



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
First Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, June 25, 2015

Day 8

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

First Session

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Anderson, Shaye, Leduc-Beaumont (ND)
Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (W)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (ND)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (W)
Bhullar, Manmeet Singh, Calgary-Greenway (PC)
Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (ND),
Deputy Government House Leader
Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (ND)
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (ND)
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Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP)
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (ND)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (ND)
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Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (ND)
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Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (ND)
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Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (ND)
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (ND)
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Kleinstauber, Jamie, Calgary-Northern Hills (ND)
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Littlewood, Jessica, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (ND)
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Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (ND)
Luff, Robyn, Calgary-East (ND)
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Rosendahl, Eric, West Yellowhead (ND)
Sabir, Hon. Irfan, Calgary-McCall (ND)
Schmidt, Marlin, Edmonton-Gold Bar (ND),
Government Whip
Schneider, David A., Little Bow (W)
Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (ND)
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-Centre (ND)
Sigurdson, Hon. Lori, Edmonton-Riverview (ND)
Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (W)
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Progressive Conservative Opposition House Leader
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (W)
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (W)
Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (ND)
Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (ND)
Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (W)
Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (ND)
van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (W)
Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (ND)
Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (ND)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (W)
Vacant, Calgary-Foothills

Party standings:

New Democrat: 53 Wildrose: 21 Progressive Conservative: 9 Alberta Liberal: 1 Alberta Party: 1 Independent: 1 Vacant: 1

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 25, 2015

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Members of the Assembly and guests, let us reflect. As we conclude these last two weeks of our work in this Assembly, we renew our energy with thanks, thanks for the freedom of opportunity to speak, our work here, and for the people in the constituencies we all represent.

Please be seated.

Introduction of Visitors

The Speaker: Hon. members, on your collective behalf it is my privilege to welcome former Premier Mr. Dave Hancock and his family to the Assembly. If I might, I would just reflect on some of the service that the hon. Premier has made. First elected to this Assembly in 1997, Mr. Hancock subsequently served as minister of federal and intergovernmental affairs in 1997, as minister of intergovernmental and aboriginal affairs from 1997 to 1999, as Minister of Justice and attorney general from 1999 to 2004, as minister of advanced education from 2004 to 2006, as minister of health and wellness from 2006 to 2008, as Minister of Education from 2008 to 2011, as Minister of Human Services from 2011 to 2013, as Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education from 2013 to 2014, and as Deputy Premier from 2013 to 2014. He also held the role of Government House Leader or Deputy Government House Leader in 16 out of the 17 years that he served in this Assembly. In 2014 he became Alberta's 15th Premier.

I ask that Mr. Hancock and his family, seated in the Speaker's gallery, rise as I call their names: Mr. Dave Hancock; his wife, Janet Hancock; his daughter Janine Hancock; Ally Ismail, a good friend of Janine; daughter Janis Stauffer; granddaughter Miya Stauffer; and grandson Kai Stauffer. Please join me in thanking the entire Hancock family for their contribution, support, and services that they have made, all of them, over the 17 years of Mr. Hancock's service as the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

Before I ask for that round of applause and appreciation, I must tell you, if you allow me, a personal story. I had the pleasure of meeting the former Premier in the cafeteria this morning, and he wears on his lapel a pin that speaks about children. I saw him four years ago, and I learned – it was renewed again yesterday – that he first accepted that pin, I think, in his first year in this Legislature, and he's worn it every day since on his suit. Would the House please rise and welcome our guests. [Standing ovation]

If the House would allow the Speaker one additional comment that all of us can reflect upon. If we receive this kind of attention and respect after our service in this House, that may serve as an example of an outcome that we are proud to represent. Thank you, hon. Premier.

I would now recognize the leader of the third party, the Member for Calgary-Hays. I believe you may have a visitor. Is that correct?

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce Dave Quest, in the Speaker's gallery or wherever you are. Dave, I can't see you from where I am. Mr. Quest served this Legislature in a very respectful and responsible and a great way over a number of years. Amongst other things, he was associate minister of seniors. He was one that could always be counted upon to put Albertans' interests first and foremost. He has remained a friend, a supporter,

and a great Albertan. It's my honour to ask him to rise and accept the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The Member for Lethbridge-East.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly my constituency assistant, Sherry Hunt. Sherry was born and raised in Kimberley, B.C., and became a resident of Lethbridge about 20 years ago. This is the place where she met her husband, Aaron, and where she and Aaron have chosen to live and have their home and have their two boys, James and William.

Sherry has been a public service worker for a number of years. She is an avid community, PSAC, and agricultural union and social justice activist. With the birth of her two boys she experienced the difficulty of finding affordable and quality child care. Her activism surfaced, and she became a member of the Children's House Child Care Society in Lethbridge. She has been a member of that organization for 10 years and has been the board chair for eight of those years. She has also participated in a child care advocacy committee with Public Interest Alberta. Sherry is someone who puts her money where her mouth is. She steps up, and she takes positive action. Lethbridge-East is extremely fortunate to have her as our constituency assistant. I'd ask Sherry to stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

Statement by the Speaker

25th Anniversary of Death of Constable Ezio Faraone

The Speaker: Before we move to the additional guests, there was an oversight that I made, and I would like to use that moment now. Today is the 25th anniversary of the death of Constable Ezio Faraone of the Edmonton police force. I would remind the House to remember that member and his family and his peers as we think about the events for today.

1:40

Introduction of Guests

(continued)

The Speaker: Now other guests. The Minister of Education and Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce through you and to you two people that are very important to me, my wife, Somboon, and my eldest daughter, Genevieve. They, of course, have seen the Legislature before – I've been here since 2004 – but they've never seen it quite like this. Genevieve just came back – she was away for five weeks or so – and came home and asked, "Dad, what have you been up to?" I said, "Oh, not too much, but why don't you come by and see how things are?" It's very exciting for them to be here today.

I also just wanted to very briefly express my admiration for Dave Hancock. You know, I've only been doing this for about a month or so, and I'm just so tired. Dave has always been someone I looked up to and tried to emulate in so many ways, and I just wanted to mention that, too.

If my family could stand, please, and receive the warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Bilous: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. If you'll indulge me, I also have an introduction to deliver on behalf of the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, with which I'll begin. It gives me great pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly on behalf of the Minister of Justice a group of 16 employees and mediators from the civil mediation program, a program of resolution services in Alberta Justice. The civil mediation program is an effective and confidential way for Albertans to resolve a lawsuit. Through the facilitation of mediators, parties to a civil suit are given the opportunity to dialogue about their issues and problem solve together. Mediators assist the parties with communication and help them write up an agreement that works for all parties, in many cases thereby settling a lawsuit and negating the need for a trial. I would ask the members to join me in welcoming them to our Legislature, and I'll ask them all to please rise.

Mr. Speaker, for my next introduction I'm going to introduce three individuals briefly, three valued members from my team. First, a young lady named Clarice Eckford. She's been working in my constituency office since February of this year. She brings years of experience working in project management, she's an accomplished actress, and I can say that she always has a smile on her face and is full of energy. As well, Marcela Lillo just joined my team as my constituency assistant. I'm excited to work with her as she brings to the job experience a social justice activist background and working with women who are fleeing domestic abuse. Thirdly, a young man by the name of Garrett Spelliscy, who was my constituency assistant from 2012 until recently. I can tell you that he started with me prior to 2012. He's actually been working with me since 2011, and without his help and support I can tell you that I would not have been a member in this Assembly in 2012 and re-elected this year. I definitely want to thank him for all of his countless hours and hard work for me and on behalf of me. He's done an incredible job helping constituents in Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview. I'll ask my guests to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Hon. minister, if I might be allowed to indicate to the mediators that you introduced to the House that there was a mediator in the province who took on a role far more than he ever expected in terms of mediation. So as they look at new career opportunities, there's a lesser supply of mediators in the province than there was before.

. The hon. President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the participants in the Alberta public service policy internship program, 15 of whom are with us in the galleries today for question period. This unique corporate human resources program recruits recent university graduates to the Alberta public service and provides them with formal training, mentorship, and professional development opportunities, with the intent of building the policy capacity in the Alberta public service. The policy internship program gives these recent graduates valuable experience in policy development, planning, and implementation through two 8-month placements with policy areas in ministries across government.

Please stand as I call your name and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly. The members of the APS policy internship program are Astrid Arzu, Erica Woolf, Helaina Zyp, Zeo Xiao, Glennis Leathwood, Trenton Broens, Lindsay Salloum, Kam Aujla, Charlene Campo, Bola Sowemimo, Jeffrey Chalifoux, Jesse

Vreeken, Jordan Vincent, Sami Brar, and Jonathan Beauchamp. Mr. Speaker, there they are.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to introduce to you and through to the Legislative Assembly Sarah Hogendorp and Jennah Martens-Forrester. Sarah and Jennah have worked tirelessly to promote the inclusion of consent into Alberta's sex ed curriculum. As a father of daughters I am a strong supporter of this work, and only yes means yes. Later today I'll be presenting a petition signed by over 1,300 Albertans asking for consent to be added to Alberta's sex ed curriculum. It is my honour to introduce you to my friends and colleagues in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. I'd ask my guests to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have the pleasure of introducing to you and through to all of the members of this Assembly my guest, Leah McRorie. Leah is a community activist with a passion that matches my own: social justice for those with disabilities, promoting inclusion for all people. Leah is currently the manager of children's supports and services at the Gateway Association and a parent facilitator at Getting Ready for Inclusion Today. In addition to being a certified facilitator for the Alberta Caregivers Association, she is the proud mother of three daughters. In recognition of Leah and the Gateway Association's commitment and passion to building a more inclusive and caring province, I would ask that she rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Environment and Parks and minister responsible for status of women.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the group of people that keeps my life together so that I can do this job. My mother, Barb Phillips, or as she is now known, Grandma Barb; her new life partner, retired RCMP officer Mike McCague; and the guest of honour for me today, my six-year-old son, Finn Phillips-Davies. Finn has recently graduated from kindergarten, where he has very much enjoyed his numbers and his letters and putting together sentences and making little drawings to go along with his stories and, of course, his beloved, beloved movies, that his mama lets him watch on weekends. When I look up in that gallery at his little head peeking from behind that pillar, I remember exactly why we all worked so hard to make change for all Alberta. Please give the warm welcome of the Assembly to Finn, Barb, and Mike.

The Speaker: I met the minister's son in the cafeteria, and he had aspirations for the Speaker's chair.

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, we have some important business to attend to, so I would move that we extend the Routine so that we can complete ministerial statements before going to question period.

[Unanimous consent granted]

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

1:50

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise for the first time in this Assembly to introduce to you and through you to the House five bright young individuals who join us in the members' gallery this afternoon.

Zachary Gee is a graduate of Old Scona academic high school. He was on the executive for his student union and participated in their model Legislatures.

Darren Choi is a graduate of Strathcona senior high school and will soon be studying astrophysics at the University of Alberta. He has a love for the arts and drama and is a skilled pianist.

Nimesh Jayasuriya is a graduate of Ross Sheppard high school, with honours. He was captain of the indoor track team and aspires to be a neurosurgeon.

Yahya Jama is also a graduate of Ross Sheppard high school, a member of the Muslim liaison committee for the EPS, and director of youth activities at the Muslim Association of Canada. He was the co-captain of the Ross Sheppard debate team and is a volunteer for Fort Edmonton Park, working to preserve Edmonton's heritage.

Lastly, L.J. Valencia is a member of my constituency and also volunteered on my election campaign. Recently graduating from Ross Sheppard high school, he was an executive member of the debate team, a member of his high school choir, and will soon be studying economics and political science at the University of Alberta.

I would now ask that my guests rise, which they have already done, to receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: We will proceed with the remaining two additional guests. The Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to all members of the House for indulging me on this rather long day of introductions. I promise that I will keep them as short as I can. With me today I have two guests. The first is a constituent in Edmonton-Gold Bar, a long-time supporter and member of the NDP. This is his third visit to the House this session because he still can't believe that there are so many New Democrat MLAs sitting here, and he'll continue to come until he convinces himself that it is real. I would ask that the House give the traditional warm welcome to Mr. Merle Schnee.

For my second introduction, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to introduce to you and to the entire Assembly here my wife, Tena Trefz. Tomorrow we'll be celebrating our 10th anniversary, and I know that this introduction carries a lot of weight on it because depending on how well it goes, it may have an impact on our celebrations tomorrow. We were married 10 years ago tomorrow at the Sedgewick Seventh-day Adventist church, a house divided a little bit like this one, with people on this side who love me dearly and people on that side who are just learning to love me. For the past 10 years we've been raising three children together. I've supported her while she went to university to get her degree in nursing, and in turn she supported me through two provincial election campaigns.

Now, we all know that the 25th anniversary is the silver anniversary and the 50th anniversary is the golden anniversary. But not many know that the 10th anniversary is the Legislative Assembly anniversary, Mr. Speaker, because, really, I can't think of anything more romantic than to say "I love you" through a neutral third party like you.

The Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-South West.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'll keep this brief as well. It is my pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to this House two constituents of mine, Liz Acheson and Ken Zinyk. Liz and Ken are retired today. Liz was an accountant, and Ken was a teacher. They are joining us today just to watch our question period. I would now ask that my guests please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

Ministerial Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Tribute to the Hon. Dave Hancock, QC Former Premier of Alberta

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in order to be the first to rise to provide a tribute to our former Premier Dave Hancock. I can see that he is here but just barely, around that corner, so I'll just be leaning over a bit, like this, every now and then as I talk.

You know, there are very few Albertans who have had the honour and the privilege of serving our province as Premier, and I rise today to acknowledge someone who filled this role with grace and integrity and good humour. Premier Dave Hancock has joined us in the Speaker's gallery for this afternoon's proceedings, and I would like to extend again the warm greetings from this government to him and also to thank him for his service to our province and its people.

Now, all of us in this Chamber know that politics is especially challenging for families, and I would like to take this opportunity as well to thank Janet, Ian, Janis, and Janine for sharing Dave with Albertans. I would also like to welcome them and his grandchildren Miya and Kai to this Assembly today.

Premier Hancock, the son of a fur trapper, was born in the Northwest Territories, the first Premier of our province since it joined Confederation in 1905 to be born in the Territories, from which our province itself was carved. Spending large swaths of his youth in the northern part of our province, Premier Hancock became involved in politics at a relatively young age, flirting with the Socreds before making what would be a lifelong commitment to the Progressive Conservatives, although it's never too late to change.

Throughout his youth he encountered many who disagreed with him, both from the right and from the left, as the hon. Government House Leader can attest personally. But Dave Hancock's commitment to his party remained steadfast throughout, and that is one of the things for which I have great admiration.

Premier Hancock served in this Chamber for more than 17 years as the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud, a riding in which he was highly respected and extraordinarily well liked, a popularity the longevity of which all members of this House would no doubt be thrilled to have for themselves. This popularity extended out of his riding and into this Chamber, where Premier Hancock won the respect and the friendship of many members regardless of their partisan stripe.

As House leader for the NDP I sat in more than a few meetings with Premier Hancock where we attempted to negotiate Assembly procedures. Suffice to say that we probably disagreed as much as we agreed, probably more, in fact, to be fair, because I was a bit disagreeable back in those third-party opposition meetings, I'm sure he would say.

Mr. Mason: Not any more.

Ms Notley: Not at all any more.

But even with that, I never really understood how well Premier Hancock did his job as Government House Leader until after he left it. And notwithstanding our frequent disagreements about House procedure or about the policies that it was facilitating, there was always one characteristic about which I could never disagree, and that is Dave Hancock's work ethic and his obvious dedication that he brought to his work every day in this House, days that regularly spanned 12 to 14 hours as a matter of course. Notwithstanding the frequent, shall I say, wrong-headedness of his policies, there is and was no denying that they were all prosecuted through the lens of what I could see always was a genuine commitment to providing pure public service to a province and an Assembly that I could tell always he clearly loved.

At the time of his retirement Premier Hancock was known as well for his excellent parliamentarianism as he was for his accomplishments in the government of the day. Now, over the years he served in nearly every cabinet portfolio, a testament to his skill and his character. Through years of growth as much as through years of downturn, through years of stability as much as through years of tumult and change Premier Hancock provided our province with steady and competent leadership in each of the roles he filled, from International and Intergovernmental Relations to Health and to Education. The Member for Edmonton-Calder actually quipped to me today: you know, Dave pretty much quarterbacked the whole operation. That's what it looked like to us sitting over on that side.

Though his tenure as Premier was brief, Dave Hancock nonetheless had a tremendous impact on the public discourse of our province for almost 20 years. His legacy will not be soon forgotten, and I'm honoured today to welcome Premier Hancock back into this Chamber this afternoon, to congratulate him, and to thank him once again for his incalculable contributions to our province, to our communities, and especially to this Assembly.

Thank you.

2:00

The Speaker: I recognize the hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a privilege and an honour to acknowledge a fine man and a true public servant, both in this House and his life beyond, Premier Dave Hancock. Throughout his years in public service he never stopped trying to make our province a better place. We did not always agree, but he never let that get in the way. You could say, as they say, that he disagreed without being disagreeable.

He was the Government House Leader for the vast majority of his career, and he was pretty darn good at it. I know he was good at it because he drove the opposition crazy. It is a pleasure to see Premier Hancock back in the Legislature today, but I think I speak for all of my Official Opposition colleagues when I say that it's a relief to see him in the gallery instead of across the aisle, where he used his tremendous abilities to foil our plans.

Mr. Speaker, we can joke now, but as a newly elected MLA three years ago I couldn't help but respect his competence at all things in the House and his commitment to being an effective legislator. It was actually six years ago, not three, that I first met Premier Hancock. At that time he was serving as Minister of Education, and I was attending a school board meeting with him present. I still remember being instantly struck by his experience, his knowledge, and his caring. He was ready to listen to our local concerns and eager to contribute to the discussion.

You see, Dave was never just a politician; he was a public servant. That's not to say that he wasn't good at the politics of

public service. I would argue that he was one of the best. But he was never in the game for the glory or the perks. He was here to serve his community. That hasn't stopped since he left office, and I have no doubt his community service will never end. That's what makes him one of the best and is why he is so fondly remembered in this House.

In retirement he's an elder statesman, though I don't think that's necessarily fair. He's more middle-aged.

For years I heard him described as the best Premier we never had, and then, seemingly overnight, he was our Premier. With his party at its lowest point and with faith in this institution and the democratic process completely and utterly destroyed, Premier Hancock stepped up, took the mantle of leadership, and did his best to right the ship. Thank you for that, sir. For that and for his service, that spread across several ministries under three different Premiers, this province and this House have much to thank him for.

Premier Hancock's time as Premier may have been brief, but his commitment to public service has been an entire life's work. Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that his impact on Alberta lives on today. Premier Hancock, to you and your entire family: Alberta thanks you all.

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I beg the indulgence of the House to grant unanimous consent so the leader of the PC opposition, the leader of the Liberal Party, the leader of the Alberta Party, and, very briefly, myself may offer some brief remarks.

Thank you.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: The hon. leader of the third party.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today. As I do, I first want to thank our current Premier for her grace in allowing this to happen today – thank you; that's classy – and of course the House leader of the government. Classy. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I always referred to Premier Hancock as the master of the game, and I think we've heard a little bit of evidence of that today. Believe me, Premier, that's a compliment. During my time here we've already heard of Premier Hancock's ability to control the current government when they were over on this side of the House, to control the Official Opposition or at least do his best to on that side of the House, and it was a real example of skill. When House leaders get up – and there is none better than you, sir – they typically get out the green books, looking for references, as they do, and that's doing their job right. The one thing that I thought was always different? Premier Hancock already knew what was in there. He was just finding the official reference and always being careful. He was that good.

I did get to spend some time under his tutelage, as a deputy House leader, and almost nobody knows that because he never missed a day's work. He was so good at what he did and he knew he was so much better than me and everybody else in this House that he wasn't about to leave the important proceedings in the House in my hands when his hands were so much more confident, competent, capable. That's just how it was. We heard from the government and the Official Opposition of his ability while he was and remains a tremendous public servant to control the politics of it. He was that good within our party, too, Mr. Speaker.

I can tell you that Dave Hancock was probably on the more progressive side of our party, and I believe I'm more on the conservative side of the party, so even, you know, when we had

caucus discussions, we didn't always agree on things. I don't remember ever beating him. I don't think I ever did, and that's a real testament to the man because he does his homework. He pays attention. He was always a competent person and a calming influence in the House, in caucus, and I expect every place else that he spent his life.

Thank you to the Premier, to the teacher, to the man, to the husband, to the father and grandfather. Alberta is better off for having Dave Hancock.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. leader of the third party, I would like to tell you that Mr. Hancock has agreed to give me tutorials in the green book over July and August.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and salute the former Member for Edmonton-Whitemud, the interim Premier, and his family, a true and tireless stalwart of the PC caucus for almost a century.

An Hon. Member: A century?

Dr. Swann: Sorry, Mr. Speaker. It just seemed like that at times.

He comported himself most effectively and respectfully in a number of ministries, most recently in creating the challenging omnibus ministry of Human Services. He tried in all his activities, including his short tenure as interim Premier, to put Albertans and especially children first. He welcomed youth involvement, mostly nonpartisan, in education reform, from which Inspiring Education emerged. In particular, he must be honoured for the dark days when we reviewed unreported children who died in care, convening a round-table with Human Services to address archaic and secretive policies that needed to change in order to put children first.

2:10

An intrepid debater, he gave no quarter, but I always found him informed, forthright, and I appreciated his efforts to open up new avenues of consideration and do, again, what he felt was in the best interest of Albertans even if his party didn't. With extraordinary prescience that exceeded most observers', he stepped aside in anticipation of a change in Alberta. He proved himself a true public servant by agreeing to serve as interim Premier of this great province.

To my former colleague I extend my sincere thanks, best wishes for many, many more years of contribution to Alberta, and for the greatest joy, more time with family.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As usual, the Member for Calgary-Mountain View is a tough act to follow. It is an honour to rise today and welcome this distinguished guest, who has given so much to our province over his long career and who I know is nowhere near finished his contribution to Alberta. While I personally haven't had as much opportunity to interact with Premier Hancock as I would like, I certainly hope to have that opportunity in the very near future. I know he was a mentor and a role model for members on all sides of the House and for many who consider themselves progressives in Alberta and certainly within the Progressive Conservative Party, although all things are relative.

One of my staff members worked directly with Premier Hancock and has nothing but great things to say about him. Natasha Soles tells me that it was Premier Hancock who inspired her to become engaged in participatory democracy at a very young age, when she

sat on his board in an advisory capacity at age 8. I guess that's part of the secret to the PCs' long run in government.

He has been described to me as an übercitizen, and his own political involvement started young, as president of the PC Youth at the University of Alberta. Some say that he may have even started a Liberal club just to have someone to debate with. He has a well-earned reputation for focusing on children and youth in Alberta as well as being a champion of economic, environmental, and, especially, social innovation in our province, and I know he still proudly wears his Children First pin today.

Thank you, Premier Hancock, for your service to Albertans, to your constituents, and for standing up and being one of the people who made a difference. Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm really pleased to have the opportunity to talk about my friend Dave Hancock. Dave served as minister of eight different departments during his time plus as the Premier, plus he was the Deputy Premier and the House leader. So over the time he was here, he had 11 jobs altogether in just 17 years. That means something. It means that he couldn't keep a job. I'm going to be gentle on Mr. Hancock because he's not here in the House to reply, and there is that rule, which I learned from him.

He has just been the recipient of an honorary degree at the University of Alberta and, I think, one at Athabasca University as well, and that, I think, is a great honour as well.

I enjoyed my time when I was House leader of our caucus, sparring with Dave in the House, and I learned many, many rules from him and had many lessons in the parliamentary rules, which I hope I can turn to some good use. He was the Premier for a brief time, eight months, which he describes as the best summer job he ever had.

I won't tell any stories about our time together at university in the Fiji house. We both lived in this fraternity. I was not a member; he was. They invited me there, and I went to live there for the very affordable price of the room and board, only to discover to my horror that it was the young Tory frat on campus.

You know, he was very effective as a legislator and a politician. During the time that he spent in this Assembly, the NDP caucus never exceeded four members. Once he left, you can see what happened.

I want to thank his family and particularly Janet for standing by him while he served our province so ably and so well, and I just want to say that I'm proud that I can call him my friend. [Standing ovation]

Mr. Bilous: Mr. Speaker, looking at the time, I'd like to request unanimous consent of the House to wave Standing Order 7(7) to allow for the Routine to continue past 3 p.m. today.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition.

Energy Policies

Mr. Jean: I have some questions about today's tax announcement. I say tax announcement because it was not an announcement about emissions. Since the specified gas emitters regulation was enacted, no emitters have actually reduced emissions. Instead, they pay a tax to pollute. Emissions are just the way this government calculates this tax. Will the Premier act on the Wildrose's natural gas GHG

policy, which actually moves us towards a lower carbon fuel, or will raising taxes remain this government's only policy?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and that's a very good question about a very important announcement that was made today. We know that Alberta needs better access to world markets, and to do that, our government is addressing one of our biggest challenges, climate change. We need a climate change plan that is bold, that is ambitious, and that will bring Alberta into a new era of responsible energy development and environmental sustainability. Today's announcement with respect to the specified gas emitters regulation was just one small part of that. The other important piece was the fact that we've appointed a panel chair to meet with Albertans and industry leaders to figure out a way to go forward and bring about real change that will impact our marketability going forward.

Mr. Jean: One of the things said at today's taxing announcement concerns me. The environment minister talked about incenting renewable energy. That should actually worry Albertans. In other jurisdictions such incentives have become boondoggles. It has been a disaster in California, in Germany, in Ontario. In Spain it got so bad that crooks were actually running diesel generators to power floodlights to shine on solar panels at night. This they did so they could pocket the subsidy. What will the Premier do to prevent a renewable energy boondoggle here in Alberta?

Ms Notley: As we move forward on developing Alberta's climate change policy, what we will do is that we will develop that in consultation with key stakeholders, including industry. I was very pleased to see that the CEO of Shell appeared with the minister of environment today at this announcement along with the head of Capital Power, along with the head of the Pembina Institute. I think that's a good start to show that we're all going to be working together. But we'll do that transparently, and we will consult with all Albertans to make sure that what we do works.

2:20

Mr. Jean: There was one part of today's announcement that didn't concern taxes. It was when the environment minister declared that the Energy minister will very soon be announcing the details of the royalty review. Now, very soon isn't today, and the Leg. rises today, not to return until after the federal election. The opposition will have absolutely no chance to ask the government questions for Albertans about the details of the royalty review. Why is the Premier avoiding Legislature accountability with regard to the royalty review that is so, so important to Albertans?

Ms Notley: You know, as we've been consulting with industry over the course of the last four weeks, when we became government, we heard from them, and one of the things they told us was: "You know what? As you go forward on the royalty review, as you go forward on the climate change review, two things that we acknowledge need to happen, be sure that you deal with the two in a similar way and that they're working together." So the announcement with respect to the royalty review will be coming very soon, Mr. Speaker, and it will be a very transparent, open process. Members opposite as well as members on this side and all Albertans will be able to hold that process accountable as we move forward.

Mr. Jean: But absolutely no accountability here.

Legislative Process

Mr. Jean: Today is the last day of this session, so let's sum up. Bill 3: the government claims they were being champions of democracy by bringing Bill 3, their minibudget, to the Assembly for debate, but as soon as their numbers were tabled, they limited debate at every single stage. It took them no time to fall back on using the PC playbook to limit debate in this place. Will the Premier commit to end the shameful practices by accepting the Wildrose's 12 proposals to improve democracy in this Assembly for Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the interim supply bill the rules that were used are rules that have been in place for a long time, and there were no special rules used to limit debate. With respect to Bill 2 debate could have gone on much longer. There were certainly no efforts made by this opposition to limit debate. So the length of debate that we enjoyed was the length of debate that the opposition chose to engage in. But moving forward, I know that my House leader and the House leaders opposite will be meeting to talk about a number of different initiatives that we can take to improve the way this House functions, and I look forward to hearing from them about what their suggestions are.

Mr. Jean: Chose? We had no choice. The orange is the new blue. PC 2.0.

Let's go to Bill 2. When the NDP was in opposition, the Premier and the Government House Leader were strong advocates for consultation and thorough debate, but that is not what we see now. That is not what we have. On Bill 2 they didn't want any consultation. The Finance minister actually said that he couldn't consider even a symbolic tax cut without a fiscal plan. But he didn't need a fiscal plan to bring in the largest tax hike in Alberta's history. Will the Premier admit that this Legislative session was called just so her caucus could rubber-stamp a record tax hike?

Ms Notley: As I've said before, this session was called because we needed to get interim supply because otherwise we would have run out of money in June, and that would not have been good governance. The other option was special warrants, in which case none of us would have been here and we wouldn't have been able to spend all this great time getting to know each other. You know, it just wouldn't have been as fun. So this was the happy medium. The other thing would have been to bring in a budget with four weeks' notice, and that, quite frankly, would not have been responsible either. But let me just say this. In terms of debate on Bill 2 there was a provincial election on it. We were very clear in that election about exactly what we were going to do, and Albertans made it very clear about the way they thought we should go.

Mr. Jean: Well, I'm glad to see the Premier admits that this is not responsible either.

Now Bill 1. The NDP in opposition used to believe that it was the Assembly's duty and responsibility to get legislation right the first time. Wildrose supported the intent of Bill 1. After all, it was our idea. But when we presented amendments designated to close NDP loopholes which violate the very spirit of Bill 1, this Notley government said no. That might be because the NDP uses those very same loopholes in every election. Is the Premier counting on these loopholes to help the NDP in the Calgary-Foothills by-election?

Ms Notley: Well, I'm glad that this issue came up in question period because it gives me an opportunity to correct the members opposite with more people listening. Let me be perfectly clear. It has been the position of the Alberta NDP going back to at least 2004 to ban corporate and union donations. The Wildrose and the various parties that preceded it did not exist then, so it was not your policy. It was our policy, and I'm very glad that you came alongside with that.

With respect to the other issues, that were good issues, that you raised, the fact of the matter is that election financing reform is complicated and complex, and we believe quite strongly that it requires everybody's engagement, including the engagement of . . .

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Airdrie.

Child Protective Services

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of days ago I stood on the steps of the Legislature with colleagues from all parties. We heard stories from parents who lost their children in provincial care. I can't imagine the heartache, and I know that everyone in this House wants to improve how we protect our kids. We want to work with the government to improve the system, and we want to be able to tell parents the mistakes of the past that we learned from. Will the minister plan to improve and strengthen protective services for children in care?

The Speaker: The Minister of Human Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. Actually, I was also on the steps of the Legislature on that day. It's a really sad and concerning situation. I mentioned there as well that we are committed to improving the system and we are committed to bringing in more independent oversight and transparency so that the public knows what's happened and so that we can improve the existing systems.

Thank you.

Mrs. Pitt: I appreciate the government's thoughts, and I know our colleagues know that we need a better system. It's a system that is often detailed with stories of tragedy. We are wondering about the situation of a child who was removed from one dangerous situation and later died in provincial care. The child was left unchecked for five hours. There is a provincial inquiry into the death of this child. Will the minister update us when the inquiry is complete, and how will we be changing this policy?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Member, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a child dies in our care, it's a heartbreaking situation. As the member identified, there is an inquiry going on. I think it's inappropriate at this point for me to comment on that inquiry, and I think that if there are any recommendations, we are committed to improving the system, and we will do that.

Mrs. Pitt: When it comes to the children in this province, let's put our politics aside. We need to protect our kids. What is the plan moving forward so this will never happen again?

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Member. I agree that the ministry deals with vulnerable Albertans, and it's not a partisan thing that government has a responsibility, we as a society have a responsibility to provide for and protect those. In that spirit, I think I've reached out to the member and the member from the third party as well, and we'll

make sure that we sit together and we reach out to our partners and we put together a plan that works for all Albertans.

The Speaker: The hon. leader of the third party.

2:30

Energy Policies (continued)

Mr. McIver: Mr. Speaker, this morning the Environment minister held a media conference. A journalist asked if the current rules requiring carbon levy funds to be spent in Alberta would continue, or would they be able to be spent elsewhere, to which the minister replied: I am open to that. The government won't help industry develop pipelines to export product, but it seems open to exporting Alberta tax dollars and, by extension, jobs. Will the Premier rein in her minister before she actually does this?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the plan going forward – there's been no plan set to change the way the emissions management fund is expended or where it is expended. What we have done is ensured that the contribution to that fund will slowly increase over the next two years, while at the same time we're working in partnership with industry, with stakeholders, with community members in order to develop a comprehensive climate change strategy that will (a) bring about positive outcomes for Albertans and (b) improve our ability to access markets with respect to our product outside of this country.

Mr. McIver: It sounds like the Premier is open to that, too, Mr. Speaker, because she didn't say no.

Mr. Speaker, given that the previous government was proposing increasing the stringency levels from 12 to 24 per cent and what was presented this morning, in my understanding, may actually water that down, certainly not increase it – I know that the minister wants to impress her fancy foreign friends in Paris later on this year, but why, in order to do that, would she weaken and water down the rules that a previous Environment minister was going to bring in?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, when it comes to climate change, this government will do better than previous governments, and I rise today to report to the House that we have proposed an increase in specified gas emitters regulation from \$15 to \$30 per tonne by 2017 and increasing the stringency to 20 per cent. These numbers have not come as a surprise to industry. There have been conversations on this topic since we assumed office, and we look forward to future conversations that we are going to be having with industry, environmental groups, and Albertans as we move forward.

Thank you.

Mr. McIver: Mr. Speaker, the government's plan looks like a rehash environmentally of what was going to happen anyway except that we're seeing more rules and more regulations, undoing the Alberta Energy Regulator, adding a royalty review, higher taxes, higher cost of doing business. To the Premier: how can you reassure hard-working Albertans that they're not going to lose a whole lot of their hard-earned dollars with these increased costs that have to be passed along to them in the form of higher energy costs, and are you actually going to help with pipelines so that if better and cleaner energy is developed, we'll be able to sell it to someone?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there are about 19 questions in there. It's going to be a little bit hard to get to all of them.

I think it's interesting that the hon. leader of the third party, on one hand, is suggesting that we didn't go far enough with the tax with respect to the specified gas emitters regulation and then, on the other hand, he's suggesting that we're going too far in terms of some of the other things that we're discussing. What we've decided to do is to move forward on the changes that his former government delayed putting into place for years and years and years. They talked a lot but never actually put them into place. So we've moved forward with those in consultation with industry. In the meantime, we're working with industry and other stakeholders about other important issues . . .

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

Health Care System

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now, we've talked about a lot of issues in this brief session, but there's been very little discussion about health care, which is consistently the number one concern for Albertans. Our province has the highest per capita health spending in Canada, but outcomes are in the middle of the pack, and wait times are unacceptable. Twenty per cent of Albertans do not have a family doctor, and, as a result, our emergency rooms are badly overcrowded. To the Premier. We know that the only thing that will bend the cost curve of health care over time is consistent access to primary care. Do you support the primary care network model, and if not, what is your plan for primary care?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I mean, it is certainly very true that we need to do a better job ensuring that Albertans have their health care needs met when they need them, and there are a number of different tools at our disposal. We talked in the election about the need to do a better job with respect to long-term care. We talked about ensuring that we didn't willy-nilly drag a billion dollars out of the system without ever managing to know where it would come from. We also know, of course, that primary care up front is the best way to manage health care. So we're going to be meeting with stakeholders to talk about how we can improve outcomes through primary care going forward.

Mr. Clark: So no answer on PCNs, whether or not you support primary care. More meetings with stakeholders.

The Minister of Finance has recently confirmed that half of Alberta's budget goes to wages and benefits, and I want to ensure that our health care system is viable and sustainable over the long term. More money isn't always the answer, but better management always is. Again to the Premier: what specific plans do you have to ensure that the management of Alberta Health Services is efficient and effective?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that we felt we needed to do in order to improve outcomes in health care and to get better care for the amount of money that we are investing in health care was to begin by establishing a sense of stability. We have a health care system which has been in complete chaos for several years now, and with that chaos comes waste. Stability was the first order of the day. Then, I went ahead and appointed a Minister of Health in whom I have complete faith, who

I know is working, day in, day out, hours every day with stakeholders to find ways to ensure that we get better outcomes going forward.

Mr. Clark: Again not much of an answer. I'll try one more time.

To the Premier. Your Environment minister has taken decisive action on an important and complex file, so there's at least a plan to come up with a plan. What's taking so long in health care?

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I'm happy to update the Assembly on some of the work we've done. As was mentioned by the Premier, I've been on the job for four weeks. I've had the honour of meeting with the AMA as well as a number of other stakeholders as well as the PCN physician leads. We'll be working with them in the months ahead to make sure that they're being financed in a way that's sustainable, that they're not sitting on \$70 million of reserves moving forward, and that Albertans get the best possible care when they need it where they need it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Midwifery Services

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is experiencing a baby boom, with over 55,000 babies born annually in our province. Given that Alberta midwives offer an alternative to obstetrician care for low-risk pregnancies and birth, to the Minister of Health: what is this government's position about the value Alberta's midwives bring to our system?

Ms Hoffman: I'd like to thank the hon. member for the question. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that this government is a strong proponent of midwifery and of choice for women when it comes to that exciting and important time in their lives. Today midwives support thousands of pregnancies in our province. Midwives also have their own profession body, an excellent program at Mount Royal University, and they often work in teams with nurses and other physicians and caregivers to welcome new babies into Alberta, and we're proud of that.

Ms Payne: Mr. Speaker, to the same minister: given that many Alberta women are on wait-lists for midwifery care, can you explain what barriers may be preventing Albertans from accessing this important, publicly-funded service?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question and to the member for raising it. Midwifery became funded under the previous government in 2009. I know a lot of women who are grateful for that. The number of babies delivered by midwives since that time has doubled. It's good progress, and this government is committed to doing more. We have recent graduates from Mount Royal who we know are looking outside our province, potentially, for a placement because of some of the limitations around funding here in Alberta. That's something I will be addressing with my colleagues in the months to come because, of course, we want to ensure choice and safe deliveries for all Albertans.

2:40

Ms Payne: Mr. Speaker, to the same minister: will your ministry review the funding model for maternity care so that dollars follow

babies and that more mothers are allowed the opportunity to choose midwifery care if that's the best option for them and their families?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm not the only woman who knows a number of mothers out there who called a midwife before they called the father because midwives are in such short demand in this province. Midwives have been doing a lot of work through the Alberta Association of Midwives on behalf of their association as well as the moms in demand of their service. Because of the fact that this House is working to reverse the cuts that were being proposed by the last government, we have some money to actually increase funding, not significantly, but we will increase funding in the short term between now and the fall budget. I look forward to having an opportunity to discuss this more thoroughly when we bring forward a detailed budget in the fall.

Health and Seniors' Care in Strathmore-Brooks

Mr. Fildebrandt: Mr. Speaker, in Strathmore-Brooks health care and seniors' care is a serious concern. Our hospitals are older than most members of this Legislature. While the previous government promised for years to upgrade and maintain our facilities, residents and especially seniors continue to go underserved. They have been promised action by the government for over a decade, but it has not delivered. We've been told that the money has been budgeted, but we've seen nothing. Will the Minister of Health commit to my constituents that she will follow through on the long-standing promises made to them for health and seniors' care in Strathmore-Brooks?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for the question. I'm really glad that we have a government that's actually committed to reversing the cuts. They obviously would have seriously impacted the ability to deliver.

What wasn't impacted in the weeks leading up to the last election was the number of press releases that went out – I believe it was eight in six weeks – specifically talking about infrastructure announcements without actually having any money budgeted for the actual delivery of those health care services in those regions. I won't be making promises that this House can't keep. At this point you're going to have to stay tuned, hon. member.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Well, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's answer and also her generous promotion to my position in this House.

A specific case in my constituency is the hospital in Bassano. Since the Newell Foundation has worked with community stakeholders to produce a detailed plan for the construction of a new seniors' care facility that includes acute-care beds and continuing care units and all that is needed is the final follow-through from the province, will the Minister of Seniors commit to working with the Newell Foundation and myself to ensure that this critical project does not fall through the cracks?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you to the member for the question, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. What she giveth in terms of promotion, she can taketh away, I guess. My apologies for using the wrong title, hon. member.

I look forward to receiving correspondence from you on this issue, and I will certainly follow up with my department to make

sure that we can provide you with updated information on the project.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Mr. Speaker, I think we can all appreciate that the ministers are new in their portfolios, and we will be patient, but we will continue to do our job and press them.

The Strathmore hospital is the busiest hospital in rural Alberta and does not provide adequate and accessible care for seniors. Since the former government promised to upgrade the facility in 1997, 2008, and in 2012 and all we have seen are large novelty cheques and building Alberta signs in the empty field next door, will the Minister of Health commit to working with myself and the municipalities of Strathmore and Wheatland on renewing the Strathmore hospital?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you to the member for the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to having an opportunity to be able to work collaboratively with the Minister of Infrastructure and our cabinet to bring forward a sunshine list that really reflects the needs of Albertans. In the fall we expect that we'll be able to do that, and we'll be able to have a dialogue with all members of this House. In the interim I encourage members at any time to send correspondence to me about questions and concerns that they have, and we'll certainly do our best to get back to them in a timely way.

The Speaker: I must express to the House cautious optimism, but the Speaker appreciates that today I can hear most of the discussions.

Constituency Office Administration

Ms Jansen: Mr. Speaker, constituency assistants are the non-partisan eyes and ears helping connect MLAs to the people in their constituencies. They perform vital work, helping Albertans on a daily basis. So I'm surprised to hear from some job seekers that they need to submit their resumes to an individual who is serving as the executive director to the Alberta New Democratic Party and they have to be NDP partisans. My question today is to the Premier. Is this the way her government is going to conduct itself going forward?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there was a period of time when the executive director of the NDP was on a leave of absence from the NDP and was assisting my office in terms of helping with the staffing processes around our brand new MLAs, who didn't have constituency office staff. I also believe that he has returned to his previous position and he no longer has anything to do with that hiring process and that, in fact, there are people in my office – I think now they're in the caucus office – who are assisting in providing support to MLAs around the process of hiring constituency office staff.

Ms Jansen: Mr. Speaker, constituency assistants are also being told that they're going to be unionized, and some have been told that they need to do business such as hotel bookings and catering with unionized shops. Again to the Premier: is this the new way of doing business?

Ms Notley: In fact, for the last many, many years – I think it's probably been about two decades; it would go back to the '80s – the NDP caucus has had a voluntarily recognized relationship with their staff that looks like a union. It is not technically a union because

they can't be unionized underneath the legislation, but we have agreed to treat it like a union. That's been the case for about 25 years now. That applied to our previous staff, and with respect to incoming constituency assistants, we are also offering them access to the same rights.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have copies of job postings for the constituencies of Calgary-Cross, Banff-Cochrane, Edmonton-Gold Bar, Edmonton-Manning, and more. I will table a copy of these in the House at the appropriate time. Given that each of these requires applicants to send their resumé to an individual who is the executive director of the NDP, my question again to the Premier. NDP credentials, only union shops get business, the party hiring their assistants, unionizing our constituency assistants: is Alberta's new motto Go Union Or Go Home?

Ms Notley: Again, as I've said, I don't believe that the postings say, "Submit your application to the executive director of the NDP." I think the postings say, "Submit your application to [this person]," who at that point was not fulfilling that role. However, the key issue here is that it is the motto of this government that our employees will be treated with the respect and the dignity that is often employed with respect to people who are members of unions. We've done that for a long time. Why would we change the way we do that now?

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

Environment Minister

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A short, simple, but very important question. The Minister of Justice is a lawyer, so I'm sure she knows that a lawyer can never, ever counsel or advise someone to break the law. Does the Minister of Justice think that the same standards should apply for the ministers of the Crown?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Minister of Justice. I'm not quite sure what the premise of that question is asking as it was quite vague and a hypothetical question. I'm happy to respond to questions around our government and our policies, but I don't have an answer for a hypothetical question.

The Speaker: Could the hon. member try and make it more clear?

Mr. Cyr: Given that Mike Hudema said that the minister of environment directly contributed to the content of a book and since this book actually advocates for breaking federal criminal laws and provincial law, will the minister apologize to Albertans for contributing content to a book that counsels breaking the law?

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

2:50

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much for that question. I'm sorry that the Wildrose feels the need to continue its campaign of guilt by association, but it strikes me, Mr. Speaker, as a little hypocritical. One of their members sitting on the front bench here deliberately violated the law by trying to sell his grain and actually was . . .

Mr. Strankman: Point of order.

The Speaker: A point of order has been noted by the Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Mr. Mason: It's a little hypocritical in my view, Mr. Speaker, for them to ask a question like that, which is entirely hypothetical, when in fact members of their own caucus have deliberately flouted the law.

The Speaker: Hon. member, we are going to be addressing at least a portion of this matter at the end of our discussion day on the point of order that was raised yesterday. So I would remind the House that I may have been too optimistic in my hopes that the decorum between the two sides would continue.

Mr. Cyr: Given that this is an easy problem for the minister to get out of, she needs to apologize. She needs to move on, needs to commit to being a moderate, balanced minister. But instead of an apology, we get a story about her role. Will the minister apologize to Albertans for her direct contribution in writing a book that asks people to blatantly break the law?

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, you know, I think it's a new low for this session to ask the question. The explanation was given in a point of order yesterday, and the minister has nothing to apologize for.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

Provincial Fiscal Policies

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past couple of days we've heard from the NDP that the PCs are to blame for layoffs and lack of investor confidence because they didn't diversify the economy. To the Finance minister. Can he explain exactly: how does raising taxes help diversify our economy?

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much to the hon. minister across the floor.

An Hon. Member: Member.

Mr. Ceci: I'll taketh away, too.

Hon. member across the floor, we are addressing stable and fair taxes in this province so that we can plan a fiscal plan going forward. In the fall we'll have our economic plan, come forward with that. Without doing stable revenues, we'll be on the roller coaster, up and down on oil revenues, and that's not good for anybody, including the whole province.

The Speaker: I would remind the ministers that at the rate you're going, the numbers are going to be changing here.

Mr. Cooper: Given that raising taxes on hard-working Albertan families in Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills will hurt our economy and destroy the Alberta advantage we all know and love and given that I hear from my constituents that hiking the minimum wage to \$15 an hour is going to destroy jobs and small businesses, why is the minister responsible for creating jobs, killing jobs?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Our government believes very much in supporting people who are working here in Alberta. Right now we're investing \$40 million into education programs, apprenticeships to help people have good jobs here in Alberta. Telus is investing \$1 billion to create 1,500 jobs here in Edmonton. Alberta is still a great province for businesses to work in.

Mr. Cooper: Given that I have heard from Connie, a small-business owner in Olds who's going to be forced to close her café, the Bean Brokers, due to this massive minimum wage hike and 10 people will lose their jobs, why does this government believe in putting politics before the livelihoods of hard-working Albertan families?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We as a government care very much for working Albertans. We want to make it more fair, especially for the most vulnerable workers in this province, the single moms who are supporting their kids on very low incomes with a high cost of living in this province. We know that giving money to the most vulnerable people by raising the minimum wage prudently and in a phased-in way is going to support all Albertans.

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

Nonprofit Organization Employee Wages

Mr. Bhullar: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to the minister of jobs. I'd like to follow up on that particular response. If the minister says that they'll be looking to support Albertans in every way, the average nonprofit that employs 20 people that'll have to have a 50 per cent increase in wages is going to have to come up with \$192,000 a year. How, Minister, will you support these nonprofits?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Of course, we care very much about the significant contributions of nonprofits and the work that they do to help people here in Alberta. We know that raising the minimum wage and working with nonprofits, who we've already consulted with and will do further consultations forward to do a phased-in approach prudently, will support everyone.

Thank you.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Bhullar: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. If that's how you show people you care about them, I think a lot of people really don't want you caring about them anymore, Minister. We have 23,000 nonprofits in this province. If just 5,000 of them are affected, that is nearly \$1 billion in additional funding that they will require. To the Minister of Finance. That is money no one is offering, sir. Where will you come up with this?

Mr. Ceci: I'm not sure I accept the premise that the hon. member is putting forward. But I do want to say that in this latest interim supply there was an increase to a very important program that nonprofits rely on, and that's called FCSS. We'll continue to do that if I have anything to do with it going forward, year after year after year.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Bhullar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That, Minister, was a few million. Here we're talking about to close to \$1 billion. Now, given that the vast majority of these nonprofits are not unionized, is this an attempt by the government to invade territory that they currently don't have power and control over because of the entrepreneurial

spirit of many of our nonprofits and unionize and bring further work into the government's direct purview?

Mr. Ceci: I wasn't sure who was going to get to respond to that, but I will say that I don't think that grand plan that the hon. member is talking about is anything close to what this front bench or this caucus is contemplating. Our grand plan is to support Albertans, to support business, and to make sure we balance the budget going forward in four years.

3:00 Transportation Infrastructure Priorities

Mr. Piquette: Mr. Speaker, I know all members of the House were deeply saddened to hear of two recent collisions on highway 63, with one resulting in a fatality. Could the Minister of Transportation please update the House on our government's progress in improving safety on highway 63?

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much for that question, hon. member. Mr. Speaker, I do share the member's sadness and want to express my condolences to the family of anyone who was involved in that terrible collision on highway 63. Improving safety on that highway is a priority for our government, and Alberta Transportation is working hard to ensure improvements are on track. I can inform the House that 70 per cent of the twinning between Grassland and Fort McMurray is expected to be completed by this fall.

The Speaker: Hon. member, first supplemental.

Mr. Piquette: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the importance of highway 63 to moving people and goods to Fort McMurray and other communities in northern Alberta, could the minister please update the House on longer term measures to improve safety on highway 63?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the hon. member. We can expect big changes on highway 63 this year and next. By the end of this construction season motorists can look forward to having access to over a hundred kilometres of newly twinned highway 63 and 240 kilometres by the fall of 2016.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Piquette: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's excellent news, not only for the people in my constituency but, I'm sure, you know, the other ones as well.

Given that my constituents are concerned about the conditions of roads in their community and across the province, would the minister please update the House on some of the road improvement priorities Alberta Transportation will be pursuing in the future?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Mason: Thanks, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the hon. member. The safety of Alberta's roads is my top priority as Minister of Transportation. We have over 31,000 kilometres of provincial highway, 28,000 kilometres of which are paved. Alberta Transportation plans to provide much-needed rehabilitation to approximately 1,400 kilometres this year, an improvement over previous years. Furthermore, Alberta Transportation will rehabilitate several thousand kilometres of roads and highways in order to ensure our vast network of roads and highways meets the needs of our growing province.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Health Care System (continued)

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just recently Alberta Health Services rolled out a new patient-first strategy for the delivery of health care in Alberta. Now, on paper this sounds like something all Albertans want and something that we have been desperately needing for many years, but I do have to ask the Minister of Health: if AHS is just now getting around to putting patients first, who were they putting first before?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. That announcement was actually when I was in my first week on the job, so if you want to know what was happening in government before I got here, you'll have to ask the members of the third party.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, the government and AHS have been unable to solve our growing health care problems for years. Given that in the past we've seen AHS put managers first, bureaucrats first, expense claims first, and sole-source contracts first, what assurances can the minister give us that this new strategy is not just another bureaucratic make-work project that will accomplish nothing for Albertan patients and families?

The Speaker: I'm going to check *Hansard* to see if there was a "given" at the front of that question and not afterwards.

Ms Hoffman: Given that, I'm honoured to answer the question, Mr. Speaker. I really was proud to be a part of the announcement. I was standing there with patients and family members and staff, who are all committed to the patient-first strategy, and I think it's something that we all should be proud of as Albertans. If the hon. member would like more information about it and the direction that we're taking through Alberta Health Services moving ahead, I'd be happy to have a conversation with him after he reads the document.

Mr. Barnes: Given that the current structure of our health care system has produced mediocre results at ever-inflated prices and considering that the government has firmly committed to doubling down on the flaws and mistakes of the past by piling more hard-earned tax dollars into a broken system, will the Health minister commit to making real changes that cut through the massive waste and bureaucracy and inefficiency and see that our money gets to the ground level and the front lines so that patients and Albertans are truly served first?

Ms Hoffman: It's clear to me that a number of people aren't pumped about what happened on May 5 – that's people in this House – but what I can tell you is that the people of Alberta were very pumped to elect a government that actually stands by the Canada Health Act, that will reverse the cuts that were coming to public health care and front-line services, and that's going to work together, of course, to find areas for efficiency but not at the cost of patient care.

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

International Trade Strategy

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that broadened market access ensures Alberta companies get the best price for their

products or services, this is an important part of building upon the Alberta advantage in an increasingly competitive global economy. Albertans have proven, with the support of the previous administration, that they are able and competent competitors on the global stage. My question to the Premier. International market access is key to export market development, diversification, and protecting jobs. Will your government move beyond its insular and big-labour-focused policies and tell us how your government will effectively utilize our international offices in support of our policy-battered economy?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, I will say that I think one of the things we all know that is really challenging our issues around market access is, in fact, our environmental record. It is, in fact, how we are perceived internationally, and I think our leaders in the oil and gas industry understand that better than even the folks over there. So one first key step that we are taking when we do go overseas is to ensure that we develop a climate change strategy that will actually ensure confidence on the part of international markets. I would like to have something to say before I go off to these international markets to sell our product.

The Speaker: The first supplemental.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In defence of hard-working Albertans and, again, to the Premier: given our current economic environment and your industry-killing policies with resulting layoffs and idle capacity, what specifically are you doing to help Alberta companies in their survival in developing export markets?

Ms Notley: Well, of course, I completely and entirely reject the premise of that question. What I am doing and what I have been doing since pretty much the day after I was elected is that I've been reaching out to people in industry to talk about how we can build relationships and work together on critical challenges that we have here in this province that are focused on getting us off the oil and gas roller coaster, diversifying our economy, and creating long-standing, mortgage-paying jobs for Albertans. That's my focus, that's what Albertans elected me to do, and that's what I will work with our partners to achieve.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the Premier: given that within the international economy we are already in a relatively high-cost, low-productivity environment and your government is determined to further inflate labour and other costs while increasing taxation, what specifically are you doing to ensure Alberta companies remain competitive in the international business community?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, I think I pretty much answered that question. Again, I reject the premise. I think that what we are doing is ensuring economic stability in Alberta. We are focusing on economic stability. We are ensuring that we have more investment in education and retraining, not less. We're ensuring that we have more revenue stability, not less. We're ensuring that we have more prosperity shared amongst all Albertans, not less. All those things contribute to sound economic growth and, ultimately, to a growing capacity to export.

Thank you.

3:10

Members' Statements

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

Crêpe and Shake Café

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour and a privilege to stand for the first time in this hallowed hall. It is my pleasure today to speak about a small business in my constituency of Leduc-Beaumont. We've had many discussions about big businesses and corporations and some about small businesses, but today that's what I want to focus on, a small business that exemplifies Alberta values, the Crêpe and Shake.

Mr. Speaker, I make this statement today about the Crêpe and Shake not because of my healthy love for all things ice cream, as we can see, but instead about a family, Kerri and Jeff Bauer, committed to connecting their fellow citizens and protecting a special building in Beaumont's history. The business is located in one of the oldest buildings in Beaumont, the original convent of les Filles de Jésus, Daughters of Jesus, which operated from 1939 to 1969, until the Bauer family purchased it. The business has invested time into ensuring that the community understands the history of the home and also has a place to relive memories they may have had by spending time in the front yard and with other members of the community. As Beaumont was originally a French-Canadian community and still has many French-Canadians, much of the history includes family connections to the rest of French Canada, and the Bauers intend to integrate that into their model to encourage those family and historical ties.

In a time when corporate focus is largely on cutting costs, one of my favourite parts of the Crêpe and Shake is that they take the time and the money to locally source their ingredients and divert 90 per cent of their waste to compost facilities or recycling. This model is not only good for them but an example of how a local business can support the creation of jobs and innovation.

The owners employ many young people in the community, even taking time off to celebrate their graduations and special events with them. They encourage youth to come and spend time at the Crêpe and Shake, and they hold a youth open mike weekly to showcase their talent. In a town with few business services for youth, this is an important touch point for them. Mr. Speaker, when a business works so hard at maintaining and strengthening the community, we really appreciate having them in our community.

Thank you very much.

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

Grassroots Change

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the most amazing things to happen in the tech world was the switch from centralized software development to open-source programming and content. At first everybody said, "It'll never work," but it did and it does because amazing and incredible things happen when everybody participates. We now have open-source everything. Even the staid *New York Times* is going to an open-source newsroom.

The recent election was another indicator that our world has changed. The failure of the past government was the failure of centralized thinking, with a command-and-control vision of management; cabinet knew best. Rather than consult with citizens, they created a massive centralized health authority where everything comes from the top down. They created one massive centralized power distribution line where today technology begs for low-cost network power generation and distribution. This is why cabinet

control of land zoning, use, and rights is utterly intolerable in democracy. Their party even tried to control who could run and where because the boss is the only one who knows everything, and that is why Alberta voted for change.

Grassroots means that the life and ideas of our constituents and everyday Albertans matter more than the elite. This is a core Wildrose belief. Some of our previous members didn't understand that and are forever gone. That's why even though everyone thought we were dead in December, the people just elected even more of us in May. If this government reverts to this failed model of big bureaucracy and centralized decision-making, we will tell all Albertans, because they do care: it's time to create a lean, efficient civil service, not bigger bureaucracy. Change is here, but it's not trickling down from any ivory towers. The days of networking with Albertans to create an open-source society are here.

Thank you.

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

211 Information and Referral Service

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. 211 Alberta is an information service similar to 311, 511, or 811 that provides Albertans with reliable information and referrals to community, social, health, and government-related services. This one-stop-shop approach is an important preventative tool and gives people convenient and stigma-free access to everything from advice on child care available in their community to information for an adult child seeking transportation for her or his aging parents to mental health supports and suicide prevention.

211 is also multilingual, with over 150 languages supported, providing a 24-hour information and referral system for thousands of services available across the province, making it easier to navigate the often confusing maze of community, health, government, and social services information. 211 can help with finding solutions to day-to-day needs as well as coping with stressful situations before they escalate into a crisis.

Unfortunately, despite the promises of the past government and despite clear evidence that the program helps Albertans, 211 service is only available in approximately 60 per cent of our province, primarily urban Alberta: those living in Edmonton and area, Calgary and area, the regional municipality of Wood Buffalo, and Red Deer. Rural 211 service will ensure that all people, regardless of where they live, will have equal access to this vital information.

The good news, Mr. Speaker, is that province-wide 211 is cost-effective. A 2013 Safe Communities report showed the start-up cost for a provincial 211 is only \$1.2 million, and the annual operating budget would be cost-shared with municipalities, meaning the province's share is only \$1.35 million a year. The demand for the service is high because the benefit of the service is significant, so significant that the communities around the province are demanding their own 211 service, and one-offs are starting to pop up.

I call on our new provincial government to make this urgent and very cost-effective investment in the health and well-being of Albertans and deploy integrated 211 service around the province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Meadows Community Recreation Centre and Library

Ms Woollard: Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to rise today to tell you about a new and exciting facility in my constituency of Edmonton-Mill Creek. This is the newly opened Meadows branch library, which is sharing a building with the Meadows community

recreation centre. It's the first collaboration between the Edmonton public library and the city of Edmonton to bring together a public library and a recreation centre under one roof. This example of integrating services shows how a community hub can be created where people can learn, be active, and connect with others. As well as being an environmentally friendly facility with a green roof, it is colourful, open, welcoming, and conveniently accessible.

When my children and later my grandchild were younger, going to the library regularly was an important part of our routines. As a teacher I knew that reading to and with preschoolers is the single best predictor of success in school. As well, I always ensured that my children and my granddaughter knew how to swim for safety, exercise, and fun.

As I toured this innovative building, I reflected that having a library and a recreation centre in the same building perfectly illustrated the concept of *mens sana in corpore sano*, a healthy mind in a healthy body. As Brent McDonough, an Edmonton public library trustee, noted, "libraries are integral to the educational and cultural hub of a city and society. Libraries must be non-threatening places where people of all ages, educational background and economic status can gather to be enriched." As well, the recreation centre part of the collaboration provides benefits that are essential to the health and well-being of individuals, communities, the economy, and the environment of Alberta, as noted by the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association.

It's exciting to see a development of this kind be built to support a great quality of life to all those who make their home there. Thank you.

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

Killarney-Glengarry Community Association 60th Anniversary

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the forthcoming anniversary in my constituency, the 60th anniversary of the Killarney-Glengarry Community Association. Founded in 1945, the Killarney-Glengarry Community Association represents one of Calgary's oldest suburbs. The majority of the houses in the area were built after World War II. Soldiers returning from the war were sold lots for just \$25 to help them settle down, rebuild their lives, and raise their families.

3:20

As in 1945 Killarney-Glengarry is changing today to reflect the changing needs of families of the new millennium. A new LRT line has reached the area, and infills replace some of the original houses. Such change is never smooth. The Killarney-Glengarry Community Association has been there to help the community through these changes, with an aim to preserve the character of the area. This is a neighbourhood where all voices are heard, one that residents want to call home and raise their children in.

The community associations are citizens' first level of contact with their government, and Killarney-Glengarry Community Association is a prime example of doing good in the community. I had the honour of being there for their recent AGM, and the level of connection with the community as well as with the board was truly inspiring.

Again I congratulate the Killarney-Glengarry Community Association on their 60 years of service to the community and look forward to attending their anniversary Stampede barbecue on July 4. I also look forward to representing their views and commitments to a strong, healthy community as a part of Alberta's new government. We know that the issues that matter to local Albertans are

also important to us here in the House, and I look forward to bringing their concerns to this House.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

Impaired Driving

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try not to cry. The morning of October 28, 2011, I was woken by a phone call from Sheila Wilson, grandmother of my godson Vincent Stover. She said to me: Vince is gone. I listened in shock as she shared that the night before, 16-year-old Vince and three of his friends were killed when their car was hit by a truck driven by a drunk driver. My smiling, caring 16-year-old godson was gone along with fellow Warriors football team members Walter, Tanner, and Matthew.

Since that day I've had to watch Vince's two young brothers struggle with the loss of their brother, who had in many ways helped their single mother to raise them. I have watched his extended family and friends, his grandmother and aunt, who are in the gallery today, struggle as birthdays, graduations, anniversaries of his death, and other special days passed reminding them of their loss. I've watched his mother, Jenny, also here with her partner, Mike, today, suffer through wave after wave of grief as she faces again and again that her son was lost in a completely preventable accident.

Since then several of us have become involved in the work of MADD Canada, a grassroots organization committed to stopping impaired driving and supporting its victims. Each year thousands of Canadians are killed or injured in impaired driving crashes: irresponsible, dangerous, and intolerable acts. MADD Canada strives to offer support services to victims, their families, their friends to heighten awareness of the dangers of impaired driving and save lives and prevent injuries on our roads. That is what we all want, to end the senseless loss of life so nobody else has to suffer the way the family and friends of Vince have.

Please, please do not drive impaired.

The Speaker: I think I speak for all the Legislature when I express our regrets.

Presenting Petitions

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to present, with over 1,300 signatures, stating as follows. "We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government to mandate the inclusion of the topic of legal, responsible, healthy, and affirmative sexual consent as part of the sexual education curriculum developed by the Ministry of Education." I'm pleased to see that Sarah Hogendorp and Jennah Martens-Forrester, who collected these signatures, are still here with us this afternoon.

Thank you very much.

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: Hon. Member for Highwood, you have a tabling?

Mr. W. Anderson: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I spoke to Bill 2. While speaking, I referenced various articles, a survey of employment, Stephen Gordon of *Maclean's*, the impact of minimum wages on poverty, anti-poverty policy in Ontario, and the Warwick economic research papers. I now wish to table the appropriate number of copies.

Thank you.

Mr. Clark: I have a tabling, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. It's my pleasure to rise and table the requisite five copies of the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Safe Communities 211 Alberta discussion and options paper that I referred to today in my member's statement.

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. Ms Sigurdson, Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education and Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour, pursuant to the Veterinary Profession Act, the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association 2014 annual report; pursuant to the Land Surveyors Act, Report of Proceedings of the One Hundred and Fifth Annual General Meeting; pursuant to the Workers' Compensation Act, the Workers' Compensation Board Alberta 2014 annual report.

The Speaker: Hon. members, a point of order was raised today by the Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Ms Jansen: Mr. Speaker, have you done tablings?

The Speaker: Yes.

Ms Jansen: I have a tabling, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes. Proceed.

Tabling Returns and Reports

(continued)

Ms Jansen: All right. Thank you. I rise to table five copies of each of eight job postings in NDP-held constituencies. They include Calgary-Cross, Banff-Cochrane, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, Edmonton-Gold Bar, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne, Lethbridge-East, Edmonton-Manning, and Peace River. Mr. Speaker, each requires the applicant to submit their CV to an individual who is the executive director of the NDP. They also describe Alberta's NDP as an employment equity employer even though the actual employer is the LAO.

One more, Mr. Speaker. I also have five copies of the current LinkedIn resumé of the individual vetting potential new non-partisan constituency assistants. As of today he is still listed as the executive director of the New Democratic Party.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Dr. Starke: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I rise today to table the requisite number of copies of a letter to the Clerk that I've just recently submitted asking him to investigate the practices of the hiring of constituency assistants that was advertised in a number of different advertisements in which the employer is not correctly identified as the LAO and, indeed, the employees are identified as reporting to the MLA and the director of caucus. I table these five letters and look forward to the Clerk's investigation into this matter.

Point of Order Imputing Motives

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, we were on such a roll in question period. I rise on the point of order today on behalf of the Member for Drumheller-Stettler. I would say that the Official Opposition was very, very quiet during question period today, and I thought we were doing a great job trying to do move the House forward.

The Speaker: Hon. member, could you say the point you made, that the hon. Government House Leader was – did you make that comment?

3:30

Mr. Cooper: No. I said earlier that the Member for Drumheller-Stettler rose on a point of order, and the citation will be under section 23(i), "imputes false . . . motives to another Member" of the Assembly. Let the record show that this member has received a pardon for any accusation that the member across may make of him when it comes to actions in the past. As such, it is as though that never took place. In fact, a law was changed as a result of this hon. member's actions. He received a full pardon from the Prime Minister of this great land.

I find it so disingenuous of the Government House Leader to impute such false motives at a time when he's speaking about another member of the Crown and his frustration with the way the opposition may have asked a question. To use as a defence, "Well, that guy did something wrong," even though that guy received a full pardon, is likely to cause disorder, and as a result that individual rose to call the point of order.

Additionally, if we continue into the standing orders under 23(k), it says: "speaks disrespectfully of Her Majesty or of any . . . member of the Royal Family." Given that this member has received a pardon from the Prime Minister in his function as the head of our government and subsequently the Queen, that leads our country, it could be said that this member is speaking disrespectfully against the federal government and then onwards to the Queen.

But the biggest challenge here is the very fact that while he is rising to answer a question that was based in facts on what this individual has said about himself, the defence he used is to try to impute the motives of a member on this side of the bench. Totally unacceptable. I would be more than happy for him to withdraw his comments so that we can go home for the rest of the afternoon.

The Speaker: I would certainly, again, as a part of my studies over the summer – I may have misunderstood and misread the history of the place, but I thought that the government was responsible to the Legislature and not to the Queen. But I may be wrong, hon. member.

The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View rose with questions with respect to the minister for the status of women and the environment's participation in a book written over 10 years ago while she was attending the University of Alberta. I rose on a point of order and expressed in the strongest possible terms my concern that the opposition, Wildrose, was again lapsing into the same pattern of behaviour we had seen before the election, and that is to engage in character assassination and guilt by association. We, unfortunately, have not received the Speaker's ruling on that matter, which bears directly on the question that came today from the Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

I just wanted to indicate, with respect to the arguments of the hon. Official Opposition House Leader, that I don't agree that I imputed false or unavowed motives to another member. I merely suggested that the opposition was being hypocritical in suggesting that because some passages of a book written by someone else, not the minister, had suggested civil disobedience as an approach – it was somewhat hypocritical given that the hon. Member from Drumheller-Stettler had been involved in a civil-disobedience action with connection to the Canadian Wheat Board, in which he refused to pay a fine. [some applause] You see? There you go. You

see? This is exactly my point. Now we've got the Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre applauding that action because he told the House about it yesterday. He stood up and said that the hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler had accepted a short jail sentence because of his actions in attempting to sell his wheat illegally into the United States.

Whether or not there is a pardon involved doesn't change the fact that that occurred, and members opposite are very proud of the Member for Drumheller-Stettler for the actions that he took. That was just witnessed once again with the applause of Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre. So with respect to that, I did not impute false or unavowed motives. I simply stated a fact and accused the Official Opposition of hypocrisy on this matter, which is a statement, Mr. Speaker, that I do stand by.

With respect to the argument made by the House leader for the Official Opposition that this amounts to speaking disrespectfully of her Majesty or of any other member of the Royal Family, Mr. Speaker, I can say that I've heard a lot of real long shots in my time here. That one is the longest shot I think that I've ever heard in this House. To suggest that you can't be disrespectful towards the federal government without violating our rules, because you're effectively criticizing the Crown, is something I hope that the Official Opposition takes to heart when they try to speak disrespectfully of our government, because we, of course, derive our authority from the Crown in the same way that the federal government does. So thank you for that. I'm looking forward to nothing but great respect from the Official Opposition going forward.

But, Mr. Speaker, I don't wish to cause offence to the hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler, whom I have found, over a considerable amount of time, to be an honourable member and a hard-working member for his constituents. While I disagree with many of his views, I respect the fact that he holds them and he brings them to this place. So with a view to trying to create good harmony in this place and to set an example for some members opposite, I would respectfully apologize to the member and the House for raising that matter in the way that I did.

The Speaker: We understand this matter to be closed. Thank you, hon. Government House Leader.

Point of Order

Imputing Falsehoods against a Member Reflections on a Nonmember

The Speaker: I would now address the point of order that was raised yesterday in the House. I took under advisement a point of order raised by the Government House Leader about comments made by the Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

I've had time to review the *Hansard* and consult the authorities on the subject, and I'm now prepared to make a ruling. The point of order was raised during the Member for Chestermere-Rocky View's first supplementary question concerning a foreword, written by the Minister of Environment and Parks and minister responsible for the status of women, to a book. The member referred to the author of the book as a "radical's radical." The questions and responses can be found on pages 231 and 232 of yesterday's *Alberta Hansard*. The point of order was argued by the Government House Leader, the Official Opposition House Leader, and the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster, and it is found on pages 240 to 242 of *Alberta Hansard*.

3:40

When the questions were asked, I wondered what they had to do with the government's actions or policies. Members may wish to

refer to the *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, second edition, at pages 501 to 502, where it states that the primary purpose of a question period is "seeking of information from the government and calling the government to account for its actions." The thrust of the Government House Leader's point of order was that members should not cast aspersions on those outside of the Assembly, a point which finds some support in *Beauchesne's*, sixth edition, paragraph 493(4), and *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, second edition, at 616 and 617.

I am very much aware that members enjoy the freedom of speech in this Assembly. I do not want to be seen as limiting the ability of members to ask questions or to raise matters in debate. Members of the Assembly, with this great freedom comes great responsibility. Members must remember that when they refer to people outside of the Assembly, those individuals have no ability to respond to the allegations that may have been made in here.

Balancing those principles, I do not find that the member's comments constituted a point of order; however, I'd like to caution yet again the members that their conduct reflects not only on them but on this institution and to use their language carefully in accordance with the rules and precedents by which this Assembly conducts its proceedings.

We are all going to take a break from this House. I want to remind members of their collective commitment to demonstrate respect for each other and, lest you forget, to this institution. You are about to go into a period where you will not be in this House, but you will be speaking to the media. I hope that you remember that when you come back here in the fall. I hope that members will strive to maintain their commitment to this principle of respect for the upcoming sitting and beyond.

Statement by the Speaker

Page Recognition

The Speaker: Hon. members, if I might. We are soon going to end this session. One of the things that is very important to do is to recognize the role played by the pages, the support to this Legislature. If you don't mind, I'd like to just have us do a collective recognition of the pages before we continue the Routine. [Standing ovation]

With the indulgence of the House, could the pages please come to the front. Now, I may be making the Sergeant-at-Arms nervous by this request. I've learned not to make the Sergeant-at-Arms nervous. I would ask that the pages come to the front of the House. I'd like to read the following letter.

Dear Mr. Speaker,

The 29th Legislature may have just begun, but we face the regrettable reality that, for some of us, our time as Pages on the Chamber floor has come to an end. To you, we are the students who distribute bills and collect amendments. However, to us, our time at the Legislature has been a lesson in life and politics that no high school or University, could provide.

You're right about that.

For this, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude for the incredible opportunity we have had to serve the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

We would like to thank the Table Officers, for their guidance and support; the Sergeant-at-Arms for being a model for leadership and service; the staff in 315 and 412 for teaching us what it means to be truly devoted to one's work; and the Security Staff for showing us that it's important to find a job you look forward to, with people you enjoy working with. And we would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and all the Members of the Legislature Assembly, without whom, our role in the Chamber

would not exist. It has been an honour to serve every member of this Assembly, each with their own unique talents, quirks . . .

There's a footnote.

. . . and interpretation of Standing Order 23 H, I and J.

Lest any of this Assembly think that we are wiser than these young people, let that stand as a statement.

None of us could have imagined walking out of the Legislature with the amazing breadth of knowledge we possess today. But it is not the Parliamentary procedure that will stay with us. Rather, it is the broader understanding of the human side of politicians and those who support them. We now appreciate that members are regular people, forming relationships, entering into negotiations, and resolving conflicts. And given the opportunity to observe them, we have seen first-hand the capacity for regular people to do great things with their lives. Letting these members stand as an inspiration for ourselves, we wish to never cease striving for more than we ever thought previously possible.

Now that our time is up, we look forward to passing on the torch to future Pages, each of whom we can only hope has as incredible an experience and education as we have been privileged to have. If nothing else, our immersion in Alberta politics has taught us that all members, regardless of party affiliation, share in one common goal: to make this great province an even better place. It is now our turn to use that knowledge and our knowledge of the political process to improve society in whatever path we choose. Farewell, and don't forget us.

Hon. pages, words cannot express our thanks, nor can any particular gift, but our deputy is going to try to do both right now. The hon. Member for Peace River and Deputy Speaker.

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hon. members, it's with regret that we are going to say goodbye to 10 of our hard-working pages at the end of this session. They are: Perrin Michalyshyn, head page; Matt Owens, Speaker's page; Melina Sinclair, training development page; Brendan Samek; Christina Luo; Danielle Seymour; Devyn Godziuk; Jenna Geldart; Isaac Bushewsky; and Tianna Groeneveld.

3:50

I ask that you join me in recognizing the efforts of our diligent pages, who daily show patience and understanding of our many demands. They carry out their tasks with grace and attention to detail. On behalf of all members each departing page is given a token of our appreciation and our best wishes. We are truly honoured to have our pages work with us here in the Legislature and help us serve Albertans. I know you guys are headed for great, wonderful things.

I'd like to ask our Deputy Chair of Committees to hand a gift to the Speaker's page, Matt Owens, who is representing all of the retiring pages, and Matt will in turn present a gift to each of the retiring pages.

Thank you. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: Thank you. We in turn learned much from you today. Thank you very much.

Orders of the Day

Government Motions

Adjournment of Spring Session

9. Mr. Mason moved:
Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 3(9) the first session of the 29th Legislature 2015 spring sitting of the Assembly shall stand adjourned upon the Government House Leader advising the Assembly that the business for the sitting is concluded.

The Speaker: Members of the Assembly, this is a nondebatable motion.

[Government Motion 9 carried]

Committee Referral for Mental Health Amendment Act, 2007

10. Mr. Mason moved:
Be it resolved that:
1. The Mental Health Amendment Act, 2007, be referred to the Standing Committee on Families and Communities for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review of the amendments to legislation made by that act;
 2. The committee may without leave of the Assembly sit during a period when the Assembly is adjourned or prorogued;
 3. In accordance with section 54 of the Mental Health Act the committee must submit its report to the Assembly within one year after beginning its review, and that report is to include any amendments recommended by the committee.

The Speaker: This is a debatable motion. Are there any questions?

[Government Motion 10 carried]

Committee Referral for Personal Information Protection Act

11. Mr. Mason moved:
Be it resolved that:
1. The Personal Information Protection Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future and the committee shall be deemed to be the special committee of the Assembly for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review pursuant to section 63 of that act;
 2. The committee may without leave of the Assembly sit during a period when the Assembly is adjourned or prorogued;
 3. In accordance with section 63(2) of the Personal Information Protection Act the committee must submit its report to the Assembly within 18 months after beginning its review, and that report is to include any amendments recommended by the committee.

The Speaker: Any members who wish to speak?

[Government Motion 11 carried]

Select Special Ethics and Accountability Committee

12. Mr. Mason moved:
Be it resolved that:
1. A Select Special Ethics and Accountability Committee of the Legislative Assembly be appointed to review the Election Act, the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act, the Conflicts of Interest Act, and the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act, consisting of the following members, namely: Gray, chair; Payne, deputy chair; Anderson, W.; Clark; Cortes-Vargas; Cyr; Jansen; Loyola; McLean; Miller;

- Miranda; Nielsen; Nixon; Renaud; Starke; Swann; and van Dijken.
2. In carrying out its duties, the committee may travel throughout Alberta and undertake a process of consultation with all interested Albertans;
 3. The committee shall be deemed to be the special committee of the Assembly for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review of the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act as provided for in section 37 of that Act;
 4. In carrying out its duties, the committee may solicit written submissions from experts in the field;
 5. The committee is deemed to continue beyond prorogation and may meet during a period when the Assembly is adjourned or prorogued;
 6. Reasonable disbursements by the committee for advertising, staff assistance, equipment and supplies, rent, travel, and other expenditures necessary for the effective conduct of its responsibilities shall be paid, subject to the approval of the chair;
 7. In carrying out its responsibilities, the committee may, with the concurrence of the head of the department, utilize the services of the public service employed in that department or the staff employed by the Legislative Assembly Office and the officers of the Legislature;
 8. The committee must submit its report, including any proposed amendments to the Acts, within one year after commencing its review;
 9. When its work has been completed, the committee must report to the Assembly if it is sitting; during a

period when the Assembly is adjourned, the committee may release its report by depositing a copy with the Clerk and forwarding a copy to each member of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Are there any comments or questions with respect to Motion 12?

[Government Motion 12 carried]

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure, humility, and fatigue that I want to thank all members of the Assembly for their contribution to our short spring session. I think that we have done good work. There's been good, healthy debate and very good questions that have been raised in the Assembly. By and large, I think that we should all be very pleased with the work that we've done together. But as sad as it may seem, we have come to an end of the business of the House, so I must advise you that our business for this session is concluded.

The Speaker: Hon. members, pursuant to the Government Motion 9, agreed to earlier this afternoon, and Standing Order 3(4)(b), the Assembly stands adjourned until Monday, October 26, 2015, unless otherwise ordered. Fellow Assembly members, enjoy your vacation. Please be safe as you travel around this province. It's been a pleasure working with you.

[The Assembly adjourned at 3:59 p.m. pursuant to Government Motion 9]

Bill Status Report for the 29th Legislature - 1st Session (2015)

Activity to June 25, 2015

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 200 are Government Bills. Bills numbered 201 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* An Act to Renew Democracy in Alberta (Ganley)

First Reading -- 9-10 (Jun. 15, 2015 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 30-38 (Jun. 16, 2015 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 85-94 (Jun. 17, 2015 eve), 152-157 (Jun. 22, 2015 eve, passed with amendments)

Third Reading -- 157-159 (Jun. 22, 2015 eve, passed on division)

Royal Assent -- (Jun. 29, 2015 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 15, 2015; SA 2015 c15]

2 An Act to Restore Fairness to Public Revenue (Ceci)

First Reading -- 104 (Jun. 18, 2015 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 161-162 (Jun. 22, 2015 eve), 183-193 (Jun. 23, 2015 aft), 201-213 (Jun. 23, 2015 eve), 213-227 (Jun. 23, 2015 eve, passed on division)

Committee of the Whole -- 242-257 (Jun. 24, 2015 aft.), 259 (Jun. 24, 2015 eve, passed)

Third Reading -- 259-271 (Jun. 24, 2015 eve, passed on division)

Royal Assent -- (Jun. 29, 2015 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force January 1, 2015, with exceptions; SA 2015 c16]

3 Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2015 (No. 2) (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading -- 77 (Jun. 17, 2015 eve., passed)

Second Reading -- 107-114 (Jun. 18, 2015 aft., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole -- 145-152 (Jun. 22, 2015 eve), 159-161 (Jun. 22, 2015 eve, passed on division)

Third Reading -- 182-183 (Jun. 23, 2015 aft), 213 (Jun. 23, 2015 eve, passed on division)

Royal Assent -- (Jun. 29, 2015 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 29, 2015; SA 2015 c14]

201 Assuring Alberta's Fiscal Future Act (Fraser)

First Reading -- 104-105 (Jun. 18, 2015 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 128-139 (Jun. 22, 2015 aft., adjourned)

202 Alberta Local Food Act (Cortes-Vargas)

First Reading -- 105 (Jun. 18, 2015 aft., passed)

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