



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
First Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday morning, December 10, 2015

Day 32

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

First Session

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Feehan, Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (ND), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (W)	McKittrick, Annie, Sherwood Park (ND)
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Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (ND)	Nielsen, Christian E., Edmonton-Decore (ND)
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Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (ND)	Notley, Hon. Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (ND), Premier
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (ND)	Orr, Ronald, Lacombe-Ponoka (W)
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Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (ND)	Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie (W)
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Kleinstuber, Jamie, Calgary-Northern Hills (ND)	Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (ND)
Larivee, Hon. Danielle, Lesser Slave Lake (ND)	Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (ND)
Littlewood, Jessica, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (ND)	Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (W)
Loewen, Todd, Grande Prairie-Smoky (W)	
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (ND)	
Luff, Robyn, Calgary-East (ND)	
MacIntyre, Donald, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (W)	

Party standings:

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

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Kazim	

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

9 a.m.

Thursday, December 10, 2015

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Good morning.

Please bow your heads. Hon. members, as a new year approaches, let us reflect upon our lives as individuals and as a community of legislators. For most of us this past year was a year of unbelievable change; a year of great privilege, and, much more importantly, a year of profound responsibility; a year of emotion, sometimes of tension, but also of laughter; a year of pain, when we came together with tears and sadness out of the loss of a brother. For some of us this is a time of Christian celebration. It is a time we share with all of our fellow citizens, a time of peace, a time of rest, a time of contemplation. Let us accept our responsibility to repair our province, needing strength, not division; peace, not conflict; hope, not fear.

Please be seated.

The hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

Member's Apology

Mr. Fildebrandt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will need about four minutes.

The last week or so in this Assembly has been particularly heated. That can happen on occasion, not that it does anyone here much credit. Many members on this side have been quite upset about question period, and while I feel that my concerns are legitimate, my anger has caused me to make statements that were inappropriate, and for that I have regret. Allow me to elaborate and to apologize to you, Mr. Speaker, and the members of this Assembly.

Question period has been raucous for a while. The other day an hon. member apologized for using the words “goons” and “gangsters.” The truth is that many of the words thrown our way from the benches opposite were much more R-rated than “goons” and “gangsters.” While question period should be lively, the truth is that none of the parents in this Assembly would want their children to sit at the Clerk’s table and listen.

The other issue which has upset us has been the wasting of time and the impact it has had on opposition questions. Traditionally question period has had an average of well over 17 sets of questions dealt with every day. For a variety of reasons the 29th Session of the Legislature has seen an average of just over 14 sets. That adds up to over 90 missed questions so far this session alone.

The two things together have led to frustration and even anger. I lost my temper, and I should not have. I should have come and spoken directly to you, Mr. Speaker.

Instead, I tweeted something inappropriate. I broke a minor rule in tweeting from this Chamber, and I assure you that that will not happen again. But I also called into question your impartiality and integrity. That is more serious. I ought not to have done that, Mr. Speaker. I have a profound respect for this place, and I have a profound respect for the Office of the Speaker and its critical role in protecting the traditional privileges of members, particularly the privileges of the minority in a Westminster Assembly. I have requested a meeting with you, and I hope that you will grant that meeting. Out of a deep respect for the institution and an acknowledgement of the complexities of your role I am going to apologize to you and to members of this Assembly and completely withdraw

any comments in the House or tweets regarding you on these matters, made inside or outside the Chamber.

I look forward to high-quality and fair questions in the future. I think all members on both sides of the Assembly should work with you to make that happen. Mr. Speaker, good manners, respect, and civility require that I extend a hand of goodwill, so I will unreservedly apologize for any incivility or disrespect towards you or your office. It is my sincere hope that members of this Assembly can move forward with productive questions and debate, which fulfill their critical role in holding the government to account.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member. I look forward to speaking with you personally.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

Bill 6

Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, I’m pleased to stand to move third reading of Bill 6, the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act.

The Speaker: The hon. Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you seek it, I’m sure you will find it: unanimous consent of this House to go to one-minute bells for the duration of the morning.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: Someone who wishes to speak to third reading? Her Majesty’s Official Opposition leader.

Mr. Jean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to all the members of the Assembly. I am a true democrat. I am. I think that the Legislature should work. It should produce good laws for Albertans. That’s what a democrat is. Bill 6 is not a good law. There are so many things wrong with Bill 6. It is a big-government solution in search of a problem. Everyone cares about farm safety. Nobody cares more about farm safety than the moms and dads that actually are operating and own the 45,000 family farms in Alberta.

I also know, from statistics, from empirical evidence – that’s right – from the historical perspective of what takes place on farms, that Alberta’s fatality stats per thousand farmers are the lowest or one of the lowest in the country. Fewer people die on Alberta farms and ranches than in any other provinces in Canada, which, by the way, have far more regulations than Alberta does. No province has a better safety record than Alberta. We should be proud of the moms and dads that operate the 45,000 farms in Alberta.

Alberta farmers have a great OHS record, and most Alberta farmers carry insurance that is cheaper and better than WCB. It’s about offering choice to farmers: choice of WCB, choice of better insurance, choice so they can protect their family and provide better benefits to their families and workers. This government is taking away those choices. The government would actually know these things if they had consulted with farmers, if they’d taken the opportunity to put this bill to committee to hear from those experts, to hear from the agricultural groups, to hear from the moms and dads and farmers and ranchers right across this province.

The Premier actually says that the bill has been studied too much. She’s right. But do you know that every single study has indicated

the same thing? Minor tweaks may be necessary for little parts here and there in relation to farm safety, minor tweaks in relation to OHS, minor tweaks in relation to employment standards. Minor tweaks. Every study has indicated the same thing. But the Premier is committed to the big government knows best approach, which obviously does not work. We've seen it in past NDP governments, right across this country, and that's regardless of the evidence, Mr. Speaker. It's shocking that this government would ignore the empirical evidence, years and years of historical data. It shows clearly a government and a Premier that are out of touch with Albertans. Bill 6 is fundamentally flawed, and it will cause anger throughout Alberta for many, many years.

This bill should have gone to committee. All bills, government or private members' bills, should go to committees, where the government would still have a majority, but they would have an opportunity to hear from witnesses. Do you know what? The backbench, Mr. Speaker, would have an opportunity to participate in democracy instead of just strolling in here and doing what they're told. The participation would be huge. I see smiles from the front bench, but – that's right – there are no smiles on the backbench because they're not participating in democracy.

9:10

All bills should go to committee. The government talks about my federal record on bills. They're right. I have voted for closure, not at this stage – not at this stage – but after months and months of committee work, after hearing from experts right across the country, after touring across the country and hearing from experts in all provinces and territories. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that that's what the federal Finance committee does? They actually, before a budget, do prebudget consultations. They listen to Albertans. They listen to Alberta businesses, to farms, to ranches. They listen because when you listen, you make the right decisions.

This NDP government, this Premier have closed ears to Albertans. They are so ideologically driven that they are not prepared to listen to the facts, to listen to the thousands upon thousands of farmers and ranchers that have come to this place and protested this bill, that have gone to communities right across this province, that in just weeks, Mr. Speaker, have organized to come here and come to many, many other communities. We have had a number of town halls, and the anger is real. They will not forget this government's lack of consultation

Now, Mr. Speaker, we know that democracy works at the federal level. In fact, the NDP has more opportunity at the federal level by far than the Wildrose Party does at this level, at the provincial level. That's not right. We need to restore democracy to this place. This is what we are here for, to make sure that democracy has a voice. Democracy actually means that the people have to have a voice.

Bill 6 has so many problems. The protections for small family farms are just not good enough. Forcing farms to give up on good insurance, better insurance and replace it with inadequate WCB coverage is a huge mistake. The OHS impacts are yet to be felt, but, Mr. Speaker, with respect, there will be many unintended and unanticipated consequences that will have Alberta farms and ranches suffering.

Let me give you one which has not yet been discussed. I'm from Fort McMurray, and I know what safety means. I know how important safety is. Safety first: it's a motto I've heard since the very beginning of living in Fort McMurray, 50 years ago. It's a motto that's ingrained in our culture there because it's so, so important to the future of the people that work there. OHS requires that people work in safe buildings, buildings that are up to building code. Now, I know that not many members of the NDP have visited a farm, and they certainly haven't done so recently because they

haven't consulted with farmers, but the building code has never applied to farm buildings, Mr. Speaker. It is possible that every single farm work site in Alberta will not be considered safe under OHS legislation.

Think of the consequences, Mr. Speaker. Every farm building: not safe under current legislation. I think that's real. The consequences and cost of that to farmers might be so staggering that we might not have farmers in Alberta that are competitive with the world, that are able to continue to operate in that competitive environment, that are able to continue to feed Albertans, Canadians, and the world. It is a serious issue.

The government is struggling to write legislation. We saw it in Bill 4, which the government mismanaged to the point that the Finance minister broke the law. He became a lawbreaker on Bill 4. We saw it with Bill 5, where government sloppiness required amendments to legislation that all parties supported. We saw it in Bill 8, where this government didn't consult, where they lost the support of school boards, and where, as a result, Mr. Speaker, they had to make two amendments after they said that the bill was perfect. [interjections] It's perfect except when everybody complains. That's exactly why we need to consult, why they should have consulted with the school boards, that were so angry, and their anger made them come forward in a couple of days with amendments. We know that because I had the opportunity to talk to school boards. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. members. Minister of Education, please.

Please proceed.

Mr. Jean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate you intervening on that lack of respect here, sir.

We did see it in Bill 8, and we continue to see it, Mr. Speaker. We see the school boards upset. I had an opportunity to sit down with both school boards from Fort McMurray some time ago, and their concern was the lack of consultation by this minister. Clearly, not listening to the people of Alberta will cost this government a lot, and Bill 8 is just one of the examples. After saying that it's a perfect bill and presenting it, they had to come forward with amendments to fix the problems so that they would make people partially happy.

That would be avoided if this minister actually had the opportunity to persuade the government to put all bills to committees for discussion, for input, for expert opinion and advice. You still have the majority on the committees, but that gives people the opportunity to participate in democracy. Participating in democracy, I would submit, Mr. Speaker, is the most important thing that we can allow Albertans to do in this place to feel that they are part of the government's future and a part of Alberta's future.

This government is teetering on the edge of incompetence. After only seven months they can hardly bring anything to the Assembly that is ready to pass and become law. That is worrying. But, Mr. Speaker, we know that they have the majority. We will be oppressed by the majority on Bill 6. We have no choice. As the Wildrose we have done everything we possibly could to stop, to slow down, to change the law. Fortunately, again with Bill 6, they did change some of it, and that is as a result of the Wildrose Official Opposition being so strong.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud, very proud to stand here today in relation to some people. I'm proud of the thousands of Albertans who came to this Legislature, who went to the town halls right across Alberta and spoke. The Wildrose listened. We listened. We came back here, and we made it clear to the government that the people of Alberta, the farmers and ranchers of Alberta, were unhappy. I'm so proud of them.

Just with days' notice they came to this place, thousands of people, not once, not twice; three times, four times. Do you know why the government is shutting down the bill, in my opinion? They're shutting it down because they knew that there were further rallies coming to this place today, next Tuesday. There are more this weekend right around Edmonton. There are thousands of people. Even after this bill is passed by this government, forced through this legislative process, forced through every single process with only one hour to speak, Mr. Speaker, they will continue to have their voice heard through the Wildrose caucus. We are very proud of them. I want to thank them personally for that. It meant a lot to the Wildrose caucus to have the support of Albertans, to have the support of tens of thousands of Albertans.

What am I not proud of? I'm certainly not proud of democracy in this place. I'm not proud of the members opposite, who, although they toed the line for the Government House Leader and toed the line for the Premier, did not toe the line for the people that they work for, the voters and electorate of Alberta.

I'm almost finished, Mr. Speaker. The people that I'm particularly not proud of are those people that did not vote as they were supposed to for the people that elected them. I speak particularly of the Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose, with 2,000 farms – how is he going to face those people? – or the Minister of Energy, the Member for Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley, with 1,500 family farms in her riding. How is she going to go back there and say, "I didn't vote for you. I voted how the Premier told me"? Or the Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville, who is ignoring and insulting the 1,400 family farms in her riding, and the Member for Leduc-Beaumont, who has 1,200 family farms – 1,200 family farms – and that actually represents over 4,000 people that they're not representing. The ag minister, the Member for Whitecourt-St. Anne, who has 1,200 farms. The Member for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, who was yelled at by the 1,100 farms and ranches in the riding. He was, and he knows that. He knows it clearly as all the backbench there knows that have the 11,000 Alberta farms in their ridings.

They know, Mr. Speaker, because we saw it, and they're concerned. That's why they're shutting down debate. That's why they're forcing closure in the strongest way that I've ever seen it done.

9:20

Then, of course, there's the Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park and her 600 farms. The Member for West Yellowhead: 700 farms. The Member for Peace River: 400 farms. The Member for Stony Plain and the Member for Spruce Grove-St. Albert, which I believe have a rally this weekend to oppose Bill 6: 400 farms. Only 400 farms and a rally against this bill, 400 family farms, 400 very important Albertans that don't have a voice in this place because the government has shut its ears, will not listen, is ideologically driven to control the farms that have worked so well and have the lowest statistics as far as unsafe workplaces in the country. Of course, we can't forget the Member for Banff-Cochrane and the 200 ranchers and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Member for Lesser Slave Lake: 200 farms. All of them have heard clearly from their constituents. Every one of them has, and what do they do? They do what they're told by the Premier. They do what they're told by the Premier. They ignore their constituents. I'm not proud of those members. I am not proud of democracy in this place today. I am not proud to have an NDP government in Alberta.

Bill 6 is a mess, and I am very proud of our Wildrose MLAs who have participated in the debate on Bill 6 and, Mr. Speaker, some of the longest hours ever in this place over the last few weeks. I'm very proud of the 22 MLAs that represent the Wildrose members across this province. They have debated this bill late into the night

and started again the next morning with just a few hours of sleep if any. This place has had more than 12-hour-plus days on this bill. That's more than any bill in recent memory from my perspective. I've only been a legislator for 11 years, but I can assure you that I've never seen anything like this before. That's how anxious the NDP is to push the bill through, though, to ram it through this place without proper debate, without proper consultation, without listening to the people of Alberta, and they should be ashamed of themselves.

Despite our best efforts and the anger of farmers and ranchers throughout Alberta, Bill 6 will be rammed through this morning. They are not listening. When that happens, the anger will be very real. People in Alberta will remember, especially farmers and ranchers, but it's not too late. I have optimism. I am here to help, just like the Wildrose is here to help, and that's why today we're giving them an opportunity, so I would ask them to listen very carefully. The members opposite who represent rural ridings, who have those 11,000 farmers and ranchers and their families in those ridings, can still do the right thing. They can. I'm sure that they're listening, so I am sure that they'll be persuaded.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that they will do the right thing. I'm hoping that they will support farmers and ranchers in Alberta and the future of family farms in Alberta.

I will move a motion for third reading of Bill 6, the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act, that it be amended, Mr. Speaker, by deleting all the words after "that" and substituting the following: "Bill 6, Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act, be not now read a third time but that it be read a third time this day six months hence." Do the right thing. I have appropriate copies here in proper form. This is the chance. This is the last chance for them.

Now, to the members opposite, what I would say is: do the right thing. Stand up for your constituents. Join the Wildrose and stand up for Albertans, for Alberta farms and ranches. Vote for this hoist amendment, and go back to the drawing board with Bill 6. Take six months and listen to farmers and ranchers. Listen to the people that know better than we do. Listen to the experts. Listen to them because they have more invested than all of us put together. It is their way of life, their culture, their future. It is something that we should not attack. Vote for this hoist amendment, and go back to the drawing board on Bill 6. Your political careers do depend on it. They do. But, even more importantly, just do it because it is the right thing to do to restore democracy to this place and bring democracy to Alberta for all Albertans.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to thank the Leader of the Official Opposition for his speech. I think there are a number of things about that speech that bear some examination. The Opposition House Leader – the opposition leader. I apologize. I've got to keep everybody straight here. Yeah. The Leader of the Official Opposition has complained on the one hand that there's not enough time to debate the bill, that the government is running roughshod over the opposition and limiting debate, then in his next breath he talks about the longest hours that have ever been spent on a bill. He says that we've had 12-hour days, that we've had more discussion than any bill in recent history. You know, you can't have it both ways. This government has provided hours and hours and hours of debate, but it's clear what the opposition is doing.

The Leader of the Opposition talks about the good safety record of Alberta farms, and that is a good thing. But what he's saying and

what he's suggesting by that is that we don't need to do anything, Mr. Speaker, and that's the real agenda of the Wildrose here. The real agenda of the Wildrose is to prevent this legislation from ever being passed. They claim they're in favour of farm safety, but what they really are saying is that farms are safe enough now and we don't have to do anything, and that's what the leader of the ... [some applause] and some of the members opposite are applauding that remark because that's what they actually believe and that's what they're actually trying to accomplish here. That is so disrespectful to the families of people who have lost ... [interjections]

The Speaker: Please don't yell, whoever that was. Please proceed.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and forgive those interruptions. I want to say very, very clearly that the problem here is that people have been dying on farms. People are injured on farms. It may be less than some other places, but that doesn't matter. Those lives are worth while. Those lives are valuable. Those families who've lost loved ones or whose breadwinners can no longer earn a living: they deserve support. They deserve to have their food on the table. They deserve to have a place to live and put clothes on their children. The Wildrose is saying: "Well, that's not necessary. Everything is fine." I think it's clear from the Leader of the Official Opposition, from the leader of the Wildrose Party, what the real agenda is here, and that is to keep the status quo. They talk all about how we're all in favour of safety, but we just heard the Leader of the Official Opposition basically say that nothing is wrong and we don't need this legislation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if I can return to the whole question of how this debate has proceeded. As the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Wildrose leader, has said, we've spent some of the longest hours in this place, more than any bill in recent history, debating this bill. There's been ample – there's been ample – opportunity. The Wildrose, instead of using time to put forward amendments and constructive changes, used most of the time in here trying to delay second reading of the bill. We've spent probably well over 20 hours of debate just on second reading alone. It's the stalling tactics of the Wildrose, getting up and talking to, making these motions, and I know the tactics very well. I know exactly what they're doing and what they're going to do next. This hoist is no surprise because this is the last attempt that they have to try and delay and hold back the bill, at the same time arguing out of the other side of their mouth that they haven't had enough time to debate the bill.

Well, the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that they've had plenty of time. We've all had plenty of time to debate this bill. We know what the issues are. We know what we have to do, and the government is going to do it. I want to make absolutely crystal clear to all members of this House that this hoist is nothing but a delaying tactic. It's an attempt to derail the bill. The Wildrose doesn't really want to do what they say they want to do. What they want to do is leave things exactly as they are.

I urge all members of this House to oppose this amendment. This is simply a tactic of the opposition to try and derail the discussion and to consume the time of the House. I think that it's shameful, Mr. Speaker, and I think that we need to get on with this debate.

9:30

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

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to speak today with regard to Bill 6 and the potential dangers that are in the legislation as it has been presented. My wife and I own a farm. We enjoy that lifestyle. My wife and I chose the farm lifestyle as the

best place to raise our family. I along with my wife and my children work on our farm, but I am not a farm employee, my wife is not a farm employee, and our children are not farm employees. Our farm is a chosen lifestyle, and it is an integral part of our family culture. When my children are able to help with the seeding or harvest, they are not working; they are actively involved with our family lifestyle. This is a family activity. It is not a work site. They have a connection with the land that, I'm sorry to say, most urban people do not comprehend.

We are not doing anything that would cause harm to others, yet this government would believe it is necessary to invade my family space and impose their will on our family lifestyle, our family culture. This government expects my family to trust them, telling us that they promise to develop common-sense solutions, allowing these customary parts of farm life to go on as before. I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I cannot leave that to a government that has violated our trust. There is way too much at stake here to just simply trust them.

Bill 6 as it currently stands is dangerous. There will be unintended consequences. Bill 6 as it stands is going to change a way of life: my way of life, my family's way of life, my community's way of life, the way of life of thousands of farmers and ranchers across this province.

I'm a farmer, Mr. Speaker. I grow food so that people all over can eat. It is a unique calling – raising livestock, seeding and harvesting – and it can be challenging, believe me. But I do not worry about those situations where I will be found in a bad situation and not be able to complete my work. I, unfortunately, broke my pelvis in 1994 in a boating accident. I was laid up in hospital for a few weeks that summer, and my community and neighbours and friends were there for my family. For the better part of six weeks they volunteered their time and resources to help my family through a difficult time. Never did I nor do I worry about what would happen. The farming community sticks together, protecting farmers in difficult circumstances in a much better way than anything we could imagine in this place. The farmers that came to help were not workers. They were farmers, and farmers come to help and volunteer their time when their neighbours need them.

Nobody cares more about the protection of farms and farm workers than the people living and breathing the lifestyle every single day. Nobody wants to see farming protected in this province more than our farmers, and they prove it all the time with their unbreakable spirit of giving to and helping one another. Farmers are constantly on the move, making things happen. In our communities they rely on friends, relatives, neighbours, their spouses, their children, and sometimes employees to help make it work. If Bill 6 is passed, I do worry that it may limit the ability of my neighbours and friends being able to help.

Will Bill 6 allow these customary parts of farm life to go on as before, as the minister has stated? I worry that it will not. Bill 6 as it currently stands opens up the family farm to the full weight and exposure of the Employment Standards Code, the Labour Relations Code, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and the workers' compensation regulation; that is, until the regulations are developed over the next year or so, says the government. That is some dangerous stuff, Mr. Speaker. Bill 6 could have and should have been broken up to deal with each of these pieces of legislation separately.

I do believe mandatory insurance is the right move, the right way to go. As well, Mr. Speaker, farmers and ranchers need the flexibility of choice in insurer as long as coverage is equivalent to or better than the coverage provided by WCB. We have competition in automobile insurance, home insurance, event insurance, et

cetera. The fact is that we already have choice in agriculture, but Bill 6 takes away the choice.

Mr. Speaker, farm workers have written both to me and to other Wildrose members, and they're worried about the benefits they already enjoy changing and do not want to downgrade to the WCB. In their case the farmer and farmer-worker relationship has meant that insurance products provide coverage all the time, 24/7, not just when on-site. That's a pretty good employer, looking to insure his employee at all times. This shows just how much the farmer values their farm worker.

Mr. Speaker, I have outlined my lifestyle, and I have outlined the detriments of this Bill 6 to my livelihood and that of my family and my community. I implore the members opposite to suffer the wrath of the whip, use the power their voters gave them, look out for their interests, and defeat this legislation.

When Bill 6 was introduced, this was the responsibility of the Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour. She owned it. As the matter progressed and things started to go a little awry, we saw what kind of mistake this was. The Premier took ownership of the bill. The buck stops here, she proclaimed. But today all of us, everyone in this Assembly, take collective ownership of the bill.

The record will show who voted in favour and who voted against Bill 6, and each and every one of us will be held responsible and accountable for our actions. There will be unintended consequences. Each and every one of us will be held responsible for our actions, imposing the legislation or fighting against this legislation. Three and a half years from now the people of Alberta will judge. They will judge us all on the decisions we make here today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

Mr. Fildebrandt: I'll wait for the next speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The Member for Calgary-Hays.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm grateful to the Member for Strathmore-Brooks as well.

That was an inspiring speech we just heard. I'll only take one issue with the hon. member. I think city people appreciate a little more than you give them credit for what farming is about.

Outside of that, I want to start, Mr. Speaker, by a quick thank you to our PC Party staff and my colleagues. This has been quite a battle on behalf of Albertans, and we couldn't have done it except as a team.

Mr. Speaker, this is now on my list of things to undo in three and a half years. I'm going to talk a little bit about some context here, which is why I'm supporting this hoist amendment. You know what? There are things you do in government that are mistakes, and you need to fix them, and you need to recognize it as soon as possible and do it. I've been thinking of a couple of proud moments that I had when we were in government. There was a budget-saving decision made once upon a time to change the way people were fed in Alberta homes. It turned out the food wasn't very good. I remember sitting in the meeting when we talked about the fact that there are people – and this isn't just about a gutful. This is the only food they get. We made a decision to go back, at more expense, to homemade meals. That was a good decision. That was admitting your mistake and fixing it.

9:40

There was a decision along the way to see if it was the right financial decision to close the Michener Centre. I can remember visiting it and knowing that that was the wrong decision, and I

remember being proud of the government when they fixed it. This feels like that, Mr. Speaker. This feels like the government ought to see just how bad this is.

Mr. Speaker, the government members have to think about what damage they're doing. You know what? The fact is that we had thousands of farmers and ranchers out there, and they're concerned about their families. They're concerned about their livelihood. They're concerned that people may lose their farms. They're concerned about suicides. They are losing sleep. The government's promise that it's going to be okay isn't good enough. The government has already said that they're going to take 18 to 24 months to do this. Why not let Alberta farmers and ranchers sleep and talk to them before doing what they're contemplating doing today? Don't wait till you've got tragedies on your hands. You don't need to do that. You don't. It's not necessary. [interjections] Again, I hear people chirping right now. You know what? You need to take this seriously because you're talking about real people and the consequences that you're having on their lives. I know I'm being shouted down when I'm talking about caring about Albertans, and that's a shame. That's really a shame.

Here's the problem, Mr. Speaker. Most of the assumptions that the government has made to support this bill are incorrect. They've said that the Workers' Compensation Board and occupational health will somehow prevent bad employers from doing bad things. You know what? They don't. There are bad employers in Alberta and the rest of the world that have WCB and OH and S that do bad things to employees. The government has kind of told Albertans that this will magically make everyone who is bad good. It's not true, folks. You know it's not true, Albertans know it's not true, and farmers and ranchers know it's not true. You're going to have to look pretty damn far and wide to find a farmer or rancher that's mistreating their staff, because that's not how they live. So that assumption is wrong.

The assumption that people can be forced to do unsafe things and that that will stop: you know what? If somebody is being asked to do unsafe things under the current system, they'll still be asked to do unsafe things under occupational health and safety. It happens in other areas of endeavour. The government's assertion that this will magically stop all bad behaviour is absolutely not correct. Everybody knows it. It's time to actually face up to it and admit it and deal with the facts. This is not a magic bullet.

You know what? Thousands of farmers and ranchers have made their opinions known. Don't crush their dreams. This isn't a job for them; this is what they do. This is their life. This is their lifestyle. The government has claimed, Mr. Speaker, that they will – and I love this – create a culture of safety. Incredibly disrespectful to farmers and ranchers, who have had a culture of safety for themselves and their families, their employees, their neighbours, their friends who help out, for hundreds of years. And this government thinks they can roll in, with an almost entirely urban caucus, and tell farmers and ranchers that they know better. Not so. Think, and think again, please. It's just disrespectful, and it's incredibly arrogant to actually take that attitude, and we've heard it repeatedly. You know, farmers and ranchers have enough problems feeding us. They bet on the weather. They work with world prices that they can't control. They don't need their government, that should be there protecting them, making it worse.

Mr. Speaker, now I'm going to spend a few minutes talking about democracy. You know, we came here to represent the people that voted for us. All of us did, on all sides of the House. This is probably the most reprehensible example of the exact opposite happening here. You know what? Thousands of people came out. They want safety. They have safety. I can tell you what: they actually want to sit down with the government and negotiate. They know that there

are no more rules, and they've offered and said that they'll sit down with the government and negotiate good rules. They've said it. You've heard them. You've ignored them, but you've heard them, and it's sad.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Alberta are watching this, and they are not impressed – I can tell you that right now – because Albertans are being ignored by the government. Education minister, I know that you don't like to listen to them. I know you're angry this morning, and you should be. Every Albertan, I'm sure, is on your tail, like they should be on everybody in your government. They're angry. I don't blame you for having your feelings hurt, but maybe you could do the right thing at the last opportunity and stop this craziness. Or you could keep chirping across the aisle because you don't want to listen to Albertans. This is serious.

Mr. Speaker, the fact remains that Albertans have made their message clear. This won't make farms any safer at all. It probably won't save a single life. Alberta's farms and ranches are amongst the safest in Canada. If you think you're going to save a life or an injury with this, you're fooling yourself. Here's what you are doing. You are causing farmers and ranchers to lose sleep. You're causing them to fear losing their farms and their ranches.

You know what else I find a little bit offensive, Mr. Speaker? The government has trotted out a couple of tragedies to make their point. I will give them credit; they're real tragedies. I feel terrible about them. Everybody should feel terrible about them. They are examples where people who have been killed or injured on farms have not gotten the support they need. It's really caused a tragedy for them and their families. They're real tragedies, and I feel bad about them, too.

But the reason that it's reprehensible is because they're telling Albertans that when they pass this legislation, that will never happen, and nothing could be farther from the truth. That happens where WCB and OH and S exist. I know it does. I spent several months as the Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour minister, and I can tell you about people with very similar stories, equally tragic, none of them funny – none of them should be taken lightly – that happened while working for places with WCB and OH and S coverage.

Again, the main arguments that the government has used to support this bill, Mr. Speaker, just do not hold water. Albertans know that. City Albertans know that. Farm and ranch Albertans know that. The government knows that, but they have some other agenda. It's obvious. It's obvious. Every argument that they've tried to make is based on bunk. I think that's a technical term, but I think it's parliamentary, so I'm choosing it instead of some of the other less parliamentary choices that I could make. Farmers and ranchers have made their feelings known. Farmers and ranchers want safety. Farmers and ranchers have offered themselves up, even while they're under attack by this government, to sit down with them and in a reasonable way negotiate new rules.

The government has already said – well, actually, like everything else, they've said a whole bunch of different things. But the official word is 18 to 24 months although one of the government members stood up in the House last night and said 12 to 18 months. We'll mostly take their word for it; we'll imagine that that person misspoke. The fact is, folks, that the government could actually stay on their schedule of 18 to 24 months. Sit down and talk to people, and wouldn't it be nice if you could shove it down our throats in six months, if you did that and have us support the bill after you talk to farmers and ranchers? Wouldn't that be a joy? Maybe you won't have farmers and ranchers losing sleep. Maybe you won't potentially have them committing suicide, and maybe you won't be giving them the false hope that you're going to prevent every injury and death that happens in the future.

It's time to honour the wishes of the people that elected us to be here. The vast majority of Albertans do not want this bill to go forward. The message is clear. The only ones that don't seem to be getting the message I'm looking across the aisle at. It's maybe time to do the right thing, and that's my request.

The Speaker: Are there any questions for the hon. member under 29(2)(a)? The hon. Member for Peace River.

9:50

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I've been here in this House as we've debated Bill 6 for every single one of the more than 25 hours, and I'm glad to finally have a chance to speak. You know, I'm tired.

The Speaker: Hon. member, are you under 29(2)(a)?

Ms Jabbour: Oh, I apologize. No.

The Speaker: Anyone under 29(2)(a)?

Proceed, hon. member.

Ms Jabbour: I will continue. Sorry. I thought it was my time.

Anyway, as I said, I am tired. I am tired of the rhetoric, the fear-mongering, the half-truths that we're hearing from the opposition, and I'm tired of the false accusations that I cannot possibly represent the farmers in my constituency unless I agree with your point of view. I am tired of the accusation that I can't possibly understand farmers.

You know something? I spent most of my growing up years on our family farm out by Hairy Hill. I rode a stoneboat with my grandfather and my uncle every year. I went into the chicken coop with my grandmother. I helped collect eggs. I even followed it through and plucked chickens and did all that fun stuff, canning with my grandmother and my mom. I helped my grandmother feed the threshing crew every year. I helped feed the pigs, the cows. I helped my grandmother churn butter because that's how we did it back then, right from scratch. I did all these things. When we were forced to sell our family farm, I mourned because I wanted my children to have the same experience as me. I value the family farm, and I understand and appreciate the culture. I would never support anything that would destroy that.

You know what? My grandfather was big on safety. I think he coined the phrase: "Don't do that. You'll put out an eye." Honestly. But as kids we still did dangerous things. I remember that we sat in the granary, and wheat would pour in, and as kids we'd just push it around, play in it. I am sick now thinking that we did that. Children die doing that. Somehow we survived, thank God. But things have changed on the farm. We got away with some of those things because back then we didn't have the high-tech equipment. Farms are very, very different now, and the safety culture has to change along with that because farms have become more modern. They use mechanical equipment that didn't even exist back then. They've become far more dangerous places.

This reminds me a lot about the debate on seat belts. You know, the hon. Member for St. Albert last night spoke about going back through *Hansards*. I had the opportunity to read *Hansards* from many years ago. The debate on seat belts was huge. There was so much opposition. I myself remember that I was against it because when I learned to drive, we didn't have seat belts. I would sit in the car, I'd put my little child right behind my arm, and that's how I'd drive, keeping her safe. I would hit the brakes, and I'd go like this. That was what I understood safety to be because we didn't have seat belts. When they came in, people argued: "Oh, this is terrible. This is going to destroy our ability to drive and our freedom and our

rights.” But you know what? Seat belts came in, and it was the right thing to do.

Bill 6 is enhancing a culture of safety on farms, and this is not an insult to farmers. We know farmers put a priority on safety. This legislation will support and enhance that. While it only applies to paid farm workers, all are going to benefit from improved awareness and attention to safety and elevated safety standards. My constituents believe in farm safety, and they’re supportive of paid farm workers having the same workplace protections as farm workers across Canada, the same workplace protections that every other worker enjoys.

You know, I’ve been really upset on behalf of my constituents, initially because there was confusion and misinformation, and our government has accepted responsibility for that. That upset me, but once the misunderstandings were cleared up and they understood what the intent of the bill was, the attitudes changed. They understood that the family farm was not going to be negatively impacted, and my constituents are supportive because they believe in farm safety.

What was more upsetting to me was the way the Official Opposition stirred farmers up with misinformation and half-truths. You are the ones who created angst and tears among our family farm members because you led them to believe something very different from the truth.

I want my constituents to know that I have spoken up on their behalf, and I will continue to do so. I raised their concerns with caucus and with the minister, and as everybody can attest, I have been very vocal. Consultation is ongoing. We have been very clear about that. It has been happening for many years. Consultation has been happening, and it will continue to happen. I promise my constituents that I will continue to work on their behalf. I will bring their concerns forward, and I will hold my government to account, making sure that we keep our promises regarding this bill. My constituents will be consulted, and my constituents will have input on the regulations as we go forward.

I support Bill 6 because it will finally give basic workers’ rights to farm workers, and it will improve safety on both large industrial farms and, in fact, all farms. I know my constituents also support those concepts of safety. I promise my constituents that I will advocate for them, and I will never support anything that threatens the culture and way of life of the family farm. Bill 6 will not destroy the family farm. Family farms continued to thrive across Canada when safety legislation was brought in, and they will continue to thrive in Alberta under this legislation.

So when I vote for Bill 6, I will be standing up for my constituents. I will be standing up on behalf of family farms, I will be standing up for the safety of paid farm workers, I will be standing up to protect farm employers, and – God forbid – should an accident occur, they will be protected. I will be standing up for farm workers in my constituency, who deserve the same right to a safe workplace that every other paid worker in Alberta receives.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [some applause]

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Any questions under 29(2)(a)?

Hearing none, the Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s an honour to be in this august Chamber, as we’ve heard those words, and it’s indeed a privilege to rise, as I’ve said before, as a lifetime agrarian or farmer and to hear our Chamber’s Deputy Speaker from Peace River exhibit her heartfelt beliefs.

I would like to respond to it in a fashion that was presented to me by my compatriot here from Drayton Valley-Devon. We were talking about the effects and the presentations of Bill 6 in regard to

communication and why we would as anglos, speaking primarily English, not understand one another. The Member for Drayton Valley-Devon talked about his life experiences as a teacher, where he was trying to communicate his ideas. It seems we are miscommunicating. Why would that be? How can that be? We are here under a democratic process to try and adversarially communicate our ideas, but we’re miscommunicating them.

I certainly appreciate the emotion of the Member for Peace River. You know, at the risk of some consternation from my caucus mates, I, too, would applaud the Member for Peace River for her heartfelt dissertation. It’s well appreciated.

But we are, Mr. Speaker, in many ways miscommunicating. Why would thousands of Albertans approach this august Chamber in discontent? It wasn’t singularly by the actions of this caucus. The Member for Peace River commented about miscommunication by this government in bringing forward their policy.

This amendment that we are speaking to, Mr. Speaker, talks about that this not be read for a third time but six months hence. Those are not exactly the words, but it talks about pushing the pause or the reset button on this. I do know that there are some 11 to 15 members in the government, including the Member for Peace River, who have direct agricultural background, direct agricultural experience. Why are we miscommunicating here?

Madam Speaker – or Mr. Speaker. I’m sorry. I’m looking at the Deputy Speaker. But I was going to . . .

10:00

The Speaker: Hon. member, I just want to mention, with respect, that when you’re referring to the member, she’s sitting as an MLA, not as the Deputy Speaker. I appreciate that.

Mr. Strankman: I’m fully aware of that: the Member for Peace River, Mr. Speaker. I’m apologizing for that.

The Speaker: Correct. Thank you.

Mr. Strankman: I was going to try and rise on a point of humour and relate to my member’s statement that I gave I believe it was two days ago now. The time is running together here now. I was talking about the principle of co-operation. That is the hallmark of the NDP government. In fact, I tried to bring in a private member’s bill using almost word for word, verbatim, the previous government, and because of miscommunication – and there are members across who will agree and know full well what I’m talking about – the bill got put to committee. How did that happen? Why are we miscommunicating? We’re adults here. We’re representatives in 87 different ways throughout the province. We are the representatives of those people. And we are here miscommunicating? I’m short of words, but I’m going to continue on.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other things that I wanted to rise and talk about was how change occurs. This government has a mandate, an elected mandate, to bring forward some of their policies, and that’s absolutely within their purview. It’s absolutely within the purview of this government. But change does not necessarily occur – and I’ve talked about that before – from within. It does not occur from within this Chamber; it comes from without.

The people that are standing on those steps, many of them – and they will know because the sheriffs in this place know that I specifically went out there to make sure that there was no violence, that there were no undue things. I like to think that I’m on a first-name basis with the sheriffs. I’ve been on a first-name basis with some sheriffs at another time and place, when I had a little rash on my wrists from my disobedience, thinking that civil disobedience was the way to bring about change. It’s not. The legal change occurs in here.

You can do all sorts of radical things outside – and we’ve seen that – not necessarily illegal but people expressing their opinions, without the province, in rallies and gatherings and e-mails. We’ve had stacks of letters and petitions coming forward, people expressing their opinion to this august Chamber. So why are we miscommunicating? They’re not doing it in a vengeful fashion. We are presenting, in our role to this Chamber, the opinions of the people.

I have great consternation about how this government is operating. Members opposite have said, cabinet ministers have said that we have 200 government agencies, boards, and commissions that are to be reviewed. One of them happens to be in my constituency. It’s called the Special Areas Board. The Minister of Municipal Affairs will know that it’s a corporation of the government. It’s not a Crown corporation, but it’s a corporation of the government.

These all need to be reviewed, so we need to learn how to communicate as representatives of those people out there in 87 different ways. We need to learn how to positively bring this together. If we continue to miscommunicate, it’s going to rise in raucous discussions. Members both on this side of the House and the opposite side of the House have openly and horribly embarrassed themselves with their emotions. We need to be professional about this. It’s something that’s unacceptable. We need to bring this forward in a respectful manner. That is all we are trying to do here, Mr. Speaker. We are trying to listen. This side of the House is trying to present the opinions of those who are outside this Chamber and as representatives within this Chamber. That’s our role and responsibility.

Just to go back, reset a little bit, the Member for Peace River talked about her life experiences. One of the things that came up through indirect questioning at a Bassano rally was the idea of grandfathering in or bringing things in, and the minister of agriculture wasn’t able to definitively answer the question because the regulations haven’t been formulated yet. There’s no accountability to the formulation of the regulations. The Member for Peace River gave a heartfelt dissertation, and I take the member for the worth that’s presented, and I take the emotion to my heart. But when those regulations are created – the Member for Fort McMurray-Conklin, the Leader of the Official Opposition, talked about building codes, for example. It’s a small example. But what about the barns? What about the buildings? What about the grain augers, whatever it may be, on these farms that may not now be within code? Will those farms, effectively, be devalued because they don’t pass this regulation, because they only hire one farm worker a year? We brought forward amendments allowing for up to five.

I spoke one time using the example of Saskatchewan. It’s not meant to be negative to the farm workers. It’s with the greatest respect to the farm workers because, statistically, to the understanding of this side of the Chamber, Alberta does not have a horribly – it’s within statistics. Alberta is within the same statistics as other jurisdictions that are equal for safety regulations.

So there are unintended consequences to this type of legislation. We’re not trying to be vehement to the government. We simply want to present our ideas, and we present these ideas in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, with great risk when we talk about trying to bring forward these amendments that may have unintended consequences. That’s why 19 different farm organizations, stakeholders, the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, and others have come forward saying that they would like to have further input. That input was being progressed with by the third party in this Chamber, but when this government came into effect, there was some sort of a tectonic shift of the plates and then this miscommunication that happened, and the government is going ahead with their farm worker legislation, singularly. It’s well

respected, well understood that it’s completely within their mandate.

But why are we having all these people standing outside? Are they all in some situation where they cannot understand? I find that extremely hard to believe. So I implore the government to take a listen, to take a look, and I implore, particularly, the 11 to 15 members, not unlike the Member for Peace River, who have farmers who may have their farmsteads, through unintended consequences, Mr. Speaker, devalued, for example, because of the potential implication of this legislation that’s coming forward. It’s something to cause pause for thought.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any questions of the Member for Drumheller-Stettler under 29(2)(a)?

Hearing none, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 6.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

10:10 Government Motions

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Time Allocation on Bill 6

28. Mr. Mason moved:

Be it resolved that when further consideration of Bill 6, Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act, is resumed, not more than one hour shall be allotted to any further consideration of the bill in third reading, at which time every question necessary for the disposal of the bill at this stage shall be put forthwith.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do not need to take more time of the Assembly to discuss this matter. All of the issues related to this were canvassed when a similar motion was made at second reading, so I have nothing further to add.

The Speaker: The House leader for the Official Opposition.

Mr. Cooper: Well, Mr. Speaker, it’s with great frustration, sorrow, disappointment, disgust – the list goes on and on and on – that I rise today to speak absolutely, unequivocally, one hundred per cent against this motion of closure. Only a few short months ago this government was elected on a message of a new way of doing things, on change, on openness, on transparency, on a new Alberta, a better Alberta, but less than eight months later we are exactly back where we were prior to this election.

Mr. Speaker, it baffles me how it’s possible. We heard the Government House Leader earlier today talk about how the opposition wants to talk out of both sides of their mouth: “Oh, we’ve had lots of hours of debate. We haven’t; we have. We’ve had lots of people that could speak to all stages of the bill.” This morning we have had three – three – speakers to third reading of a bill that will drastically change much about the way that farmers and ranchers operate clear across this province, all at a time when the Government House Leader says: we’ve had lots of time for debate. Three speakers. There are 22 members of this Wildrose caucus, and the vast majority of them represent farmers and ranchers, and I can tell you that what they would love to do today is rise out of their seat and speak to the needs and to the concerns of every one of their constituents.

But what do we have, Mr. Speaker? A government that's running roughshod over the thousands and thousands of farmers and ranchers across Alberta. Over 30,000 ranchers and farmers and urbanites and folks right clear across this province asked this government to stop, to slow down, to consult. We presented that petition yesterday in this House. And what did we have last night at midnight? Invoking closure while the opposition was proposing solutions and ideas. Now this morning, after a mere hour of debate in third reading, we have this government invoking closure on a bill that they are trying to run and hide from.

It's not just me, Mr. Speaker – it's not just me – that is disappointed in this government. It's not just the 30,000 people that signed the petition. It's not the overwhelming majority of farmers and ranchers. It includes people that also have a voice in this province in the form of the media. I'd like to just take a very brief moment to speak about that from an article in the *Edmonton Journal* dated December 9.

Officially it's called "time allocation" – a banal sounding expression like the title of a book written by an efficiency expert. More commonly it's called "closure" – which sounds vaguely like something has been resolved amicably. Both are euphemisms. It should be called the "legislative lynching" or maybe the "governmental guillotine" – a tool used by government to strangle, or cut off completely, debate in the Alberta legislature.

Alberta's NDP government used it this week to choke debate over Bill 6, the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act.

Those aren't my words, sir, although they are just as strong as I would love to use here in this place.

The Government House Leader has risen in his place in the past to speak about this. It's very disappointing.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

[The voice vote indicated that Government Motion 28 carried]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 10:16 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Anderson, S.	Gray	Miller
Carlier	Hinkley	Miranda
Carson	Hoffman	Payne
Ceci	Horne	Piquette
Connolly	Jabbour	Renaud
Coolahan	Kleinstauber	Rosendahl
Cortes-Vargas	Larivee	Sabir
Dach	Littlewood	Schmidt
Dang	Loyola	Sigurdson
Drever	Luff	Sucha
Eggen	Malkinson	Sweet
Feehan	Mason	Turner
Ganley	McCuaig-Boyd	Westhead
Goehring	McPherson	

10:20

Against the motion:

Aheer	Hunter	Rodney
Anderson, W.	Jansen	Schneider
Barnes	Jean	Smith
Cooper	Loewen	Starke
Cyr	MacIntyre	Stier

Drysdale	McIver	Strankman
Ellis	Nixon	Taylor
Fildebrandt	Orr	van Dijken
Gotfried	Panda	Yao
Hanson	Pitt	
Totals:	For – 41	Against – 29

[Government Motion 28 carried]

Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

Bill 6

Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act (continued)

[Adjourned debate December 10: Mr. Schmidt]

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield the rest of my time.

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

Dr. Starke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must confess that as this bill has progressed through the House, I struggled with what I would say in third reading. I spoke on second reading, I spoke on the referral motion, and I spoke in the debates on a couple of the amendments. I thought to myself: what could I possibly add in third reading that hasn't already been said? What perspective could I possibly offer that hasn't been introduced? I struggled with that. As a lot of us are, we're running on a little bit less sleep than we might be otherwise accustomed to.

What I returned to were some comments made by the hon. Member for West Yellowhead yesterday, and I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that that's why we have the debates in this House: perspectives. There are jewels and nuggets in what people say on both sides of the House that can trigger thought, that can trigger us to become better legislators. The Member for West Yellowhead was very passionate in stating that this is about fundamental human rights, that this bill is about ensuring the absolute fundamental human right of a worker to refuse work, and it's about protecting vulnerable paid farm workers. When he said the term "human rights," I thought of our colleague the hon. Member for Calgary-Greenway because he was recognized as the most passionate defender of human rights in our caucus. I thought to myself: what would Meeta say?

Of course, since we aren't able to ask him, we go back to past notes, and I brought out the notes from his speech on third reading, pages 269 and 270 of *Hansard*. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to copy the speech and keep it in my desk because it reminds us of what the strongest advocate for human rights would say. What he said on that night is:

There are proud, proud people in Alberta with strong conservative values and an entrepreneurial spirit that will ensure that [the] wrongs are corrected. They will ensure that these wrongs are corrected.

He went on – and he was redressing the government – to say:

You best be prepared to make sure people have income and that strong, dignified people that are used to working for themselves, to making a go of their own entrepreneurial pursuits, are not left to rely on the charity of others.

Mr. Speaker, I had the best seat in the House when the Member for Calgary-Greenway gave that speech. I was sitting here. He went on to quote a Punjabi expression about the strength of my own chest. I have tremendous, tremendous faith in the farmers and ranchers of Alberta because I know the strength of their chests. I

know that they're a strong, resilient people, and I know that they will come through this.

I also know those people, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the right to refuse dangerous work. They find this suggestion baffling because whenever I ask them about the right to refuse dangerous work, they tell me two things: "If I know the situation is dangerous, I would never put an employee of mine in that position. That's my job." I know that if you're in a leadership position, if you are in an employer position, that is typical of what happens, not just on the farm. I know that if we had a nasty dog or a cranky cat or a cow that wanted to kill you, I would never say to an associate: you want to go look after that cow? Never. I would take on that risk, that responsibility myself. You don't delegate stuff like that. When we say that workers should have the right to refuse dangerous work, most farmers I talked to looked at me and said: well, no, they don't have to refuse it because I don't ask them to do it.

The second area, protecting vulnerable paid farm workers. Well, the truth of that, Mr. Speaker, is that in many, many cases across the province that is already being done. That is being done by the forward-thinking, concerned employers that employ farm workers in this province. They look after their employees. They look after them because they have to. The labour market is very competitive, and they know that labour is mobile, that these labourers can work anywhere they want.

The real tragedy, in my view, of Bill 6 is that just about everybody I've talked to agrees on those principles. They agree that farm workers should be able to refuse unsafe work. We get that. We agree with the government on that. We get that farm workers should have basic rights to be protected in the event of injury or in the event of a fatality. We get that. Farmers get that. We agree with you. If we could somehow, through skilful crafting of legislation, confine what we're talking about to those issues, this issue would have been looked after, and we could have all said: we have done good work for Albertans. We would be satisfied with that, and I would suggest that we would all be very pleased with that.

The problem with this legislation is that it goes on to do many, many, many other things, and that is the issue here. It's those other things that this legislation does, that have been put out there to the farmers and then retracted. Then they said that it's a misunderstanding, and then they said: no, it's not a misunderstanding. All of the confusion that was created initially by the government: has some of it been added to for political purposes? That's right, too. The Member for Peace River was right. That has happened as well. You know, quite frankly, it does us all as legislators a disservice when we do that, all of us. It does a disservice when we say more than what is there, when we distort what is really there, and when we talk about the intent differently.

You know, I have tried as best I can, whenever I've addressed this issue and this bill, to stay away from the partisan side of things. This is not an issue about parties. This is not an issue, as some have suggested, that will unite the right. This is an issue that should be uniting what's right, not the right, and that is why there is support for this measure not just in the Official Opposition, not just in our caucus but also from the Alberta Party and from Albertans across this province regardless of political stripe. The legislation, simply put, goes too far. Even though the government has done everything in its power to correct some of the misconceptions, to correct some of the things that are now no longer a part of it, to move the amendment that did provide some clarification – and that is why I voted for that amendment – the problem was that there needed to be much more of that, and the problem was that this government needed to recognize that it had responsibility for the misunderstanding it created. Because of that, you have broken the trust of the farmers and ranchers in this

province. When you make that error – and you've acknowledged that error – when that error is made, you must pause the legislation and give time to at least try to make it right.

10:30

The speed at which this is going through, for the, admittedly, noble cause of protecting vulnerable farm and ranch workers that do not have protection – and it is a noble cause. It's a cause I agree with. But in attempting to do that, you have gone too far. You have stretched too far, and you have extended the consequences of this legislation far beyond what you even intended. When that error was pointed out to you, you said: oh, no, no, no; that wasn't our intention. I get that, but that is still what is believed in rural Alberta. So it is your duty as the government, because we cannot convince you to do that, to recognize that you're in error.

It is your duty to recognize that you have to push the pause button. We gave, I think, eight different opportunities to improve this legislation, to change this legislation, to show the people of Alberta that, yes, you are listening and that you are consulting with them as you have promised you would, and you voted them all down. You voted down every single amendment that would have improved this legislation. I ask you: given that you've done that, why should anyone in Alberta believe you that you're going to listen going forward? Why should anyone in Alberta have any confidence that the consultation going forward, the consultation that will happen after the legislation is passed because you would not delay either the legislation or the coming-into-force date – why should they believe you now? Your actions last night spoke louder than words. You rejected every amendment that would have improved, that would have been amendments that, yes, were proposed by members on this side of the House, but they weren't our amendments; they were amendments that came from the people.

Mr. Speaker, it's our job as legislators at times to put aside the political, and that's what I've tried to do this morning. I've tried to think about my friend. I've tried to think about: what would Meeta say? I'm going to actually, quite frankly, use him as something that is going to inspire me. I know that he did, and he will continue to do so.

I'm speaking on behalf of the people that have contacted me, the 80-year-old grandfather who has 30 cows left, some of whom in cow years are just as old as he is in human years. He goes out every morning to feed them and every night to feed them, and if it wasn't for those cows, he'd have no reason to live. He's told me that. He's said: if I don't feed those cows – they get me out of bed in the morning; they give me a reason to live. But if we force a bunch of legislation on him – and you're saying: oh, no, no; we're not doing that. Well, that's not what your original legislation and not what the original documentation said. If grandpa read that documentation, he still believes it because he wants to trust his government. In order to undo that wrong, you need time, and you're not giving yourself time.

The husband and wife who work two jobs, one in Lloydminster and one in Mannville, and are driving back and forth between a job that they hold in Lloydminster and the farm that they have in Mannville, are now worried how this is going to affect them because they hire and pay not a neighbour but a friend, who works on the farm because they can't always be there. They're worried about how a carbon tax is going to affect the fact that they have to drive 82 kilometres both ways virtually every single day to look after their farm.

The gentleman that contacted me, that sent me a picture of four generations of his family, along with a neighbour had gotten on their horses to bring the cows home in the fall. He says: according to my reading of the information from this government, we won't

be able to do this anymore. They're worried about their lifestyle, and you have to understand that they're proud of that lifestyle. I think you do. I think you understand that. I'm not going to say that, oh, because you're from the city, you have no comprehension. I don't think that's right. I think you understand that. I think that in your heart of hearts you understand that.

But these are the people that I feel for, you know, the groups of friends and neighbours. The hon. Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock talked about it. These stories happen every year in Alberta where someone is hurt, someone can't finish doing the harvest, and the neighbours all come and do it for him. That happens all the time. And you know what? That happens not just in rural Alberta; it happens in urban Alberta. It's because that's who we are. That's being Albertan. Quite frankly, when we politicize these issues rather than working together as legislators to try to improve legislation, basically, it demeans us and it makes us less in discharging our responsibility for doing what we are supposed to do.

Mr. Speaker, I will be voting against this piece of legislation. I will vote against this legislation because I believe this legislation is wrong for Albertans. I believe that although well intentioned and although the things that are trying to be accomplished in terms of the insurance are basic human rights that nobody disagrees with, if it had been confined to that, then we could have all agreed, and we would have righted something that should have been corrected a long time ago. I get that. But, unfortunately, the approach that the government has taken has been far too broad stroked, far too broad handed, far too ham handed. As I said last night, you have not adopted a surgical approach to this, and because you've failed to do that, because you've put out misinformation, that it was then – I will say it – multiplied and increased, but the initial source of that information was the government.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote against Bill 6 in third reading as I have throughout, and I will say to my constituents back home that I was proud to do it.

My final comment on this issue is that last Saturday in Vermilion we had a town hall, and one of my constituents, somebody that probably, you know, wants to remain anonymous, spoke against this. He just begged me to vote against this bill. That I am proud to do today, and I would urge everyone on both sides of the House to vote against this bill.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Under 29(2)(a) are there any questions of the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster?

Mr. Strankman: One quick question to the member. Can he imbue the House a little more with comments where he talked about the rural fabric, like the 80-year-old constituent that he has, please?

Dr. Starke: Well, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question, but I think in the interest of letting other members talk and given that our time is limited, I'm just going to say that I'm proud of that fabric. I'm so grateful that, since I grew up in the city, I've had a chance to live in that fabric. I'll tell you right now that while I live in Edmonton four days a week and this is where I grew up, Edmonton isn't my home anymore. My home is in the country.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Anyone under 29(2)(a)?

The hon. Member for Highwood.

Mr. W. Anderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, finally I get to rise and speak about Bill 6 in third reading. I've been quietly sitting back here and contemplating and listening to most of you people

talk about Bill 6, and I'm proud to be part of my Wildrose caucus opposing Bill 6.

I want to talk about "fearmongering," the word that came out this morning. I'm quite curious about that because in my constituency, in the little town of Okotoks, this government had an information session and only booked 100 seats in the auditorium. Well, a thousand farmers showed up with short notice: combines, tractors, and opposed to Bill 6. They were opposed to Bill 6 based on logic and reason, not rhetoric and ideology. So I take offence to this "fearmongering" because we didn't call that meeting, they did, but we responded effectively. Legislation without consultation is not democracy.

Now, I grew up on a farm, and I've seen a few more sunrises than most of the folks in this House. I grew up on a farm, and in the '50s we'd just gotten electricity. We didn't have indoor plumbing. We didn't have running water. You talk about fearmongering. When your outdoor toilet is 300 yards from the house in the middle of winter, that's fearmongering.

I'll tell you that I'm very proud of the Albertans that have shown up at the Legislature, in halls, in church basements, opposed to Bill 6. They're not afraid of Bill 6. They just ask to be heard, and they haven't gotten the answers they deserve. My constituents are extremely frustrated, saying: when we asked direct questions of the ministers who showed up, they did not provide us with answers. This government even admitted that they misled folks, saying: oh, we blame it on the bureaucrats; it's the bureaucrats' fault. Well, it's easy to pass the buck that way. It's just not fair. Ideology, rhetoric without logic or reason is not the way to legislate. It's not fair to Albertans, it's not fair to my farmers, friends, and it's not fair to my constituents.

10:40

I for one am extremely disappointed with that side of the House. Tens of thousands of people have stood at the steps of this Legislature, in halls, in constituencies, in communities saying: "We are opposed. Slow this process down. We deserve to be heard." Well, you never listened to them. You haven't listened to them. And 24 hours of debate is significantly not enough. We need more time. We need more effort. We need more consultation with the citizens in my constituency. Albertans deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I'm extremely disappointed sitting back here as one of the more elderly statesmen, if you will, listening to these young people who sit around with their \$8 lattes talking about dirty oil, climate change issues, royalty reviews, carbon tax. Let's talk about the true fabric of our province, the farmers. This is a complete dismantling of a way of life.

Let me put it in perspective. This is not about farm safety. One of my constituents pointed out to me that more people in Canada are injured or die from bicycle accidents. Wow. So what are we going to do, legislate bicycles now? Come on. This is not about farm safety. This is rhetoric. This is ideology.

I am opposed to Bill 6. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any questions for the hon. member under 29(2)(a)?

Hearing none, the hon. Member for Little Bow.

Mr. Schneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to Bill 6, the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act. I would consider this a depressing day or a disappointing day in this House, but I will continue. Everyone knows the word "enhanced." You've heard the word. It's a buzzword of people that would advertise. It's something that draws you to something, that makes you feel like you want to get involved and purchase something or get involved in that. I would buy something that was enhanced, and I expect you would, too.

But, Mr. Speaker, when I read through the sweeping, broad, undefined changes contained in this bill, it's clear to see that it's not enhancing much. If anything, the way that it has been so hastily thrown together with no input, sir, from farmers – no input from farmers; there's none given – it is a detriment to the lives of the men, women, and children who live on a family farm and ranch. At first reading of this bill the Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour introduced Bill 6 as an omnibus bill. Then on November 27 the minister released a statement in an attempt to do some damage control, saying that “the legislation provides two simple things.” Number one, a paid farm worker can say no “to something dangerous.” Number two, if the paid farm worker is “hurt or killed at work, they or their family can be compensated.”

In Vegreville on Tuesday of this week the Minister of Economic Development and Trade reiterated several times that the government wanted to ensure that farm families were protected. Many participants at the meeting in Vegreville stated that they also wanted to ensure that their employees were protected. That is why they carry private insurance, because they have a choice. What they want, Mr. Speaker – and I think this House has only heard it maybe 300,000 times in the last 24 hours. I understand we've talked about this for 24 hours. Farmers want choice on this. They want the choice to be able to use the insurance that is, at the very least, exactly the same as WCB and, in most cases, more enhanced for less money. They are generally concerned that they are now forced to carry WCB as opposed to what they would feel is superior insurance.

In fact, some of their employees have also expressed concerns they have with WCB. The staff are worried. I received two letters myself while I was standing in Bassano in the Strathmore-Brooks riding. Two employees came up to me and handed me letters that they wanted me to table in the House, which I've done. They're very concerned. They're concerned about how the hours will work out now and how they'll get the work done that they want so that they can take care of their families.

If the Premier's true intent is simply to provide farm and ranch employees protection, she could have accomplished this with a much simpler bill. Instead, Mr. Speaker, she's chosen to introduce omnibus Bill 6, with changes to the Employment Standards Code, the Labour Relations Code, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and workers' compensation regulations. She has chosen to introduce a bill so wide open to interpretation that no Albertan can really know what the Premier's true intentions are. And what will come next? That's the question: what is next? This is an issue of trust. What were the Premier's true intentions?

By no means is it necessary to implement changes to four pieces of legislation in order to ensure that farm and ranch employees receive proper protection. Many operators already carry private insurance – I've already said it – and they're asking for choice. Others voluntarily use WCB. That's the choice. Something is being taken away with this bill, Mr. Speaker. That's not democracy.

Mr. Speaker, this government is expecting Alberta farmers and ranchers to trust the government as they develop common-sense regulations. Alberta farmers and ranchers have spoken loud and clear. They do not trust this government. They do not trust a government that has little or no experience in agriculture. They do not trust that this government possesses any common sense when it comes to the life on the family farm or in those farming communities, where I'm from, where many of my members are from, and where some of the NDP members come from. They are certainly not prepared to give free rein to a government that has broken their trust on this issue.

The Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour said, “Our legislation allows us the flexibility to develop common-sense

regulations.” In other words, Mr. Speaker, the legislation as it stands allows this government the flexibility to do whatever they want after Bill 6 is passed. Nobody in their right mind would agree to that. This government needs to develop the regulations first and prove to the farmers and ranchers that they can trust this government. Trust is earned – trust is earned – not demanded.

Protection for farm employees: fine. But Bill 6 is an attack on the family farm, our way of life, our Alberta family farm culture, and our freedom. In communities across Alberta, culture, as you know, Mr. Speaker, matters. Culture is the window through which the rest of the world sees our province, and it is a beautiful window today. In our farming and ranching communities that culture is a culture of togetherness, of neighbours helping neighbours in times of need, and of an honest day's work. We already heard the member to my left, who had himself been in a hospital for three weeks, and the neighbours came and helped him out and did his job for him. That's what people do. That's what farmers do.

I believe that protection for farm and ranch workers is the right thing to do, but to impose this legislation onto the family farms and ranches is beyond excessive. This government needs to listen to the farmers and ranchers and their employees, that are speaking, and nobody's listening. That's the feeling they get. Good grief, how many letters and e-mails and petitions and who knows what are telling us: we don't trust, we just want to be heard, and we want choice. If Bill 6 truly is about protecting the farm and ranch employees – is it? We won't know that. I guess we're not going to know that for about 18 months.

Mr. Speaker, the minister stated on November 25, in this Assembly:

I think that we can all agree. These folks . . .

those folks being farmers and ranchers,

. . . face enough uncertainty without having to worry about what would happen to their families if they were injured or, worse, killed on the job. When most Albertans go to bed at night, they don't need to worry about that, and that's because most of us are covered by laws that protect our health and safety on the job.

I do not agree with this fearful, misleading, and, I would say, fearmongering characterization of the realities of farm life.

The Minister of Justice stood here last night and talked about an employer – it could be me – telling my employee to stick his arm inside that running machine and take a block of wood out. That's in *Hansard*, man; I checked the Blues. It's all there. This is the fearmongering I'm talking about.

While safety is the goal of every single farmer I know, they also know what would happen in the event of an accident. Their community would be there in full force to help. We've witnessed it over and over.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 6 as it stands should not be made into law. The family farm is a cornerstone of Alberta's way of life. The blend of personal and business time is inseparable. Bill 6 is a travesty being forced on our rural communities by those with no understanding of the issues – no understanding of the issues – and, as amply demonstrated by their actions, no willingness to listen.

I cannot stand by and watch a way of life and the way of life of so many friends and relatives be impacted so drastically and negatively by a bill so thoughtlessly crafted. For my constituents and the constituents across Alberta that have written me and my fellow MLAs because their NDP MLAs will not return their calls or e-mails, I will not vote for this bill.

10:50

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any questions for the hon. Member for Little Bow under 29(2)(a)?

Hearing none, I would recognize the Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's been lots of talk, and last night I did hear – first of all, I'm grateful to be able to speak to this, and I'll try to be brief out of respect for others who wish to speak. Last night it was mentioned by our opposition that he had checked resumé's of us and did not find information about farming, and that would be true in my case. My resumé would not say that I married into a family. We spent 28 years as a cow-calf operator. I do understand farming. My adult children are who they are today because of farming. As you can see, this has become emotional for me.

This past week we have received many calls, some in support, some not, but a climate has been created where people are afraid to speak. I myself was somewhat concerned to go home last week. I do know now what it's like to be cyberbullied. I do know what it's like to have threats.

I do want to speak about the concerns of moving forward. I have had offers from farmers in my area about being part of the solution. That's what I want to speak to. We've adopted amendments that clarified our intention to cover wage earners under this legislation. We are not protecting kids on family farms. Sorry. You're not. The legislation covers wage earners who are not farm owners. If there's an accident and a child is injured, there are other mechanisms to investigate. If a child is injured at their home, it does not attract OH and S investigation. Other investigations would occur.

Moving forward, I want you to know that I commit to being part of consultations for these regulations, and I would invite members of all parties to be part of the same solution. We have choices moving forward. We can continue to stir and fearmonger and provide misinformation, or we can all agree to work together to provide the best input we can for these future regulations. We can dwell in the past for political reasons, or we can move forward for Albertans and for our constituents. We need to hold all of us accountable and move forward. We need to stand up for all farms. We will be judged in the future – that's true – but we will be judged by our actions, what we do and what we don't do for Albertans, so I invite all of us to work together moving forward to make sure that we get these regulations right for our constituents and for Albertans.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. members, on all sides of this House we have all felt and seen emotion, and I think that's a statement for all of you of the degree to which you care.

The hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Minister of Energy for her heartfelt comments. I think it is truly a reflection that even on an issue that has been divisive as this, there is much that unites us. We all want what's best for farmers and ranchers. We all want to improve farm safety, and much as we passionately disagree on what has happened in these last weeks, I thank the minister for her comments. I think they were very well received.

I had prepared remarks for right now, but because closure has been invoked, debate has been limited. I'm not going to be able to give them because I want to give my colleagues in this caucus a chance to speak. We're going to have to limit how long our remarks are on third reading on this bill so that we all get a chance to speak or as many of us as possible. Most of this caucus still hasn't had a chance to speak to third reading, so I'm not going to be able to deliver my prepared remarks, which enunciate my concerns about this bill, at this stage. So I'm going to have to wing it a bit, Mr. Speaker, with all the danger that comes with doing so.

As the Minister of Energy has passionately put it, we all want what's best for farmers and ranchers, on all sides of the House. The

problem has been how the government has gone about it. The problem has been that the government has legislated first, regulated second, and consulted third. That is not how responsible democracies make laws. That is not how responsible elected representatives reflect the will of their constituents.

My office has been overwhelmed by the e-mails and phone calls from constituents not just in Strathmore-Brooks but in constituencies across Alberta, particularly rural and semirural constituencies held by members on the government side of this House, farmers and ranchers who have been looking for a voice, someone who would articulate what they have to say, looking for their representatives to stand up for them. I have heard members on our side – the Member for Little Bow, the Member for Drumheller-Stettler, neighbours of my constituency – speak up passionately for farmers and ranchers because they are farmers and ranchers. They live and they breathe agriculture. They get it. They understand what we need to be doing here.

Our caucus, the Official Opposition, has put forward consistently constructive amendments and proposals to fix this bill. First, we proposed sending it to a committee, where we can study it. We would not have had half the debate on this bill in this House that we have had if we could have just sent it to a committee for fulsome discussion, to call witnesses and discuss it. We proposed delaying the bill for a few months, after the government rejected a committee, to hit the pause button, let the temperature come down, take a log off the fire, let the temperatures come down both in this House and outside this House, but that was rejected. The Official Opposition and the third party put forward constructive and positive amendments to the bill in the Committee of the Whole. Every single one of those amendments was shot down by the government merely because we are the opposition. That is not the way a responsible Legislature functions. We have tried to make this bill work for Albertans.

11:00

Now, eventually we got amendments out of the government. They said that these amendments were just clarifying what they wanted to do all along. Mr. Speaker, I've got to call the government out on that one. The details that were released in the town tells at Grande Prairie and on the government's own websites directly contradict what they're saying. They did intend to impose punitive regulations on the family farm that would cover even farm kids. It would cover volunteers. They blamed it on miscommunication, but it was not. They were just telling Albertans what the bill originally intended to do. It went too far, and it was draconian. It was what we were worried about and warning about. But under pressure from the thousands of farm workers who stood outside of this House on the steps of the Legislature and the Official Opposition, the government eventually backed down.

Now, the bill that is going forward, that is being rammed through this House after debate closure, is still a bad bill. It is bad not just in its contents but because it has still not listened to Albertans. But I think all members on this side of the House can take pride in the fact that we have forced amendments on this bill that significantly water down the punitive regulations that would have badly hurt the family farm. This side of the House, all parties on this side of the House, deserve credit for making this bill less bad than the original intent was.

But the people who deserve the most credit for it, Mr. Speaker, are not the opposition parties. It has been Albertans that fuelled us to do it. We have not whipped Albertans into a frenzy. Albertans have told us how hard they wanted us to fight, and that's why we've been here all night long and all morning, fighting consistently every day – day and night – for Albertans. I would not have fought half

as hard, members on this side would not have fought half as hard on this bill if we had not received hundreds of phone calls, hundreds if not thousands of e-mails, 30,000 names on a petition tabled. That is what drove us. That is why we have fought so hard.

While this bill is still being rammed down the throats of Albertans, with an undemocratic time closure being imposed, hypocritically, by members who condemned that kind of action just about six months ago, despite this, we have still managed to take some of the most odious sections of this bill out and get a better piece of legislation for Albertans. All Albertans and all members of the opposition should be proud of that.

Mr. Speaker, there was more I wanted to say, but because of time allocation I'm not allowed to speak on behalf of my constituents for the full, normal time allotted in our democratic Chamber. I will conclude by thanking Albertans for standing up, for signing petitions, for calling their MLAs, for standing on the steps of this Legislature. I assure them that when the time comes and we have the chance, we will fix the rest of the problems with Bill 6.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Any questions under 29(2)(a)?

The Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll be very brief. I just wanted to say that I'll be voting against this bill because of the 32,000 signatures on the petition, because of the 2,000 letters and e-mails that were written to us and presented in this House, because at a meeting last Saturday in my home community of St. Paul that's what I was told to do by the people that I represent. I would like to thank everybody for coming and exercising their democratic right by stepping up in the demonstrations out front, going to all the meetings all over the province. We will represent you as the Wildrose Party.

Thank you.

Mr. Orr: I rise to speak in favour of this amendment. I rise because the people of Lacombe-Ponoka have overwhelmingly spoken against Bill 6. The people of Alberta tried to talk to the government. They were not heard. People from Lacombe-Ponoka have driven to the Legislature, given up a day of work multiple times to try and speak to this government. They have written letters; they've made phone calls. Official county councils have consulted and asked that the bill be slowed down until people can be consulted. Province-wide this protest has grown to a crescendo: 32,000 petition signatures, thousands of letters tabled. In all of that, I received exactly one letter in support of the bill.

I care about farm workers in unjust situations, but you don't do them justice by persecuting tens of thousands of farm families. This is a democracy. I don't see workers protesting on the steps or writing letters or making calls. They are not feeling threatened, or they would cry out. The only letter I've received is actually a lobbying letter.

The farm community has something that forced legislation can never give them. They have true social insurance, far better than socialist interference. When a house burns down, they raise money, and they rebuild it together in my riding. When a car accident happens, they come together and they do the chores, they harvest the crops, and they hold fundraisers and are not forced by social welfare legislation. They have true community. They have true social security. They don't have to fight with inspectors who by default appear to criminalize them. Neighbours do it with honour and respect, not shame and suspicion. Albertans do not want socialists re-creating their culture for them.

The misinformation surrounding this bill comes from the utter mismanagement of the government side. Even this morning I wanted the WCB orientation material that was rolled out to CA staff a couple of days ago so that I could give out reliable information to people. My staff this morning called the WCB, asked for a copy of the materials, and today, now, the WCB says: sorry, we've been told not to give it out anymore. The messaging changes every day. What are we supposed to tell people? And you want them to trust this?

In 1981, when closure was first invoked in this province, the government of the day limited debate to six more days, not hours. This government is limiting debate to one hour. Six days versus an hour? The social democracy crowd are truly strangling debate and democracy.

I urge all members to vote for the amendment and against this bill. I'll stop with that so that other members can speak.

The Speaker: Under 29(2)(a). The hon. Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Cooper: Under 29(2)(a). Thank you. I just might add very briefly. I know that my hon. colleague for Lacombe-Ponoka agrees that the work that goes into this place, the work that goes into communicating with farmers and ranchers, the work that goes into making legislation happen doesn't take place in isolation. Mr. Speaker, I know that the hon. member agrees with me that there are other people outside of this Chamber, not just farmers and ranchers, who give up their life to try and make Alberta better. There are a lot of people who give up their lives and their time, work extremely long hours. In this past week I know that many of them have been working 15, 16 hours a day. Many on the government side have as well.

I just see that a number of our staff team have joined us in the gallery this morning. I won't take the time to introduce them by name, but I would just like to take the opportunity to say thank you for all of the work you do for this province and on behalf of farmers and ranchers.

The Speaker: Under 29(2)(a). The hon. Member for Calgary-Hays.

Mr. McIver: Yeah. I'll be brief because I've already been on my feet. My position hasn't changed. We're dead set against this bill the government has. But I want to ask the hon. member over there because it needs to be said this morning. No matter how much we disagree, our party does not agree with bullying, cyber or otherwise. Does your party agree? I'm sure the answer is going to be yes, but I think it's a good day to hear it out loud.

11:10

The Speaker: Is there a response to the question?

Mr. Cooper: I don't think I'm allowed, but unequivocally, with no question, there isn't anyone on this side of the House who does not agree with that, and that behaviour should be condemned to the full extent.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Any others under 29(2)(a)?

The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, I thank the hon. member for his introduction. You know, I won't point out that the Official Opposition House Leader was just maybe not quite in order in his introduction because I want to do the same thing.

In the gallery, Mr. Speaker, is Darlene Dunlop. She and her partner, Eric Muekamp, who is not here, have fought relentlessly on this. To them goes a great deal of credit for raising the consciousness of the public and the Legislature on this matter. It should be a proud day for them, and I thank them for what they've done.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. members.
Anyone else who would wish to speak?

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, I know that the time is short, so I just want to say this. At the beginning of this discussion we said that we are in favour of safety. All farmers have asked us to make sure that everyone in this Legislature knows that they are in favour of safety. They work hard to make sure that the best practices are applied on their farms and ranches throughout Alberta, and this is something that we have to be proud of and stand firm on. This is something that we have to make sure that we champion every single day.

Unfortunately, what we have today is a lessening of their ability to do what they do so well and have done so well for 98 years. This is the sort of thing that we didn't want to see happen. This is why we brought forward amendments, Mr. Speaker, and this is what we have fought against. Rather than allowing them more choice in their ability to provide insurance for their people and for their operation, they have restricted that choice. This is the sort of thing that is unacceptable to farmers and unacceptable to us in the opposition.

Now, one thing that I'd like to say, Mr. Speaker, is that while I was down in Mexico, I had the opportunity to be able to climb to the top of a pyramid at Chichén Itzá, and it was one of the best experiences my family had. Unfortunately, the next time we went back, we were not allowed to climb to the top because someone had fallen off the top, so they had restricted everybody from being able to go up to the top.

That's the kind of legislation that we saw today, that they are reacting rather than acting. This sort of thing does not make good legislation. When you act, that means you consult. You make sure that you have all the figures, all of the information, and all we have seen is a reaction to a problem. This is where we are fundamentally different in our arguments from this government. We will continue for the next three and a half years to oppose any kind of reaction. This is not what this province needs or deserves, Mr. Speaker, and this is why I am one hundred per cent behind the motion to send this to committee.

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

Mr. Smith: That's under 29(2)(a)?

The Speaker: Under Standing Order (29)(2)(a).

Mr. Smith: Can I just speak to it instead?

The Speaker: So long as there is no other member under 29(2)(a).
The Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Mr. Smith: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm still learning, as I think we both are.

You know, I would acknowledge today that this issue has brought the emotions to the forefront. I've seen some of us grumpier today than I've seen before in the House. I've seen tears on both sides. I think that that speaks to the commonality that we all have as legislators, that we are all human and that we are all people. However, I want to get past the emotion. As somebody that is as emotional as I am and, as my kids would attest, often cried at *Little House on the Prairie*, sometimes we have to get past the emotions and look at the reality. I've heard too many of my constituents, farmers and ranchers, too many from across this province voice legitimate concerns about this bill, and as legislators we cannot ignore that. We just can't, not if we're going to do our job properly and appropriately.

At the very heart of this institution, Mr. Speaker, we are democrats. We believe that when the people speak, we should listen, and we

should rule in accordance with the wishes of the people. We can all have our own convictions, and we can believe in those convictions passionately. The Member for West Yellowhead spoke very passionately last night. I understand the passion. I have my own passions as well. But we are first and foremost charged with enacting legislation that reflects the will of the people. I think it's clear that a wise government, a government that was acting democratically, a government that was concerned about the wishes and the will of the people would be able to pull back, would be able to understand the purpose of this hoist amendment, would understand that there's value in this for the people of Alberta.

Reflection, listening, getting it right: we've heard all of those comments this morning. They have value. They're important. I would appeal through you, Mr. Speaker, to this Assembly that we don't have to talk past each other, that we can talk to each other. We can together, with each other, take another crack at this. Push it off that six months. To the hon. member: we can talk to each other. It doesn't have to be past each other.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say through you to the hon. member that I certainly do appreciate his comments. One area that really resonated with me in his presentation was his responsibility to his riding as an MLA. That's something I take seriously. It is a great honour always to rise in this Assembly for the people of Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

But I also feel that over the last few weeks opposition MLAs have had to also take on another responsibility, and that is to continually rise in this Assembly and speak on behalf of tens of thousands of people that don't even live in our ridings. That deeply concerns me, that those people's views, in my opinion, have not been brought to this Assembly to be debated properly on such an important bill. Why?

Mr. Speaker, today the government has brought forward closure. Closure. They say that we are trying to drag out the bill. There are 22 of my caucus mates here, who represent a lot of farmers. Beside me there's the third party, which has eight members. So that's 30 members, just there alone, that want to have a chance to stand up and speak to something that is going to affect our friends and neighbours, that have sent us here, in a significant way, in our view, something that has created more turmoil back home than I've ever seen and that I certainly hope I never see again in my career.

This government has brought forward closure, Mr. Speaker. Does that seem fair? They've done it three times in, I think, 30 hours. I'm not sure because I've been in here for so long with lack of sleep fighting for my constituents. What I want to talk to the member about is how he feels and how the people in his community feel about the fact that this government is now going to shut down debate on something that's so important.

11:20

Let's be clear. Farmers and ranchers back home and all the communities that surround them and urban communities as well – they're coming along as they're starting to realize what happened – do not trust this government. This government has lost the complete trust of our communities. Now, granted, they didn't have much trust in the community that I come from. That's fair. They did not. But they did have trust in the communities of several members across the way, enough trust that they elected them, sent them to this Assembly to do what I'm doing, and that is to stand up for what the majority of their constituents want, to stand up and fight for what they have asked.

Now, as I said last night, Mr. Speaker, I'm a new MLA. I'm only six or seven months into the job. I know that along the way there are going to be tough choices that we're going to have to make. The burden of office is going to be on us to make decisions when it's not always going to be clear what our constituents want or what the majority of the riding wants. In this case, it is without a doubt clear what Albertans want us to do. It is without a doubt clear what they want. There is no grey area here. We had to bring on extra staff just to keep up with the communications. We had to bring on extra staff to try to help the constituents of the MLAs across the way who are not answering their phones.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I must advise that we have used our 60 minutes. Pursuant to Government Motion 28, agreed to earlier this morning, I must now put every question necessary for the disposal of Bill 6 at third reading.

Firstly, on the amendment.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on the amendment lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 11:22 a.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hunter	Rodney
Anderson, W.	Jansen	Schneider
Barnes	Jean	Smith
Cooper	Loewen	Starke
Cyr	MacIntyre	Stier
Drysdale	McIver	Strankman
Ellis	Nixon	Taylor
Fildebrandt	Orr	van Dijken
Gotfried	Panda	Yao
Hanson	Pitt	

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Gray	Miranda
Bilous	Hinkley	Notley
Carlier	Hoffman	Payne
Carson	Horne	Piquette
Ceci	Jabbour	Renaud
Connolly	Kleinstauber	Rosendahl
Coolahan	Larivee	Schmidt
Cortes-Vargas	Littlewood	Shepherd
Dach	Loyola	Sigurdson
Dang	Luff	Sucha
Drever	Malkinson	Swann
Eggen	Mason	Sweet
Feehan	McCuaig-Boyd	Turner
Ganley	McPherson	Westhead
Goehring	Miller	

Totals: For – 29 Against – 44

[Motion on amendment to third reading of Bill 6 lost]

[The voice vote indicated that the motion for third reading carried]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 11:28 a.m.]

[Three minutes having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Anderson, S.	Gray	Miranda
Bilous	Hinkley	Notley
Carlier	Hoffman	Payne
Carson	Horne	Piquette
Ceci	Jabbour	Renaud
Connolly	Kleinstauber	Rosendahl
Coolahan	Larivee	Schmidt
Cortes-Vargas	Littlewood	Shepherd
Dach	Loyola	Sigurdson
Dang	Luff	Sucha
Drever	Malkinson	Swann
Eggen	Mason	Sweet
Feehan	McCuaig-Boyd	Turner
Ganley	McPherson	Westhead
Goehring	Miller	

Against the motion:

Aheer	Hunter	Rodney
Anderson, W.	Jansen	Schneider
Barnes	Jean	Smith
Cooper	Loewen	Starke
Cyr	MacIntyre	Stier
Drysdale	McIver	Strankman
Ellis	Nixon	Taylor
Fildebrandt	Orr	van Dijken
Gotfried	Panda	Yao
Hanson	Pitt	

Totals: For – 44 Against – 29

[Motion carried; Bill 6 read a third time]

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank all members of the House for their contribution. While it has been rather contentious, I note that this session has also seen a number of moments of harmony and unanimity on the passage of some bills. I think it's been a productive session. Not only have we passed a budget, but we passed a number of very important pieces of legislation as well. I would like to thank all members, including the Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and particularly the Premier, for their leadership with respect to this past bill. I would also like to acknowledge the yeoman work done by the Member for Calgary-Mountain View in fighting for this particular bill. I'd also like to thank the opposition House leaders for their co-operation in helping to bring this week to a conclusion.

Mr. Speaker, it's my duty now to advise the House that pursuant to Government Motion 14 the business for the sitting is now concluded.

The Speaker: Hon. members, pursuant to Government Motion 14, agreed to on December 1, 2015, the House stands adjourned until February 2016. We have already all lost one member in this weather. Let us make sure that you drive home safely and peacefully and take the time for a rest.

The House is adjourned.

[The Assembly adjourned at 11:36 a.m. pursuant to Government Motion 14]

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

Activity to December 10, 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.), 152-57 (Jun. 22, 2015 eve., passed with amendments)

Third Reading -- 157-59 (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 -- 161-62 (Jun. 22, 2015 eve.), 183-93 (Jun. 23, 2015 aft.), 201-13 (Jun. 23, 2015 eve.), 213-27 (Jun. 23, 2015 eve., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole -- 242-57 (Jun. 24, 2015 aft.), 259 (Jun. 24, 2015 eve., passed)

Third Reading -- 259-71 (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 -- 107-14 (Jun. 18, 2015 aft., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole -- 145-52 (Jun. 22, 2015 eve.), 159-61 (Jun. 22, 2015 eve., passed on division)

Third Reading -- 182-83 (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.), 501-22 (Nov. 17, 2015 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 753-68 (Dec. 2, 2015 morn.), 795-99 (Dec. 2, 2015 aft.), 839-54 (Dec. 3, 2015 morn.), 867-70 (Dec. 3, 2015 aft.), 912-25 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed with amendments)

Third Reading -- 925-30 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed on division)

5* Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act (Ganley)

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

Second Reading -- 619 (Nov. 25, 2015 aft.), 650-60 (Nov. 26, 2015 aft., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole -- 782-95 (Dec. 2, 2015 aft., passed with amendments)

Third Reading -- 870-71 (Dec. 3, 2015 aft., passed)

6* Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act (Sigurdson)

First Reading -- 501 (Nov. 17, 2015 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 735-51 (Dec. 1, 2015 eve.), 801-37 (Dec. 2, 2015 eve.), 930-36 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve.), 937-51 (Dec. 8, 2015 morn.), 981-86 (Dec. 8, 2015 aft.), 968-81 (Dec. 8, 2015 aft.), 1008-18 (Dec. 8, 2015 eve.), 1019-28 (Dec. 9, 2015 morn.), 1028-37 (Dec. 9, 2015 morn., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 1054-71 (Dec. 9, 2015 aft.), (Dec. 9, 2015 eve.), 1076-1109 (Dec. 9, 2015 eve., passed on division with amendments)

Third Reading -- 1111-26 (Dec. 10, 2015 morn., passed on division)

- 7 Alberta Human Rights Amendment Act, 2015 (Ganley)**
First Reading -- 548 (Nov. 19, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 618-19 (Nov. 25, 2015 aft.), 693-704 (Dec. 1, 2015 morn., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole -- 907-11 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 911 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
- 8* Public Education Collective Bargaining Act (Eggen)**
First Reading -- 649 (Nov. 26, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 717-34 (Dec. 1, 2015 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 987-1000 (Dec. 8, 2015 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1000-1007 (Dec. 8, 2015 eve., passed on division)
- 9 Appropriation Act, 2015 (\$) (Ceci)**
First Reading -- 612 (Nov. 25, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 613-18 (Nov. 25, 2015 aft., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole -- 621-31 (Nov. 26, 2015 morn., passed)
Third Reading -- 631-38 (Nov. 26, 2015 morn., passed on division)
Royal Assent -- (Nov. 27, 2015 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force Nov. 27, 2015; SA 2015 c17]
- 201 Assuring Alberta's Fiscal Future Act (Fraser)**
First Reading -- 104-105 (Jun. 18, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 128-39 (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)
Committee of the Whole -- 573-83 (Nov. 23, 2015 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 891-95 (Dec. 7, 2015 aft., adjourned)
- 203 Election (Restrictions on Government Advertising) Amendment Act, 2015 (Strankman)**
First Reading -- 349 (Oct. 28, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 404-10 (Nov. 2, 2015 aft., adjourned), 474-77 (Nov. 16, 2015 aft., passed), 477 (Nov. 16, 2015 aft., referred to Select Special Ethics and Accountability Committee)
- 204* Residential Tenancies (Safer Spaces for Victims of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2015 (Drever)**
First Reading -- 448 (Nov. 5, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 477-84 (Nov. 16, 2015 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 680-86 (Nov. 30, 2015 aft.), 883-84 (Dec. 7, 2015 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 884-90 (Dec. 7, 2015 aft., passed on division)
- 205 Persons with Developmental Disabilities Services (Public Consultation) Amendment Act, 2015 (Renaud)**
First Reading -- (Nov. 18, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 583-84 (Nov. 23, 2015 aft., adjourned)
- 206 Recall Act (Aheer)**
First Reading -- 649 (Nov. 26, 2015 aft., passed)
- Pr1* The King's University College Amendment Act, 2015 (Schmidt)**
First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 905 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 905-06 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1073-74 (Dec. 9, 2015 eve., passed)
- Pr2 Bethesda Bible College Amendment Act, 2015 (Nielsen)**
First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 905 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 906 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1074-75 (Dec. 9, 2015 eve., passed)

Pr3 Rosary Hall, Edmonton Repeal Act (Shepherd)

First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 905 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 906 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1075 (Dec. 9, 2015 eve., passed)

Pr4 Canadian University College Amendment Act, 2015 (Orr)

First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 905 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 906 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1075 (Dec. 9, 2015 eve., passed)

Pr5* Concordia University College of Alberta Amendment Act, 2015 (McLean)

First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 905 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 906 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1075-76 (Dec. 9, 2015 eve., passed)

Pr6 Covenant Bible College Amendment Act, 2015 (Fildebrandt)

First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 905 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 906 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1076 (Dec. 9, 2015 eve., passed)

Pr7 Living Faith Bible College Amendment Act, 2015 (Nixon)

First Reading -- 377 (Oct. 29, 2015 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 905 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 906-07 (Dec. 7, 2015 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- (Dec. 9, 2015 eve., passed)

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