



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature  
First Session

# Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, November 5, 2015

Day 16

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

# Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 29th Legislature

First Session

Wanner, Hon. Robert E., Medicine Hat (ND), Speaker  
Jabbour, Deborah C., Peace River (ND), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees  
Feehan, Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (ND), Deputy Chair of Committees

Aheer, Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Rocky View (W)  
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)  
Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (ND)  
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP)  
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (ND)  
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (ND)  
Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (W),  
Official Opposition House Leader  
Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (ND)  
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake (W),  
Official Opposition Deputy Whip  
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (ND)  
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (ND)  
Drever, Deborah, Calgary-Bow (Ind)  
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC),  
Progressive Conservative Opposition Whip  
Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (ND)  
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (PC)  
Fildebrandt, Derek Gerhard, Strathmore-Brooks (W)  
Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (ND)  
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)  
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (ND)  
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (ND)  
Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (PC)  
Gray, Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (ND)  
Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (W),  
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader  
Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (ND)  
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (ND)  
Horne, Trevor A.R., Spruce Grove-St. Albert (ND)  
Hunter, Grant R., Cardston-Taber-Warner (W)  
Jansen, Sandra, Calgary-North West (PC)  
Jean, Brian Michael, QC, Fort McMurray-Conklin (W),  
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Kleinstuber, Jamie, Calgary-Northern Hills (ND)  
Larivee, Hon. Danielle, Lesser Slave Lake (ND)  
Littlewood, Jessica, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (ND)  
Loewen, Todd, Grande Prairie-Smoky (W)  
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (ND)  
Luff, Robyn, Calgary-East (ND)  
MacIntyre, Donald, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (W)  
Malkinson, Brian, Calgary-Currie (ND)  
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Miller, Barb, Red Deer-South (ND)  
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Phillips, Hon. Shannon, Lethbridge-West (ND),  
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Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (ND)  
Rodney, Dave, Calgary-Lougheed (PC)  
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)  
Starke, Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC),  
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)

## Party standings:

New Democrat: 53    Wildrose: 22    Progressive Conservative: 9    Alberta Liberal: 1    Alberta Party: 1    Independent: 1

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Brian Mason	Minister of Transportation, Minister of Infrastructure
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Irfan Sabir	Minister of Human Services
Lori Sigurdson	Minister of Advanced Education, Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour

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

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Clark	Nielsen
Cortes-Vargas	Nixon
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Loyola	Swann
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**Standing Committee on Families and Communities**

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Jansen	Rodney
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Chair: Ms McPherson  
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**Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing**

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Loyola	

**Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

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Loyola	

**Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship**

Chair: Ms Goehring  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Loewen

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Babcock	MacIntyre
Clark	Rosendahl
Dang	Stier
Drysdale	Sucha
Horne	Woollard
Kazim	

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 5, 2015

[The Speaker in the chair]

### Prayers

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

Let us collectively reflect. As we in this Chamber constructively engage with each other in the practice of free speech, let us not forget those who defended our rights and freedoms to do so. Let us remember those who died and also those who continue to suffer the physical and emotional pain caused by the horrific experiences of war. It is our collective responsibility to nurture, protect, and cherish those who may have returned scarred. Particularly, we in this Chamber must never forget.

Please be seated.

### Introduction of Visitors

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford and deputy chair.

**Mr. Feehan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured today to rise and introduce to the Assembly on your behalf a group of 16 former MLAs, who are part of the Alberta Association of Former MLAs and are here today for their annual general meeting. It is without reservation that I, on behalf of all members of this Assembly, sincerely thank you all for the significant contributions that you have made to our province and to all Albertans. I would ask that you please rise as I call your names and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly: Ken Allred, St. Albert, and his wife, Marge; Dennis Anderson, Calgary-Currie; Fred Bradley, Pincher Creek-Crowsnest; Denis Ducharme, Bonnyville-Cold Lake; Ed Gibbons, Edmonton-Manning; Wayne Jacques, Grande Prairie-Wapiti; Terry Kirkland, Leduc; Mel Knight, Grande Prairie-Smoky, and his wife, Diana; Juliette Langevin, spouse of former MLA Paul Langevin, Lac La Biche-St. Paul; Karen Leibovici, Edmonton-Meadowlark; Mary O'Neill, St. Albert; Leo Piquette, Athabasca-Lac La Biche; Bill Purdy, Stony Plain; Janice Sarich, Edmonton-Decore; George VanderBurg, Whitecourt-St. Anne; Julius Yankowsky, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview; Les Young, Edmonton-Jasper Place.

Could we all provide them the warm welcome of the House.

**The Speaker:** By the sound of that, I would interpret that to mean: welcome back.

### Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** I think Edmonton-Rutherford may have a guest.

**Mr. Feehan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very thrilled today to have the opportunity to introduce to you and through you my daughter, Kate, who has recently graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in fine arts and is now working as a stage manager here in the city of Edmonton. If we could all provide her with the traditional warm welcome of the House.

**The Speaker:** With a degree in fine arts you might be considering this House at some future engagement.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

**Ms Goehring:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured today to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of this

Assembly a delegation from the Canadian Forces. Joining us here today from the 3rd Canadian Division Support Base Edmonton are delegation lead, Major Sophie Drolet, Warrant Officer Michael Ranson, Corporal Gabrielle Longpré, and Corporal Colin Ward. We thank them for their service, and I'd ask that everyone in the House give them the warm traditional welcome of this Assembly. [Standing ovation]

**The Speaker:** I think that would be an indication of how proud we are of the service you provide, and I must tell the Assembly that I'm proud of all of you that you showed that kind of respect.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to introduce to you and through you to this Assembly three Michelles. The first is my younger and beautiful daughter, Michelle Carter, and with her is my favourite granddaughter, Michelle Carter-Snipes. I'd like to thank you both for coming and supporting me the way you do. I love you. The third is Michel Béchard, executive director of advancement and external relations at Lethbridge College. I'd ask the three Michelles to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

**Mr. Loyola:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two sets of guests to introduce today if you'll indulge me. First, I'm pleased to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Liam Jolly. Liam is 12 years old and currently attends St. Kevin junior high. Liam is a student who is very passionate about politics and plans on becoming a page here when he turns 15. Liam also aspires to be a leader for the autistic community and one day sit in this very House as an MLA. I hear that he already has a dress shirt and tie picked out for the day that he becomes an MLA. Liam is joined today by his mother, Jacqueline Fabian, and I'd ask both of them to stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

Second, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you several members of the Gurdwara Siri Guru Singh Sabha. After first starting services in the homes of community members, the gurdwara was built in the present location in 1985 and is a major hub of the Sikh community and an integral part of my constituency of Edmonton-Ellerslie. Representing the gurdwara today is a large contingency of guests. I'll quickly read out their names and ask them to stand as I read them: Gulzar Singh Nirman, Mohinder Singh Nirman, Sukhjit Singh Bachhal, Lakhbir Singh Bhambra, Charanjit Singh Dakha, Karnail Singh Deol, Gurmail Singh Deol, Jagroop Singh Gill, Gurcharn Singh Sangha, and Ram Singh. Members, please give them the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, I hope you didn't unduly influence the future MLA with the colour of what that shirt will be. Did you?

The Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

1:40

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My first introduction today is some guests from the Pakistan Canada Association of Edmonton, an organization dedicated to world-wide humanitarian causes and the welfare of new immigrants to Edmonton. Over the years they have held fundraisers for the victims of natural disasters, and at this time their fundraiser is related to the victims of recent earthquakes striking Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India. The Pakistan Canada Association of Edmonton will be holding a fundraiser at Maharaja Banquet Hall in Edmonton tomorrow at 6 p.m. Tickets are only \$15, and I encourage all of us who can to attend. Please stand as I give your name: Tariq

Chaudhry, president, Pakistan Canada; Arshad Malhi; Iqbal Kahn; Zafar Kahn; Akmal Randhawa; accompanied by Harpreet Gill, the Alberta Liberal stalwart of Edmonton-Mill Creek. Let's give them the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for indulging me a second introduction. It's my pleasure to introduce a passionate young man and his grandfather. The young man, I dare say, may also be a future member of this Legislature. Quintin Nguyen is in grade 7 at St. Mark junior high school, a goalie with his community soccer league. He's 11 years old and interested in politics through social studies and current events classes and is here to see his legislators in action. Ron Brochu – please stand – boldly carried the banner for Alberta Liberals in the riding of Edmonton-Gold Bar this past election. Let's give them the warm welcome of the Legislature.

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

**Mr. Sabir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to introduce, also, the future MLA, Liam, but that has been done, so I will just acknowledge that Jackie Fabian is a caseworker with Edmonton child and family services region 6. I will ask Jackie to rise one more time and receive the warm welcome of this House.

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

**Ms Renaud:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and introduce three very special people. I've had the opportunity to work with some very wonderful people throughout my life, and these three are another great addition. Carol Vogler and Andrew Traynor are the two people I work with in the St. Albert constituency, and Alicia Clarke is a first-year social work student at MacEwan University and has chosen our office to do a practicum. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Loewen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is truly my honour today to introduce to you and through you to the rest of the House Natasha Bergeron and her family: her father, Alain; her mother, Jacinthe; her brother Mathieu; and friend Kallum McDonald, who is related to past Grande Prairie-Smoky MLA Everett McDonald. Natasha is the Grande Prairie resident that won the poem contest and was, therefore, the poem reader at the Remembrance Day ceremony this morning in the rotunda and presented it en français and very eloquently, I might add. If they could rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Are there any other guests that we have today? The Member for Sherwood Park.

**Ms McKittrick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to rise to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly two entrepreneurs from Sherwood Park, Phillip and Joy Jacobsen. Their company, Greenmunch, was recently nominated for a Sherwood Park & District Chamber of Commerce award. As an MLA I have pledged to make my office as sustainable as possible, and I was pleased to discover in my own riding a business that made this possible. I would ask them to stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Rodney:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am humbled and honoured to introduce the three most important people in my life. That, of course, is my wife, Jennifer, and our two sons, Dawson

and Evan. I sometimes refer to Jennifer as TMBWITW, the most beautiful woman in the world, not just for the obvious reasons but also because before we had our children together, we ran our business together – we took trekkers to places like the Himalayas and back – and we established our Top of the World Society for Children. She has supported me through no fewer than four successful elections and, of course, all of the peaks and valleys in between. In recent years, as I've attended to my duties as an MLA, Jen has kept the home fires burning as the best mom ever, which is more than a full-time job. As if that's not enough, she's an accomplished artist and recently started playing hockey.

Meanwhile, Dawson and Evan are absolutely passionate about trying new things, including hockey, skiing, swimming, surfing, skin diving, piano, dance, bull riding, and just about anything else that we will allow a seven-and-a-half- and a five-and-a-half-year-old to do. They definitely wear helmets.

Dawson is very inquisitive. He's a French immersion grade 2 student and a very focused little goalie who aspires to play for the Calgary Flames and Team Canada and hopes one day to quarterback the current Grey Cup champions, the Calgary Stampeders. Evan is a passionate kindergarten student, and he's also a very witty little man who loves to make people laugh. Evan regularly blows us away with his talents as a budding artist and musician and linguist.

Both Dawson and Evan are very kind and caring young men who are enthralled with First Nations cultures and who demonstrate a profound respect for all those who protect our safety and our freedom, so having them attend this morning's Remembrance Day ceremony, during which I was deeply honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, was one of the most memorable moments in all of my years of service as an MLA.

Along those lines, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to you, Mr. Speaker, for the events of the day and also to our intrepid Sergeant-at-Arms, not only for his service here today but his dedication to all Albertans, indeed, all Canadians in the past and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, Jen and the boys inspire me every day to be a better man, and I ask them to stand now to receive the warm welcome of the Assembly. I love you all.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member, and thank you on behalf of the House for laying the wreath today.

## Members' Statements

**The Speaker:** The Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

## Remembrance Day

**Ms Goehring:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every November 11 we take time to reflect upon the professionalism and courage and sacrifice shown by our brave men and women in uniform, those who serve now and those who have served in the past and those who have fallen. It is fitting that the day that we chose to honour our brave men and women in uniform is the anniversary of the day that the guns finally fell silent to end the First World War. It was not, as was thought at the time, the war to end all wars, and tragically we have had cause time and time again to call upon our brave men and women to sacrifice even more to ensure our collective peace, prosperity, and freedom. We chose the day that peace was declared to honour them in the hopes that one day the peace will last and future generations need not share in the burden of sacrifice that our brave soldiers carry today.

Moments of reflection are commonly observed on Remembrance Day. These moments allow us to remember how fortunate we are to live in a free society, that this very Assembly is emblematic of. We remind ourselves that this freedom is ensured by our military community's unwavering commitment to protect our society. Across the province Albertans are passionate about their pride and respect towards our veterans and military community. I have seen it first-hand in the village of Griesbach in the past few months, where streets have been renamed after former military pilots and monuments erected to commemorate the RCAF and the iconic poem written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae.

To the men and women that are here today representing the military: we sincerely thank you and your families for the sacrifices that you make. To those who have paid the unfortunate sacrifice: you will not be forgotten. This November 11 and every day of the year, let us remember.

Thank you.

1:50

### Oral Question Period

**The Speaker:** The hon. Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

#### UN Climate Summit

**Mr. Jean:** For 65,000 Albertans who lost their jobs this year, their number one priority is getting back to work. For the Premier her number one priority, with the federal government, is travelling to Paris, not pipelines, not protecting Alberta's energy sector, but how to make Alberta look the most fashionable when cabinet steps out of their 747 in Paris. Albertans losing their jobs are looking at the priorities of this government, and they're shaking and scratching their heads. To the Premier: why is she more worried about Paris than fighting for jobs right here at home in Alberta?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course we sympathize with anyone who is looking for work right now, and we're working hard to make sure that our products are attractive to markets internationally. We will open market access by making Alberta an attractive partner with a responsive and responsible energy sector and a plan to handle climate change. That's a big part of it. Of course, going to Paris with a responsible plan will help us increase markets and therefore increase jobs.

**Mr. Jean:** The Premier told Albertans that she wants to go to Paris to tell the truth. Well, the truth is that eastern politicians get more of the oil from dictatorships than from Alberta. Canada has the best environmental performance and human rights record of the world's top ten oil reserve countries. Here in Alberta we have achieved a remarkable 30 per cent reduction in per-barrel emissions since 1990. To the Premier: why won't she go tell the world this story, the truth, instead of treating us like embarrassing cousins?

**Ms Hoffman:** The Premier and our government are working very hard to make sure that we have a government that makes us all proud in Alberta. Part of that is acknowledging that climate change is a reality and that we have a role to play in it. I am very proud. I know the Energy minister has been working diligently to make sure that we are ready to move on a number of initiatives that will make all of us proud and therefore make our product even more marketable around the world.

**Mr. Jean:** It's very clear that the Premier feels she needs to apologize for Alberta. The NDP have already taken \$800 million in

new taxes from industry. The NDP's own climate panel is pushing for a carbon tax to be paid by every single Albertan. That will raise the price of everything. But leadership starts from the top. Surely, the Premier understands the optics of ministers travelling in large gas-guzzling entourages. What steps is the Premier personally taking to show that she is willing to share in the pain that Albertans now feel?

**The Speaker:** The minister of environment.

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to actually answer a question about climate change from the Official Opposition for the first time in 17 days. I have to assume that the silence coming from the Official Opposition on the topic of climate change can only be because they either don't understand the science of climate change or don't care about the science of climate change.

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

#### Public Access to Executive Council Members

**Mr. Jean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every single day I hear from stakeholders who can't get meetings with ministers. Businesses, charities, community groups, agencies of government: they're all scrambling to get the attention of cabinet, but on the NDP website we can find out that for \$250 a person they can join the Premier and cabinet and "discuss issues facing the province that are important." Using cabinet for political fundraising is unacceptable, to say the least. Will the Premier today commit to changing the law to make this action completely illegal?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I know that it's not unlikely for any party to have events and, of course, advise people about who will be attending these events. I think it makes good sense. I'm sure the member opposite, when he was part of the federal government, also was at events and that that was part of the conversation. I think this question has nothing to do with government policy and, instead, is intended to try to talk about something that actually doesn't have anything to do with a responsive government. We've been working really hard to make sure that we increase access to the actual people of Alberta, not just lobbyists.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Jean:** Thank you. The answer would be no. I did not do that.

Mr. Speaker, when the Premier was a member of the opposition, she understood that it was wrong for governing parties to use the Premier's office and access to ministers as a fundraising tool. It borders on influence peddling and selling access. Everyone knows it's wrong. Under federal law it would be a clear violation. The laws in Alberta are not as strong as they should be. Will the Premier call the Ethics Commissioner to investigate this matter, or will she leave it up to us?

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to take the member's encouragement under advisement. As well, we have a committee that we've established around renewing democracy. It's an all-party committee. These are the types of issues that are certainly more than appropriate to be discussed at the committee level and that we can all move collaboratively on should the committee make those recommendations in the future.

Thank you.

**Mr. Jean:** When the Government House Leader was the leader of the NDP, he rose in his place and called out the Stelmach government for selling access to pay off campaign debts. In 2007 the current Government House Leader actually wrote to the Ethics Commissioner demanding and getting – it’s so hard, Mr. Speaker, because I can’t believe this is happening – an investigation into a case that is just about exactly the same as this one. Tonight we will find out if the NDP is joining the PCs in having campaign debts. Maybe that’s why they’re skirting the law. Will the Government House Leader once again write . . .

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to categorically reject the assertion that the fundraiser is selling access to government ministers. It’s an opportunity to meet all members of the NDP caucus, including the Premier and all members of Executive Council. It is nothing more than that. It’s not an attempt to sell access in any way, so it’s entirely different in this case.

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

**Mr. Nixon:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2007 the now Government House Leader got the Ethics Commissioner to investigate the Stelmach government for selling access to cabinet. Let me quote from a January 2007 news story. “The Premier is actually offering to listen to people’s concerns for money. And he’s paid by the taxpayers to do that, and so to charge on top of it is unacceptable.” The Ethics Commissioner agreed with him. Private access to decision-makers is wrong. Why is this cabinet asking Albertans to pay for the chance to discuss provincial issues?

**Mr. Mason:** The answer, Mr. Speaker, is clear. It is not.

**Mr. Nixon:** In 2007 the government cancelled a fundraiser, that was sold out, for the Premier and cabinet. That allowed the Ethics Commissioner to say that the ethics rules hadn’t been violated because the event was cancelled and all money was refunded. The Ethics Commissioner, though, was clear that the event violated provincial law, and as a result, the PCs stopped calling their events Premier’s dinners. What the NDP is doing with this fundraiser is wrong. Will the Premier cancel this event and commit to never doing it again?

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much to the hon. member for the question. I understand that there was an error made by the party in describing the fundraising event that the member has raised. That error is being fixed. The allegations made by the member suggest that there was an untoward intention. That is simply not the case. I believe our party’s Provincial Secretary will have more to say about this. But on behalf of our party I sincerely apologize for a mistake that was made and the impression that it has created. Our government is committed to being open and accountable. As we’ve said to Albertans, when a mistake is made, we’ll . . .

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

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, more recently the issue of selling access and trading on a government role came up again. In 2012 Gary Mar tried to hold a fundraiser using his government job as a sweetener. The NDP were livid.

### **Speaker’s Ruling Referring to a Nonmember**

**The Speaker:** I would seek the guidance of the table; however, I’ve heard an individual’s, a previous member’s, name mentioned who’s not in the House to defend it. I trust that you would avoid using the names of individuals who are not in the House.

**Mr. Nixon:** It wasn’t a member.

**The Speaker:** It’s my understanding that, in fact, it does not just apply to members. It may also apply to other individuals. With respect, I would appreciate your avoiding that. Thank you.

**Mr. Nixon:** Sounds good, Mr. Speaker.

### **2:00 Public Access to Executive Council Members (continued)**

**Mr. Nixon:** Let me once again quote the Government House Leader: I think the important principle here is that you don’t trade on government jobs to raise money for political parties. Mr. Speaker, I couldn’t agree more, but I guess principles go out the window when you form government. Will the Premier cancel this event and apologize to Albertans?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for pointing out the misrepresentation. I believe our party’s provincial secretary will have more to say about this on behalf of our party, but I sincerely want to apologize for any mistaken impression that has been created. Our government is committed to being open and accountable, and as we’ve said to Albertans, when a mistake is made, we’ll be up front about it, and that’s what we’re doing today. Thank you for drawing attention, and we will clarify the actual event.

**The Speaker:** The hon. leader of the Progressive Conservative opposition.

### **Job Creation and Retention**

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When asked yesterday in the House which industries the Premier would support, she said her “government is not in the business of picking winners and losers.” Alberta’s biggest industries include agriculture, forestry, tourism, and energy. We are not asking to pick winners; we just want the Premier to start picking Alberta. Will you, Premier, create policy that picks Alberta industries and Albertans as winners rather than other places in the world, please?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much. We’re absolutely committed to building jobs. That’s one of the reasons why in the actual election we ran on a job-creation strategy that would build Alberta jobs right here, and that’s what people voted for. We are very committed to making sure that we continue to diversify the economy. Industry leaders from Alberta asked us to create a one-stop shop. That’s why we created a ministry for economic diversification, and we’re committed to moving forward with that direction and supporting Albertans.

**Mr. McIver:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday at a media conference the Premier barely used the word “pipeline” and only then in reference



to concern for Canada. Now, as elected members we're all proud Canadians, but we are elected to work for Alberta. Premier, will you please start to remember Alberta and Albertans in your plans to get a pipeline for this province? Please, Premier.

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. We are absolutely committed to working to make sure that we have a well-respected industry. That's why we're moving on making sure that we can go to Paris with our heads held high. We are making sure that there are no excuses that can be made around why people don't want to be able to transport Alberta products, and that's definitely a big part of that. I'm really proud of the fact that during the summer the Premier met with all of the Premiers, and they committed to making sure that we can continue to move our product to open waters without undue drama. We're making a number of efforts along that way and will continue to do so.

**Mr. McIver:** Mr. Speaker, next week the Premier is going to Toronto. Next month the Premier is going to Paris and is now busy, I presume, preparing climate change policy to impress people everywhere in the world except Alberta. To the Premier: when are you going to make Albertans your focus? When are you going to try to impress Albertans with your policies and keep businesses and jobs right here? Thousands of livelihoods depend upon it.

**The Speaker:** The minister of economic development.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll thank the hon. member for his question. I do find it interesting that for many years when his party was in power they did nothing as far as having a one-stop shop for business and industry and continued to ignore them. Our government, on the other hand, has created a ministry and is looking at supporting Alberta small and medium-sized enterprises through the Alberta Enterprise Corporation, injecting \$50 million to fund funds that will support businesses. We're also looking at improving our trade and making more markets available for export. Our government is . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. minister.  
The Member for Calgary-Elbow.

#### Addiction Treatment Services for Women in Calgary

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Recovery Acres Society operates the very successful 1835 House addiction treatment facility in my constituency of Calgary-Elbow. This group has ambitious plans to open a new, badly needed facility in Calgary's northeast then repurpose 1835 House as an in-patient facility to help women overcome addiction. To the Minister of Health. I know you met with Recovery Acres this summer to discuss their project. Is this an approved project in this year's capital plan?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. I do, too, need to commend the work that's happening at Recovery Acres. We know how devastating addictions can be for families, and they're definitely creating new opportunities for a new life in the community. In terms of previous commitments that were made by the former government, I understand why Recovery Acres is very hopeful that they'll be in the capital plan. I want to make sure that we're proceeding with due

diligence in making those decisions, and I will be happy to update the House and Recovery Acres at a time that is most appropriate.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, it is a good project. It shouldn't matter who came up with it in the first place. It's an important project and should move ahead. Now, there is some urgency here. Recovery Acres has raised over \$2 million in private donations and has commitments for an additional \$5 million and has secured a development permit and land based on commitments made by the previous government to provide the matching \$7 million they need to complete this important project. These permits expire on November 28 this year. Will you commit to making a decision before that date?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I did meet personally with representatives from Recovery Acres. We are continuing to discuss with them the perceived urgency. I do want to say that permits can be renewed if necessary. I understand why their desire would be to have a decision before the end of the month, but I think it's important that we do our due diligence and make sure that projects aren't decided as one-offs but that the system is going to best meet the needs of all Albertans around addictions and mental health.

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, with respect, it's not perceived urgency; it's actual urgency. We badly need these treatment spaces in Calgary.

Now, I know your government takes women's issues very seriously, and for that you are genuinely to be commended. To the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women: in light of the fentanyl crisis and also to address the overall shortage of women's treatment spaces in Calgary, what is your ministry doing to support this important project?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. We are committed to addressing addictions and mental health issues and doing that throughout Alberta, and of course Calgary is an area in need, as are many other communities. Capital funding is one piece. We also want to make sure that before we say yes to capital funding, which is a one-time investment, we're able to provide ongoing operational funding. I understand the desire to move very quickly, but I want to make sure that I'm doing so with the financial realities in mind.

In terms of this year's budget we have \$10 million for implementing the first recommendations of the mental health review, which are coming through at the end of this calendar year. Hopefully, we'll be able to do a number there, and then we'll continue to discuss additional initiatives after, in the next budget.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Minister.

#### Economic Development

**Ms Gray:** Mr. Speaker, my office and I hear from constituents on a frequent basis about the tough economic times in Alberta. They want our government to take action to stimulate economic growth and diversification to support job creation. They know that growing our economy is how we support the jobs that support all Albertan families. My question to the Minister of Economic Development

and Trade: what action are you taking with Budget 2015 in order to support these much-needed jobs and growth?

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

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'll thank the hon. member for her question. The Premier asked me to take on this role because our government knows, especially in challenging times like these, that we need to show leadership on diversifying our economy and partnering with businesses to create jobs to support families right across this province. I'm quite proud of the budget that the Finance minister tabled with all the different initiatives that our government is taking on in order to support the Alberta economy and further diversify.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that you announced in Calgary last week that your department is investing \$50 million for the Alberta Enterprise Corporation to inject capital into the Alberta economy, to the same minister: will this mean picking winners and losers at the expense of letting the business community decide what is best?

2:10

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

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government of Alberta is not in the business of picking winners and losers. We are providing the leadership and tools that businesses need to grow and create good jobs for all Albertans. That announcement of injecting \$50 million into the Alberta Enterprise Corporation: it's a fund-to-fund model, meaning that the Alberta Enterprise Corporation funds funders that then decide which venture capital companies to invest in in the province of Alberta. This is a great way to stimulate the economy and as well to ensure that businesses have the supports they . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. minister.  
Second supplemental.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the AEC works to invest in venture capital funds and not directly in companies themselves, my question is to the same minister: what are you doing to ensure that all Albertan families benefit from this program?

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

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every dollar AEC invests in venture capital funds has resulted in more than \$4 in investments in Alberta businesses, which creates good, mortgage-paying jobs for Albertans. I'm also quite happy that more than a thousand jobs have already been created in the province of Alberta. Our government is committed to providing leadership and the tools that businesses need to create jobs and grow our economy.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

#### Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

**Mr. Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta unanimously passed a motion to raise an estimated \$1.2 million to take Lakeland Catholic school board to court to stop them from opening a Catholic school in Lac La Biche. They will raise these funds by charging 90 cents per student. Imagine that: charging parents to take away badly needed

schools in northern Alberta. Does this minister believe that school boards should be using government funds to go to court instead of the intended purpose of educating students?

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

**Mr. Eggen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. This is an issue that came up last night in estimates of supply, and certainly it's clear that – I had a call into the public school association, and they did not create a fund, and they are emphatically not saying that they would do so. That being said, it's very important that we do use public funds in the best way possible. I did acknowledge that I would pursue this issue further with the same MLA last night during supply.

**Mr. Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have some motions passed by the PSBAA that do indeed substantiate what we're saying.

Considering the Northern Lights school division and the Public School Boards' Association are hiring lawyers and preparing a legal challenge and given that a school board trustee has said, "We are in the business of education and not in the business of suing," does this minister believe that taxpayer dollars should be used to challenge the right of Alberta families to choose a Catholic education?

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, one of the things we have as a responsibility in this House is to ensure that we have due process and to ensure that the public education system here in this province is defended in its broadest possible way. I would suggest that this member, by entering into this particular thing, is inflaming a situation that is sensitive already, and I would probably tell him that he is doing the wrong thing.

**Mr. Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this association stated that they would send out special levy invoices to member school boards on October 31, 2015, to fund the estimated costs for a possible court case, will the minister intervene to ensure that education grants to school boards by his ministry for the education of students are used for that purpose?

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

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, this member knows that we made the call during supply last night to make sure that, in fact, this fund was not created at all. We spoke to them at length. Certainly, as I said before, when we are in the process of good governance, it's very important – and this is a good teaching moment for this opposition member – that you don't inflame the situation. You don't make it worse by getting involved here in this public place. [interjections] It's a big mistake.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members.

A question from the hon. Member for Calgary-Hays.

#### Ride-sharing Services

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, imagine, if you will, two airlines. One must be licensed, insured, and inspected on a regular basis; the other is free to operate outside of these protection measures, avoiding the costs associated with them. The second airline would seem to have a significant competitive advantage. Well, the introduction of ride-sharing in the market may create this scenario for Alberta taxi drivers. To the Minister of Finance: are you committed to looking at ride-sharing services and making sure that the drivers follow the same or similar rules as taxi drivers, at least getting insurance, inspections, criminal checks, regulatory standards?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Infrastructure.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to take the hon. member's question. One of the things that we're looking at is ensuring that the public is safe. That's the first thing that we need to do. So we need to make sure that anyone offering a car for hire, whether they're a taxi driver or part of a ride-sharing service, has the same level of insurance, training, and so on. There are a number of issues that we're working on. We're certainly in contact and having discussions with the major municipalities that have their own taxi commissions or some sort of regulated taxi system.

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

**Mr. McIver:** Mr. Speaker, to the same minister. I know that you are or were a professional driver, as I understand it, at some point in your life. Have you talked to taxi drivers and other professional drivers, and what can you share with the House about the advice that you have received from them?

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, yes, you do want to hang on to your licence, you know, just in case, in politics. But I can tell the hon. member that I have met with taxi drivers and taxi companies on a number of occasions and that we have an interdepartmental committee that is studying the issue and coming up with recommendations. As I said, the primary and most important thing is to protect the public's safety.

**Mr. McIver:** Mr. Speaker, to the same minister. Albertans want ride-sharing services, and we think that they should have choice, too. But they also want to be safe and know that they'll be protected when they're using the services. Will you commit to working with Alberta municipalities to help develop a set of rules and regulations that will ensure a safe experience for users and a level playing field for everybody in the business?

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the hon. member for the question. That is exactly what we plan to do.

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

### Grande Prairie Hospital

**Mr. Loewen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we talked about the Grande Prairie hospital. When it was announced, nearly a decade ago, it was planned around the Peace Country's needs in 2025. Now we've learned from the Health minister that the construction date has been pushed back to 2019. This project is having core services cut to compensate for the massive cost overruns. To the Health minister: is it fair that the people of the Peace Country should be paying the price for this government's mismanagement?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. What we've spelled out, when talking to local members of Grande Prairie and the media, is that rather than opening 10 ORs, we're going to be opening eight. That's still an increase of two from where the hospital is operating at currently. We're going to be making sure that everyone has an opportunity to access quality health care as opposed to what members opposite

propose, which is cutting nurses and teachers, which they think will magically make front-line services better.

**Mr. Loewen:** Mr. Speaker, people in Grande Prairie are well aware of the many problems that plague the construction of this facility. Given that the rumour of reduced services at this hospital has indeed been confirmed, can the minister explain why, despite campaigning against cuts to front-line services, her government is now breaking its promises?

2:20

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've mentioned in this House and publicly, there is going to be an expansion of services. They're opening a state-of-the-art education and health facility for Grande Prairie, which we're very proud of. In terms of maintaining good investment in health care and education, we ran on that. Members opposite ran on significant cuts to capital and to operating, and Albertans didn't vote for that. They voted for us.

**Mr. Loewen:** Mr. Speaker, we've heard too many times, with examples like Wainwright and now Grande Prairie, that the government has no problem cutting service in rural Alberta to find the money . . .

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, again I need to remind you about the preambles. That was a preamble. I didn't hear "given that."

Please proceed. Thank you.

**Mr. Loewen:** Given that we've heard too many times, with examples like Wainwright and now Grande Prairie, that the government has no problem cutting service in rural Alberta to find the money to pay for bureaucrats and their mistakes, to the Health minister: how many more essential services in rural Alberta will be cut before Alberta Health Services figures out how to build a hospital on time and on budget?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. One of the reasons why we're moving forward with such thoughtful planning is to make sure that when we make an announcement, Albertans can count on that. We're not going to be going and making announcements without knowing what's realistic. I want to remind all members that we are expanding the level of services to people in the Grande Prairie area. We are going to be having access to more quality health centres in Grande Prairie as opposed to proposing mass cuts, \$9 billion of cuts, to infrastructure.

**The Speaker:** I think we're at Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

### Royalty Framework

**Mr. van Dijken:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 2 of this year a ministerial order doubled the royalties for gravel. This one hundred per cent increase in royalties was disclosed to the Alberta Sand and Gravel Association but not to all industry clients. To many businesses' surprise they got a letter telling them to pay up in October on this substantial increase. To the Minister of Environment: why did the department fail to clearly communicate to the entire gravel industry back in April?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister of environment.

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. Of course, there were a number of fees

that were raised by the previous government, and there were a number of ways in which that was communicated. I'll certainly work with the hon. member to discuss with the stakeholders in his riding about what exactly happened there. I'm happy to follow up with him afterwards outside the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. van Dijken:** Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry. The minister of environment had the chance to get rid of these increases. You need to own these charges. Given that Alberta businesses are hurting, they don't need these kind of surprises. Some businesses may have to lay off staff, go bankrupt as a result of these demands. This NDP government appears to be dead set on making business conditions in Alberta worse. Will the minister of environment rescind retroactive charges to those who were not given proper notice in April?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister of environment.

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. Of course, there were a number of fee increases that came with the previous government's budget and a number of different initiatives that they undertook as part of their March budget. You know, the fact of the matter is that I am perfectly willing to work with this industry and perfectly willing to meet with them and try to undo some of the damage that was done by the previous government.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. van Dijken:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this government seems to bungle any attempt to change royalty rates, I have serious concerns about the upcoming royalty review in the energy sector. The Finance minister is basing his budget off assumptions about royalties. This leads me to believe that the independent panel is playing into the government's pocket. Will this government admit that they are only happy with one answer from the royalty review – get higher rates – and that they are doing everything in their power to get that response?

**Mr. Ceci:** Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. member that we are not factoring in any changes to royalties in this budget.

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

### Aboriginal Relations

**Mr. Rodney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like other areas of Alberta, many aboriginal communities are struggling with the explosion of fentanyl abuse. Just one example: the situation became dire in the Blood Tribe when it registered a 20th fatal overdose in just a 12-month period. The band declared a state of emergency, and AHS assisted by making the antidote available to its band and training 50 members to administer it. The band also launched an addiction crisis line. To the Minister of Aboriginal Relations: with respect, when are you going to implement this experience as a model to help other reserves who are looking for ways to deal with this very serious crisis?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. As we all know, fentanyl is a true tragedy currently in our society. A number of young people have died from this, and, you know, we are working with our partners in AHS and with police services. In fact, I just had meetings with the police chiefs yesterday to make sure that we're doing everything that we can about this. I

had committed to the member in estimates to look into making naloxone more widely available on-reserve, and we will get back to him on that.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Rodney:** Thank you, Minister, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Premier has directed her Aboriginal Relations minister to develop a comprehensive plan to implement UNDRIP and TRC, one would expect that Budget 2015 would reflect the government's emphasis on these monumental initiatives, and given that your ministry's budget is increasing by only 1.6 per cent in Budget 2015, can the minister please tell all of Alberta what specific aspects of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report and the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples will you actually attend to during this budget year?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Well, of course, this government is committed to the implementation of the UN declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. We have secured some funding to flow through to First Nations so that they are able to talk to us in those conversations as we develop strategies in terms of how best to go forward in consultation with our aboriginal partners. Those programs will flow through to the various departments in which they find themselves situated. In addition, one of the fundamental principles of the UN declaration is respect, and that we can implement for free.

Thank you.

**Mr. Rodney:** Given that in budget estimates for Aboriginal Relations yesterday I asked a series of questions truly in the spirit of collaborating and assisting with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and individuals and given that I requested the minister to supply written answers for every member in this House so that they can share the information with all Albertans because it is the right thing to do and given that this is not just a file – as you know, this is serious set of issues affecting real-life people of all ages – please tell us, Minister: when will you table written answers to the questions that I asked in this week's estimates?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Well, as you know, we're all in the process of estimates, and the member did ask a number of questions. In fact, it was probably, well, a five-minute diatribe on the wonders of the previous government, and then he moved on to questions about this budget. We will be responding to those questions, as we are required to do, and we will be tabling those answers in the House, as we are required to do. Given that the UN declaration has, as a fundamental principle, respect, I think that the member's behaviour in the committee the other day demonstrates why his government was not able to implement his response. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

### Young Offender Centre in Calgary

**Ms Luff:** Mr. Speaker, the previous government was shutting the doors on the Calgary Young Offender Centre, with plans to ship youth to Edmonton instead. This government cancelled those plans and committed to keeping the centre open. Many of my Calgary colleagues in this House can likely attest to the number of calls that

we received in our offices about this concern, and our constituents were very happy that real action was taken on this important issue. Will the Minister of Justice detail for us in this House why the . . .  
2:30

**The Speaker:** A little faster, hon. Member, a little faster.  
The hon. minister.

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for this critical question. As we know, the Young Offender Centre involves a lot of rehabilitation and education, and we think that it is absolutely critical to keep young people, particularly vulnerable young people who have come into conflict with the law, near their families and communities, where they can have the support to make better decisions going forward.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Ms Luff:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the hon. minister for the answer. Given that the previous government claimed it was closing the Calgary Young Offender Centre to save costs and given that this government has decided to keep it open, to the same minister: what are the implications of this decision on our budget?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. The cost of keeping the Calgary Young Offender Centre open was approximately \$3 million. We think that that is an extremely small price to pay to ensure that these young people can stay close to their communities and have the support they need from their families to make better choices going forward so that they can become productive members of our society.

**Ms Luff:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister. Given that the Calgary Young Offender Centre has unused space, to the same minister: how are we looking at using that space?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the hon. member for the question. Right now the space is being used for training of Calgary Young Offender Centre personnel, but, of course, in this time of economic shortage we are examining every option on how we can use that facility going forward.

Thank you.

### Rural Emergency Medical Services

**Mr. Stier:** Mr. Speaker, ever since being elected in 2012, I have fought for the changes necessary to eliminate the risk to the lives of Albertans caused by the government's inadequate and faulty system in rural ambulance service. The service change in 2007 to central dispatch, flexing of units from region to region, and a total lack of nonemergency transfer units all have led to years of unreliable service. Is the Minister of Health aware of these recognized long-term problems with rural ambulances and AHS, and what is she prepared to do about it this fall?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I do know that the member has been a long-time advocate for making sure that Albertans in rural communities have access to quality health care, and that is certainly a priority of ours. That's one of the reasons we have committed to

providing stable health care funding: for our citizens, no matter where they live, to be able to access front-line health care services. One of the reasons why we're doing this is because we were elected to make sure we have a supported health and education system. Members opposite ran on significant cuts, and they were not.

**Mr. Stier:** Well, while the minister may not necessarily have noticed these particular problems with this faulty system, now front-line EMS workers are paying the price. Given that recently we've learned about EMS workers having their EMS licences revoked because of PTSD and other health issues directly related to problems in this system, does the minister understand that after years of push towards centralization, absolutely nothing has changed? We still have high wait times, risk to public lives, high levels of stress for front-line workers. What is she going to do about it?

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. We are of course committed to making sure we have a strong, vibrant front-line service for Albertans, and one of the ways we're doing that is by ensuring that we have a stable commitment in health funding as opposed to cutting billions of dollars as has been proposed from members opposite. We're working really hard to make sure that they can have stability and confidence in the government investing in their industry and their access.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Stier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it's obvious that the minister is a big fan of leaving things as they are and centralization, but given that years of pushing towards centralization has only really resulted in high wait times and even areas of the province frequently going without ambulance coverage, will the minister recognize this system is faulty and return the system to the proven, reliable, local, regional control system of the past?

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There were two plans laid out for the public during the election. One was about creating more chaos and decentralizing Alberta Health Services, that would rely on a bunch of people . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** I can't hear the question that's been asked by the opposition. As the Speaker of this Assembly, I would appreciate the opportunity to hear the answer and the question.

Thank you.

Please proceed.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Two plans were laid out during the election. One was to decentralize after many years of organizing, reorganizing, disorganizing, and one was about creating stability in the system. One of the reasons why we moved forward with the plan we did is because Albertans elected us, not the members opposite.

### Economic Diversification

**Dr. Starke:** Mr. Speaker, in question period on Tuesday the Minister of Economic Development and Trade said: "the previous government, that for years neglected diversifying the Alberta economy." Wow. That stung, but as a veterinarian I've been kicked, bitten, scratched, trampled, urinated, defecated, and vomited upon by various creatures. So, Minister, do your worst. In 1985 36 per cent of Alberta's economy was based on oil and gas. By 2012 that number stood at 28 per cent. Minister, if what you said on Tuesday had even a passing and platonic relationship with veracity . . .

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

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again I'll remind the member that it was this government that created a ministry solely focused on diversifying our economy and enhancing our trade. Part of the reason why, unfortunately, right now we're hearing of so many layoffs in the province is because of our overreliance on one single sector. It is our intention to work within the sector to look at value-added opportunities but also to diversify our province and strengthen our other sectors.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Dr. Starke:** Well, Mr. Speaker, another statement that has a passing and platonic relationship with veracity. You, sir, are the 10th Minister of Economic Development and Trade, and in fact there were 27 years of the past government that had a Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. During that time biotechnology grew to a \$1 billion-a-year industry, employing over 4,600 Albertans; canola production went from 20,000 tonnes to 20 million tonnes and the . . .

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, is there a question in there somewhere? Hon. member, could I hear the question?

**Dr. Starke:** Mr. Speaker, indeed. The question was: with all of those industries growing during that period of time, how do you explain the increases, Minister?

**The Speaker:** Thank you.  
The hon. minister.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd love to ask the member why they mothballed this ministry back in 2006. Businesses and industry have been asking for a one-stop shop. They've been asking for a government that is truly listening to them and willing to put the resources in to provide that one-stop shop and focus as an entryway into government. Quite frankly, what I've heard from the business community already was that the PCs' approach to the economy lacked focus, it lacked strategy, and essentially was willy-nilly. Our government is focused on working with job creators.

**Dr. Starke:** Mr. Speaker, the sad truth is that this minister occupies the one and only job that has been created by his ministry.

Given that he's so fixated on trashing the past government that he fails to recognize the great strides that have been made in the Alberta diversification story and insults the efforts of the thousands of Albertans who have worked hard to write that story, Minister, when will you apologize to biotechnology, apologize . . . [interjections]

### Speaker's Ruling Decorum

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I am still very much a novice at this; however, I know that this House is far more capable of lowering the tone and the volume that is in the room, and I trust it will change back to what I know you're each capable of. So, please – please – out of respect for this House, for what you all believe in, and for our guests, tone it down a bit. Please.

### 2:40 Economic Diversification (continued)

**The Speaker:** Hon. minister, please proceed.

**Mr. Bilous:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's great to see the hon. member almost as excited as I am about this new ministry.

**The Speaker:** You've had your time, hon. minister. We're moving on.

### Members' Statements (continued)

**The Speaker:** The Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

#### Commodity Producers

**Mr. van Dijken:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to salute the men and women who have just completed a provincial megaproject, men and women who have toiled many long hours and at times were concerned whether or not they would be able to finish the project in time. Thankfully, most are now able to proclaim that they have successfully completed the harvest of 2015.

Alberta farmers faced many challenges this growing season, but I'm proud to say that once again they've done a magnificent job growing many diverse crops and doing their part to feed the world. Although the focus is so often on the harvest activity on farms, many peripheral industries and individuals are required to get the harvest done and to market: equipment manufacturing and maintenance; the energy industry providing fuel and fertilizer; businesses necessary to process and market the crop; transportation, providing the roads and rail necessary to deliver the product; and many more. In all of this it is important to recognize that it will be that bushel of wheat, barley, or canola paying the bills, paying for the jobs in all of these industries.

We as legislators need to recognize the role we play in maintaining a globally competitive and viable agricultural sector. Any extra cost that public policy adds is paid for by the products we produce and sell. Mr. Speaker, the jobs Albertans need will be paid for by that bushel of wheat or canola, by that calf, by that pig, by that chicken, by that tree, by that barrel of oil. While this current government doesn't seem to understand that, on this side of the House we stand with Alberta producers and the important work they do. We know that the commodities we harvest, renewables and nonrenewables, create the jobs and services Albertans need. We have a huge responsibility to get it right so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy the same quality of life we have.

Thank you.

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

#### Physician-assisted Dying

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In February this year the Supreme Court of Canada handed down the landmark ruling which struck down the Criminal Code's prohibition on physician-assisted dying. Most Canadians, when suffering from a debilitating and incurable or even terminal disease, are looking for regulations and control around their last days. In order to give Parliament time to craft new rules and regulations to govern this practice, the Supreme Court delayed enforcement of the ruling until February next year. Sadly, a lack of political will in the federal campaign has left only a few months to work on new regulations. It's going to be up to the provinces to come up with guidelines for physician-assisted dying. Other jurisdictions and organizations have pushed ahead. In Quebec, for example, they've passed an assisted dying law and are poised to bring it into force in the new year. The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta has surveyed

its members, and a draft advice document is available. What is still needed in Alberta is public engagement in these sensitive, ethical, legal, and medical issues.

What checks and balances are needed? How will we ensure that individuals are properly informed, of sound mind, and free to make the decision, their last decision in life? How will we ensure the right of physicians who choose not to be part of assisted dying, that they have that right? The Supreme Court has made it clear Canadians can have more control over their dying, but the rest is up to us. Assisted dying is no light subject. Behind every case is a unique, personal decision, the most difficult decision that many will face. We must learn from the experiences of other jurisdictions and respect the rights of all as we create this new policy.

I would urge our Minister of Health and this Legislature to take hold and lead on this issue, and I urge all Albertans to write . . .

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

### Violence against Sikhs in India

**Mr. Loyola:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand in solidarity with the members of the Sikh community here in Alberta and across the world as we mark the 31st anniversary of the 1984 Sikh genocide, in which Sikh children, women, and men were targeted and killed in an organized campaign across India. According to former Indian Supreme Court Justice G.T. Nanavati, “The systemic manner in which the Sikhs were thus killed indicate that the attacks on them were organized.”

Let us also take a moment to recognize those who at serious risk to themselves and their families provided refuge and assistance to their Sikh neighbours during these horrific events.

The Alberta NDP and I stand against all extrajudicial killings and in solidarity with the Sikh community and independent human rights organizations, who have waited far too long for answers, and in solidarity as well with the victims and the survivors of 1984, who have waited too long for recognition of their plight and frustration. The truth must be brought to light, and those guilty must be brought to justice.

This is particularly important in light of the increasing tensions in Punjab today following the deaths of two peaceful protestors, allegedly at the hands of security forces. Rehabilitation and support for the affected families must be prioritized while the actions of the police and allegations regarding the role of Congress members and the use of state resources in the attacks must be examined.

The struggle to recognize the dignity of the human person is the ultimate objective of observing the human rights of all. This government recognizes this fact both here at home and abroad. Justice and accountability are the obligations of a democratic state to its citizens. Let us be conscious that remembrance is the tie that binds us to our past as it guides us for the challenge of the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

### Greenmunch Ecostore

**Ms McKittrick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Finance minister in the budget speech of October 27 stated: “We are a hopeful and optimistic people. We are entrepreneurial and enterprising. We are community-minded. We care about our neighbours. What we desire for ourselves, we wish for all. That is the Alberta way.”

Strathcona county has a very successful green routine program, with weekly pickup of recyclable materials including Styrofoam, plastics, metals, and all paper goods. The composting bins allow residents to put all food materials and compostable items for weekly pickup. The compost is then sold every spring by nonprofit organizations for fundraising.

A business called Greenmunch, located in my riding of Sherwood Park, was started by Phillip Jacobsen and his wife, Joy, in June of 2011. They started with a home office and have since moved to three different warehouse locations as sales have grown. Prior to starting Greenmunch, Phillip was the vice-president of research and development for an Edmonton-based business, designing high-tech consumer electronic products. But Phillip also desperately wanted to work on some projects that had more social value. For several years his family had a large urban organic garden. This required generating large amounts of compost as the main source of fertilizer. After some research he realized that there were few companies offering compostable disposable products.

2:50

Greenmunch.ca is an online ecostore offering earth-friendly and sustainable products. They specialize in compostable dinnerware, food packaging, and special event supplies, including weddings. They are also the only online retailer for many of the products they offer. They distribute to wholesale customers as well as to individuals, and they have a strong consumer base throughout Canada, the U.S., Europe, and Australia. Their goal is to promote the increased awareness and use of compostable and reusable products.

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

The hon. Member for Calgary-Hawkwood.

### In Flanders Fields Poem Centennial

**Mr. Connolly:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 11 we take time to recognize the contribution all of our veterans have made and honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of Canada. This year’s Remembrance Day is especially significant as it marks the 100th anniversary of *In Flanders Fields*, written in 1915 by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a soldier and surgeon during the First World War. It is believed that McCrae’s inspiration for the poem came from the death of his friend Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, who served in the same unit. McCrae was asked to conduct the burial service for Alexis because the chaplain had been called away on duty that evening. It is believed that later that evening, after the burial, John began to draft *In Flanders Fields*.

When I was in high school, I had the great fortune of travelling to Europe with my public school to visit various sites that were significant to Canada throughout our history, including Vimy Ridge, the St. Julien Canadian war memorial, several Canadian war cemeteries across the continent as well as Flanders and the fortification where McCrae wrote his poem.

Reading and learning *In Flanders Fields* is a proud tradition for Canada’s youth. This November I will be joining the students of Robert Thirsk high school for their Remembrance Day service. So many young women and men gave the ultimate sacrifice so that today’s youth can live in peace, and I will no doubt hear *In Flanders Fields* read proudly by the students of Robert Thirsk high school.

Lest we forget. Je me souviens.

### Introduction of Bills

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

**Bill 5**  
**Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act**

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to introduce Bill 5, the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act.

Bill 5 significantly expands Alberta's existing public-sector compensation disclosure. It also follows through on our promise to increase transparency in our public sector. Agencies, boards, and commissions, including postsecondary institutions and Alberta Health Services, will be required to disclose the annual salaries of their employees at a threshold greater than \$125,000, which includes overtime. Compensation will be disclosed for the board members of those agencies, boards, and commissions with no threshold limit.

This bill also requires disclosure from entities like Covenant Health and the independent offices of the Legislature. Further, it allows for regulation on the disclosure of physician compensation by government and other health entities. In addition, Mr. Speaker, this bill enables municipalities and school boards to disclose the names and salaries of paid employees if they wish to do so.

The bill takes the existing Treasury Board directive regarding disclosure for government of Alberta employees and moves that role into the act, maintaining the pre-existing threshold. Mr. Speaker, all thresholds will be annually adjusted for inflation.

Pending passage of the bill, my ministry will consult with those groups affected by the legislation to decide how best to implement the act through regulations. This government is committed to helping ensure that Albertans know how public money is spent. This is another important step towards a more open government in this province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 5 read a first time]

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

**Bill 204**  
**Residential Tenancies (Safer Spaces for Victims of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2015**

**Ms Drever:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to request leave, in this month that marks Family Violence Prevention Month, to introduce my private member's bill, the Residential Tenancies (Safer Spaces for Victims of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2015.

This bill seeks to empower and support survivors of violence by removing some of the barriers to leaving an unsafe home environment. This bill will give survivors a choice in breaking the cycle of violence inside and outside the home. We have a problem here in Alberta when it comes to the rates of domestic violence, reported and unreported. Alberta cities rank as some of the most challenging places for women to live, and the rates of domestic violence in Alberta are rising in some places and remain stagnant in others. Instead of moving forward, we as a province are moving backwards. Too often victims of violence stay silent. They don't speak out because they don't feel safe.

The intention of my private member's bill is to give them a tool, a way to support those who need to leave an unsafe environment because of violence or the threat of violence. All across Alberta organizations and agencies are tirelessly working to support survivors and provide ways to leave violence safely. We can support these efforts through this amendment. We know that it often takes someone five to seven attempts to leave a violent environment before they can break the cycle. When that step is taken, there are

supports available, but so often fear takes over. That fear forces people into silence.

I know that we could do better . . .

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, I think what I have heard would normally take place within the confines of debate. I would urge the member to introduce the motion and allow the House to vote on it. I would ask members on a go-forward basis that we practise that in the future.

[Motion carried; Bill 204 read a first time]

**Tabling Returns and Reports**

**Mr. Smith:** Mr. Speaker, I referred to a tabling of a document earlier in question period. I believe I needed five copies of it, so I am tabling this document.

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

**Mr. Eggen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the appropriate amount of copies of a document from Rick Massini, who is the first vice-president of the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta. He is quoted in here as saying: "The [PSBAA] is committed to providing quality Public Education to Alberta's students. The Association is not engaged in any litigation to stop Catholic Education. The PSBAA is not engaged in any litigation at all!"

Thank you.

**Tablings to the Clerk**

**The Clerk:** I wish to advise the House that the following documents were deposited with the office of the Clerk. On behalf of the hon. Ms Larivee, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of Service Alberta, the Capital Region Board 2014-15 annual report; pursuant to the Vital Statistics Act the Alberta vital statistics annual review 2013; pursuant to the Safety Codes Act the Safety Codes Council annual report 2014; pursuant to the Special Areas Act the special areas trust account financial statements dated December 31, 2014; pursuant to the Government Organization Act the Alberta Boilers Safety Association annual report 2014 dated October 31, 2014; Alberta Elevating Devices and Amusement Rides Safety Association 2014-2015 annual report; the authorized accredited agency summary 2013-2014.

On behalf of the hon. Mr. Ceci, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, pursuant to the Results-based Budgeting Act the results-based budgeting report to Albertans dated November 2015.

3:00

**Orders of the Day**

**Government Motions**

**Amendments to Standing Orders**

23. Ms Phillips moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:
- A. Be it resolved that the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta effective November 18, 2014, be amended as follows:
1. The heading preceding Standing Order 78.1 is amended by striking out "Legislative Policy".
  2. The heading preceding Standing Order 78.3 and Standing Order 78.3(1) are struck out and the following is substituted:  
Report of committee on a Bill



78.3(1) A standing or special committee to which a Bill has been referred by the Assembly after second reading shall be empowered to report the same with or without amendments or to report that the Bill not proceed.

3. The heading preceding Standing Order 78.4 is amended by striking out "Legislative Policy".
4. The following Standing Orders are amended by striking out "Legislative Policy Committee" wherever it occurs and substituting "standing or special committee":
  - (a) 8(7)(c);
  - (b) 52.02;
  - (c) 74.1(1);
  - (d) 74.2(1);
  - (e) 78.1(1);
  - (f) 78.2(1).

B. And be it further resolved that these amendments come into force on passage.

**The Speaker:** My apologies to the House. Is there anyone who would like to speak to Motion 23? Is that where the House is at? Yes. Okay.

The House leader of the Official Opposition.

**Mr. Cooper:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise. We get to do a number of government motions this afternoon, which, as you know, makes government House leaders and deputy House leaders and opposition House leaders very excited about the nuances of procedure in this House. I will spend just a little bit of time today talking briefly about a couple of motions.

Motion 23. Essentially, Mr. Speaker, the motion allows any bill to be referred to any committee of the Assembly. I just wanted to make sure for the record's sake that the Wildrose Official Opposition has at length talked about the need for us to be referring legislation to policy committees and doing it more regularly. So I'm pleased to see the government take the steps that will allow that to happen. You know, in an absolutely perfect world the motion would read that all legislation would be referred to a legislative committee, but we haven't quite gotten there yet.

In the name of co-operation, that we've seen, perhaps, not during question period but outside of question period, around some of these issues, I just wanted to commend the government briefly on taking this step and encourage them to continue to consider some of our proposals. That would include sending even more legislation through to committee so that the House can work better so that Albertans can have the opportunity to provide more input and feedback to those committees and so that we can receive expert testimony about some very difficult and technical pieces of legislation, that I look forward to seeing from the government later in the session.

**The Speaker:** The hon. House leader makes a remark. I do not have the privilege of sitting through committees, so I have yet to experience that harmonious process that you address. I hope you might share it in the Assembly, all of you, with me, as well, so I could enjoy that.

Is there an hon. member to speak? The hon. member, please.

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Is there any member other than the sponsor of the legislation who would like to speak? You get an opportunity to close debate.

There are no other members?

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll rise to close debate. I'm grateful for the co-operation on this matter. We did not know that we could not send it to the special committee for consideration. We had no intention of killing this bill. So that's what we're going to do is to send it to that committee for its consideration.

I thank the hon. members for their co-operation in this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Government Motion 23 carried]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Environment and Parks and Status of Women.

### Bill 203

24. Ms Phillips moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:  
Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly rescind its approval of amendment A1 to the motion for second reading of Bill 203, Election (Restrictions on Government Advertising) Amendment Act, 2015, so that the bill retains its place at second reading on the Order Paper with 68 minutes of time for debate remaining.

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, Government Motion 24 is rescinding approval of the decision made on Bill 203, to which I just spoke, so that we can take Bill 203 and ensure that it retains its place at second reading on the Order Paper, with 68 minutes of time for debate remaining, and that that bill might be given its due at the special committee.

**The Speaker:** Does anyone wish to speak to Government Motion 24? The hon. House leader of the Official Opposition.

**Mr. Cooper:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to Government Motion 24 to rescind the amendment to Bill 203, that at the time effectively killed the bill of my hon. colleague from Drumheller-Stettler in his attempt and the many members in the House that supported his attempt to restore ethical practices to the government of Alberta. The Wildrose caucus was happy to hear that the NDP had put together a plan to bring back Bill 203 for further discussion and had hoped that that discussion could take place in this Assembly, not only at committee, and that we could move forward quickly on this important legislation.

Now, having said that, this side of the House is committed to taking due process when it comes to reviewing legislation and can sympathize as to why they would want to send this bill to committee as well. We were disappointed with the actions taken by the government last week that essentially stifled the continuation of debate specifically on the legislation. While we recognized at that time that they wanted to take the general topic to committee, it was disappointing to see the bill killed on the Order Paper.

While we're pleased to see the government is now choosing to try and err on the side of caution when it comes to their intent, we are a bit concerned about the pattern that we see being created when it comes to the Assembly making a decision and then backtracking, or reversing, that decision. I think that you have to do a significant amount of research to find situations where the government has made a decision and then totally reversed that decision, particularly when we speak about private members' business and the business of the Assembly and the members of the Assembly. We are concerned about reversing a decision because of the precedent that it sets. Perhaps the opposition passes an amendment while many government members weren't in the House, and then the next day the government comes back to the House and says: oh, by the way, we rescind the decision of the Assembly.

So there is some reservation around some of the precedent that it sets, and we did ask a number of questions as to whether or not this motion would, in fact, even be in order. I say that as a word of caution, but we do appreciate the decision of the government to try and make right this situation that, you know, was mishandled in terms of the process that had been communicated to us.

**3:10**

I'd just like to take a moment to remind the members of the government that this is the type of thing that we saw back in September after the NDP members of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices voted to give all senior independent officers of the Legislature a raise of 7.25 per cent and then went back on it. While we appreciate that sentiment to try and do what's right, I'd just like to take a moment to remind the government that not all suggestions that come from this side of the House are not positive ones.

I seem to recall being on the phone during that committee meeting, imploring the government not to go down the road of the 7.25 per cent pay raises, but at that time the government was not listening just like we saw on Monday night with the government having a knee-jerk reaction to the position of the opposition and then winding up here again. Let me be clear that we are pleased that we're back at this spot, but we hope that in the future we can have a House that works a little bit more effectively and efficiently in terms of being respectful of some of the things that the opposition says. It's not our desire solely to divert the government down the wrong path but, in fact, for Albertans to see our House and our Assembly work even better.

You know, this side of the House comes to work every day, just like that side of the House does, to ensure that Albertans are being well represented. All of us have a very similar goal for Alberta when it comes to hoping that the best happens for our province. Our visions may be different for the province, but good governance is the goal of both sides of this House, and we hope that we can see good governance, the acceptance of some opposition ideas so that we can all move forward quickly and that Albertans can get the governance that they expect.

In closing, I want to reiterate that while we have some concerns about how we got here, we're pleased that the government has done the right thing, introduced the motion, and we look forward to further debate on Monday evening, when the House returns, on Bill 203.

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

Are there any other members who would like to speak to Government Motion 24?

I will then allow the minister to bring closure to the discussion.

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to underline, it was never the government's intention to extinguish this piece of private members' business by referring it to the Ethics and Accountability Committee because, indeed, that is where this sort of business is being studied in a very rigorous fashion.

Now, there's no need to go over the top in order to hear ourselves speak, but when we talk about backtracking, there's really no nefarious plot here, Mr. Speaker. We're going to make sure that this piece of private members' legislation gets its due. At least we're not having to backtrack because we're having a public conversation about what time we go to work in the morning.

I would like to close debate on this matter and move forward within the spirit of co-operation.

[Government Motion 24 carried]

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

### Amendments to Standing Orders

19. Mr. Mason moved:
  - A. Be it resolved that the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta effective November 18, 2014, be amended as follows:
    1. Standing Order 3(1) is struck out and the following is substituted:  
Sitting times and sessional calendar  
3(1) Subject to suborder (1.1) and unless otherwise ordered, the sitting hours of the Assembly shall be as follows:  
Monday: 1:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
(1.1) From the first day of main estimates consideration by the legislative policy committees until the day for the vote on the main estimates in Committee of Supply, the Assembly shall not meet in the morning from 9:00 a.m. – noon.
    2. Standing Order 4 is amended
      - (a) by adding the following after suborder (2):  
(2.1) When there is a morning sitting, at noon the Speaker adjourns the Assembly until 1:30 p.m.
      - (b) in suborder (3) by adding “or (2.1)” after “suborder (2)”.
    3. Standing Order 7 is amended in suborder (1) by adding “shall commence at 1:30 p.m. and” after “Assembly”.
    4. Standing Order 8(2) is amended by adding “During morning sittings and” before “On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons”.
    5. Standing Order 15(2) is amended by adding “afternoon” before “sitting”.
    6. Standing Order 30(1) is amended by adding “afternoon” before “sitting”.
    7. Standing Order 32 is amended
      - (a) in suborder (2) by striking out “10 minute” and substituting “15 minute”;
      - (b) by striking out suborder (3) and substituting the following:
        - (3) Subject to suborder (3.01) and (3.1), a Member may, after at least one division has been called in Committee of the Whole or Committee of Supply, request unanimous consent for the interval between division bells on any subsequent division during that morning, afternoon or evening sitting, as the case may be, to be reduced to one minute.

(3.01) After the first division is called in Committee of the Whole during consideration of a Bill, the interval between division bells on all subsequent divisions relating to that Bill shall be reduced to one minute for the remainder of Committee of the Whole consideration

- for that morning, afternoon or evening sitting, as the case may be.
8. Standing Order 52.01(1) is amended
    - (a) in clause (a)
      - (i) by striking out “Culture and Tourism,”;
      - (ii) by striking out “and Service Alberta” and substituting “, Service Alberta and Status of Women”;
    - (b) in clause (b)
      - (i) by striking out “Agriculture and Rural Development” and substituting “Agriculture and Forestry”;
      - (ii) by striking out “International and Intergovernmental Relations, Innovation and”;
      - (iii) by striking out “and Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour” and substituting “Economic Development and Trade, Culture and Tourism and Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour”;
    - (c) in clause (c) by striking out “Environment and Sustainable Resource Development” and substituting “Environment and Parks”.
  9. Standing Order 59.01 is amended
    - (a) by adding the following after suborder (3):
      - (3.1) During consultation with the Government House Leader under suborder (3), the Official Opposition may designate 4 ministries for which estimates shall be considered for a maximum of 6 hours per ministry provided that the Official Opposition also designates 3 ministries, not including the Executive Council, for which estimates consideration shall be set at 2 hours.
    - (b) in suborder (5)
      - (i) in clause (a)(ii), (iii) and (iv) by striking out “noon” and substituting “12:15 p.m.”;
      - (ii) in clause (d) by adding “subject to suborder (3.1),” before “the estimates”;
    - (c) in suborder (6) by striking out clause (d);
    - (d) by striking out suborder (7) and substituting the following:
      - (7) If a ministry’s estimates are scheduled to be considered for 2 hours, the speaking times shall be as follows:
        - (a) the Minister, or the member of the Executive Council acting on the Minister’s behalf, may make opening comments not to exceed 10 minutes,
        - (b) for the next 50 minutes, members of the Official Opposition and the Minister, or the member of the Executive Council acting on the Minister’s behalf, may speak,
        - (c) for the next 20 minutes, the members of the third party, if any, and the Minister or the member of the Executive Council acting on the Minister’s behalf, may speak,
        - (d) for the next 20 minutes, the members of any other party represented in the Assembly or any independent Members and the Minister, or the member of the Executive Council acting on the Minister’s behalf, may speak,
        - (e) for the next 20 minutes, private members of the Government caucus and the Minister or the member of the Executive Council acting on the Minister’s behalf, may speak, and
        - (f) if there is any time remaining, to the extent possible, the rotation outlined in clauses (b) to (e) shall apply with the speaking times set at 5 minutes as provided in Standing Order 59.02(1)(c).
    10. Standing Order 59.02(1)(b) is amended by adding “and 59.01(7)(a) to (e)” after “59.01(6)(a) to (e)”.
      - B. And be it further resolved that the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing shall meet to review and assess the operation of the morning sittings of the Assembly brought into force by part A of this motion and report to the Assembly with its recommendations by October 27, 2016, and the committee may without leave of the Assembly meet during a period when the Assembly is adjourned or prorogued.
      - C. And be it further resolved that the amendments to Standing Order 3 in section 1 of part A of this motion shall take effect on November 24, 2015, and the remaining amendments in this motion shall come into force on passage.
        - A1. Mr. Cooper moved that Government Motion 19 be amended in part A, section 1, in Standing Order 3 as follows:
          - (a) in the proposed suborder (1) by striking out “9:00 a.m.” wherever it appears and substituting “10:00 a.m.”;
          - (b) in the proposed suborder (1.1) by striking out “9:00 a.m.” and substituting “10:00 a.m.”

[Adjourned debate October 28: Mr. Schmidt]

**Mr. Schmidt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s my pleasure to rise on the amendment to Government Motion 19, that was brought forward by the Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. I have to express my sincere disappointment with the member across the way today because he seems intent on restoring civility and order to this House and really took the wind out of my sails in unleashing a tongue-lashing on these guys for the unreasonable amendment that they proposed last week. So in that spirit of co-operation and civility I will temper my remarks, you know, with the thought that anything that I could say in this House wouldn’t be nearly as unkind as what has already been said in public about the motion’s amendment. I’m sure that the members across the way have felt the slings and arrows of public disapproval of their unwillingness to show up for work at 9 o’clock in the morning, and I encourage them to see where they’ve gone wrong and vote against their own amendment.

That’s all I have to say, and I’ll sit down.

**The Speaker:** Are there any other members who would like to speak to amendment A1?

**Ms Phillips:** Okay. Well, Mr. Speaker, I rise, then, to table a subamendment related to Tuesday mornings, that in the proposed suborder we would strike out “Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – noon” and substitute “Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. – noon.”

**The Speaker:** I understand that a subamendment is being proposed. Could you make sure that the members have a copy of that?

I want to make sure that I’m in the appropriate order. There has been a subamendment introduced to A1, and we are in the throes of

having discussion on the subamendment as per what has been distributed. We are calling this SA1.

Is there anybody who would like to speak to the subamendment?  
The hon. minister of the environment.

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is simply such that we might begin the business of this House at 1:30 on Mondays, that we might begin on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., as I understand the matter, in order to accommodate Public Accounts and their activities, and on Wednesday and Thursday at 9 a.m.

We believe that this is the responsible way to move forward the business of this House and ensure that we get through the business in a timely fashion and that this House begin to reflect in its business the new kinds of families and responsibilities that many members have outside this House, reducing the number of night sittings that we may have to engage in by going to work a little earlier in the morning.

3:20

**The Speaker:** Standing Order 29(2)(a), hon. member?

**Mr. Cooper:** This is on the subamendment if that's what you're asking for.

**The Speaker:** Do you have any questions of the member?

**Mr. Cooper:** No; 29(2)(a) is not available.

**An Hon. Member:** It is available.

**Mr. Cooper:** Oh, it is available.

**The Speaker:** You have an opportunity, hon. member.

**Mr. Cooper:** My apologies. Yeah. Sure, I'll do it on this so that we can get to the voting aspect of it. Given that it is a time for questions or comments, I might just say that I appreciate the government's movement to make the change to 10 a.m. to accommodate PAC. I know that we weren't here a couple of days ago, so we support this decision to move the House to sit at 10 so that we can accommodate other committees of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Any other questions or comments under 29(2)(a)?

Now are there any other members of the House who would like to speak to the subamendment itself?

Hearing none, I would ask to call the vote.

[Motion on subamendment SA1 carried]

**The Speaker:** I believe we are now back to amendment A1. On the amendment, would anyone like to speak? No.

I'll call the question, then, on the amendment.

[Motion on amendment A1 carried]

**The Speaker:** We are now back to the actual motion as amended. An informative journey.

Are there any members who would wish to speak to the motion as amended? The hon. Member for Airdrie.

**Mrs. Pitt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising today to speak about the fundamental rules that govern this Legislature, the standing orders. We are in a unique position right now to set the proper foundation for our Legislature, and as members all across this Chamber know, there's been much back and forth about what is best when it comes to our Legislature and when it sits.

Should the amendment that I'm introducing today pass, any time our Legislature sits in the morning, unlimited all-night sittings

cannot happen. This is important for two reasons. First, we'll make our Legislature more accountable to the people that we represent; second, it will make our Legislature more agreeable to being both a legislator and a parent.

Let me deal with the first point. Careful consideration of legislation in this Chamber is something that we all take very seriously. I have a responsibility to the people of Airdrie to be the best representative that I possibly can be, and that includes making informed votes on legislation that appears before the House. Part of making an informed vote is having the time to check back with constituents for feedback.

I am alarmed to see that this government will be ramming through six bills in just seven days during this sitting on topics that we don't know anything about yet. Think about that. After we finish estimates, we could on any day debate any of bills 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. We have yet to see any of these in detail. We have no idea whatsoever what will be in bills 6, 7, 8, or 9, but starting on November 24, we will have to debate, consider, and amend these bills. Six bills will be dealt with on November 24, 25, and 26 and then on December 1, 2, and 3. The speed with which this government wants to deal with these laws is risky.

If we don't pass my amendment, we could debate solidly and continuously from 10 a.m. on Tuesday the 24th to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday the 26th and then repeat the process the following week. This cycle will continue on and on through the next three and a half years should the government not concede that when we sit in the mornings, we should not have all-night sittings, that serve as an opportunity to ram through legislation. If there is one thing I know we need in this Legislature, it is to work on ways to improve our democratic system, not to diminish it.

On the second point, as a mom of two young kids I know that people all across Alberta need to make difficult choices on how best to find a work-life balance. Mr. Speaker, I am in no way saying that MLAs have it any more difficult than any other Albertan, but there are certain choices that we can make right here, right now that will create conditions to make our Legislature more representative of Alberta society. I never want being a mom or being a dad to be the reason some of Alberta's best minds don't run for office. In fact, I had long discussions with my family before I chose to run.

Mr. Speaker, we want the best and the brightest coming to this Legislature to debate matters of vital importance to our province, and adopting this amendment will put us on that path. Making a family-friendly atmosphere in the Legislature is something that this government has supported. The amendment that I am introducing will do just that.

It is at this time, Mr. Speaker, that I wish to move the following amendment to the motion.

**The Speaker:** We'll pause while the proposed amendment is distributed to the members.

Have all members received a copy of the amendment that we will identify as A2? We're prepared to proceed.

The hon. member.

**Mrs. Pitt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Government Motion 19 be amended in part A, section 1, in Standing Order 3 by adding the following after the proposed suborder 1.1.: "(1.2) Notwithstanding Standing Order 4(1), on any day that the Assembly meets in the morning, the Assembly shall not meet for an evening sitting."

Mr. Speaker, here are the facts. This amendment will serve to set our Legislature on the right track, to do away with the ability to ram through legislation, to make our Legislature more family friendly, and to ensure that democracy is well served here in Alberta. I

sincerely hope that all members of this Legislature will adopt this common-sense amendment.

Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** Under 29(2)(a), questions or observations for the Member for Airdrie. The minister of environment.

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to this amendment and to . . .

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, as you're speaking again, I might clarify: are there questions or observations?

3:30

**Ms Phillips:** Okay. I shall provide some comments on this amendment, Mr. Speaker. You know, from our point of view this is just the latest excuse for an opposition caucus that does not want to sit in the morning. We have a lot of young caucus members with kids, who want to reduce our need for evenings. That's why we moved to the mornings. We do occasionally need evenings, particularly because we seem to have an appetite for filibustering almost anything in this House. They even filibuster getting up and getting to work at 9 a.m. So we do have a number of pieces of work that we need to get very serious about. You know, the fact of the matter is that we may need evenings periodically.

**The Speaker:** Are there any other questions under 29(2)(a) for the Member for Airdrie?

Hearing none, is there anyone who wishes to speak to the proposed amendment, identified as A2? Her Majesty's Official Opposition House Leader.

**Mr. Cooper:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise just to speak briefly to the amendment this afternoon. Let's be clear that it's the members of this Assembly that set the standing orders for our path forward, and we are setting the rules, if you will, of engagement today for an extended period of time.

The government of the day has spent some significant time talking about how they endeavour to make the Assembly more family friendly. I know that a number of you had the opportunity just last week to meet my three little ones. One of them was a little more excited to be in the gallery than the others. As a young dad – in fact, with the members of our caucus there are nine children under the age of 10 amongst just 22 members, so we, too, have a number of young families. If the goal that the government endeavours to accomplish is to limit night sittings and create an environment where young parents can spend time in the evenings with their kids, then we're providing an opportunity for that.

As the government knows, the opposition is the group that opened the door to sitting in the morning because we believe that in conjunction with a number of other factors we can provide a House that works much better in hours that are better for you, Mr. Speaker, our table officers, our pages, and the entire entity of the precinct area.

What the amendment does is that it provides some assurances that these changes in the standing orders aren't actually about the government's desire to expediate legislation as quickly as possible, giving them the opportunity to sit morning, afternoon, and all evening. I know that in the first session we had a couple of occasions where we were able to spend time together well into the evening, but what the government is proposing is total access to evenings. While many of you may have received assurances from members of your caucus that there is the desire to not sit evenings, the challenge is that there is nothing that prevents that from happening if we are taking the three sessions a day.

All that we're proposing is an opportunity to limit evening sittings on days where we have two other sessions, and if in fact this is about making the Assembly family friendly, I urge all members of the Assembly – and I spoke earlier this afternoon about ideas coming from the opposition, and we've seen now two or three times that not everything we suggest is a horrible, horrible idea. [interjections] I didn't say that most things we said are good; I didn't say that most things we said are bad. I said that not everything is a horrible idea even for the government, just like how the government will say things and not all of your ideas are good. I know it's hard to believe.

But the point is that we have this chance to set up the rules that will be respectful of all parents on both sides of the House, put in some parameters that will ensure that democracy is respected, that the government of the day won't be rushing through legislation and not allowing adequate time for consultation with our constituents, just like in the end of this session, when we're going to see a number of important bills passed in just a couple of days.

So I urge all members of the Assembly, before we have to backtrack on another decision, to accept the amendment to limit. It doesn't prevent the government from having access to evening sittings if there is a time when the opposition feels there is more need for robust debate, and it still provides that valve for the government to use. But what it does do is give an indication that the government is actually serious about making a family-friendly environment for all members of the House, not one that has a desire to expediate legislation in a way that we've never seen in the past.

**The Speaker:** Are there any questions under 29(2)(a) for the hon. Opposition House Leader? No questions or observations?

I'll recognize the Government House Leader.

**Mr. Mason:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. We've had the opportunity to discuss this amendment between House leaders on a couple of occasions, and we had agreed to give it consideration. But in the event that this were passed, it would be possible for the opposition, you know, then, to force an all-night sitting, and that's fine. That's a legitimate thing for the opposition to do if it feels very strongly with respect to something. Delay is one of the things that the opposition has at its disposal when they feel that something is fundamentally wrong about what the government is trying to do.

But let's consider this, Mr. Speaker. We've said – and we've been very clear all along – that we have no intention of going to night sittings unless we are forced to. If we extend the sitting hours in the morning, it should be more than enough to deal with government business, but if the opposition does decide to delay things, if it is deliberately holding up government business, then the government has no alternative but to extend the sitting hours to deal with these matters.

You know, we certainly in opposition did do that. We certainly did. When we felt that the government was very wrong and that the public needed to learn more about what they were trying to do, we would speak, and the government would continue to hold the session into the evening, and sometimes we went all night and into the next day. That was very rare, thank goodness. I used to prefer it more when I was a bit younger than I do now.

3:40

I just want to indicate that the government has always had the power to have unlimited extended sittings if it wanted. It could always go late at night if it didn't want to adjourn. But the fact of the matter is that unless the opposition is deliberately trying to delay the government's agenda, there's no need and the government doesn't do that, and we're not going to do that. We're not going to

force night sittings unless the opposition is filibustering some bill. There may be some rare occasions, some rare exceptions to that, Mr. Speaker, but in general the only reason we would go at night is if we're faced with deliberate attempts.

This legislation is important, Mr. Speaker. There's important legislation that needs to be discussed, and there's a budget, and there are people that have to get paid in the government: our nurses, our teachers, all of the public employees. If we don't pass the budget by a certain day – we've only extended the funding to November 30, so the lights go off if we don't pass the budget in a timely fashion. The government must always retain that.

I want to just indicate that it's a little disingenuous on the part of the Official Opposition, the Wildrose opposition, to say that they're doing this on a family-friendly basis. I don't think that's the case at all, Mr. Speaker. What they want to do is restrict the ability of the government to get its agenda through and to enhance their ability to use delaying tactics.

There's nothing wrong with that, Mr. Speaker. That's a legitimate position for an opposition party to take, but it would be irresponsible of the government to accept that. It would be absolutely irresponsible. We need to have that safety valve in the event that the opposition plays games or in the event the opposition behaves irresponsibly, in order to make sure that the critical business, the legislation of the government, is fully debated and passed and that the budget of the province is passed so that we can continue to operate this government as the people of this province expect.

Mr. Speaker, I think the public's had more than enough of this debate about our working hours. All I can offer the opposition is the assurance that we are not routinely going to call night sittings in addition to mornings and afternoons. We are not going to do it. That is not our intention. They're going to have to accept that. They're going to have to live with it.

That's, I think, very important. We cannot give up the opportunity to deal with this under any pretense that this is something about being family friendly. We do want to be family friendly on this side, Mr. Speaker. We voted for the child care motion. Wildrose did not. We voted for morning sittings. It was originally a Wildrose idea, but then they filibustered it.

Mr. Speaker, there's no question here, in my view, who's family friendly and what side of the House those members are located on. We have a young, dynamic, gender-balanced, diverse caucus that is representative of the population of the province of Alberta. There are some archaic rules that go with this institution that were developed hundreds of years ago in the British Parliament and have not changed to keep up with modern society, and some of our members are providing good, good reasons why we should think about those things and modernize the institution so that it is family friendly and that it's not just a bunch of old men sitting in their rocking chairs making the rules. I can say that as one of them.

Mr. Speaker, I do encourage all members to defeat this motion. We want to have morning sittings. We want to have afternoon sittings. We do not want to have evening sittings unless – unless – the opposition puts us in a position where we have no choice. That's the bottom line. I urge all hon. members to vote against this amendment, and let's get onto the serious business that the people of Alberta elected us to this place to do.

**The Speaker:** Are there any questions under 29(2)(a) for the Government House Leader? The Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner.

**Mr. Hunter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The standing orders – and I am new to the House, so I'm trying to understand these proceedings

better – from what I understand, create the policies that we govern ourselves by. The government has been in opposition for many, many years, so they understand what it means to be here, and I appreciate the members' comments on this. I guess my question is: if you were here now, would you be willing to allow this to go forward? Would you allow this extended sitting to go forward, knowing that you empower the government to be able to ram through as many bills as they want?

A smart man once said: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. I think that's good advice. I think that's something we need to think about in this debate because there's a possibility that you may not be there in three and a half years. If that is the case, would you want to empower whoever it is sitting in the government seat to have that power in the future?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. It's a good question: if the shoe was on the other foot, would we be taking the same position as the Wildrose? Well, I don't think so. If we were in opposition and the makeup of our caucus was as it is now that we're in government just a little smaller, then I think, you know, that there would be this imperative that we want to make this a place that's open and accessible. In fact, I think we've always had that view and have always fought for that.

But I think the hon. member is under a misapprehension, and that is that the government under the current rules doesn't have that power. But it does. That's what I tried to say in my remarks. The government, should it desire to do so, can trigger evening sittings, and it doesn't have to adjourn. The government can go all night if it wants to. If it really just wants to have more hours of sitting every day, every week, it already has the power to do that. It's a simple matter of not adjourning debate in the evening. You can go until 6 in the morning if you want, but the government doesn't do that. The previous government didn't do that. When we provoked them by a filibuster, they did it, and then they brought in another shift at 7 in the morning and kept on going, and we were ready to die.

**An Hon. Member:** I thought you were tougher than that.

**Mr. Mason:** Yeah, we were tougher than that. But, boy, it was pretty gruelling when they kept going until 11 o'clock in the morning.

But my point is simply this. The previous government did not abuse that unless the opposition was filibustering and trying to hold up the debate, and then they did it, okay? That is not going to change with this government. We are not going to hold night sittings on a regular basis. There may be a rare exception where we have to do it, but otherwise the only time we will do it is if the opposition is holding up the government's business.

That's a commitment. There's no change with respect to that capacity on the part of government, hon. member. That's my point.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Hays under 29(2)(a)?

**Mr. McIver:** Oh, no.

**The Speaker:** Under 29(2)(a), any member?

To the amendment itself, Calgary-Hays.

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on this at the risk of being taunted, so get ready for it. I am going to try to provide what I believe is a little bit of clarity. We're arguing about when we work. Respectfully, all this talk about family friendly is hogwash. You

know, this is a tough place to work, folks. There's really not much family friendly around here. You can try to pretend there is, but there isn't. We all signed up for the tour of duty, so we've got no one to blame but ourselves, right? No one to blame but ourselves. This is my second tour, so you might say: well, I really should know better.

3:50

But the fact is that most of the people in this House live in another place. For me, when I'm here, there's nothing family friendly about it. What is family friendly is going home to my wife. That's family friendly. So I'd just as soon work like a rented mule while I'm here, so I can get as much done as I can so that when I get home, if I get the odd hour off, I can spend it with my good wife, whom I love, and so far, the last time I checked, she said that she still loves me. Sorry, folks at home and folks here, but trying to pretend there's anything family friendly about this place: we're fooling ourselves. It's not how it is. Sorry.

I'll just repeat it because I think that's the main point. When I'm away from home, it's not family friendly. I don't know how many other people agree with that, but that's how I feel about it. The fact is that we're here to work, and I believe that most if not all of our caucus think we might as well be working all the time while we're here, to get as much done as possible so that we can get back home.

Honestly, on the suggestion that somebody made that we can finally get this Legislature to do business, well, Mr. Speaker, this Legislature has been doing business for a hundred years. People talk about how long our government was here, for 44 years, but this Legislature has been doing business a heck of a lot longer than that and doing it just fine, thank you very much. Not perfect but just fine. Any suggestion that somehow we're going to have this miraculous new ability to provide democracy in the purest, finest, best form is, once again, hogwash.

I'm prepared to work the shifts that are provided. To be clear, we have a set of standing orders, and they're working fine. I know the new government wants to change them. Great. You don't need to. I probably won't support it because I think the ones we've got are working fine.

But here's what I do know, Mr. Speaker. The ones that get the most votes get to make the decisions. That's how it works, you know. It was pretty convenient when we were on that side. It's less convenient on this side. That's the way it is. But that doesn't change the fact that the government of the day gets to set those working conditions. They always will because that is the very nature and I daresay definition of democracy. So we can ask, we can negotiate, we can beg skilfully, whatever we can do. But at the end of the day the government gets to decide when the House meets, when it starts and when it stops.

For me, if I'm going to be away from home and up here, I'd just as soon meet morning, noon, and night. My preference is actually what we're doing now. It's not that we don't work in the morning. For anybody who says that people don't work in the morning, that's hogwash, too, because that's when you get ready for your meetings in the afternoon. If the House starts meeting at 9 or 8 or 7 or 6 in the morning, the fact is that then you've got to get ready for those meetings the night before. It's just a matter of adjusting the schedule. Six of one, really, half a dozen of the other.

So I won't be supporting this. Whether anybody likes it or not, that's my version of what I think is true around here. While I don't like where the government is going, they won the election.

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, for both yourself and myself, your comments were directed to the amendment introduced and known as A2?

**Mr. McIver:** That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

Are there any questions or comments under 29(2)(a) to the leader of the third party?

Hearing none, are there any other members who would like to speak to amendment A2?

**Hon. Members:** Question.

[Motion on amendment A2 lost]

**The Speaker:** Now we go back to the amended Motion 19, correct? Are there any other individuals who would like to speak to the amended Motion 19?

**Mr. Mason:** We have another amendment, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Edmonton-Centre.

**Mr. Shepherd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this motion but also to move an amendment. As we all know, in addition to moving to morning sittings, Government Motion 19 also made some changes to the standing orders to allow the Official Opposition the opportunity for some additional time during estimates for ministries of their choosing. Of course, with Government Motion 19 not yet passed and we're already into estimates and committee considerations have already begun, clearly we can't put these new provisions into place for this current set of departmental estimates.

Therefore, I have an amendment here that would push the coming into force provision for these changes to January 1. Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that Government Motion 19 be amended by striking out part C and substituting the following:

And be it further resolved that the amendments to Standing Order 3 in section 1 of part A shall take effect on November 24, 2015, the amendments to Standing Orders 59.01 and 59.02 in sections 9 and 10 of part A shall take effect on January 1, 2016, and the remaining amendments in this motion shall come into force on passage.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, I understand I will identify this as amendment A3.

Could we pause while the pages distribute the amendment.

To the mover from Edmonton-Centre, I understand that you're moving this on behalf of the Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

**Mr. Shepherd:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. That's correct.

**The Speaker:** I understand that we have an amendment known as A3 introduced by Edmonton-Centre. Are there any members who wish to speak to amendment A3?

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Mr. Speaker, I'll be very brief. This is something that I think all members of the House can agree is needed and overdue. I greatly enjoyed the estimates process. I thought it was probably one of the most productive things we do, our ability to follow through with ministers, and I would encourage all members of the House to support the amendment.

**The Speaker:** First of all, any questions under 29(2)(a) to the Member for Strathmore-Brooks?

Hearing none, are there any other members who would wish to speak to the amendment to the motion identified as A3?

[Motion on amendment A3 carried]

**The Speaker:** I believe we are back to the amended Motion 19. Am I correct? I'm hearing that we are. Are there any other members who would wish to speak to the amended Motion 19?

Hearing none, who is the original mover of this motion? Government House Leader, do you have any additional comments you would like to make?

4:00

**Mr. Mason:** I'd just like to thank all members for their contribution to these changes, and I believe that while some have some difficulty with parts of them, they will advance the work of the Assembly. I thank all hon. members for their contribution to the debate.

[Government Motion 19 as amended carried]

#### Amendment to Standing Order

22. Mr. Mason:  
Be it resolved that Standing Order 52.01(1) be amended as follows:
1. in clause (a)
    - (i) by striking out "and Service Alberta" and substituting ", Service Alberta and Status of Women";
  2. in clause (b)
    - (i) by striking out "Agriculture and Rural Development" and substituting "Agriculture and Forestry";
    - (ii) by striking out "International and Intergovernmental Relations, Innovation and";
    - (iii) by striking out "and Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour" and substituting "Economic Development and Trade and Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour";
  3. in clause (c) by striking out "Environment and Sustainable Resource Development" and substituting "Environment and Parks".

**Mr. Mason:** Mr. Speaker, that motion was in the event that we were unable to pass Government Motion 19 today, so I will not be moving that motion.

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

#### Provincial Fiscal Policies

13. Mr. Ceci moved:  
Be it resolved that the Assembly approve in general the business plans and fiscal policies of the government.

[Debate adjourned October 29: Mr. Jean speaking]

**Mr. Cooper:** He is done.

**The Speaker:** Is there anybody who would like to speak to Motion 13? The hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to begin debate on the first budget of the first new government in 44 years. It is an honour to respond today for the Wildrose Official Opposition. This budget continues in the same direction as the last several budgets that this province has seen.

In 2004 former Premier Klein pronounced Alberta's debt to be paid in full. This stood as the crowning achievement of the Alberta advantage. This was something for Albertans from High Level to Sweetgrass to be proud of. Alberta's spending was under control. Alberta's taxes were the lowest in Canada. Private-sector investment

fuelled our economy, and we were the first jurisdiction in our country to be free of debt.

In 2008 the Alberta advantage began to show the first chinks in its armour. Spending spiralled out of control, and soon the province ran its first deficit in 15 years, of \$1 billion. First, the province began by drawing down our sustainability fund, which stood at \$17 billion that year. We were promised that this deficit would be temporary, but as the sustainability fund continued to dwindle, the government of the day began to turn to the millstone that weighs down too many governments, debt.

But there was hope for Albertans. Former Premier Redford stated in 2011 that "debt has proven the death of countless dreams." Just one year later that very same government repealed the Government Accountability Act and the Fiscal Responsibility Act, acts that former Treasurer Jim Dinning said would give Albertans, quote, subpar government if they were ever repealed or even watered down, but repealed these bills were. This allowed the government of the day to run false surpluses as it borrowed year after year, drawing the sustainability fund down to \$2.6 billion and raising our debt up to \$12 billion, all the while telling Albertans that their government was somehow running a surplus.

I said at that time that the Alberta advantage had four pillars. The first was honest and straightforward accounting. The second was a reasonable level of government spending. The third was our low debt and triple-A credit rating. The fourth was our low-tax environment and a private-sector investment that fuelled our economic growth. These four pillars reinforced each other in an economic phalanx.

Wildrose has long warned that unsustainable levels of spending would lead the government to fudge its accounting to hide some of that spending. Wildrose warned that poor accounting would lead the government's debt to run out of control as politicians no longer had to account for all of it. Wildrose warned that with these three pillars of the Alberta advantage gone, the fourth, our low-tax, business-friendly environment, was bound to follow. That final pillar fell when the budget introduced on March 25 came forward, when the government attempted to raise taxes on Albertans by \$2,400 per household without any serious attempt to get our spending or our debt under control.

In March 2015 the Alberta advantage finally died. In June Alberta's new government buried it with a minibudget which authorized 15 and a half billion dollars of unbudgeted spending without any notice paid to its effect on the deficit. A new tax bill, which increased taxes on the businesses and job creators that fuel our economy, went up by 20 per cent. A further erosion of our once proud, single-rate flat tax took place, with a 50 per cent increase on some earners. Taken together with an ill-advised royalty review, increased carbon taxes, and other ill-advised ideological experiments, the Alberta advantage is already beginning to dim in our rear-view mirror. While members of the government might laugh at the prospect of taxes going up for some Albertans, this party believes that it's a serious and nonlaughing matter.

This budget attempts to make us forget that place of prosperity that made Alberta great. Ronald Reagan once said that socialism only works in two places: heaven, where they don't need it, and hell, where they already have it. The NDP are entitled to their own views and ideology, but they're not entitled to their own facts, and the facts are clear. When you want less of something, you tax it. This budget will mean less business. It will mean less employment. It will mean less investment in our economy. It will mean less savings as our already dilapidated sustainability fund finally runs out this year.

It will mean more of some things. It will mean more debt, an incredible \$35 billion of additional debt on top of the \$12 billion



that we already owe. By 2019 Alberta's debt will reach \$47 billion. By that year Saskatchewan's debt is projected to be down to just \$3.5 billion. As the people of Saskatchewan used to flee the NDP of that province to Alberta, we are beginning to see a reversal of our roles in Confederation. Despite already being one of the highest spending provinces in the country, spending \$2,503 more per capita than British Columbia, our government is going full steam ahead with plans to make our government even larger. This budget will see our spending increase by an average of 2 per cent a year for five years until it surpasses \$54 billion. That means that by 2020 every Albertan will have \$12,089 worth of debt to their name. That record spending will be paid for by higher taxes and higher debt.

4:10

Mr. Speaker, this is why it matters. Low taxes, low debt, and balanced budgets have been the time-tested formula for prosperous societies around the world. It made Alberta the most attractive place for families to invest and to build a life together. It ensured that Alberta was the place where families could have more of their money in their pockets instead of in the pockets of bureaucrats and politicians. It would send the message to Albertans that the benefits that they rely on today such as health care, education, and infrastructure will be protected for years to come and not come under attack from creditors or higher taxes yet.

For families worried about their jobs and their futures right now, a budget that showed a hint of constraint and put forward economic policies that encourage growth would say that there is a reason for hope in our future. Instead, we are doing nothing more than putting a Band-Aid on a broken budget that will kick the problem down the road for the next government to solve after the 2019 election.

This higher debt comes with higher debt-servicing costs, which will equal \$1.3 billion a year. That is enough to cover the combined ministries of Culture and Tourism; Aboriginal Relations; Economic Development and Trade; Executive Council; Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour; and the Status of Women.

We made it out of debt once before in this province. The solution was a painful round of spending cuts that every person in Alberta never wants to repeat. Mr. Speaker, if we do not want to repeat 1993, then we must not repeat the 1980s.

Now, I have to take stock of where we are today. We have a new *Star Wars* movie coming to the theatres, Marty McFly, and a Prime Minister Trudeau. I've got to say it: welcome to the 1980s. If Doc Brown and Marty McFly left 1985 and got out of the DeLorean in November 2015 here at the Legislature, they probably wouldn't notice much of a difference.

**Mr. Mason:** Better hair.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Better hair and a new federal building.

They would be disappointed to see high taxes, high debt, government intervention in the economy, corporate welfare abounding but still no hoverboards. Perhaps the Premier's plan to pay off the debt is to put a little money on the Cubbies.

This budget will have serious consequences, though, for generations to come. It will have serious consequences on families, on workers, on seniors, and on seniors paying taxes. Some of the responsibility for what we are doing today: children and students will end up paying for it and a lot more when today's bill comes due.

Beyond the ideological drive and punitive tax hikes in June, the government is now going further. Mr. Speaker, this is not a plan to return to prosperity. This is a plan to blindly follow the ideology of the governments of Ontario, Manitoba, and Quebec, where the state punishes private-sector job creators and entrepreneurs and bribes them back with their own money in the form of corporate welfare

subsidies. This is a plan to do what governments across Canada have done when they never intend to actually balance the budget.

I'd like to read a little history for you. "Our 1987 budget is part of a medium-term fiscal plan which will see the annual deficit shrink by 40 per cent . . . in '87-88 and move to a balanced budget by 1990-91". Those words were spoken by former Provincial Treasurer Dick Johnston in his 1987 budget speech. Again: "In 1986 the dramatic drop in world oil prices reduced our total resource revenues by over 60 per cent and resulted in a large deficit." That was Mr. Johnston in 1990, still running a deficit.

Another Finance minister had this to say: "Based on our revenue predictions and our spending commitments, we target a surplus of \$1.6 billion this year." That was Finance Minister Evans in 2008, the same year she boasted a deficit. One more Finance minister to quote: "We think it's a responsible budget [that will] put us on a path to balance." Just a little bit later that Finance minister said, "It's going to take a little longer to reach balance than outlined earlier." That Finance minister is the current Finance minister.

Our government has already run eight consecutive deficits, even during years with \$100-a-barrel oil, and I fear that we are following that track that led governments to make unrealistic budget plans between 1985 and 1993 and again between 2008 and today.

Our government has already taken on \$12 billion of new debt. What's another \$35 billion? Years 1, 2, and 3 of the budget have relatively clear numbers, but years 4 and 5 have virtually no details. Revenues in those years rely on a 15 per cent increase in revenues. It's possible but unlikely that the government will meet those targets. During our estimates process I repeatedly asked the Minister of Finance to table the economic assumptions that went into building his revenue projections. Repeatedly the minister refused. I repeatedly asked the minister to table his projected spending breakdown that he based his expenses on. Repeatedly he refused. Either the minister has the data and for some reason refuses to share it with the members of this House or he just pulled it out of thin air.

Without publicly releasing this data Albertans have no reason to believe that this budget is a credible plan to return to balance. We know that the Premier and the Minister of Finance will fearmonger and say that cutting a single penny of waste in this government will result in mass layoffs. We know that the Premier and Finance minister are continuing to cling to voodoo economic theories that tell them that they can tax people for working more without causing them to work, produce, and earn less than they otherwise would. Instead of fearmongering, I believe that we need a reasoned, measured, and practical approach to get our budget under control and kick-start this economy.

People did not cross the prairie in wagons and trains to come here for the weather. They came here for a better life than they could have anywhere else in the world. They came here because their station in life was not determined by their birth, their caste, their race, or their religion. They came here because they could build a new, prosperous life with their own bare hands. In 1988 Belinda Derraugh, in my constituency, founded the Roadhouse restaurant in Strathmore. She came here from England not because of government programs but because of the legendary opportunity that is available to anyone who comes here and is willing to work hard and take risks. And whenever I'm eating at the Roadhouse, I hear worry from those employees and from Belinda. They are worried about the cumulative effects that the minimum wage hike and business tax hike will have on Alberta.

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

Are there any questions under 29(2)(a) for the Member for Strathmore-Brooks? The Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

**Mr. Loewen:** Yeah. I'd like to hear a little bit more about the ideas that you're explaining there. If you could expand on that, that would be great.

Thanks.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People working at the Strathmore Roadhouse are worried about the cumulative effects that the minimum wage tax hike, business tax hikes, personal tax hikes, and other taxes will have on the viability of their businesses. I spoke to her about the budget, and she had a message for the Premier. She said: don't hurt the entrepreneurial spirit that brought me to Alberta and that keeps my small business employing people. The Wildrose Official Opposition is here today standing up for people like Belinda and her employees at the Strathmore Roadhouse: people who want to succeed; people who want to start that small business; people who want to take that extra shift and not see their earnings clawed back; people who pay their taxes and don't want to see their money wasted by politicians; people who want to see their money spent on roads, bridges, and hospitals and not on interest; people who want the same opportunity for their children that they themselves had. That is why we are here. That is why we will not support this budget. This is why we will fight for a brighter, more prosperous future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, I can't help but ask the Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky if he got the additional information that he was looking for, exactly.

**Mr. Loewen:** Yes. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** Are there any others to speak to the motion itself? The Member for Calgary-Hays.

4:20

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I congratulate the government for getting elected and all that comes with that and on producing a budget that is great for, probably, Houston, not quite so great for Alberta. I say that, Mr. Speaker, because over the last decades a lot of jobs moved from Houston to Alberta largely because of an environment that was business friendly: low corporate taxes, entrepreneurial, government policies that were pro business. One of my biggest fears is that – although there are many with the current government and the policies that they're putting forward – we're going to lose a lot of those positions back to Houston, where they came from, and a lot of really good, high-paying jobs, high-tax paying jobs as well will go with them. This probably is the best government and Premier that Houston ever had. Congratulations. I would congratulate you on that.

Mr. Speaker, the last budget before this one was balanced. At the end of this government's reign their own numbers – their own numbers – say that they will have a \$47.4 billion debt in five years. Their own numbers say that the annual servicing costs on that will be about \$1.3 billion. Their own documents say that they will begin to make a plan to pay it back when they're in surplus. Well, when they're in surplus – again, their numbers – they'll have a \$1 billion surplus. So somehow Albertans are expected to feel comfortable and good about the fact that they're going to try to pay back \$47.4 billion with \$1.3 billion a year debt-servicing costs with a mighty \$1 billion surplus. No one believes that. Well, if there is a small pocket of people that believe that, I think I'm looking them all right in the eye right now. They might be the only ones. Albertans should be concerned about it, and they are. I'm hearing that all of the time.

You know, even what they are trying to do right with this budget they haven't got right, Mr. Speaker. Listen: congratulations on

continuing to build the schools that we started. Great. Congratulations on continuing to build the hospitals and Highway 63 that our government started. Thank you. Here's where it falls apart, though. We had a plan to borrow money and pay it back in a reasonable amount of time. Now there is no plan to pay anything back. There is a promise to create a plan five years from now after the people of Alberta are \$47 billion in the soup with debt. It's just not plausible. It's just not credible.

But there is hope, Mr. Speaker. The new government has a fantasy low-carbon, information-based economy to save the day except that we heard from the Premier's own words this week that there is no such economy coming. There is no such plan. Those are just empty words, and the hope doesn't actually exist. Well, that's a problem for Albertans. I think it's going to be a big problem for the people across the way from me here three and a half years from now because at that point Albertans who have lost their jobs and been laughed at will be very unhappy.

You know what, Mr. Speaker? That's probably the most important thing. One of the biggest dignities and best social programs that exists in this world is a job, a meaningful job where you can support yourself and your family. I hate to say it, but this government is attacking that possibility as well with what's in this budget. They have created one job, the minister of economic something. We'll give them credit for one. There's one in the bank, kids. Congratulations. Let's hope that it's not the last one. So far it is. And depending upon whom you listen to, it's somewhere between 40,000 and 64,000 jobs backwards against the one to the positive.

So, Mr. Speaker, a minimum wage that will kill jobs, and as it gets closer to \$15, it will kill more jobs. And – I'm sorry – the promise that it will help people of low income, particularly women, get out of poverty isn't going to do it because even \$15 an hour is below the level of poverty. The best-case scenario of the government doesn't hold water. The fact is that it will actually kill jobs for people that start at the minimum wage, get job skills, and then work their way up the economic ladder. They've actually raised the bottom rung of the economic ladder that those people that have the lowest ability to earn money can reach, work hard, be honest, like Albertans are, and work their way up to make a better living.

**An Hon. Member:** But stay in poverty.

**Mr. McIver:** They've just raised the rung beyond the reach of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of Albertans.

You know, I agree with the hon. member that's taunting there. Minimum wage jobs aren't the be-all and end-all, but I'll tell you what they are. They're a starting spot for young people to learn good work habits and good skills. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if there's anybody here that never worked at a minimum wage job. I know I did. I'm going to presume – you're here. You're somewhat successful. You managed to get off that bottom rung of the economic ladder, actually work your way up. Congratulations. Let's just give other people the opportunity to do what we've done. Let's do that. Let's provide that for Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, with the job plan, again, the government is – well, it's not a great plan in the first place. But they're playing fast and loose with the numbers. They love to talk about \$5,000 per job, which would be for a \$50,000 job, and they say 27,000 jobs a year. But if that were so, then they would have had \$135 million in the budget to fund those 27,000 positions. But what did they put in the budget? Eighty-nine million dollars at an average of \$3,300 per job. And at a rate of 10 per cent of the wage that's \$33,000-a-year jobs. All work is good, but this is below the poverty level, at least in the

cities. Again, they haven't really solved a thing, and this is where Albertans are being let down very badly. Very badly.

Now, there is some glimmer of hope. There's potentially 3,000 jobs for university students in the STEP program. Well, we can't really say that it's good yet because we haven't seen ... [interjections] Okay. You have to hope on that one. You know what? We live in hope, Mr. Speaker. I'm being as optimistic as I can because I know that people have got to be feeling bad about themselves because they're making it harder for their constituents to make a living and harder for their constituents to keep a job. So we'll give them that little ray of sunshine, which is that they might help 3,000 university students get that first job. Again, there's that bottom rung on the economic ladder. You know, by doing this program, they've actually admitted that it's important to get somebody on the bottom rung. On the other end, with the minimum wage they raised that rung out of the reach of ordinary Albertans, but at least in this one area they've actually admitted that it's good to have a starting spot. While we can't really compliment it because we don't have the details, we're hopeful that the details will be such that it could be a good program. So we'll give them that much hope.

Mr. Speaker, what we have here is, frankly, a mess. What we have here is a corporate tax program. The extra 20 per cent corporate taxes has been the difference between profit and loss for CNRL this year.

**An Hon. Member:** That's not true.

**Mr. McIver:** Those are their words. [interjections] No, that's according to CNRL. That's according to them. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Hon, member, I would appreciate the comments from the hon. member speaking to the truth of the matter.

With respect to the speaker that's speaking and noticing the juncture we are at in the day – I believe we are at 4:30 – and pursuant to Motion 15, agreed to by the Assembly on October 28, 2015, and Standing Order 4(2), the Assembly stands adjourned until November 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. members, drive safely, go back and serve your community, and spend some of that family time.

[The Assembly adjourned at 4:30 p.m. pursuant to Government Motion 15]



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

**Activity to November 05, 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]

### **4 An Act to Implement Various Tax Measures and to Enact the Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act (\$) (Ceci)**

First Reading -- 331-32 (Oct. 27, 2015 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 379-81 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., adjourned)

### **5 Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act (Ganley)**

First Reading -- 448 (Nov. 5, 2015 aft., passed)

### **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.), 302 (Oct. 26, 2015 aft., defeated on division)

### **202 Alberta Local Food Act (Cortes-Vargas)**

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

Second Reading -- 303-313 (Oct. 26, 2015 aft.), 401-404 (Nov. 2, 2015 aft., passed on division)

### **203 Election (Restrictions on Government Advertising) Amendment Act, 2015 (Strankman)**

First Reading -- 349 (Oct. 28, 2015 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 404-410 (Nov. 2, 2015 aft., adjourned)

### **204 Residential Tenancies (Safer Spaces for Victims of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2015 (Drever)**

First Reading -- 448 (Nov. 5, 2015 aft., passed)

- Pr1 The King's University College Amendment Act, 2015 (Schmidt)**  
First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
- Pr2 Bethesda Bible College Amendment Act, 2015 (Nielsen)**  
First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
- Pr3 Rosary Hall, Edmonton Repeal Act (Shepherd)**  
First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
- Pr4 Canadian University College Amendment Act, 2015 (Orr)**  
First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
- Pr5 Concordia University College of Alberta Amendment Act, 2015 (McLean)**  
First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
- Pr6 Covenant Bible College Amendment Act, 2015 (Fildebrandt)**  
First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
- Pr7 Living Faith Bible College Amendment Act, 2015 (Nixon)**  
First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)

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