



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Second Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, May 12, 2016

Day 27

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

Second Session

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Jabbour, Deborah C., Peace River (ND), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (ND), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Anderson, Shaye, Leduc-Beaumont (ND)
Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (W)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (ND)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (W)
Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (ND),
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Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (ND),
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Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (ND)
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Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (ND)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (ND)
Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (W),
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Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (ND),
Government Whip
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake (W),
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Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (ND)
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Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (ND)
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (ND)
Gill, Prab, Calgary-Greenway (PC)
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (ND)
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Luff, Robyn, Calgary-East (ND)
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Miller, Barb, Red Deer-South (ND)
Miranda, Hon. Ricardo, Calgary-Cross (ND)
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Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie (W)
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (ND)
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Rosendahl, Eric, West Yellowhead (ND)
Sabir, Hon. Irfan, Calgary-McCall (ND)
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Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (W)
Starke, Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC),
Progressive Conservative Opposition House Leader
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Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (W)
Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (ND)
Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)
Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (W)
Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (ND)
van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (W)
Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (ND),
Deputy Government Whip
Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (ND)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (W)

Party standings:

New Democrat: 54 Wildrose: 22 Progressive Conservative: 9 Alberta Liberal: 1 Alberta Party: 1

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 12, 2016

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Good afternoon.

Let us bow our heads and reflect, each in our own way. As we conclude our work for this week and return to our constituencies, let each of us individually reflect on the privilege and the responsibility we have to serve Albertans.

Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater.

Mr. Piquette: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly four students from Northern Lakes College, Athabasca campus, as well as their group leader. I'm so happy that they came up, made the trip to see us at work here in the Legislature, and I kind of hope that we actually give a good impression today. Could Nancy Giese as well as the students – unfortunately, I don't have their names – please rise and receive the customary warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

Mr. Loewen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it is my distinct pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, from the constituency of Grande Prairie-Smoky and from the communities of Crooked Creek and Ridgevalley, the Rosedale Christian School. Please rise when I say your names. These fine students are accompanied by their teacher, Stephanie Thiessen, and joined by chaperones Arlin and Gloria Loewen – now, you might notice that name, Loewen; Arlin is my cousin, accompanied by his lovely wife, Gloria – and also by some other spectacular people from the community, Eldon and Heather Thiessen and Frank and Debbie Thiessen. I ask that the students please rise also and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

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

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my absolute pleasure today to rise and introduce some fabulous constituents from the outstanding constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. There are 15 students and a number of teachers and parent helpers. They are accompanied by their teacher, Miss Terri Miller. I might just add that they are from the Kneehill Christian School, which is based in the Linden area of the constituency, where you'll find the finest people and the greatest food. I invite them all to rise and receive the traditional welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, are there any other school groups today?

Seeing none, the hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly two family members of one of our current pages, Rowan Ley. Joining us today

in the Speaker's gallery are Rowan's grandmother, Beverly Cairns, and his mother, Eva Cairns. Beverly is visiting from Elora, Ontario, and Eva is a constituent of mine from Edmonton-Strathcona and is the managing producer of Catalyst Theatre. They are both here to observe Rowan in his role as page here in the Assembly. I would ask them to please rise, which they've already done, and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Miranda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly Mr. Dave Beninger. Dave is a former senator of the University of Calgary, where he recently completed a degree in political science. He is also a former board member of the Chestermere public library and a dedicated community volunteer. I would ask David to please stand up and receive the traditional welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The Minister of Service Alberta and Minister of Status of Women.

Ms McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two guests. It's an honour to introduce to you and through you Courtney Hare, the public policy manager at Momentum. Courtney researches and supports the development of policy that fosters economic inclusion and reduces poverty. Momentum is an award-winning community economic development organization that works with over 4,000 Albertans each year who are living on a low income. Momentum supports participants in getting a good job through trades training, creating their own job through an entrepreneurship program, and managing to save their own money through financial literacy programs. Momentum has worked diligently to address the needs of Albertans who use payday loans. I'm pleased to have Courtney here today when our government introduces legislation to regulate payday lending. I ask that Courtney rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, it is also an honour to introduce to you and through you Danielle Klooster, a community mobilizer with the Central Alberta Poverty Reduction Alliance, known as CAPRA. CAPRA is a group of people and organizations working to make a real difference on poverty. Organizations such as United Way, Safe Harbour Society, city of Red Deer, Alberta Health Services, Catholic Social Services, Hope Mission, and many, many others work to spark community action on poverty and advocate for systemic change. Since its inception in 2010 CAPRA has been advocating for food security, support for early childhood development, equal access to services, and restrictions on predatory lending services. I am so glad that she could be here today when our government introduces legislation to regulate payday lending. I ask that Danielle rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you Mr. Aja Loudon. Aja is a muralist, designer, and educator who believes strongly in the values of education and community building. In 2011 Aja created a program called the aerosol academy in order to share his passion for the arts. In addition to volunteering on several other forward-thinking projects, his work can be found here in his home city of Edmonton as well as in Berlin, Barcelona, Prague, and the U.K. I'm happy to also share that some of his recent work, which reflects the history and diversity of Edmonton-Ellerslie, can now also be found on a

wall in my constituency office. I'd ask Aja to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

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

Mr. Nixon: Thank you. It's my honour to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Ms Lisa Mason and Mrs. Angie Schickerowski. They hail from the extraordinary constituency of Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, from the Benalto area of my constituency. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if you've ever had the pleasure of going to Benalto, but I can tell you that it has some of the most exceptional people this province has to offer. Both of these ladies have been working very hard to advocate for Benalto's school in their community, and I thank them for that. I ask that they rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two sets of guests to introduce to you today if you'll indulge me. First, I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of this House guests who are joining us here for the introduction of Bill 206 later today: Colonel Stephen Lacroix, base commander, Edmonton, who has witnessed first-hand the effects of posttraumatic stress disorder on our Canadian soldiers and veterans; Deputy Fire Chief Keven Lefebvre, representing Edmonton fire rescue services; Helena Gillespie and Jerris Popik from the iSTEP program of the Edmonton MFRC, along with their mother, Lois Hawryluk; Julian Daly, the executive director of Boyle Street co-op services; Magda Guevara, intake co-ordinator at Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op; and Elisha Astles, an advocate for mental health and addiction supports for individuals and their families, and her husband, Darren Astles, a Canadian Forces military veteran. I'd ask all my guests to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

1:40

The Speaker: Welcome.

Go ahead.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly my wonderful constituency staff. Kahye Dubow is a current practicum student from NorQuest College, the social work program. He has been amazing at learning quickly how a constituency office works and brings laughter to our office. Cassidy Green is my summer part-time employee, and she was my previous practicum student from MacEwan University's social work program. We are thrilled that she remains with us as she is an exceptional asset to our office. Heather Belanger is my full-time constituency manager. She has been keeping our office running and has been a valuable member of our team Edmonton-Castle Downs since August of last year. I'd ask them now to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms McKittrick: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly three individuals from my amazing constituency of Sherwood Park: Chris and Dick Swaren and Shirley Mireau. Today is International Awareness Day for Chronic Immunological and Neurological Diseases, which include chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia. Chris has been living with fibromyalgia for many years and is the current president of the Fibromyalgia Society of Edmonton and

area. Dick is a past board member, and Shirley is a current board member. I would like to ask Chris, Dick, and Shirley to please rise to receive the traditional warm welcome from the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for St. Albert.

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Alison Azer. With Alison are her sister Elizabeth van Egteren and her brother Alan Jeffrey. Alison grew up in the great riding of St. Albert, and I had the pleasure of meeting with her earlier today. Alison is the mother of four young Canadian children, aged 11, nine, seven, and three, all of whom have deep roots in Alberta and were abducted by their father in August of 2015. The children are now believed to be in Iran. I ask my fellow members of the Legislature to support Ms Azer by spreading the word of her plight and that we stand in support of her tireless efforts to ensure the safe return of her children to Canada. I'd ask all three to please rise and receive the welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is National Nursing Week all across our country, and I'm honoured to have a number of individuals to introduce today. We are joined by Heather Smith, the president of the United Nurses of Alberta, as well as Jane Sustrik, Daphne Wallace, and Karen Craik. Also with us is Cathy Giblin with the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta, also known as CARNA. I'd ask that those individuals please rise. I just also want to acknowledge a number of other nurses who show that everyday nurses show unwavering determination. These four nurses work in Fort McMurray, and I am honoured to introduce them. They are Naomi Broderick, Michelle Warren, JoAnn Cluney, and Heather Young. I ask that you please stand as our House shows our appreciation for your work and especially your determination over the last week.

Thank you. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

Dr. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly several guests who are joining us today to remember Robinson Koilpillai, whose life I'll be speaking to more in my member's statement later. There's a sizable contingency of guests, so unfortunately I won't have time to name them all. I will note, however, for the interests of this Chamber that among our guests today are Ardis Kamra, the granddaughter of former Premier Charles Stewart, and also Allan Sheppard, who authored a biography of Robinson Koilpillai a few years ago. I'd ask all my guests now to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Are there any other guests today? The hon. Member for Battle River-Wainwright.

Mr. Taylor: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. It's my pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all the members of the Assembly Mr. Cole Hogan. I had the honour this morning of meeting with Cole and discussing, among other things, advanced education, which is under my portfolio. Cole is the advocacy co-ordinator – he's held this position for two weeks now – for the

Alberta Students' Executive Council, or ASEC, and works with trades and technical institutions' students' associations. Cole, would you now please rise and accept the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ministerial Statements

Fort McMurray and Area Wildfire Update

Ms Larivee: Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to provide an update on the wildfire situation in Fort McMurray and the supports we are providing to evacuees. Last week we requested federal assistance in the form of support from the Canadian armed forces. That support was readily provided. Armed forces personnel helped in the evacuation of threatened communities. They provided supplies to isolated First Nations communities, and they assisted in the transportation of essential firefighting equipment and personnel. But now that we are moving out of the emergency phase and into the recovery phase, our Provincial Operations Centre in collaboration with the regional emergency operations centre has determined that armed forces assistance is not required at this time. I would like to personally thank all the armed forces members who have supported Alberta during this very difficult time. They were here when we needed them most, and we all say thank you.

Mr. Speaker, our government's focus continues to be on meeting the needs of evacuees. Yesterday we began the distribution of debit cards for those evacuees. As of noon today we have provided more than \$12 million in assistance to approximately 11,000 people. As expected, there were significant lineups at the four distribution centres, and today we have added a second location at NAIT for evacuees to pick up their debit cards.

Now I wish to address a question that I know is top of many people's minds, and that is: when can people go home? I know how stressful it is to leave everything behind and to be away from your home for a prolonged period of time. It was five years ago this Sunday that I was forced to flee my home in Slave Lake, and I know how stressful that time is and how hard it is to be away. But, Mr. Speaker, safety is our first priority, and right now Fort McMurray is not yet safe. Until it is, people cannot go home.

There are a number of things we are working diligently to make happen to make the community safe. We are working for the complete restoration of essential services like natural gas, water, and sewer and ensuring that there is a clean, working hospital with functioning equipment and staff. I know this is not the news that Fort McMurray and area residents would like hear today, but this is what we need to do to ensure their safety.

The good news is that there are a lot of people already working in the community to make it safe. Power and data services have been restored to the downtown area, and we have damage assessment teams on-site. They inspected 520 structures yesterday from the outside, not entering residences, so we are beginning to develop a clearer picture of exactly what we're dealing with in terms of damage. Insurance assessors are going in today, and they, too, will be assessing from the outside, without entering people's homes.

1:50

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the firefighters and other emergency personnel who continue to battle the wildfires. I thank those who have gone into the community of Fort McMurray to begin the hard work of making the community safe for re-entry. And I want to thank the residents of Fort McMurray, Anzac, Gregoire Lake Estates, and the Fort McMurray First Nation for their

patience. I know it's been a difficult time and that it's hard to wait, but they have been patient. We need to ask them to be patient a little while longer while we make things safe for them to return home. It is a big job, but there are a lot of people working hard, and we will get the job done as quickly as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Mr. Clerk, would you please stop the clock.

There was a point of order raised yesterday that was deferred, and I would like to deliver my ruling with respect to that point of order.

Point of Order Imputing Motives

The Speaker: Hon. members, with respect to the point of order raised yesterday by the hon. leader of the third party, I've now had the opportunity to review the *Alberta Hansard* and to conduct some research on the matter. At page 888 of yesterday's *Alberta Hansard* the leader of the third party made the argument that comments made by the Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville constituted allegations and imputed false and unavowed motives against another member under Standing Order 23(h) and (i).

Neither the leader of the third party nor I had access to the Blues at the time, but on review of the *Hansard* at page 882, it appears that the relevant comments made by the member were that "the opposition members, instead of rolling up their sleeves and getting to the work at hand last night, chose to walk out of yesterday's meeting." The remarks made by the Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville referred to actions taken by certain members of the Select Special Ethics and Accountability Committee during its meeting on May 10, 2016. This seems to be more of a dispute as to the facts or a difference of opinion but not a point of order.

I also note that footnote 148 on page 614 of the second edition of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* provides that Speakers have declined to extend the prohibition to references to the absence of Members from the Assembly to absences of members from committee meetings.

The more important point is to the exchange that took place. It was not in order in the first place as the exchange involved a committee proceeding. During the exchange I cautioned both the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster and the Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville to adhere to the rule of this Assembly that questions may be put to the chairs of committees but that such questions may only deal with the timetable or the schedule of a committee or a committee's agenda and nothing further.

As indicated in the *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* at page 506:

Questions seeking information about the schedule and agenda of committees may be directed to Chairs of committees. Questions to the Ministry or to a committee Chair concerning the proceedings or work of a committee, including its order of reference, may not be raised.

Furthermore, Speaker Kowalski on May 1, 1997, on the matter of asking questions to private members, as noted on pages 319 and 320 of *Alberta Hansard* from that day, said that "questions may be asked directly of members who chair committees of the Assembly, but this would be a narrow range as these committees are not part of government."

Although there is no point of order here, I want to remind all hon. members that the purpose of question period is to seek information about government policy and not to debate what has transpired before a committee of the Assembly. I will be more vigilant in enforcing this rule in the days to come.

Oral Question Period

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

Wildfire Evacuees in Smaller Municipalities

Mr. Hanson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cost in human impact of wildfires in Fort McMurray has been overwhelming. The stress and anxiety of the evacuation is being felt by many. The population of Lac La Biche doubled as they welcomed evacuees with open arms. While news of financial assistance arrived yesterday, several of these small towns and communities will quickly be drained of basic commodities like food, clothing, and water. What is the Premier doing to make sure that the Provincial Operations Centre is delivering these services and supporting these towns housing evacuees?

Ms Notley: Thank you very much for that question. Let me begin by thanking the people of Lac La Biche for the incredible generosity that they have shown to the evacuees of Fort McMurray. They have reached out, as the member has rightly pointed out, to a level that is well beyond their per capita expectation. They have welcomed people in a way that's been extremely helpful.

We were pleased to be advised yesterday that the financial assistance cards were pretty much completely distributed through the reception centre at Lac La Biche yesterday. I'll have more to say . . .

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Hanson: Communities like Boyle, Athabasca, Bonnyville, Wandering River are all struggling to keep up with supplies. If there's no food or clothes to buy, debit cards just don't help. They are trying their best to co-ordinate between each other and keep their spirits high, but many are frustrated that they are not seeing clear communication from the POC. Volunteers have done amazing work, but they need direction and help. Will the Premier commit to working with these communities to ensure that Albertans are kept aware of the needs of these evacuees?

Ms Notley: Again, thank you very much for that question. As well, let me please extend my thanks to the additional communities that were mentioned by the member opposite. They, too, have been reaching out to their neighbours to the north and supporting them. I know that it's been a lot of work.

I'm advised this morning by officials that additional communication is going on from the Provincial Operations Centre with officials and leaders and representatives from those communities to find ways to support their specific needs going forward. We're aware that they are being stressed because of their size, and we're looking at a number of different options to perhaps facilitate movement but also to provide . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.
Second supplemental.

Mr. Hanson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night through efforts of the opposition we found that the POC is now making daily deliveries to Boyle. It's nice to know that the members opposite have their finger on the pulse of the situation.

Evacuees are spread as far and wide as Grande Prairie to Medicine Hat, and many of their situations remain just as desperate. We know the Red Cross is able to provide immediate e-transfers to

all evacuees registered. Can the Premier explain why the government isn't able to also do e-transfers to evacuees in more remote areas of the province, who aren't able to access or can't stand in long lines?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. It's a good question. We deliberated on whether that was a process that we thought would work for the delivery of our funds to people. At the time we determined that it was a very large transfer that the Red Cross was doing. It was the first time that they had done one anywhere close to that magnitude, so the certainty of it was not entirely clear.

As well, we have obligations with respect to accountability to the people of Alberta and the Auditor General in terms of how we assure that we can track who got what. That being said, we are working directly now with the Red Cross to find ways in which we can work with them to help people who are . . .

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

2:00

Opioid Use Prevention

Mr. Barnes: The fentanyl crisis deserves the full attention of this government, and those on the front line need access to as many resources as possible. In British Columbia a public health emergency allows first responders, emergency room staff, and the coroner's office to provide the time and place of overdose, which drug was used, how it was taken, and details about the patient. Getting this information into the hands of public health authorities and to the public in Alberta would save lives. To the Premier: will you commit to putting a public health emergency into place to allow for this crucial sharing of information?

The Speaker: The Associate Minister of Health.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. The Alberta act and the B.C. act are radically different. Our department has looked into whether or not a public health emergency would accomplish the goal of giving us additional tools with which to deal with this crisis, and it has been determined that it does not. What a public health emergency would do is allow us to quarantine people against their wishes, seize private property, and enter into private homes without a warrant, which, frankly, won't help with an addiction problem.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, it isn't just fentanyl that is killing Albertans. There's an opioid crisis. To get an understanding of what needs to be done, we need to know how many overdoses there have been from heroin, from morphine, from hydromorphone, from oxycodone, and even from W-18. Only then will we get a clear picture of the crisis and how to combat it, including partnering with Health and law enforcement. Will the Premier commit to releasing these statistics on a continual basis so resources can be best allocated?

The Speaker: The Associate Minister of Health.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Our department is working very closely with our partners in Justice and with the medical examiner to ensure that we have timely and up-to-date statistics. We are also recognizing that this goes beyond just fentanyl, that we do indeed have an opioid crisis in our province, which is why our government is also moving

forward on opioid replacement therapy treatment options as well as support for detox beds throughout our province.

Mr. Barnes: Hearing the Associate Minister of Health say only yesterday that for the first three months of this year numbers seem to have stabilized was concerning. I'd say that this crisis is anything but stable. It's growing. Here are the numbers to date even though medical professionals tell me they are low. Sixty-nine deaths in the first three months of 2016 mean we are on track for 276 deaths this year. That's higher than in 2015, Mr. Speaker, when the crisis was first addressed. This government needs a wake-up call. What concrete steps, not just vague promises of a fentanyl strategy . . .

The Speaker: Thank you hon. member.
The Associate Minister of Health.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Indeed, any death due to an overdose is a tragedy, and our hearts go out to all the families and loved ones who are affected by this crisis. Our government is moving forward on the opioid dependency treatment that I outlined. We're going to be opening a clinic within Cardston very shortly and are working with partners across the province to ensure that we are able to offer those treatments around our province. Additionally, I was pleased to announce yesterday that Albertans can now access take-home naloxone kits without a prescription and that we've worked with our partners and pharmacies to ensure that family members can pick up those kits for their loved ones.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat. Third main question.

Carbon Levy and Health Care Costs

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, today we woke up to more bad news on the NDP carbon tax. Whether it's driving your car, heating your home, or buying groceries, we know this carbon tax will hit our families hard, but now we know that it will be sucking dollars out of the health care system, away from patients. The carbon tax will impact the delivery of health care in our province, and the ones paying the price will be everyday Albertans. Why does the NDP insist on taxing hospitals and patients with their new carbon tax?

Ms Phillips: Well, leaving aside whether this is, in fact, a supplemental, I will provide the hon. member with the following information. Of course, the future carbon levy is a price on emissions. That's why we'll be investing in initiatives to improve efficiency, and an energy efficiency agency will be designed to be accessible to all Albertans and all sectors. That's because climate change is real, Mr. Speaker, and we are taking actions to address it.

The Speaker: Just for the record that was a main question.
First supplemental.

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The increased carbon tax will mean less: less for surgeries and less for front-line workers. The spike in heating costs alone is the same as taking away 240 hip surgeries or 60 nurses. That doesn't even include the added costs for our emergency vehicles, increased food costs for patients, and sterilizing gowns and linens. Will the Premier commit to completing an economic impact assessment for how damaging the carbon tax will be on health care before plunging ahead with her plan?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, the future carbon levy is a price on emissions. That's why we'll be investing in initiatives to improve efficiency, which will then reduce carbon use and therefore emissions costs. It's very basic. It's both basic economics and science. It is an initiative that will encourage economic diversification and address climate change. We know that neither thing is being taken seriously by the Official Opposition.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, I've outlined direct costs on the health care system that will increase because of the carbon tax, but there will also be ripple effects across the whole industry and the whole province. The price of fuel for life-saving services like STARS and HALO, that depend on donations, will rise at a time when their donors also have less money. Lodges and seniors' facilities that run on a nonprofit basis will also be paying the price under this carbon tax. Can the Premier at least provide exemptions for these charities and nonprofits in the health care industry who will be so negatively impacted by her carbon tax?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, this province will be investing \$645 million in energy efficiency efforts over the next five years. That efficiency programming will be designed to be accessible for all Albertans in all sectors. Every single dollar from the future price on carbon will be put to work right here in Alberta creating jobs, reducing pollution, promoting greater energy efficiency, and diversifying our economy.

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

Government Spending

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the oil sands are trying to return to normal, so must we in the House. A budget is on the table. In question period the seniors minister complained that the previous government left a billion dollars in deferred maintenance behind. Meanwhile on page 89 of the current government's business plan it states the NDP will make zero improvements on the percentage of government-owned buildings in good or poor condition as far out as 2019. To the Premier: was your minister's complaint insincere, or is she that unaware of her own files?

Mr. Mason: This government has invested significant new money in repairs and capital maintenance of our infrastructure. There was a vast deficit left. Frankly, despite the increase, Mr. Speaker, we're barely at the point where we're not seeing further deterioration in our extensive holdings of infrastructure, both in Transportation and other areas. We were left with a very big problem by the previous government, and we're fixing it.

Mr. McIver: An admission by the government that they're spending a lot more and getting no results actually doesn't help.

In Labour estimates the minister said that the Health and Finance ministers would be saving money on labour. In question period the Finance minister confirmed this, saying, "We have negotiations that'll be taking place . . . with all of our unionized people, and we're looking for improvements there." To the Finance minister. Alberta's unionized, publicly paid employees deserve to know your government's intentions before they go to the bargaining table. Are you planning on saving the money you talked about by offering less pay, fewer people, or just cutting benefits?

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member's concern about this, and of course we are going to take our obligations to negotiate on behalf of Albertans and Alberta taxpayers very seriously. But we are also going to respect the negotiation process, and we are going to negotiate at the table with the people on the other side, not in the media and not in the House.

2:10

Mr. McIver: Well, that's funny, Mr. Speaker, when the minister is constantly saying in the House that they're going to save money on it.

Unlike the NDP government, ATB customers have to pay back the money they borrow. In Finance estimates the minister would not admit how much more interest ATB will pay to get the money that they lend out to Albertans due to the lost triple-A credit rating. To the minister: due to your lack of spending control, your \$60 billion debt with no repayment plan, and not having their backs, shouldn't you tell Albertans how much more ATB will be forced to charge, or will they just earn less money as a result of these failed policies?

Mr. Mason: This government is investing in jobs. It's investing in diversifying our economy, getting people back to work, Mr. Speaker. We don't make any apology for doing that. We have serious investments in job creation. We have tax credits. We are moving forward to build the infrastructure this province needs, which the previous government ignored.

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

Mental Health Services for Wildfire Evacuees and First Responders

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, on Monday I asked the Health minister what her plans were for increasing the capacity of Alberta's mental health services in light of this serious recession and a massive increase in need due to Fort McMurray fires. She indicated that she was in consultation with various experts and groups, so today I'd like to know the plan. To the minister: can the minister tell us, based on past disasters, what increase is expected in needs for mental health services?

The Speaker: The Associate Minister of Health.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I want to reiterate my previous statement on this issue. Supporting the mental health of evacuees and first responders is a fundamental piece of our recovery process. We are committed to ensuring that there are appropriate resources in place that meet the needs of each of these populations. At this point it is difficult to speculate on a percentage increase, but I want to assure the member opposite that we will be making sure that the necessary resources are available, and we are continuing to work with our partners to ensure those are in place.

Dr. Swann: Well, it doesn't sound like we have very many facts based on past disasters, Mr. Speaker.

Could the minister tell the House what specific plans she has for providing expanded mental health services?

Ms Payne: Thank you to the member for the question. In terms of specific plans, in the immediate term we have added an additions and mental health night shift at the Lac La Biche Bold Center. AHS mental health support is also located at each of the debit card disbursement sites in Edmonton, Calgary, and Lac La Biche. Mental health workers continue to work at each of the reception centres,

providing support to evacuees. A reminder yet again: anyone can call the mental health support line at any time at 1.877.303.2642.

Dr. Swann: Let's try another tack, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us how she plans on tracking and evaluating the services to prepare for the next disaster?

The Speaker: The Associate Minister of Health.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Certainly, we've evaluated the things that have happened in previous disasters, and we are keeping close track of the things that we are doing now to see what's working and where there's room for improvement. Alberta Health Services is working closely with the emergency response team to ensure that all supports are available, especially for first responders. I want to take this opportunity to again thank all those Albertans who have responded on the front lines and in their communities to cope with this very difficult situation.

Fort McMurray Wildfire Impact on Justice Services

Ms Woollard: Mr. Speaker, the wildfire in Fort McMurray has impacted so many Albertans in so many different ways, including justice services. To the Minister of Justice: how are court services being impacted?

The Speaker: The hon. Justice minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. Well, of course, when we had the evacuation in Fort McMurray, court personnel were taken out as well. We've had a number of personnel affected, and those people are being paid in the interim while they are evacuated away from the courthouse. Currently it's the case that we have some video appearances occurring for people who are in secure custody. People who are not in secure custody are having their matters set over till later.

Thank you.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Woollard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister for the update. We are extremely happy to hear that everyone was able to evacuate safely. Given that firefighters continue their battle and that damage assessment is ongoing, to the same minister: what is happening with cases that were scheduled to be heard at the Fort McMurray courthouse?

The Speaker: The Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We know that people who have been forced to evacuate Fort McMurray are very stressed out about their current lives, and having a court case doesn't make that any easier. It's currently the case that people who are in secure custody are having their matters heard via CCTV from other locations. They were initially in Fort Chipewyan, but I believe they have moved to Edmonton subsequently. In addition, there are a number of people who have out-of-custody matters. Those matters are being rescheduled by the court, and people are best to contact the Court of Queen's Bench or the Alberta Provincial Court, depending on where their matter was scheduled.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Woollard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that we've heard that critical pieces of infrastructure such as the hospital are still intact, can the Minister of Justice update the House on the current state of Fort McMurray's courthouse?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. It's my understanding, at last update, that the courthouse has not been affected. Of course, as further inspection occurs within Fort McMurray, more information may become known, and I will commit to get back to the House with that information.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Battle River-Wainwright.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday I presented a motion in this House asking the government to postpone further implementation of their \$15 minimum wage until it can be determined what effect it would have on employment rates and the price of goods and services. Even though their own advisers told them last year that further study was needed, the government rejected this motion. To the Minister of Labour: why won't the government commit to a review of the evidence surrounding the minimum wage hikes?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour.

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is reviewing the current impacts of the minimum wage hikes and is beginning to engage in a consultation plan. It is important to remember that 37,000 Albertans who are 55 years old or older are earning \$15 or less when they go to work. This is not an issue about teenagers and children; this is real Albertans with real families, and that is why we are moving forward with our consultation plan and our plan to implement a \$15 an hour minimum wage.

Mr. Taylor: I'm not sure how it's a review if they're going to ensure that it's going to be \$15.

Given that existing research shows that raising the minimum wage would kill jobs, which will put more people in line at the food bank and hurt low-income families, and given that the *Journal of Labor Research* says, "minimum wages are poorly targeted as an anti-poverty device," why does the government insist on clinging blindly to ideology when their risky economic experiments will hurt low-income earners and families?

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that research shows it does not impact jobs, our consultations will help to determine the size and pace of future increases as well as discuss with impacted stakeholders the possible strategies [interjections] . . .

The Speaker: Are we at second supplemental?

Ms Gray: Mr. Speaker, I was still responding if I may.

The Speaker: I thought your time had elapsed. No. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Possible strategies to mitigate the impact are one of the things we will be discussing during our consultations. IMF director Christine Lagarde has said that a

minimum wage increase would be very useful to kick-start growth in our economy. This is an expert, and we are listening.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you. Will you table that research?

Given that Alberta has the second-highest take-home minimum wage in Canada before the current government started hiking taxes and the minimum wage and considering those earning a \$15-an-hour wage will pay more taxes on top of being hit with extra costs for food, shelter, transportation under the carbon tax, will a minimum wage actually mean more money in people's pockets under the NDP's high tax regime, and will you table your results?

2:20

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, increasing the wage that people make at their daily job will put more money in their pockets. Currently in Alberta nearly 1 in 3 people who use the food bank are working for a living. Alberta has the highest percentage of working people who have to use the food bank. These are very real statistics that are important to discuss, and we look forward to discussing them with Albertans during our consultation process.

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

Fort McMurray Disaster Relief and Recovery

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The outpouring of generosity by Albertans continues to showcase what makes Alberta great. Every little bit counts. With the \$10 here, \$20 there mentality, donations to the Red Cross have exceeded \$67 million. That's \$761 per person displaced due to the Fort McMurray fire. To the Finance minister: what specific levers in addition to prepaid cards is the government providing to nonprofits to expedite all physical and monetary donations?

The Speaker: The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, there has been a tremendous outpouring of support and donations to the Red Cross from right across this country. We're tremendously thankful to Albertans and all Canadians for that generosity. The Red Cross has a long history of supporting other nonprofits in terms of the work that they do in the communities. We continue to expect that the Red Cross will share that generosity with other nonprofits in the Fort McMurray area to ensure support for those organizations and the people in those communities.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Charity Intelligence Canada has said that the front-line services will require significant support as we move into recovery and rehabilitation into the coming weeks and months and given that the logistical challenges may be complicated by unplanned ventures and bottlenecks of Fort McMurray's transportation infrastructure on re-entering, to the Transportation minister: what plan is being developed to ensure that transportation routes, scheduling of returns, and the thousands of individual humanitarian missions can all be accommodated in a safe manner?

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to assure the House and the hon. member that the Transportation department in conjunction with all other ministries and other agencies is working to ensure a

safe return for the people of Fort McMurray. The first key thing to do is to make sure that structures are safe, roads are safe. Under very difficult conditions during the fire we were able to check, for example, the bridge across the Athabasca River to ensure that it could accommodate the subsequent evacuation of up to 25,000 people who had fled north. That was accomplished, and we are going to also work carefully to make sure that the return is safe.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.
Second supplemental.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this outpouring of support and generosity is not limited to this province or indeed within the borders of our country and given that international sources are coming forward by offering financial support to assist in the relief and humanitarian efforts, to the trade minister: how, specifically, are you co-ordinating donations that come from foreign countries, both enterprises and government, and where will this assistance have the greatest impact?

The Speaker: The Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'll thank the member for the question. He's quite right to point out that the outpouring of generosity has occurred not just from all corners of our province and from all corners of our country but, quite frankly, we've had a number of offers for support from our international partners. I've spoken with some of the representatives myself. My ministry is co-ordinating the donations that are being offered through our ministry to help the residents of Fort McMurray. On behalf of the government of Alberta we thank all of our international friends, whether they've donated firefighter support, like from the country of Mexico, to other countries who have offered their support.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
The hon. Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

Motor Vehicle User Charges

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Wildrose has asked the NDP about the use of tolls on provincial highways, and the Minister of Transportation has taken tolls off the table for now. That being said, the city of Edmonton is openly musing about bringing in toll roads, and the mayor of Edmonton is recently quoted as saying: we don't have the means to charge road tolls at this point. Although tolls may be off the agenda for the Minister of Transportation, is the Minister of Municipal Affairs preparing to grant highway toll powers to the municipalities under the MGA?

The Speaker: The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was incredibly tremendous consultation done on the MGA right across this province with so many stakeholders. As a result of that, there was the what-we-heard document online that covered the key topics we were going to be speaking about. Based on what was heard from that time, we came up with some direction in terms of that, and I look forward to introducing the bill and having conversation about that at that time.

Mr. van Dijken: Mr. Speaker, given that two weeks ago at the Alberta Motor Transport Association's annual convention one of Alberta Transportation's senior assistant deputy ministers mused about bringing in a vehicle kilometre travel tax, a per-kilometre charge to motorists based on the distances they travel, to the

Minister of Transportation: is your department serious about a per-kilometre charge for the trucks and vehicles ordinary Albertans drive every day just to live their lives, and will the minister refute his ADM?

Mr. Mason: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member and the House that there is no consideration being given to the use of the types of taxes and so on that he's proposing. I think if the assistant deputy minister was blue skying it and talking about different possibilities, it's a good thing because we need to look at all the ideas, but that's not an idea that we are going to be pursuing.

Mr. van Dijken: Mr. Speaker, Albertans are worried. Given that the NDP increased fuel tax from 9 cents a litre to 13 cents and now their carbon tax will increase the tax on fuel to as much as 21 cents a litre in less than two years, with all these potential new costs from tolls and a vehicle kilometre travel tax on top of existing fuel taxes and a carbon tax, does the Minister of Treasury Board and Finance believe the only way to balance the NDP budget is by taxing Albertans more and more?

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, the hon. member ought not to ask for whom the bell tolls because it tolls for him. We have no intention of introducing tolls or per-kilometre charges or any of those other things. With respect to the price of fuel . . . [interjection] Thank you. If I could have my time. With respect to the price of fuel, I'll remind all hon. members that the price of gasoline a couple of years ago was about \$1.20. It's now about 90 cents.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

Building Codes and Standards

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Municipal Affairs. My constituents have raised the growing issue of imported steel-frame buildings that do not comply with CSA certification standard A660. The concern is that substandard buildings may collapse under stress, risking occupants. This issue has been brought to the attention of many officials, yet it seems that nothing has been done either to prevent uncertified buildings from being constructed in Alberta or to enforce a 13-year-old building code. Due to the confusion and complicated multijurisdictional nature of this issue, will the minister take the lead to correct this deficiency?

The Speaker: The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we're tremendously committed to the safety of Albertans. That's certainly one of the primary goals of this government in terms of moving forward. At the time that I became minister and, in fact, at the time we were elected, many of the codes were incredibly delayed in terms of adopting. We've moved forward with updating and adopting many of the safety codes. One of the things we continue to work with is being responsive to the current changes in terms of what is out there, and we continue to work to ensure the safety of Albertans and update those codes to reflect the current situation of the day.

2:30

Mr. Orr: Thank you to the minister. Given that Alberta businesses manufacture steel frame structures in compliance with building codes but find that imported products have different rules and the lack of enforcement is hurting our already struggling economy and given that purchasers of these structures lose their investment when the product fails and are not able to claim insurance for structures

not certified by Canadian engineering standards, what is this government going to do to protect Alberta businesses and consumers?

The Speaker: The Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think in the question there the member is asking for more regulations, which seems to be counter to what the Official Opposition asked for. I guess this is kind of a tax or spend day. We're not quite sure. Quite frankly, number one, Alberta is bound by our trade regulations that are negotiated through the federal government, so we have to work within those parameters. We want to ensure, obviously, that buildings are made with the highest quality of materials and adhere to existing regulations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not more regulation. It's just enforcing what's already there.

Given that in the recent Municipal Affairs business plan outcome 2 is for stronger systems of standards ensuring Albertans are safe and that 2.2 calls for effective municipal enforcement of safety codes and building codes and given that on January 8 the Minister of Municipal Affairs affirmed that a safety bulletin would be issued but it has not yet been given, will this government follow through with their promise and issue a bulletin to the municipalities and the inspection agencies to ensure that buildings must have the proper A660 certification?

The Speaker: The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, in terms of enforcement, in terms of municipal authorities enforcing that, there's actually been somewhat of a challenge across the province. Some areas have it; some areas don't. So I was proud to bring forward the Alberta safety codes authority to help with enforcement right across the province, and I continue to work with the Safety Codes Council here in this province to ensure that we roll out safety standards in a timely fashion and we work together to enforce them right across the province.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Capital Infrastructure Planning

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know first-hand that developing an effective transportation strategy needs input from both department and industry. You said yesterday that you're consulting with all representative stakeholders that help create an effective transportation strategy. To the Minister of Transportation: what kinds of advice have you received from industry and Albertans, and when will you table this information that you have collected?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. It is true that we're doing extensive consultation with stakeholders, with municipalities in particular, municipal organizations, and organizations involved in transportation on a wide range of subjects, from urban transportation, from LRT. We are talking to people who are in the motor transport business, people that build and maintain roads and other important transportation infrastructure, and we're going to use all of that information to inform the development of a long-range transportation plan, which should be ready within . . .

The Speaker: Thank you.

First supplemental.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that you say that you've consulted with municipal leaders from all over Alberta and given that you still have not committed one way or another on continuing with P3s, to the minister: what did these Albertans say about public-private partnerships?

Mr. Mason: Well, I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, with some certainty that certain school boards were very dissatisfied with the operation of P3 schools under the previous government. We know that these projects are very expensive. We know that we undertake very lucrative long-term contracts for the maintenance and the operation of our infrastructure, and that has to be carefully evaluated to make sure that we're getting the best value for money.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that you say that one of your goals is to integrate innovation in your transportation strategy and given that entrepreneurs have created billions of dollars in opportunities for Albertans through access to jobs in Fort McMurray, to the Minister of Infrastructure: will you allow industry and partners in Fort McMurray the opportunity to rebuild their infrastructure?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Infrastructure.

Mr. Mason: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, we're working with all stakeholders and people from the Fort McMurray area. We want to make sure that we do the job as quickly as possible, that we do it right, and if it's possible and the conditions are appropriate, we certainly want to engage local business first.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Fort McMurray Health and Environmental Issues

Mrs. Littlewood: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our hearts continue to go out to the people of Fort McMurray. In addition to the stress of being asked to leave their homes at a moment's notice, their minds are now turning to what work will be needed to get them back. We know that the fire has had an impact on key infrastructure such as electricity delivery, and of course we need this to operate large household appliances. To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: what is being done to help get those necessities that are needed to run a healthy household, like fridges and freezers, back online?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an important question, and it underscores the importance of securing critical infrastructure before people can return home. There are teams on the ground in Fort McMurray working on these problems as we speak. When people do get back to their homes – you know, most homeowners' and renters' insurance policies cover fridges and freezers, so most people will not need to clean out their fridge and freezer but can keep them closed and remove them although I would encourage people to confirm with their insurers in advance, of course.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mrs. Littlewood: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning the smoke from Fort McMurray actually just found its way to Fort Saskatchewan. Given that air quality is critical to the health and

safety of the residents of Fort McMurray and given that smoke from the Fort McMurray wildfire has a significant impact on air quality, can the Minister of Municipal Affairs update the House on this important health issue?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our first priority is the health and safety of evacuees and of the first responders on the scene there. There have been severe air quality warnings in the Fort McMurray region due to the ongoing fires. Currently four mobile air quality monitoring units have been installed. The Wood Buffalo Environmental Association has also provided an additional two mobile units. This is in addition to the existing air monitoring network. Additional air monitoring needs will be evaluated and assessed to determine priority resources. In the meantime we take the steps needed to keep our first responders safe.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mrs. Littlewood: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that we should do everything we can to fight this wildfire and given that the opposition has suggested that there is a more affordable option for fire retardant than what is currently being used, could the minister report to the House on efforts officials have made to explore that option?

Ms Larivee: Mr. Speaker, all the resources available are being deployed in and around Fort McMurray to fight this wildfire. We tender contracts for the fire retardant chemicals we use. We only use qualified products approved for use in Canada and certified by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service's qualified products list. In the future there may be additional products approved for use from different vendors, and we will evaluate them. I want to assure Albertans that we get the best possible fire suppression products to fight this and all other wildfires. We currently have long-term contracts in place for long-term fire retardant and class A foam.

Energy Policies

Mr. MacIntyre: Mr. Speaker, solar power producers would have to sell power to the Alberta power pool at \$90 a megawatt hour, wind would have to sell their power to the power pool at \$65 per megawatt hour, and in stark contrast natural gas and coal generators are bidding their power into the pool at zero, taking whatever price they can get in our competitive power market. In estimates we asked the Energy minister how Albertans would continue to have affordable power given these market realities, and she had no answers. You've had several days, Minister. Do you have an answer now?

The Speaker: The minister of the environment.

Ms Phillips: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have tasked, of course, the Alberta Electric Systems Operator to consult with industry experts to recommend a program that will bring on renewable generation, keep costs low, and ensure the reliability of electricity. That program will be developed throughout 2016 and for the first RFP by the end of 2016. Of course, the stakeholder consultation has now wrapped up, and stakeholder feedback is on the AESO website.

Mr. MacIntyre: Again no answer.

Given that having Albertan hockey moms trade in their minivans for \$150,000 Teslas does not result in overall cost savings and given that a self-employed journeyman isn't about to trade in his pickup

for a Smart car that will never pull his tool trailer and since travelling long distances is an Albertan reality and not a discretionary choice, what behaviour exactly does this government think is available for modification under this punitive carbon tax?

2:40

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, our government is committed to ensuring that efficiency programming will be designed to be accessible for all Albertans and all sectors. In addition, we are moving forward with voluntary partnerships with the Alberta Motor Association, for example, to ensure that we can take action on air quality as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Speaker: Second supplemental, please.

Mr. MacIntyre: Thank you. Well, that was swing two, strike two.

Given that this government has yet to provide any monetary assessment for any cost increases on the average Albertan family outside of fuel costs for the vehicle and given the numerous media reports of increased costs for bussing children to school, heating classrooms, hospitals, businesses, and administrative buildings, can this government table one – even one – impact study that they've conducted assessing the economic consequences of a carbon tax on Albertan families? Even one? Just one?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I have tabled the Choose Wisely report, which is the latest report of the Ecofiscal Commission, in which there is an analysis of various carbon pricing schemes and their effects on the various provinces, including an assessment of what has happened since 2008 in British Columbia. Of course, we have chosen to invest the carbon levy into the economy, creating jobs, ensuring diversification, and reducing emissions, therefore reducing overall costs.

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

Support for Wildfire-affected Vulnerable Albertans

Mr. Ellis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the regional municipality of Wood Buffalo rapidly evacuated its 80,000 residents from Fort McMurray, many vulnerable people were part of that number. Seniors, for instance, are a group that we are particularly concerned about, and that includes those who reside in the local lodge as well as seniors who are able to live independently with assistance from the community and home care. To the seniors minister: how are you monitoring the vulnerable seniors who had to flee and are now dispersed around Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Seniors and Housing.

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I met with Cynthia Woodford, the vice-president of property services with the Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation, and I can assure you that they did an excellent job evacuating and supporting the seniors. There were 67 seniors living in four Fort McMurray and Anzac facilities, and they were evacuated with family and with our staff. Most are now with friends and family. The Eagle Hill foundation and the Sturgeon Foundation have graciously offered to house some seniors in their facilities, so seniors are being well taken care of.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Given that seniors with challenges may not be able to wait for hours in lineups for the financial assistance that the government finally began offering yesterday and given that people with physical challenges and parents with children may also have trouble waiting for hours in lineups for this assistance, to whoever the minister responsible for this is: what arrangements have you made for everyone with unique circumstances for obtaining assistance without a long wait?

The Speaker: The Minister of Human Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the important question. We have made arrangements so that vulnerable people such as seniors and those people with mobility challenges do not have to wait in the line. Our staff is working with them to make sure that the support is provided to them where they are and they don't have to stand in the lines.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the existence of the Centre of Hope, which supports the homeless people of Fort McMurray, indicates that there are high-risk residents in Alberta's northern city and given that homeless residents would also have fled during the evacuation but these people do not have the same level of support as other evacuated citizens, many of whom have the option of staying with family and friends, to the Minister of Human Services: how is your ministry monitoring these vulnerable residents to ensure they have support wherever they are?

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. Human Services is taking part in this response in four ways. One, it's managing those financial benefits. Second, it's providing supports along with provincial operation centres. Third, it is providing provincial emergency social services. Fourth, it is focusing on continuing the business as usual. With a combination of all of these, we are working with all of the population that deserves and needs government support to make sure that their needs are met.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore.

Public Transit

Ms Kazim: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Alberta strives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Ministry of Transportation plays a significant role in providing Albertans with choices of alternate modes of transportation. Can the minister indicate what is being done to make public transit more accessible and attractive as a means of transportation for Albertans?

The Speaker: The Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, and I thank the hon. member for that important question. As our economy and population grow, public transit provides a safe, accessible, and environmentally sustainable means of transportation to connect Albertans to work, to services, to families, and to every other activity. On March 1 of this year we launched the first-ever provincial transit engagement

with municipal, regional, rural, industry, and indigenous stakeholders. We also approached the general public to talk about transit and rural bus service, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Kazim: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the mayors of Calgary and Edmonton have both stated that increasing public transit is one of the biggest priorities for their cities, again to the same minister: what is this government doing to support public transportation in Alberta?

The Speaker: The Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, Budget 2016 invests a total of \$1.3 billion for . . . [interjections] Sorry. I think this is an important question.

Of this \$1.3 billion, \$914 million is the green transit incentives program. There is still \$415 million in uncommitted funding. The Capital Region Board has received its full amount. Calgary and the rest of the province have \$415 million between them, so that's \$130 million and \$285 million. We're committed to building transit.

The Speaker: Do you have a second supplemental? Please proceed.

Ms Kazim: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that our government is committed to tackling the causes and effects of climate change, again to the Minister of Transportation: how does public transportation support Alberta's climate change plan?

Mr. Mason: What a good question, Mr. Speaker. Public transit activities result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Personal vehicles as a whole emit significantly greater quantities of greenhouse gasses per passenger transported. It also reduces vehicle emissions through increasing efficiency of existing fleets and reducing the number of less-efficient cars and trucks on our roads. For every bus on the road 40 other exhaust pipes are potentially removed from our roads.

The Speaker: Members, you have 30 seconds to leave this Chamber.

Members' Statements

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

Robinson Koilpillai

Dr. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to a great Albertan and a great Canadian, Robinson Koilpillai. Robinson passed away on April 27. There are very few individuals who've had such a significant impact on education and human rights as Robinson Koilpillai. Born in India, Robinson came to Athabasca, Alberta, to teach in 1960 with his beloved wife, Helen, and three children: Susan, Michael, and Chris. Around that time I understand that he was the favourite teacher of our Minister of Energy, and the results show.

2:50

It was later in Edmonton that his career in education blossomed. He became a principal and a social studies curriculum co-ordinator with Edmonton public schools. Mr. Speaker, back then Alberta was not as diverse as we see it today. You can imagine how Robinson made an important contribution to the multicultural and intercultural education in Alberta and attracted attention to human rights issues across Canada. As the president of the Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation and through his association

with a multitude of nonprofits and civic society organizations, including the Alberta heritage council and the Canadian Human Rights Commission, Robinson became a popular community volunteer. His charitable work included fundraising for women and children here and in India, Nepal, and South Africa.

He became a member of the Order of Canada 20 years ago and received many local and national accolades, including a 2008 lifetime achievement RISE award from the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers.

Robinson was a visionary dedicated to education, peace, and international co-operation. His genuine concern for all peoples was inspirational, as is the title of his biography, *Among Friends: Robinson Koilpillai: Teacher, Citizen of Canada, Advocate for Common Humanity*, authored by Allan Sheppard in 2009.

Robinson was a believer in family values.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

Highway Cleanup Campaign

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is an annual rite of spring in this province that helps improve the natural beauty of Alberta, helps protect the environment, and provides financial support to community groups. I'm speaking about the annual Highway Cleanup Campaign.

Motorists need to be reminded over and over again that litter and garbage should not be tossed from the windows of moving cars and trucks. Not only does this pollute the environment; it makes Alberta look trashy and unkempt. We all need to be good stewards of the environment, and this is one of the easiest things to do. Save your garbage for the next stop with a garbage can.

First impressions from the tourists coming to Alberta get developed along those highways from our border crossings, near our airports, and around our major cities. We want to attract investment and more tourists here. Garbage-strewn ditches contribute to driving people away.

Last year 16,245 volunteers representing 650 volunteer organizations from 4-H clubs; sea, army, and air cadets; Scouts; Girl Guides; Rotary alliance clubs; and various other nonprofit groups helped clean up more than 11,400 kilometres. These organizations earned over \$1 million for their cleanup efforts and used these funds to support education, community works, supports for the disadvantaged, and developing that sense of place and community.

These volunteers don orange safety vests and attend safety training before going out between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. and can range in age from nine to 90. Motorists are asked to slow down, obey signs, and be cautious when passing cleanup crews.

With the cleanup getting under way this weekend, groups looking to do their part to help their province can call 310.0000 to sign up. I look forward to seeing many groups doing their part on the sides of our highways this weekend. Remember: please slow down to make this highway cleanup safer.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Calgary-Mountain View.

Mental Health Services for Wildfire Evacuees and First Responders

Dr. Swann: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is facing an unprecedented crisis in mental health amidst a serious recession and over 80,000 people being forced to flee a devastated community. If only a fraction of these individuals require help, our already strained

mental health system will fail many Albertans. In the coming months most of us will remember this fire as a terrible event and will move on with our lives. For the residents of Fort McMurray and first responders, however, moving on will be a painful process fraught with recurring challenges over many years.

Recovery from major emotional loss and trauma is a difficult and delicate process, with no two people having the same experience. What is certain, though, is that left alone, this type of trauma can cause severe suffering, whether it be overt such as alcohol abuse or family violence or covert such as anger and depression. To avert a domino effect and further crisis in the health system, the government must increase funding and activities.

The first activity is increased public education. There is still a stigma associated with mental health problems, and many of those in Fort McMurray won't realize or won't want to admit they need help. The consequences of ignoring the effects of trauma will harm not only the sufferer but their family, friends, and community.

The second is early access to new funds, immediately, for funded psychologists, experienced trauma professionals, and navigators so that they can avoid unaffordable fees. They can offer screening, triage, and timely referral, reducing wait times and freeing up psychiatrists for more critical patients who may need medications.

The third is the navigator or the primary care home to ensure that various financial, medical, and psychological supports communicate with each other and work together through an integrated care plan over the coming year.

I am fully aware that these recommendations require substantial new money from a budget already strained, but the money must be found either in our own budget or through federal assistance. To do nothing is to take half measures, merely moving the problem forward in time and exponentially increasing both cost and human suffering.

Thank you.

Mr. Carlier: Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 7(7) in order to extend the afternoon Routine so we may complete it.

[Unanimous consent granted]

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

Fort McMurray Teachers and School Administrators

Ms Luff: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank an amazing group of folks who I don't know but who are near to my heart, the teachers and school administrators of Fort McMurray.

May 2 would have been a day like any other in classrooms all over Fort Mac, teachers and principals working to help children learn in all of the usual ways. May is starting to edge toward the end of the year, and with the warm weather no doubt the students were starting to feel summer coming.

However, as the day wore on, it would have been obvious that that day was different. The city was being evacuated. Parents were starting to come and pick up children early. As teachers we practise fire drills, lockdowns, and other emergency situations so that we know what to do when the time comes. I wasn't there, but I know that the teachers on that day did everything they could to keep their students calm. They followed procedure, and they got those kids safely to their parents, some of them doing it while they didn't know if their own home was on fire or not. I know that all parents in Fort McMurray and parents all across Alberta are grateful.

Many of us have heard the incredible story of Lisa Hilsenteger, who fled Father Turcotte elementary school with a bus full of children. She kept trying to reach the parents and assured kids that they would be reunited. This is just one incredible story, but I know that it's not the only one. I know the teachers and principals across Fort Mac stepped up to the pressure and ensured that all schools were evacuated safely. This is no small task, and I thank you.

I thank you for continuing to do your work, to share your marks with students' new schools, to hug your students at evacuation centres. I have no doubt that some of you are still doing marking.

The ATA is hosting a barbecue just for you in Edmonton this afternoon, starting at 5:30, at Barnett House, and I hope that many of you can make it out to support each other and share your amazing stories during this difficult time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

School Psychology

Ms Woollard: Mr. Speaker, when I began teaching, my focus was on teaching the students in my class what was appropriate for the grade level. I had some knowledge of child development, but my common sense led me to believe that most challenges that students experienced were quite straightforward. A student goofing around in class is not likely to learn well or at all. However, teaching and watching in the classroom suggested there was more to this problem than met the eye.

I started to notice students who were not misbehaving or not paying attention but were still failing to learn well. Teachers sometimes apply the common labels: needs to try harder, needs to work more carefully, needs to pay attention. But while these descriptors are accurate for some children, they don't tell how to help children learn more effectively. My search to find out why some students struggle to learn while other students learn easily led me to find out about learning differences and learning difficulties. I attended workshops, professional development activities, and completed a graduate diploma in special-needs education. It was helpful but only part of the solution.

Psychologists do assessments which investigate how children's behaviour, attention, memory, and other abilities affect how they learn and remember. I decided to become a psychologist. I learned how to administer psychoeducational and behavioural tests to students struggling in school. Now, once an assessment is complete, the results are shared with the student's parent or guardian and teacher, and then plans are made for how to modify or adapt the program and support the students.

Psychoeducational assessments provide information that enables our great Alberta education system to work for each student. This individualization and support helps students be successful in school.

3:00 Volunteer Support for Wildfire-affected Albertans

Mr. Yao: Volunteerism is an activity where individuals or groups provide a service for no financial gain. It promotes goodness, with the endeavour of improving human quality of life. This incident that occurred in my region drew volunteers from so many places who provided services in so many ways and who helped so many people. I drew strength from these volunteers and was humbled by them as they selflessly helped those who were vulnerable. I wish to use this opportunity to thank all of those volunteers.

There were, of course, the volunteer fire departments that sent fire trucks and tankers, who came without a request from the municipality of Wood Buffalo. Fire departments came from Olds,

Athabasca, Slave Lake, Smoky Lake, Lac La Biche, and so many other communities.

There was a crew of civilians from Grande Prairie who brought in their own food and cooking supplies and stationed themselves on MacDonald Island, the recreation centre where all the emergency services were staged and housed. They cooked food and provided hot coffee until they ran out.

There was a team from Sylvan Lake and another from the Edmonton area who had their own Tidy Tanks and stacks of jerry cans with fuel that they had purchased themselves to provide to anyone – no questions asked, and no money asked for; when offered, they outright refused it – so that people could escape the fire.

There were the various groups and municipal governments providing and manning reception centres, whether it was in Lac La Biche, Boyle, or Edmonton, to name a few, who selflessly provided food, water, and shelter complete with beds to evacuees.

There were the people who went in to rescue our pets. Our familiars were saved by volunteers who were willing to go into a danger zone and rescue our furry best friends and by professional veterinarians, including the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster, who volunteered that medical expertise to our animals.

It's interesting to note that of the over 80,000 people that were evacuated from Fort McMurray, only a small percentage actually relied on the evacuation centres for shelter. Most could rely on family and friends. Yet, more so, there were so many who voluntarily opened their homes to shelter strangers. The Member for Chestermere-Rocky View opened her home to our constituency staffer and his friends.

I feel it unjust to mention but a few of the volunteers and communities who gave so much to those in need in these tragic times. So many volunteers and so little time. With so little to give, they gave so much. To all those: I thank you, and God bless.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta and Minister of Status of Women.

Bill 15

An Act to End Predatory Lending

Ms McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce Bill 15, An Act to End Predatory Lending.

As the throne speech made clear, our government is committed to protecting vulnerable Albertans from predatory lending practices. Currently lenders are able to charge very high interest rates to Albertans who are the least able to afford it. This bill will reduce the high cost of borrowing for payday loans and help ensure that alternative financial assistance and short-term credit options are available to all Albertans. It will also strengthen consumer protection for borrowers of payday loans by introducing mandatory instalment repayment plans, requiring payday lenders to provide financial literacy information to borrowers, and imposing stricter controls on the activities of payday lenders. Through this legislation our government is building pathways out of poverty by helping Albertans who find themselves in difficult financial circumstances to escape the cycle of debt caused by short-term, high-cost credit.

Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 15 read a first time]

Bill 206
Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
Awareness Day Act

Ms Goehring: Mr. Speaker, I request leave today to introduce a bill, that bill being Bill 206, the Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Day Act.

Through my consultation with stakeholders I have constantly heard how important increased awareness of the effects and triggers of PTSD is, and this bill will hopefully help continue an important conversation here in Alberta. Especially given the current situation, a dedicated day will also help educate the public about the long-term effects and triggers of PTSD, the importance of accurate and early diagnosis as well as help to combat the stigma and silence we often see around mental health issues.

I'd ask all members for their support. Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 206 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Mr. McIver: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I made reference to a document the other day, an Ipsos-Reid poll that talks about how 65 per cent of Albertans think the NDP is crippling future generations. I have the requisite number of copies here.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders
Third Reading

Bill 7
Electoral Boundaries Commission
Amendment Act, 2016

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to move third reading of Bill 7, the Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2016.

The proposed amendments in Bill 7 would authorize the early appointment of an Electoral Boundaries Commission on or before October 31, 2016, which is earlier than currently allowed under the act, and clarify a commission's authority to consider recent information respecting population that is not collected on a province-wide basis such as municipal population information. This information would be used along with the federal decennial census of population or a more recent province-wide census.

As mentioned, the first proposed amendment would allow the early appointment of the Electoral Boundaries Commission. The act's timeline for the appointment of a commission is based on the assumption that general elections are held about once every four years. Unfortunately, due to the previous government's early election call, this timeline has been somewhat thrown off because the election occurred a year earlier than anticipated.

The current wording of the act provides that a commission is to be appointed during the First Session of the Legislature following every second general election after the appointment of the last commission. However, if fewer than eight years have passed since the appointment of the last commission, the following commission is to be appointed no sooner than eight years after that.

3:10

A commission was last appointed in July 2009, and there have been two general elections since then. However, the earliest a commission can be appointed is eight years after that date. As such, under the current wording of the act a commission cannot be appointed earlier than July 2017. A commission needs to be appointed before July 2017 so that there's sufficient time for the commission to complete its work.

The early appointment, Mr. Speaker, will also ensure that there is sufficient time for election preparations such as preparing lists of electors under the new electoral boundaries and providing these lists to registered political parties for their use during the election campaign. It's anticipated that the next general election will be held between March 1 and May 31, 2019, as per the fixed election period set out in the Election Act. The Chief Electoral Officer recommends that the commission be appointed in the fall of 2016.

I will now explain why it's important to proceed with authorizing the early appointment of the commission from a legal perspective. The Charter of Rights includes a guarantee of effective representation. Alberta currently has 87 electoral districts. The act says that the population of a proposed electoral division should be no more than 25 per cent above or below the average population in the proposed electoral district. There is an exception for four special electoral divisions, which can have a population of up to 50 per cent below the average population of all proposed electoral divisions if they meet certain criteria.

The 25 per cent deviation from the average population is intended to be rare and not the norm. The early appointment of a commission will give it time to consider the population of the electoral divisions and to protect that right. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to make clear that this is simply a procedural change necessitated by the early election call.

The second proposed amendment would clarify a current section in the act dealing with the information that the commission must and may use when determining the population of Alberta. The act says that the commission must use population information from the federal census carried out every 10 years. However, if there is a more recent province-wide census, the commission may use that population information. The act also currently allows the commission to use other more recent population information in conjunction with the federal decennial census of population or a more recent province-wide census.

The proposed amendment clarifies the authority to use data collected municipally, but this does not represent a change in policy, Mr. Speaker. The last Electoral Boundaries Commission used municipal census data and found it very helpful in their determination.

Finally, there was one amendment proposed regarding this aspect of Bill 7 during Committee of the Whole. That amendment was defeated. The defeating of that amendment, Mr. Speaker, was with the support of the Chief Electoral Officer. The amendment would disproportionately prejudice the representational rights of Albertans in rapidly growing areas of the province by not including population increases in this area that have occurred since 2011.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is important in protecting Albertans' rights to effective representation, and I ask for the support of all members for these important amendments. Thank you.

The Speaker: Are there any members who would like to speak?
The Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about Bill 7, the Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2016. This legislation is significant to all Albertans because it does a lot more than draw lines on a map. Electoral boundaries reflect the interests of people in Alberta's communities, neighbourhoods, counties, regions, towns, and cities. These boundaries show Albertans how the provincial government understands their community, and these boundaries help establish the foundation of the relationship between these representatives and their constituents.

In Committee of the Whole we spent time discussing the data that the commission will be using in its deliberations. It's important to discuss the other factors that will be going into the commissioner's decision. In the past these boundaries haven't been influenced by population alone. The law mandates that the Electoral Boundaries Commission take into account population density, community interest, community boundaries, municipal boundaries, geographical features, distance, area, and even local issues.

When we begin to untangle all the considerations that the Electoral Boundaries Commission has to make, we can see that its mandate is confronted with an incredibly complex task. This important and challenging duty falls on five people, five people to review the interests and the unique features of a province with over 4 million people and 660,000 square kilometres. It's not exactly an enviable position to be in. Balancing all of these factors and interests doesn't have a set formula. There's no textbook to look to for answers. The only guidelines are the parameters of the legislation and the work done by previous commissions. That is why public consultation will be critical and crucial to guide these five people in gaining an understanding of Alberta's intricacies.

Mr. Speaker, in looking back to the 2009 Electoral Boundaries Commission, we can see how much public consultation an Electoral Boundaries Commission must conduct to even begin to understand our province. I believe that the last time a commission was organized was in 2009. There were a total of 14 public consultations in the first round of meetings and nine public consultations in the second round. Between these two rounds and 23 consultations there were over 200 presentations made to the public and approximately 500 submissions put in to that commission.

This type of engagement is exactly what this commission has to do. It has to get out in front of people and listen to what communities all over our province have to say. I know how much of a task that is for one MLA to do in one riding. Going to all the corners of the constituency and listening to as many people as possible isn't easy, so imagine what the entire province must look like. Challenging but necessary.

The concept of getting out to as many people as possible and seeking meaningful engagement and consultation brings me to my next point on the work of this commission. How these boundaries are drawn will lay the foundation for relationships between the people of Alberta and their representatives. For representatives – yes, us – the commission tells us who our bosses will be. It tells us who we are directly accountable to. How these lines are drawn will be fundamentally affecting people and how they will engage with these representatives. The essence of this relationship is effective representation no matter the size, location, population density, community interest, community boundaries, municipal boundaries, geographical features, distance, area, local issues. This commission must maintain effective representation for every boundary that is drawn.

The Speaker: Hon. members, a little quiet, please.

Mr. Cyr: The riding I represent is largely rural. I love that about where I'm from. I love being in Alberta's beautiful nature, and a connection to the land is part of my area's culture. To keep a strong connection to my constituents means a lot of driving, something I love to do, especially since Bonnyville-Cold Lake is in what I would describe as one of the most beautiful parts of Alberta and possibly the world.

3:20

While I love living in and representing a rural riding, there are challenges in maintaining a close relationship with the constituents based on travel time between all the different places that I need to be on any given day. This challenge isn't unique to me by any stretch. I believe that it is challenging for all MLAs but particularly the ones that have large rural components to their ridings.

Maintaining effective representation must contain relative parity of voting power, but exact parity is impossible. What I hope this year's Electoral Boundaries Commission will keep top of mind are concepts laid out in the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in 1991 regarding the Saskatchewan reference. In the court's decision they point to the problem with ridings that are too sparsely populated and difficulties associated with communication. I believe that even with the rise of information technology like the Internet and cellphones, there is still a barrier to proper communication if constituents are unable to contact their MLA in a way that best fits them. I deal with a lot of seniors in my riding. Many of them are tech savvy but not all of them. A visit to my office is commonplace for people in my riding, and I encourage all of my constituents to drop by my office any time they feel the need. My door is always open.

If the boundaries are redrawn in rural areas to the extent that people are not able to come into their MLA's office because the journey is too expensive or time consuming, there is a real risk of deteriorating an important element of our democracy, accessibility to their MLA. Accessibility to our MLAs is crucial for a free and fair democracy.

I also want to conclude by discussing the importance of respecting community, municipality, and geographical boundaries. Albertans are an incredibly proud group of people. They work hard to make their communities great. They feel a bond with their neighbour, whether that neighbour is right next door to them or kilometres down the road.

I urge the commission to really work hard to learn the different facets of our communities and not divide them for partisan or political reasons. Honouring these unique features across the province and maintaining effective representation will ensure that Albertans have a free and fair democracy for generations to come.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 7 read a third time]

Bill 8

Fair Trading Amendment Act, 2016

Mr. Carlier: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move Bill 8, Fair Trading Amendment Act, 2016, on behalf of the Minister of Service Alberta.

The Speaker: Are there any members who would like to speak to Bill 8? The Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just rise to offer my enthusiastic support for Bill 8, and I want to say that the minister deserves thanks for bringing this forward. Now that she will have certain powers under this act, I would strongly encourage her to use them.

As has been discussed in this House already, there have been some serious concerns specifically with the Alberta Motor Vehicle Industry Council and its ability or willingness, perhaps, to protect auto buyers. Bill 8 is going to give the minister the powers to ensure that people who have been taken in scams like the Treadz Auto scam, in fact, receive appropriate compensation.

There is \$4.5 million in the AMVIC compensation fund. They have arbitrarily capped compensation for this particular case at \$300,000, which left upwards of 120 people out nearly a million dollars who have been scammed by a disreputable company. AMVIC's job is to protect those people. If they are not doing that, this bill will give the minister the ability to do that. Again, I strongly encourage her to do that.

I have some constituents in Calgary-Elbow who have been taken by this scam, and it's been very, very difficult for them and for many others. Again, I welcome the powers that the minister has been given, in particular the authorization to appoint a representative to oversee management of the organization. Again, this bill gives her very broad powers, and I certainly encourage her, please, to use them, especially as it relates to the compensation fund and perhaps even management of the organization. There's been a report by MNP that's made several recommendations, and I know that some of those have been addressed or at least claim to have been addressed.

Now that these powers are in place for the minister, I really do encourage her to use them. It's very important that the people who have been taken by the Treadz Auto scam, in particular, and any other consumers who may be victimized by disreputable auto dealers have the assurance that they will be protected by the industry council, whose job it is, in fact, to protect them.

With that, Mr. Speaker, again, my praise to the minister for taking such strong action, and I enthusiastically support this bill. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nielsen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's certainly been some great conversation around Bill 8, and I was certainly happy to cosponsor that bill. For all the speakers that stood up and supported this, I certainly thank them for that. I think this bill will add the oversight that the DRO doesn't currently have under this act, that all the others enjoy in every other piece of legislation.

With that said, I think there's consensus within the House, and we can move on.

Mr. Carlier: Mr. Speaker, I move that we finish up third reading and take the vote.

Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 8 read a third time]

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 12 Aboriginal Consultation Levy Repeal Act

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River.

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very honoured to be a cosponsor of this particular bill. I guess I officially have to move it for second reading on behalf of the Minister of Indigenous Relations.

It might seem like it's a very small act, it might seem that it's not really all that important, but it's actually an incredibly, incredibly important piece of legislation. Consultation is something that I've

heard plenty about in my constituency from my First Nations and my Métis settlements communities. They've talked about how the previous government might have thought they were consulting, but they never did consult. That did not just apply to this act but in so many ways. The government would come. They'd sit down and have dinner. They'd exchange gifts. They'd do a photo op. Then they would tell the First Nations and the Métis communities: "This is what we're going to do. This is what we're going to do for you." They never actually asked: "What would you like us to do? How do you feel about this legislation? Can you give us some feedback? Can you help us? Can you work collaboratively with us as we do this process?"

3:30

My First Nations communities have told me how they really felt almost disrespected, demeaned in this process because they were not treated as equals in a nation-to-nation kind of relationship. Rather, they were treated in a very paternalistic way. In trying to forge a better and a new relationship, our government is trying to do things very differently.

Actually, I was in the House when this act received its readings back in 2013, in May. I sat over there with *Hansard*, and I listened to the arguments. There were some very passionate arguments by the opposition from all sides. We had the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, the Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, and the Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview. They all argued very passionately against this bill.

There were some key issues with Bill 22. Among them, of course, primarily, was that they had not adequately consulted with the First Nations when they were trying to bring this act in. The act was actually intended, ironically, to effect a consultation levy. The irony was remarked upon over and over that night.

A couple of more concerning issues were that it seemed to interfere with the treaty process, that the government was seeking far greater control of negotiations between industry and the First Nations. First Nations were even being forced to openly declare all of the negotiations that they would have had with industry partners in the process, something that no other Albertans needed to do. They really had issues with this. The minister would even have the right to decide which groups were considered First Nations for the purpose of this process. So there were some real concerns that were brought up by the opposition.

It was quite interesting to me to go through *Hansard* and read some of these comments, but they also brought up better reasons and better ways of consulting and how you do have to consult in a very respectful way.

That evening we also had sitting in the gallery – and I believe it was across there – a very large contingent of First Nations chiefs and representatives. Among them was Chief Cameron Alexis, who at that time was the Assembly of First Nations' regional chief. Now, Cameron is somebody who I'm now honoured to call a friend and a colleague because he's the CEO of the North Peace Tribal Council up in High Level, where I live. He and I have been working very closely on trying to advance the interests of our aboriginal communities up there. I asked him for his thoughts on this bill. He immediately came back and reiterated all of the concerns. Primarily he said that they didn't feel that they had been consulted in a way that was meaningful to those First Nations and that that needed to be really recognized. He also brought out to me that we still have to go forward on these kinds of legislation, but he said that what's really important is that we do take into account the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples in everything we do when we're developing this legislation.

I think that's something that our government is doing, and that's why I'm really pleased that we brought forth this repeal act because it's going to be a first step forward in restarting the negotiation process and actually engaging with our aboriginal peoples in meaningful consultation going forward.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to speak to second reading of Bill 12? The Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand today and speak to Bill 12, the Aboriginal Consultation Levy Repeal Act. If there's one thing I've learned throughout my career, it's that the more people work together toward a common goal, the better the final product will be. Whether we're in manufacturing, agriculture, the oil and gas industry, education, health, or any other activity you can think of, strategies and common solutions developed in consultation are often more solid and find support through implementation. This consultation process takes a lot longer than simply handing down a decision and expecting that everybody involved will do their best to make it work.

In the end that time taken during the planning phase will lead to a higher level of buy-in from all concerned and a greater sense of ownership and pride in the work that follows. I have used a consultative process in virtually all of the work I have done. From the oil field to farm work to my family, I've recognized that decisions that are developed together are much more likely to be honoured, and the end result is a stronger relationship built on a knowledge and certainty that everybody impacted has been heard and their concerns respected.

What does this have to do with Bill 12? Very simply, Mr. Speaker, the bill is about consultation. Proper and full consultation with First Nations will benefit not only the First Nations but all Albertans. For far too long economic development initiatives and infrastructure upgrades such as bridges and roads have built up due to uncertainty about how the First Nations in the area will be impacted and how they need to be included meaningfully. We have had decades of one-off approaches to development on First Nations land that have led to a divide-and-conquer sort of mentality, working with select First Nations while excluding others.

The lack of consultation was a major stumbling block with Bill 22. None of the groups that are impacted by the bill were in favour of it. It did not meet the needs of the First Nations communities and was never proclaimed. The bill imposes levies on industry to provide funding to First Nations and Métis settlements to support their participation and consultation over resource development in their areas. The irony is that none of the treaty organizations, First Nations communities, or Métis settlements councils were consulted as the bill was being drafted, and step by step that bill made it more difficult for industry and First Nations to come together to find mutually acceptable ways of making best use of local resource development.

This bill is a first step toward changing that pattern. Firstly, it stops the piecemeal approach to fixing the previous bill. It recognizes that Bill 22 was flawed both in the content of the bill as well as the process by which it was drafted and presented to Albertans. By repealing Bill 22, this government is recognizing that the fundamental relationship between government and indigenous Albertans needs to be formalized in a way that recognizes and honours the autonomy and authority of both parties. It also recognizes that that relationship must withstand scrutiny by being transparent and open.

I hope this bill will set the stage for a better framework for First Nations and Métis communities as well as for government. If so, it should support all Albertans with certainty and a map for the best approach to resource development. The whole intention of Bill 22 was to provide funds to allow First Nations to participate in consultations with industry about resource development. We know that the bill did not meet the expectations of First Nations and that they were against the bill, but so, too, were the representatives from the energy industry who would have been impacted by that bill. Our representatives suggested that Bill 22 actually would have gotten in the way of consultations between First Nations and industry. They're looking forward to a new framework for consultation that is supportive of and supported by First Nations and Métis communities. The uncertainty surrounding Bill 22 was very difficult, and investors do not like uncertainty.

Since this government was elected, the Wildrose caucus has been urging the government to slow down with the proposed legislation to make sure that they get it right. So far our caution has not been well received. Instead, we have seen government push through legislation that has caused huge concern. For instance, how many thousands of people rallied here at the Legislature over Bill 6? How many gathered in towns across the province to get their voices heard in opposition to the lack of consultation and the haste with which the government addressed the bill that had the potential to fundamentally alter the fabric of rural Alberta?

Mr. Speaker, we saw the same thing with Bill 8, the Public Education Collective Bargaining Act. Wildrose fielded an enormous outcry over the process by which the government introduced the bill and then rushed it through, with a promise to hold consultations afterwards.

In order to build trust, this government needs to take time to work with stakeholders to ensure that the legislation they table has the support of the people it will impact. This is particularly true when considering issues that impact First Nations and Métis peoples and communities as the relationships are extremely complex and involve other governments. Of course, in the area of resource development the parties involved, including indigenous communities, local municipalities, towns, industry, and the provincial government, all need to have a voice in how the process will unfold and how their concerns will be considered.

The continued support of First Nations through the First Nations consultation capacity investment program will continue to support negotiations while government engages with First Nations on a new structure and process. This is good news for all of Alberta. Wildrose hopes that the new commitment to Métis through the Métis settlements consultation policy will also be in the works and will ensure that this government maintains its firm commitment to indigenous peoples. However, this bill could potentially cause more red tape as the government implements a new approach to consultation. It could also incur higher costs for governments of all levels as they work through the bill to determine the implementation process.

3:40

I support this bill, and I hope this repeal will bring a new level of expectation for consultation that this government will apply to all further proposed legislation as well instead of racing ahead to pass legislation without due consideration for the impact on the stakeholders in the province. I hope this bill becomes a standard by which legislation is researched before being tabled and pushed through without due consideration.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-St. Albert.

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When this bill first came across my desk, I was reflecting back on a powwow I went to on the Alexander First Nation in my constituency. The first thing that struck me was the amount of co-operation between the industry representatives who were present, many of them oil and gas representatives, and the Alexander First Nation. The second thing that struck me was that both groups expressed concerns about Bill 22. Both of them identified this bill as a roadblock to working together to address both of their concerns.

This is definitely a big step towards the reconciliation that we have all agreed is important as a Legislature, as a government, really, as a people. Both Alberta and Canada have begun these steps towards reconciliation. Further, I believe that this bill will help to give industry and Alberta the tools that we really need when we're moving forward on diversification as industry and First Nations will have an easier time, a more streamlined time consulting and getting towards the projects that we really need to build a resilient economy moving forward.

I had more to say, but it's not coming, so thank you.

The Speaker: Are there any questions or observations under 29(2)(a)?

Hearing none, I would recognize the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to stand today in the House and speak to Bill 12, the Aboriginal Consultation Levy Repeal Act. As has been expressed multiple times – but I believe it deserves repeating – First Nations communities felt that they weren't properly consulted on this. I think it's very important in light of that now we are so compelled to implement the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and, not only that, also, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action that we re-establish our relationship with First Nations. I'm so grateful that our government is doing exactly that and that it's such an important priority for our new Minister of Indigenous Relations.

I've had the opportunity to build relationships with many First Nations people here in our province, and I just want to stress how important that word "relationship" is. For many First Nations as well as Métis communities being able to sit down in the circle to discuss, to build the relationship first, to build that trust with one another and, especially with First Nations, to engage in the process, the protocol, perhaps better stated, of ceremony, of actually being able to sit down and share medicine, smoke pipe, lay down tobacco: all these things are important to First Nations people, that their protocols be followed. We must never forget that this is part of respecting First Nations constitutionally protected treaty rights. We can never forget that we are signatories to treaties 6, 7, and 8 here in this province.

As we move forward, it's important that we sit down and we have more productive discussions and that First Nations feel that their participation is a genuine participation in a process of consultation and that industry and stakeholders would also be respected in that process as we all sit down at the table together to discuss these matters.

It gives me great honour to share the words of Grand Chief Tony Alexis of Treaty 6. I really hope that all of the members of this House take these words to heart. Regarding Bill 22 he said: it was the same mindset as residential schools; we know what's best for you, and we will look after you, so don't worry about a thing; our first stance is to protect the land, and if government is going to put

together a bill, we have to be involved in that bill so we know that those interests will be heard.

With that being said, Mr. Speaker, again, it gives me great pleasure to speak to Bill 12, and I highly recommend that everyone in this House please vote in favour of Bill 12. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Hon. members, are there any questions or comments to the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie?

Are there any individuals who would like to speak to Bill 12? Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater.

Mr. Piquette: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise to speak in favour of this bill. I think this is something that, from my own experience in dealing with indigenous communities, is very appropriate. I mean, I'd like to just sort of echo what the Member for Peace River stated in her comments. That's how previously this consultation seemed to have been carried out, you know, by people working for companies. The kinds of stories that I would hear in some of the communities would be that they would drop by a band office, maybe drop off some cigarettes for the elders, chat with a few people, then maybe a week or two later they'd send out a facsimile with a bunch of technical information that the band wouldn't really have any ability to respond to in a practical manner.

I think that taking a look at this again and making sure that consultation really does mean consultation – it's not just fulfilling our constitutional obligation. It's basic decency that if you're going to be having conversations with people, those are conversations that you're really trying to find out what people want and not trying to massage the situation to just get what you want out of the situation.

Once again, I'm in favour of this bill, and I really appreciate our minister bringing this forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Under 29(2)(a) are there any questions or observations to the Member for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater?

Hearing none, I would call upon the Minister of Indigenous Relations to close debate.

3:50

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to stand here today to close debate on second reading of this bill because it is a fundamental reflection of our commitment in this government to forge a new relationship with the indigenous community in this province. I arrived just moments ago because I was on the phone with the federal minister of indigenous relations co-ordinating our efforts regarding the fires in Fort McMurray. We had a very clear conversation about the United Nations declaration, as the federal government has just adopted the same practice that we have. They're joining us, and she commended Alberta on being the front of the pack on that.

It feels the same to me as the repeal of Bill 22. It's time to get in front of a problem that we have allowed to languish for far too long. Bill 22 was intended to establish a levy on industry as a way to increase funding to First Nations for consultation around activities on traditional lands. Unfortunately, as we have heard from many of the speakers today, the consultation itself provided no consultation with the indigenous community in terms of the construction of the bill and the application of the bill. The irony has been noted but cannot be left out of any speech because it just is so glaring.

We had the opportunity to speak with indigenous people around the province, and they consistently have told us that this was wrong. They appreciate the fact that indeed both sides of the House are behind the repeal of this legislation and that we are committed as a

full government, and I think both sides of the House are committed to truly changing how we do things with the indigenous community.

One of the things that you're going to hear me say a lot more in the future is that not only are we getting rid of this very flawed act, which was apparently on consultation, but also I want us to begin to be aware of the language we're using and understand that what we want in this government is not simply an issue of consultation with indigenous people, but we want to have true engagement with indigenous people. It's not simply a matter of asking them to reflect on decisions we've already made. We want them to be party to making the decision in the first place.

Our government is committed to that through the First Nations consultation capacity investment program, often referred to as FNCCIP. We will be making sure that in the future we are providing the monies that are necessary for First Nations to truly consult on this bill and other bills. To support the capacity for First Nations, we're providing money through FNCCIP in a range between \$80,000 to \$135,000 for every community from the budget of Indigenous Relations right now until we get the new act put in place. We look forward to doing that. Under the FNCCIP \$5.9 million was provided to First Nations in 2014 and '15 and \$6.3 million was allocated to First Nations in 2015 and '16.

Treaty organizations will be at the table for our discussions. They will be prepared. They will have had the adequacy of having the resources to speak to experts who can assist them and speak to us about what their needs truly are. Together we will construct a bill, and we will be coming back into this House as soon as we can to move forward in our new engagement relationship with the First Nations of Alberta.

I respectfully urge all of my colleagues at this time to support this bill. Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 12 read a second time]

Bill 11
Alberta Research and Innovation
Amendment Act, 2016

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and move second reading of Bill 11, the Alberta Research and Innovation Amendment Act, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, research and innovation are the key to creating a more diverse and resilient economy. While we lead the country in investing in this field, we know that we must continue to be proactive. We must innovate, create, and work together. We must build on our strengths while positioning us solidly for success in the 21st century, and that is what we're doing through this legislation.

The intent of this legislation is to strengthen one of the main drivers of Alberta's research and innovation system, the Alberta Innovates corporations. Right now we have four Alberta Innovates corporations divided up by sectors: Bio Solutions, Health Solutions, Energy and Environment Solutions, and Technology Futures. This legislation consolidates the strengths from each of the corporations through the creation of a single Alberta Innovates corporation.

By combining the four Alberta Innovates corporations into one, we are simplifying the system for researchers, helping leverage additional outside funding, aligning with government-funded priorities, and making government more accountable. The new corporation will drive research and help turn great ideas into innovations that improve lives and our economy. One corporation

will make it easier for Alberta researchers, entrepreneurs, and companies to access the programs and supports available to them. This integration will better connect Alberta's drivers of economic growth with the academic and technical expertise required to move to the next level. Whether it's exploratory research that may identify future economic opportunities or the expertise to solve immediate industry challenges, by simplifying the system, the drivers of our economic growth will also have more time and energy for their research.

In short, we are making it easier for Alberta's researchers and businesses to navigate the province's innovation system. The amendments I'm proposing help make that happen. For example, we're streamlining the legislation by repealing section 5, which established a committee for the four board chairs of the research and innovation corporation. With one corporation a committee of the four corporation board chairs would no longer be relevant.

The amendments also reflect what has happened since the act was introduced in 2010. This includes changing the name of the Alberta Research and Innovation Authority, otherwise known as ARIA, to the Alberta research and innovation advisory committee. This was in response to ARIA members telling us that they've operated more as a committee than an authority and recommended the change. Going forward, I see the Alberta research and innovation advisory committee continuing to play an important role in providing strategic advice to government and Alberta Innovates. This shows our government's desire to learn from others and leverage new opportunities.

I see great opportunities to link the new Alberta Innovates even further with the work of our Campus Alberta institutions from a research perspective. By bringing these minds together, we will achieve more sooner. As I said earlier, that's what we're aiming to achieve through these amendments.

The proposed changes are based on best practices from other jurisdictions. They're also based on expert panel reviews and feedback from stakeholders. We listened carefully and examined what they had to say. Now we're taking action on this through legislation so that our research and innovation system is better positioned to support innovative bioenergy plants, develop new therapies and procedures for patients, minimize our footprint on the environment, and help small and medium-sized companies commercialize some very innovative technologies.

While this act is under the responsibility of my ministry, we have been and will continue to take a collaborative approach. We are working closely with a number of other ministries that see research as an important component of achieving their objectives. This includes the Ministry of Health because health research in the new corporation will help transform the health care system and accelerate access to health innovations. We will continue to work closely with the new Alberta Innovates board and senior management to ensure a smooth transition.

Mr. Speaker, our government has long established our support for research and innovation. In last November's state of the province speech the Premier made it clear that our government will help drive innovation. We want Alberta to be a great place to turn an idea into a product and a product into a prosperous enterprise.

4:00

In the Alberta jobs plan we identified research and innovation as a key to improving the Alberta economy, industry, workforce, and well-being of our citizens. The amendments we're proposing strengthen Alberta's research and innovation system so that the province is positioned to seize on the opportunities that will

diversify our economy and create jobs. As such, I encourage all members to support Bill 11.

At this, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Seeing as we've made some great progress today and this week in our Legislature, I move that we adjourn the House until Monday, May 16, at 1:30 p.m.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:01 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 29th Legislature - 2nd Session (2016)

Activity to May 12, 2016

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 Sittings.

1 Promoting Job Creation and Diversification Act (Bilous)

First Reading -- 5 (Mar. 8, 2016 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 732-36 (Apr. 20, 2016 aft.), 685-91 (Apr. 20, 2016 morn.), 749-60 (Apr. 21, 2016 aft.), 825 (May 5, 2016 aft., passed)

2 Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2016 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading -- 96 (Mar. 10, 2016 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 162-67 (Mar. 15, 2016 morn., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole -- 239-49 (Mar. 16, 2016 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 251-59 (Mar. 17, 2016 morn., passed on division)

Royal Assent -- (Mar. 23, 2016 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force Mar. 23, 2016; SA 2016 c1]

3 Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2016 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading -- 156 (Mar. 14, 2016 eve., passed)

Second Reading -- 201 (Mar. 15, 2016 aft., passed), 157-62 (Mar. 15, 2016 morn.)

Committee of the Whole -- 239-49 (Mar. 16, 2016 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 259-66 (Mar. 17, 2016 morn., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Mar. 23, 2016 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force Mar. 23, 2016; SA 2016 c2]

4* An Act to Implement a Supreme Court Ruling Governing Essential Services (Gray)

First Reading -- 180 (Mar. 15, 2016 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 285-88 (Mar. 17, 2016 aft.), 349-66 (Apr. 5, 2016 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 399-409 (Apr. 6, 2016 aft.), 378-84 (Apr. 6, 2016 morn.), 415-28 (Apr. 7, 2016 morn., passed with amendments)

Third Reading -- 450-55 (Apr. 7, 2016 aft., passed), 428-33 (Apr. 7, 2016 morn.)

5 Seniors' Home Adaptation and Repair Act (Sigurdson)

First Reading -- 398 (Apr. 6, 2016 aft.)

Second Reading -- 455-56 (Apr. 7, 2016 aft.), 532-38 (Apr. 12, 2016 aft., passed), 491-505 (Apr. 12, 2016 morn.)

Committee of the Whole -- 570-77 (Apr. 13, 2016 aft., passed), 539-56 (Apr. 13, 2016 morn.)

Third Reading -- 577-83 (Apr. 13, 2016 aft., passed)

6 Securities Amendment Act, 2016 (Ceci)

First Reading -- 447 (Apr. 7, 2016 aft., passed), 447 (Apr. 7, 2016 aft.)

Second Reading -- 519-27 (Apr. 12, 2016 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 527-32 (Apr. 12, 2016 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 583-85 (Apr. 13, 2016 aft., passed)

7 Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2016 (Ganley)

First Reading -- 518 (Apr. 12, 2016 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 585-86 (Apr. 13, 2016 aft.), 682-84 (Apr. 19, 2016 aft., passed), 649-51 (Apr. 19, 2016 morn.)

Committee of the Whole -- 820-24 (May 5, 2016 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 902-903 (May 12, 2016 aft., passed)

- 8 Fair Trading Amendment Act, 2016 (McLean)**
First Reading -- 568 (Apr. 13, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 669-71 (Apr. 19, 2016 aft.), 684 (Apr. 19, 2016 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 824-25 (May 5, 2016 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 903-904 (May 12, 2016 aft., passed)
- 9 An Act to Modernize Enforcement of Provincial Offences (Ganley)**
First Reading -- 568 (Apr. 13, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 640-49 (Apr. 19, 2016 morn.), 728-30 (Apr. 20, 2016 aft., passed)
- 10 Fiscal Statutes Amendment Act, 2016 (Ceci)**
First Reading -- 599 (Apr. 14, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 671-82 (Apr. 19, 2016 aft.), 730-32 (Apr. 20, 2016 aft., passed on division), 691-703 (Apr. 20, 2016 morn.)
- 11 Alberta Research and Innovation Amendment Act, 2016 (Bilous)**
First Reading -- 773 (May 2, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 907-908 (May 12, 2016 aft., adjourned)
- 12 Aboriginal Consultation Levy Repeal Act (Feehan)**
First Reading -- 802 (May 3, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 904-907 (May 12, 2016 aft., passed)
- 13 Veterinary Profession Amendment Act, 2016 (Gray)**
First Reading -- 872 (May 10, 2016 aft., passed)
- 14 Health Professions Amendment Act, 2016 (Hoffman)**
First Reading -- 872 (May 10, 2016 aft., passed)
- 15 An Act to End Predatory Lending (McLean)**
First Reading -- 901 (May 12, 2016 aft., passed)
- 201 Election Recall Act (Smith)**
First Reading -- 92 (Mar. 10, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 119-32 (Mar. 14, 2016 aft.), 303-304 (Apr. 4, 2016 aft., defeated on division)
- 202 Alberta Affordable Housing Review Committee Act (Luff)**
First Reading -- 92 (Mar. 10, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 305-16 (Apr. 4, 2016 aft.), 470-73 (Apr. 11, 2016 aft., passed)
- 203 Fair Trading (Motor Vehicle Repair Pricing Protection for Consumers) Amendment Act, 2016 (Carson)**
First Reading -- 280 (Mar. 17, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 481-83 (Apr. 11, 2016 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Families and Communities), 473-81 (Apr. 11, 2016 aft.)
- 204 Alberta Tourism Week Act (Dang)**
First Reading -- 468 (Apr. 11, 2016 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 616-30 (Apr. 18, 2016 aft., passed)
- 205 Pharmacy and Drug (Pharmaceutical Equipment Control) Amendment Act, 2016 (Ellis)**
First Reading -- 707 (Apr. 20, 2016 aft.)
Second Reading -- 839-50 (May 9, 2016 aft., passed)
- 206 Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Day Act (Goehring)**
First Reading -- 902 (May 12, 2016 aft., passed)
- Pr1 Bow Valley Community Foundation Repeal Act (Westhead)**
First Reading -- 447 (Apr. 7, 2016 aft., passed)

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