite a variety of cost pressures tuition in Alberta in 2014-2015 rose by a mere 1 per cent. That's the second-lowest increase in all of Canada. Alberta's average undergraduate tuition is below the national average. Furthermore, an undergraduate student pays approximately 25 per cent of the actual cost of their education. The majority of the costs are picked up by taxpayers. We support our students, and we support them toward success.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. members, the time for question period has expired. In 30 seconds we will move on with the next important item of business.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Sherwood Park, followed by Edmonton-Centre.

Life Leases

Ms Olesen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my concern with regard to life leases. Life leases are a housing agreement typically utilized by seniors. They purchase the exclusive right to occupy a unit in a development for life or for a fixed term. The owner benefits from having a guaranteed tenant for an extended period of time instead of the year-to-year nature of true rental units. The lessee benefits as life lease agreements are generally more affordable than both renting and owning a home. In theory these agreements seem to be beneficial to both the owner and the lessee.

However, life leases are a relatively new phenomenon in Alberta, and the rules surrounding them are vague or nonexistent. For example, life leases are not considered rental properties in Alberta, so the Residential Tenancies Act does not apply to them. Additionally, the Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta produced an extremely helpful booklet of information on life leases. However, within the booklet they note that a disadvantage of entering into a life lease agreement is that "life lease agreements are not typically well understood by lawyers because this type of leasing . . . is relatively new and . . . there is not a lot of legislation relating to this type of lease."

Furthermore, one of my constituents, Mr. Thomas Moore, whom I introduced earlier, has outlined his very unfortunate experience with this type of agreement. His experience included hidden fees; additional costs, which are not fully explained; and transferring of capital upgrades and enhancement costs onto lessees, which really doesn't make sense as life lessees do not own the property they reside in.

Bill 9 has gone a long way to helping condo owners, and I

would encourage our government to take a long look at life leases to ensure that our seniors are not being taken advantage of.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, followed by Lethbridge-East.

Anniversary of l'École Polytechnique Shootings

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago this Saturday, December 6, 1989, a man who hated women walked into the classrooms at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal, separated the men from the women on different sides of the room, and started shooting. He killed 14 women that day. He killed 14 women because he had not been accepted into the engineering school and believed it was the fault of feminists.

I am a feminist. I was 31 at the time and working for the Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues. This event shaped my life and the lives of many of my peers, especially women working in sectors assisting women. For the first time it was made clear to us that being a feminist, working in the areas of women's issues, or even being a student in a nontraditional school program was enough to get you killed. It terrified our parents, lovers, and friends. Stevie Cameron wrote a stunning piece in the *Globe and Mail* entitled *Our Daughters, Ourselves*. I recommend it.

Because none of these students or staff were activists, it makes me take my work even more seriously. This is why I am so fierce, why I get up after being knocked down over and over and over again and after I've been heckled and denied. It's because of the Montreal massacre. If I was going to get yelled at, injured, or shot, it would happen while I and my colleagues were building a Canada less likely to produce another man killing women – to make Canada stronger, more inclusive, tolerant, with women more secure in their capacity to earn money, have better access to advanced education and quality child care for their kids, to become the boss, to reduce the barriers that were systematic in the legal and justice systems, to eliminate abuse, poverty, inequality, or discrimination of any kind.

A year later I convened a committee of terrific women, who would produce for many years the annual event to commemorate the Montreal massacre, later made National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women. These same women joined me today to mark this life-changing event.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, followed by Edmonton-Mill Woods.

Homelessness in Lethbridge

Ms Pastoor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Canada's communities wrestle with homeless problems and have seen various levels of success in eliminating homelessness. However, Lethbridge has achieved a jaw-dropping 85 per cent reduction in street homelessness and a 74 per cent reduction in overall homelessness since 2008, according to the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness.

Lethbridge faces challenges: population growth, significant lack of affordable housing, and rising rental costs. Lethbridge's accomplishments reflect a committed community leadership, stakeholder collaboration, and support from all levels of government, specifically the province's 10-year plan to end homelessness and the associated resources.

2:50

The recent point-in-time count preliminary results show that

Lethbridge had a decrease in homelessness in one year of 37 per cent. These are the biggest reductions in homelessness anywhere in Canada, again according to the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. Individuals counted this year as absolute or street homeless were only 11 people, which is an 85 per cent decrease from 2008.

In 2013-14 100 chronically homeless individuals were housed; 24 housing first clients reached graduation, which means that they participated in the housing first program for one year or more and achieved six consecutive months of being housed without eviction and reduced the complexity level of their care, a 90 per cent housing retention rate and only 10 per cent recidivism.

Lethbridge has developed creative, effective, unique partnerships with mainstream systems like child and family services, which support youth transitioning from care to adulthood.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, followed by Lacombe-Ponoka.

Persons with Disabilities' Workforce Participation

Mr. Quadri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year about 100,000 people move to Alberta to find work opportunities because we are leading the country in job creation and economic prosperity. Despite this strong economic growth, we will be facing a labour shortage by 2023. Alberta continues to need access to skilled labour to meet the needs of our economic conditions. The Premier recently noted that Alberta is working on labour force strategies that respond to market demands and ensure that we have the workers we need.

Albertans with disabilities are underrepresented in the workforce and need the opportunity to show their skills. There are many who are willing to work but for various reasons face barriers that keep them out of the workforce. Helping them to find jobs aligns with our government's goals to make communities inclusive and welcoming to all Albertans. That's why I'm proud that Alberta's employment first strategy is creating opportunities for people with disabilities to find meaningful work and develop their skills. This also helps employers to gain access to a new pool of skilled workers who make valuable contributions.

I am proud that under this strategy our government is leading by example in hiring 20 new interns with disabilities. Some of these people are here today, introduced by the associate minister, and we welcome them all. I know they will be a valuable addition to our team here in government. They will be taking on various roles and professional positions across our government, and we are very thankful to have them.

The employment first innovation fund was also launched earlier this year to find new ideas and approaches to welcome more Albertans with disabilities into our workforce. Everyone benefits when we live in an inclusive society that embraces different skills and abilities. So, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage . . .

The Speaker: Hon. member, I regret having to interrupt you, but the two minutes are up, and we must move on to the next speaker.

Lacombe-Ponoka, followed by Strathcona-Sherwood Park.

Ponoka School Playground

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to read portions of a letter sent to the Education minister by the mayor of Ponoka. He writes:

With the school upgrade project, an unfortunate consequence has arisen. A new playground for the younger

children will need to be constructed and updated to meet today's standards and will need to be moved closer to one of the renovated schools . . .

Parents, rightfully, want their children to experience quality play time during the school day. Playtime encourages children to be more active, interact with each other and overall makes children healthier . . . We commend the parent group in our community for planning and attempting to raise the funds to provide for the new playground, but we question whose responsibility this really is. Rate payers in the Town of Ponoka already pay an education tax on their property which is collected by the municipality on behalf of the province. If our municipality were to become involved in funding the school playground project it would mean that property taxes would have to increase, and in fact, our property owners would in essence be paying a second education . . . tax through their property taxes.

I respectfully request answers to the following:

- What are the plans for the third school in the Town of Ponoka?
- How many more students can be accommodated by the two renovated schools?
- What are the Ministry's plans when the two schools are at capacity . . .
- What information and options are available related to funding school playground projects for school boards and/or parent groups . . .

Municipal governments are faced with replacing aging infrastructure and with providing services with increasingly limited revenues . . .

I would be glad to discuss these or any [other] issues with you at your convenience.

[Signed],

Rick Bonnett, Mayor

Mr. Speaker, all week we've heard about the politicization of hospitals and school infrastructure, and now we see the politicizing of the CFEP funding. It's disappointing. Albertans want this government to make fair and transparent funding decisions. They want the government to publish public-project priority lists. They don't want special treatment; they just want fair treatment. This government would do well to listen to Albertans.

The Speaker: Hon. Government House Leader, did you catch my eye on 7(7)?

Mr. Denis: Yes, I did. I'd like to ask for unanimous consent to continue the Routine past 3 p.m., notwithstanding rule 7(7).

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: Let's go on to Strathcona-Sherwood Park.

Entrepreneurship and Small Business

Mr. Quest: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to call attention to Global Entrepreneurship Week, celebrated from November 17 to 24 in over 140 countries. It's a world-wide movement inspiring millions of young people to embrace innovation, imagination, and creativity through entrepreneurship.

Earlier this year the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Alberta report confirmed that Alberta is one of the best places on Earth to be an entrepreneur. Entrepreneurs head the small businesses that are the lifeblood of Alberta's economy. Small businesses contribute over 25 per cent of Alberta's gross domestic product and make up 95 per cent of all the businesses in the province.

This government is not sitting still. This fall we released a new

small-business strategy as well as streamlined the refreshed smallbusiness.alberta.ca. For government services information our new business advisers at the Business Link offer a one-stop shop for small businesses. This fresh approach offers easier access to information, help with regulatory matters, a stronger voice on policy issues, and support and guidance for Alberta's entrepreneurs.

I'm pleased to have led the engagement sessions with small-business owners and entrepreneurs in communities across the province last fall. What we heard first-hand as well as online helped shape Alberta's new strategy for small-business success. Successful entrepreneurs are the foundation for innovation, job creation, and economic diversification. Building a competitive province where our entrepreneurs and small businesses can thrive is a top priority.

This government is committed to working with all entrepreneurs, businesses, industry, and stakeholders to continue to reduce the regulatory burden for small businesses and make Alberta one of the most successful business climates in North America.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Introduction of Bills

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

Bill 204

Traffic Safety (Distracted Driving Demerit) Amendment Act, 2014

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 204, the Traffic Safety (Distracted Driving Demerit) Amendment Act, 2014.

Bill 204 amends the Traffic Safety Act by making distracted driving punishable by a fine of \$250 and three demerit points. Distracted driving is a dangerous and potentially deadly driving behaviour. Fines alone have not deterred distracted driving. Introducing demerits would provide much stronger punishment and be a greater deterrent to potential offenders. This would reduce road casualties by reducing instances of distracted driving. Bill 204 works to make roads safer for all Albertans, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, sir.

[Motion carried; Bill 204 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder or someone on behalf of? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With your indulgence, I have the three from the Member for Edmonton-Calder and one myself, so I'll do all four.

The first tabling I have, Mr. Speaker: I'd like to table the appropriate number of copies of a motion passed last night by the Edmonton Youth Council in a vote of 14 to 1. The vote clearly affirms the council's opposition to Bill 10 in its current form and calls on "the provincial government to engage in meaningful consultation with LGBTQ and allied youth when it comes to matters relating to [GSAs] in Alberta's schools."

3:00

My second tabling, Mr. Speaker, is the appropriate number of copies of a blog post written by a mother in Fort McMurray whose

daughter helped start a GSA in her school. In her blog she articulates why Bill 10 essentially means that kids who "meet opposition to founding a GSA will simply not be able to overcome the challenges and the idea will slowly wither and die."

My third tabling, Mr. Speaker, is the appropriate number of copies of a letter written by Don Boras to the Premier on the topic of Bill 10. Don writes: "This bill does nothing for the needs of the students who need it the most, those in strictly controlled religious schools. It is not a compromise bill – it is an abrogation of their rights."

My fourth and final tabling, Mr. Speaker, is the appropriate number of copies of a definition of terms from the American Psychological Association, which serves to clear up any confusion for any member on gender identity and gender expression. Just to throw in here, gender expression: "way in which a person acts to communicate gender within a given culture." All the definitions are here.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Minister of Infrastructure, followed by Edmonton-Centre.

Mr. Bhullar: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling some documents. There are times when additional information is identified that could in fact impact the facility condition index on health facilities. I'm pleased to provide copies of the changes made in 2012 and 2013 and how it impacted the FCIs for these specific facilities. Further updates will be available on the Infrastructure website. This is something I endeavoured to do yesterday in question period and today in question period, and here it is.

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

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm just going to capitalize on one of the tablings that my colleague from Edmonton-Calder has just done, in which he tabled the actual resolution. I have some news coverage here from that youth council. The City of Edmonton Youth Council met at the same time we were, in fact, on the same bill and came to a diametrically opposed conclusion, but it was a pretty exciting process for those kids to go through. I'd like to table the appropriate number of copies describing what happened at the City of Edmonton Youth Council, where they voted strongly against the government's Bill 10.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Are there others? The hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Mr. Saskiw: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to provide the requisite copies of a press release, dated October 27 of this year, which is entitled Exhibition of Inmates' Art Reveals "the Artist Inside" and where the ADM states very proudly, "Most importantly . . . it is the inmates that we need to thank."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Tablings to the Clerk

The Clerk: I wish to advise the House that the following documents were deposited with the office of the Clerk: on behalf of the hon. Mr. McIver, Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and

Labour, pursuant to the Government Organization Act the Alberta Association for Safety Partnerships radiation health authorized radiation health administrative organization annual report, September 3, 2013, to August 31, 2014, with attached financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2014; the Alberta College and Association of Chiropractors radiation health administrative organization annual report, year-end June 30, 2014, with attached financial statements dated June 30, 2014; Alberta Dental Association and College 2013 radiation health and safety program annual report, January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2013, with attached financial statements dated December 31, 2013; the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association radiation protection program 2013 annual report, November 1, 2012, to October 31, 2013, with attached independent auditor's report dated December 5, 2013; the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta radiation health administrative organization annual report for the period January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2013; the University of Alberta authorized radiation health administrative organization annual report, 2013-2014; the University of Calgary radiation health administration organization annual report for the period April 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014, with attached financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2014.

The Speaker: Thank you.

There are no points of order, so we can move on.

Orders of the Day

Consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

Ms Fenske moved, seconded by Mr. Ellis, 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.

The Speaker: Are there any other speakers to the throne speech?

If not, then I would ask the hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville to close debate.

Ms Fenske: Thank you. I'd just close debate.

[Motion carried]

Government Motions

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Address in Reply to Speech from the Throne

14. Mr. Denis moved on behalf of Mr. Prentice:
Be it resolved that the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne be engrossed and presented to His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor by such members of the Assembly as are members of Executive Council.

Mr. Denis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I want to say that that was a great speech, Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Are there others?

Seeing none, hon. Government House Leader, on behalf of the hon. Premier would you like to close debate?

Mr. Denis: I would like to close debate on behalf of the Premier.

The Speaker: Thank you.

[Government Motion 14 carried]

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Denis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's about 3:07. I would like to move that the House stand adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Monday.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:07 p.m. to Monday at 1:30 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 28th Legislature - 3rd Session (2014)

Activity to December 04, 2014

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 Fall Sitings.

1 Respecting Property Rights Act (Prentice)

First Reading -- 6 (Nov. 17, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 30-31 (Nov. 18, 2014 aft.), 142-146 (Nov. 24, 2014 eve, passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 169-173 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 206-211 (Nov. 26, 2014 aft.), 277-279 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve., passed)

3 Personal Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014 (Quadri)

First Reading -- 22 (Nov. 18, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 89 (Nov. 20, 2014 aft.), 165 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 173 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 259-275 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve., passed)

4 Horse Racing Alberta Amendment Act, 2014 (Campbell)

First Reading -- 22 (Nov. 18, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 89 (Nov. 20, 2014 aft.), 165-167 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 174-175 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft.), 177-179 (Nov. 25, 2014 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 279-281 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve., passed)

5 Securities Amendment Act, 2014 (Campbell)

First Reading -- 22 (Nov. 18, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 89-90 (Nov. 20, 2014 aft.), 167-168 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 173 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 281-283 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve., passed)

6 Statutes Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2) (Olson)

First Reading -- 22-23 (Nov. 18, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 90-92 (Nov. 20, 2014 aft.), 175 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 193-206 (Nov. 26, 2014 aft.), 283 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 321 (Dec. 2, 2014 eve., passed)

7 Chartered Professional Accountants Act (McIver)

First Reading -- 159 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 275-276 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve.), 319 (Dec. 2, 2014 eve., passed)

8 Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2014 (Kennedy-Glans)

First Reading -- 159 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 276-277 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve.), 319-321 (Dec. 2, 2014 eve., passed)

9 Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2014 (Olesen)

First Reading -- 237 (Dec. 1, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 336-338 (Dec. 3, 2014 aft., adjourned)

- 10*** **An Act to Amend the Alberta Bill of Rights to Protect our Children (Jansen)**
First Reading -- 238 (Dec. 1, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 300-318 (Dec. 2, 2014 aft., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole -- 338-355 (Dec. 3, 2014 aft.), 357-366 (Dec. 3, 2014 eve.), 367-374 (Dec. 3, 2014 eve., passed with amendments)
- 11** **Savings Management Repeal Act (Campbell)**
First Reading -- 334 (Dec. 3, 2014 aft., passed)
- 201** **Electric Utilities (Transparency in Billing) Amendment Act, 2014 (Anglin)**
First Reading -- 86 (Nov. 20, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 125-128 (Nov. 24, 2014 aft.), 238-252 (Dec. 1, 2014 aft., passed on division)
- 202** **Safe and Inclusive Schools Statutes Amendment Act, 2014 (Blakeman)**
First Reading -- 86 (Nov. 20, 2014 aft., passed), (Dec. 3, 2014 aft., withdrawn)
- 203** **Safety Codes (Sustainable Structures) Amendment Act, 2014 (VanderBurg)**
First Reading -- 192 (Nov. 26, 2014 aft., passed)
- 204** **Traffic Safety (Distracted Driving Demerit) Amendment Act, 2014 (Amery)**
First Reading -- (Dec. 4, 2014 aft., passed)

Table of Contents

Prayers	375
Introduction of Guests	375
Oral Question Period	
Hospital Infrastructure Maintenance	378
Hospital Infrastructure Priorities	378, 379
Child Protective Services.....	379, 383
Gay-straight Alliances in Schools.....	380
High Prairie Health Services	380
Highway 19 Twinning.....	381
Infrastructure Project Prioritization	381
Long-term Care Facility Staffing.....	382
Energy Development Hearing Participation	382
Environmental Protection	383
Drinking Water in Parkland County	384
Victims of Crime	384
Home Care Services	384
Medevac Services.....	385
Postsecondary Education Funding.....	385
Members' Statements	
Life Leases	386
Anniversary of l'École Polytechnique Shootings	386
Homelessness in Lethbridge.....	386
Persons with Disabilities' Workforce Participation.....	387
Ponoka School Playground.....	387
Entrepreneurship and Small Business.....	387
Introduction of Bills	
Bill 204 Traffic Safety (Distracted Driving Demerit) Amendment Act, 2014	388
Tabling Returns and Reports	388
Tablings to the Clerk	388
Orders of the Day	389
Consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech.....	389
Government Motions	
Address in Reply to Speech from the Throne	389

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