



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature  
Second Session

# Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, May 26, 2016

Day 34

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

**Legislative Assembly of Alberta**  
**The 29th Legislature**  
Second Session

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

Aheer, Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Rocky View (W)  
Anderson, Shayne, 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),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (ND),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (ND)  
Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (ND)  
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP)  
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (ND)  
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (ND)  
Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (W),  
Official Opposition House Leader  
Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (ND),  
Government Whip  
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake (W),  
Official Opposition Deputy Whip  
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (ND)  
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (ND)  
Drever, Deborah, Calgary-Bow (ND)  
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC),  
Progressive Conservative Opposition Whip  
Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (ND)  
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (PC)  
Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (ND)  
Fildebrandt, Derek Gerhard, Strathmore-Brooks (W)  
Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (ND)  
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)  
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (ND)  
Gill, Prab, Calgary-Greenway (PC)  
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (ND)  
Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (PC)  
Gray, Hon. Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (ND)  
Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (W),  
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader  
Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (ND)  
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (ND)  
Horne, Trevor A.R., Spruce Grove-St. Albert (ND)  
Hunter, Grant R., Cardston-Taber-Warner (W)  
Jansen, Sandra, Calgary-North West (PC)  
Jean, Brian Michael, QC, Fort McMurray-Conklin (W),  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (ND)  
Kleinsteuber, Jamie, Calgary-Northern Hills (ND)  
Larivee, Hon. Danielle, Lesser Slave Lake (ND)  
Littlewood, Jessica, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (ND)  
Loewen, Todd, Grande Prairie-Smoky (W)  
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (ND)  
Luff, Robyn, Calgary-East (ND)  
MacIntyre, Donald, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (W)  
Malkinson, Brian, Calgary-Currie (ND)  
Mason, Hon. Brian, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (ND),  
Government House Leader  
McCuaig-Boyd, Hon. Margaret,  
Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley (ND)  
McIver, Ric, Calgary-Hays (PC),  
Leader of the Progressive Conservative Opposition  
McKittrick, Annie, Sherwood Park (ND)  
McLean, Hon. Stephanie V., Calgary-Varsity (ND)  
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Miller, Barb, Red Deer-South (ND)  
Miranda, Hon. Ricardo, Calgary-Cross (ND)  
Nielsen, Christian E., Edmonton-Decore (ND)  
Nixon, Jason, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre (W),  
Official Opposition Whip  
Notley, Hon. Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (ND),  
Premier  
Orr, Ronald, Lacombe-Ponoka (W)  
Panda, Prasad, Calgary-Foothills (W)  
Payne, Hon. Brandy, Calgary-Acadia (ND)  
Phillips, Hon. Shannon, Lethbridge-West (ND)  
Piquette, Colin, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater (ND)  
Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie (W)  
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (ND)  
Rodney, Dave, Calgary-Lougheed (PC)  
Rosendahl, Eric, West Yellowhead (ND)  
Sabir, Hon. Irfan, Calgary-McCall (ND)  
Schmidt, Hon. Marlin, Edmonton-Gold Bar (ND)  
Schneider, David A., Little Bow (W)  
Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (ND)  
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-Centre (ND)  
Sigurdson, Hon. Lori, Edmonton-Riverview (ND)  
Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (W)  
Starke, Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC),  
Progressive Conservative Opposition House Leader  
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (W)  
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (W)  
Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (ND)  
Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)  
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

**Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly**

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Shannon Dean, Law Clerk and Director of House Services	Philip Massolin, Manager of Research and Committee Services	Chris Caughell, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Trafton Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel	Nancy Robert, Research Officer	Gordon H. Munk, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
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Sarah Hoffman	Deputy Premier, Minister of Health
Deron Bilous	Minister of Economic Development and Trade
Oneil Carlier	Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
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David Eggen	Minister of Education
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Kathleen T. Ganley	Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Christina Gray	Minister of Labour, Minister Responsible for Democratic Renewal
Danielle Larivee	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Brian Mason	Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Transportation
Margaret McCuaig-Boyd	Minister of Energy
Stephanie V. McLean	Minister of Service Alberta, Minister of Status of Women
Ricardo Miranda	Minister of Culture and Tourism
Brandy Payne	Associate Minister of Health
Shannon Phillips	Minister of Environment and Parks, Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office
Irfan Sabir	Minister of Human Services
Marlin Schmidt	Minister of Advanced Education
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**STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA**

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Deputy Chair: Mrs. Schreiner

Cyr	McKitrick
Dang	Taylor
Ellis	Turner
Horne	

**Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future**

Chair: Mr. Sucha  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Schneider

Anderson, S.	Hunter
Carson	Jansen
Connolly	Panda
Coolahan	Piquette
Dach	Schreiner
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**Select Special Ethics and Accountability Committee**

Chair: Mrs. Littlewood  
Deputy Chair: Ms Miller

Anderson, W.	Nielsen
Clark	Nixon
Connolly	Renaud
Cortes-Vargas	Starke
Cyr	Sucha
Drever	Swann
Jansen	van Dijken
Loyola	

**Standing Committee on Families and Communities**

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Deputy Chair: Mr. Smith

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Hinkley	Rodney
Horne	Shepherd
Jansen	Swann
Luff	Westhead
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**Special Standing Committee on Members' Services**

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Deputy Chair: Cortes-Vargas

Cooper	McIver
Dang	Nixon
Fildebrandt	Piquette
Jabbour	Schreiner
Luff	

**Standing Committee on Private Bills**

Chair: Ms McPherson  
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Babcock	McKitrick
Drever	Rosendahl
Drysdale	Stier
Fraser	Strankman
Hinkley	Sucha
Kazim	

**Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing**

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Coolahan	McPherson
Cooper	Nielsen
Ellis	Schneider
Goehring	Starke
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**Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

Chair: Mr. Fildebrandt  
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Barnes	Luff
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**Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship**

Chair: Loyola  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Loewen

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Babcock	MacIntyre
Clark	Malkinson
Dang	Nielsen
Drysdale	Rosendahl
Hanson	Woollard
Kazim	

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 26, 2016

[The Speaker in the chair]

**The Speaker:** Good afternoon. Please be seated.

### Introduction of Visitors

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly the Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne. I am delighted that the Premier is in Alberta today. As I said this morning, Premier Wynne follows in a long line of Ontario Premiers interested in nation building through national leadership, working with Premiers across Canada in our country's national interest. Alberta and Ontario share extremely strong partnerships; for example, more than a thousand Ontario companies supply our energy industry, a relationship that is expected to be worth hundreds of billions of dollars in the coming years. We share common goals for growing our economy, protecting our environment, and addressing climate change.

Premier Wynne and I had a very constructive meeting this morning where we talked about issues of joint concern to our two provinces, including the need to promote jobs, prosperity, and responsible climate change policy, Mr. Speaker. We agree that economic growth and strong environmental policies go hand in hand and that through our transition to a low-carbon future our provinces can lead the way, securing jobs and prosperity for future generations. We were very pleased to announce an exciting collaboration between our two provinces that keeps us heading in that direction through the memorandum of understanding that will build on our history with respect to the Alberta Climate Change and Emissions Management Corporation and the Ontario Centres of Excellence. It's an excellent example of how we can work together to deliver innovation.

I also took the opportunity today – and I certainly hope that our colleagues here will join me – to personally thank the Premier and all citizens of Ontario for their support of our province and Fort McMurray in the face of the devastating wildfires. As fellow Canadians we share deep bonds of citizenship that entail responsibilities to each other in times of crisis, and Ontarians have shown tremendous generosity and support to the people of Alberta.

Thank you, Premier, for coming to Alberta today, thank you for your leadership that you have shown on issues that our two provinces share an interest in, and thank you to all the people of Ontario for stepping up when it counted.

I would ask the Premier of Ontario to rise to receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly. [Standing ovation]

**The Speaker:** Welcome, hon. Premier. Thank you to your people for their support.

### Introduction of Guests

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a great pleasure to introduce to you and through you today students, teachers, and parents from Worsley central school in my constituency of Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley. This school as well as the community of Worsley are very near and dear to my

heart as it was the last school I was principal of, for two years, before I retired. The students today were my preschool and kindergarten students at the time, and they are the grades 6 and 7 classes that are visiting us today.

Worsley central school is a small K to 12 school where students not only learn the basics, but they learn about the importance of community, and that goes through into the community of Worsley itself. Everyone at school looks after everyone else, and this is very true of the community of Worsley. The people at the school and the community of Worsley are some of the most genuine and good people you will ever meet, and I'm proud that they're not only my constituents, but many of them are my friends.

I would ask Ms Rowe and the parents and students of Worsley central school to rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Battle River-Wainwright.

**Mr. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's truly an honour today to introduce to you and through you to all the members of the Assembly a parent, a teacher, and students, of course, from Forestburg school. Earlier this month I had the opportunity and privilege to meet with them and discuss what happens in the Legislature and what goes on. The students here are also very interested in what goes on because their town, Forestburg, is a coal-mining town, and it's going to be impacted by things that we do. They have clean technology out there. They want to know what's going on and learn more about the whole process. Please rise as I say your names: Mrs. Laura Pfeffer and Tracy Dietrich and the students of Forestburg school. Would my colleagues please extend the traditional warm welcome as we welcome them to the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The Member for Calgary-East.

**Ms Luff:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very excited to be able to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a wonderful, intelligent, bright, enthusiastic group of students who I had the pleasure of speaking with earlier today. They're here from my magnificent and diverse constituency of Calgary-East. They are students of the Calgary Islamic school, and they were fortunate enough to be able to win a contest hosted by CTV. They made a video, and they won a week of Legislature school. I'm so thrilled that they are here with us today. They are here with their teacher, Mrs. Noreen Bashir; their principal, Mrs. Raiha Ali; and another teacher, Mr. Hassan Khalil. I would invite them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly. Assalamu Alaikum.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

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

Seeing none, the Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of our Assembly Dr. Carl Nohr, president of the Alberta Medical Association. You will know him yourself, Mr. Speaker, as a resident of Medicine Hat, surgeon, clinical teacher, and administrative leader. Before being elected as the Alberta Medical Association's president, Dr. Nohr was speaker of the AMA representative forum, so I'm sure that he's been to debates that rivalled that which we will have in the House today. I

ask that Dr. Nohr please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of our Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater.

**Mr. Piquette:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my great privilege to rise in the House today to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly five exceptional individuals from my riding. I'd ask that my guests rise when I call their names. Albert and Pirkko Karvonen are renowned naturalists and documentary filmmakers who have produced over 80 nature documentaries over the past 30 years and are the recipients of multiple awards. Dr. Martin Connors is a professor at Athabasca University's Faculty of Science and Technology and is the former Canada research chair in space science instrumentation and networking. Juanita Marois is a contract researcher currently with Athabasca University and one of the founders and co-chairs of the Long and Narrow lakes stewardship society. Koal Giberson is a grade 4 student at Landing Trail intermediate school in Athabasca and is the youth representative for the society. I would like my colleagues to please extend the traditional warm greetings of the House to my guests.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

**Ms Goehring:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce to you and through you a group of health care workers who often are the first on the scene of emergencies, performing life-saving procedures. This week we are paying tribute to Alberta's 10,000 registered paramedics during Paramedic Services Week. We are joined by Amy Benson with Edmonton's intercity paramedic response unit; Keith Makarowski, a paramedic from AHS, central zone; Heather Dutchak, a Calgary metro paramedic; and Nick Smiley, emergency communications officer with AHS EMS dispatch. Also joining us today is the director of operations for Associated Ambulance in Fort McMurray, Paul Kennedy, who was instrumental in assisting in the evacuation of the Northern Lights regional health centre.

1:40

Our paramedics are courageous, dedicated, and compassionate health care providers whose careers involve challenging hours and difficult circumstances. I believe I speak for all of us in expressing our gratitude to you all. I ask our paramedics here today to stay standing and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly. [Standing ovation]

**The Speaker:** Welcome and thank you.

The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

**Mr. Yao:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two distinct introductions if you'll oblige me. First, it's my pleasure to introduce three long-time residents of Fort McMurray. This is their first time visiting the Legislature, and they've come to watch the proceedings of the House. They'd like to extend their appreciation to all members of this Assembly for the abundance of support and for all your thoughts and prayers during these stressful times. They are seated in the visitors' gallery. As I call your names, I ask that you please rise: Cora Johnston, Larry Johnston, and Merna Thompson. Hon. members, please join me in providing the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

**Mr. Yao:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is also my honour to introduce to you and through you volunteer members of the Tzu Chi foundation. These volunteers are here all the way from Vancouver to assist in the relief efforts for the citizens of Fort McMurray. The Tzu Chi foundation, under the leadership of Master Cheng Yen, offers compassionate relief to those in need. I ask that the following volunteers please rise as I call their names: Mac Miao, vice-CEO; Michael Chuang, also vice-CEO; Sophia Liao; Herbert Cheng; Snow Liu; and Lyndon Yu. I ask that this House please join me in providing my guests with the warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

**Mr. Drysdale:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of this House guests from War Amps of Canada. I ask them to stand as I mention their names. David Saunders is the chief operating officer of War Amps. Joining Mr. Saunders is a constituent of Grande Prairie-Wapiti, Shannon Krasowski, who is a regional representative for War Amps of Canada. Also here today are three young War Amps champs whose lives have been enhanced by this organization's services. They are Nathan Graham, Natalee Pon, and Marcus Ohle, who is here with his mother, Karen. My guests are seated in the members' gallery, and I ask them to stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The Member for Calgary-Klein.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly Jim Vavra, a long-time constituent of Calgary's greatest constituency, Calgary-Klein, but for some reason he is on the constituency board of Calgary-Varsity. However, he did play a pivotal role in the election of the Member for Calgary-Varsity, so I guess we can forgive him. I ask Jim to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

## Members' Statements

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

## Service Dogs

**Ms Renaud:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's funny in this job how you end up meeting people, the impact they have on you. Les Landry is one of those connections, and he continues to teach me the importance of service dogs.

Years ago Mr. Landry had minor surgery which resulted in life-changing complications, leaving him with extreme sustained elevated blood pressure, three strokes, and the development of epilepsy. His journey to get better made him learn about service dogs and how they are used to help lower blood pressure and detect seizures.

Miss Annie, the puppy, as she is lovingly called, first met Les when she was three months old, and they began their journey of learning and training. Within two months Annie, while she was still in training, helped lower his blood pressure and detect her first seizure.

Mr. Landry is also a survivor of PTSD. That, combined with epilepsy and the effects of strokes – he's one of the thousands of

Albertans living with invisible disabilities who undergo a daily struggle to manage housing, transportation, and employment.

Annie, a service dog, is not from an ADI-accredited kennel as specified in the Service Dogs Act of Alberta, yet Annie makes life manageable. Mr. Landry knows he would not be alive without her and certainly reminds me of that every single time I communicate with him. People who need dogs like Annie often wait for many, many years, waiting for a life-saving dog.

Mr. Landry is the founder and president of Respect the Service Dog. This organization raises awareness of the value of service dogs and the integral role they play in the lives of people with disabilities, particularly those with disabilities we cannot see. There are only about 80 to 100 accredited service dogs in Alberta, but the demand is so much higher. Mr. Landry encourages all of us to advocate for people with disabilities who could live a better life with service dogs. I'm hoping one day access will be similar to access for other life-saving equipment such as wheelchairs.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to address this important issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Stephen Harper

**Mr. Nixon:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to rise today to thank Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his leadership and service to our country. Principled leadership is far too rare in politics, and the Conservative Party of Canada has been lucky to have one of the most capable and principled leaders in Canadian history in Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

A statesman through and through, during his nearly 10 years as Prime Minister Stephen Harper championed policies to leave more money in the pockets of hard-working Canadians while being a responsible economic steward, creating an island of economic stability during the great recession, all the while cutting the GST and lowering taxes on Canadian families. Stephen Harper was able to move tax freedom day back by almost three weeks during his time as Prime Minister. He did that without cutting the services that Canadians need.

When the great recession happened, Stephen Harper introduced stimulus measures, he took Canada into deficit, and then he brought Canada back to surplus. He will go down in history as the only Prime Minister who actually had temporary deficits to deal with a faltering economy.

His government's fair but firm regulatory framework fostered a lasting legacy of pipelines that have been built during and after his tenure.

Internationally Prime Minister Harper elevated Canada's position as a protector of global security, anchored by the principles of freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and as a champion of free trade, opening new markets and creating jobs in Canada.

More than the successes that made up Mr. Harper's time as Prime Minister – and there were many – Stephen Harper is a man of integrity, and history will remember that. I am proud that Wildrose was Alberta's only conservative party to give its full support to Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party of Canada last federal election. Prime Minister Harper has dedicated his life to serving Canadians. As a card-carrying federal Conservative, as a Wildrose MLA, as an Albertan, and as a Canadian I humbly thank Prime Minister Harper for his service to this great country.

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

### Land Conservation in Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater

**Mr. Piquette:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Joni Mitchell famously sang, "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone." Luckily, that isn't always true. There are very few places in the world that are easily accessible, have world-class IT infrastructure, yet are pristine enough for the most delicate of optical and magnetic observations. The Long and Narrow lakes area in Athabasca county is such a place.

This is where you'll find the Athabasca University geophysical laboratory, where Dr. Martin Connors in co-operation with scholars from around the world does vitally important research on the aurora borealis and magnetic fields. It shows just how important locating research universities such as AU in rural areas can be and also how unique this place really is.

Dr. Connors is well aware of this fact, which is why he has joined others in the community to form the Long and Narrow lakes stewardship society, who are advocating for strong ecological protections for the area. This area features two of the most pristine lakes you will find in our province, and this group intends to keep it that way now and for future generations.

1:50

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my dear friends Albert and Pirkko Karvonen, renowned documentary makers, ecologists, and naturalists. They're working tirelessly to protect the irreplaceable natural area around Amisk Lake, near Boyle. The Karvonens have generously set up a conservation easement on their land and are working with Alberta environment to have the adjacent Crown land protected for its vital wildlife corridor. It is my great honour to work with such responsible and visionary people, people who know what we've got and want to ensure that future generations will have the chance to know that, too. Alberta is in your debt.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Would you please stop the clock, Mr. Clerk?

### Statement by the Speaker

#### Dress Code in the Chamber

**The Speaker:** First of all, I want to remind the members that if certain apparel is worn with slogans on it and you come into the House – and I note that there may be some here today – I would draw your attention to page 612 of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, that you seek the permission of the Speaker before doing that. I would suggest that all of the members of the House remind themselves of that practice.

#### Point of Order Anticipation

**The Speaker:** In addition, Members, I would like to now rule on a point of order from Oral Question Period yesterday, raised by the Government House Leader, concerning anticipation. This was raised in response to a set of questions that were posed by the Official Opposition House Leader. I deferred my ruling until today in order to review the exchange, which can be found on page 1144 of *Hansard*, May 25, 2016. The Government House Leader indicated that the questions were in connection with Bill 20, which was on the Order Paper for consideration yesterday and was therefore in violation, he argued, of Standing Order 23(e). That Standing Order reads as follows:

23 A Member will be called to order by the Speaker if, in the Speaker's opinion, that Member

- (e) anticipates, contrary to good parliamentary practice, any matter already on the Order Paper or on notice for consideration on that day.

Hon. members should be aware that the rule against anticipation has been interpreted to apply when questions pertain to the specific content of a bill that is up for consideration later that same day. This rule is not violated when there is a question about government policy in relation to the bill.

I have ruled a number of times on this subject, and I would refer any members to my rulings of May 18, 2016, page 1012 of *Hansard*; November 19, 2015, page 539 of *Hansard*; and June 17, 2015, pages 49 and 50 of *Hansard*. I've reviewed the exchange, and it is clear that the questions posed were not dealing with the specific actions of a particular bill. In fact, as I read *Hansard*, there is no mention of Bill 20. Accordingly, there is no point of order here.

However, I want to remind all members to be more aware of the rule against anticipation and to exercise due care when they are crafting their questions so as to not violate this rule as we move forward in this spring sitting.

With that, start the clock, Mr. Clerk.

### Oral Question Period

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

#### Carbon Levy and Energy Costs

**Mr. Jean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no doubt that the NDP carbon tax will put added costs on our natural gas industry here at home. By 2018 this government, actually, is pegging natural gas rates at \$3 per gigajoule, and the carbon tax will add another buck-fifty per gigajoule. That's a lot of money. That's a 50 per cent increase for families, charities, hospitals, schools, businesses. Anyone in Alberta who relies on natural gas for heating or power will see their prices go way up. How does adding these extra costs help Alberta families or the Albertans who work in our natural gas industry at all?

**Ms Notley:** You know, Mr. Speaker, last week our government proudly announced the expansion of the Royal Tyrrell Museum, and it looks, quite frankly, like the Official Opposition needs its own wing.

The debate on whether climate change is real just rages on in the ranks of the Official Opposition. Just this week the Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo retweeted that climate change was a hoax. When asked about it, he could only say that he was pretty much in the middle of the road, somewhere between the science and the deniers. Our government is not in the middle of the road. We are with the scientists, and we will take action on climate change.

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

**Mr. Jean:** Tens of thousands of Albertans out of work as a result of this government, and that's the answer.

With the NDP's risky accelerated coal shutdown, we will need to be able to attract investment into our natural gas industry – and fast – if we are to help supply the lost power to our electricity grid that Albertans depend on. But the problem is that every time this government raises taxes, it puts Alberta at a greater competitive disadvantage with other natural gas producing jurisdictions in Canada and around the world. If there's no harmonization of carbon prices across North America, then it only hurts Alberta and Albertans. Why doesn't the Premier understand this?

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, if we continue the 10-year-long, failed policies of the past and refuse to deal with climate change in a responsible way, that, too, will hurt Albertans, and we are not going to go down that road. We are going to work with industry to work through the various elements of the coal phase-out. We will consult with them, and we will make sure it is done in a way that respects their interests and ensures that our industry and our electricity grid remain affordable for consumers.

**Mr. Jean:** When it comes to our power grid, the NDP is embarking down a risky path, and to blame the PC's terrible fiscal management in the past is not helpful. A report from FirstEnergy is pegging the cost to replace coal generation at around \$16 billion without pricing growth or the addition of new facilities into the equation. In the meantime the NDP are making natural gas far more expensive. Altogether, it means either skyrocketing power prices or massive government subsidies. Either way, it's Albertans that will pay the bill. Will the Premier admit to the alarming amount of uncertainty in costs that this government's policies are having on our electricity grid?

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

**Ms Notley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, by introducing a plan to phase out coal by 2030 – that is not alarming. That's not reactive. That's not happening tomorrow. We are working with industry thoughtfully, collaboratively, in a well-informed, evidence-based way. We are making a change because it is a change that is long overdue. We are the province that needs to act on coal, and we will.

#### Carbon Levy Cost to Albertans

**Mr. Jean:** The Premier knows that her carbon tax will make life much more expensive for Alberta families. Her environment minister stated that it would add another hundred dollars of indirect costs to families each and every year without any paperwork to back up these numbers whatsoever, I might add. The Premier refused to give any answers to these simple questions from the Member for Calgary-Foothills just yesterday. Alberta families deserve to know this information before the carbon tax is fully implemented. Will the Premier release her full impact study of the carbon tax, the financial information, and if not, why not?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, in fact, our climate change leadership plan is based on an exceptionally well-documented, well-researched plan by Dr. Andrew Leach, and it is within that document that the vast majority of the projections are included. They're available. I would suggest that the members opposite read them. That is the way we are going to go forward, and we're going to work with stakeholders throughout our province to ensure that this matter moves forward in a way that ensures affordability for low- and middle-income Albertans at the same time.

**Mr. Jean:** Clearly, Mr. Speaker, Albertans have every reason to be suspicious of this NDP carbon tax when the Premier refuses to release the full information to Albertans regarding the costs that this tax will have on families, businesses, charities, and all of our front-line services in Alberta. It's a big cost, and they deserve to know. Quite frankly, it's irresponsible. We know that the carbon tax means much higher prices for consumer goods, but it also will trickle down in higher costs to pay for municipal services and even



education for our children. Did the Premier's analysis of costs of the carbon tax include higher property taxes, higher school and bus fees for children?

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

2:00

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What is irresponsible is the members opposite walking around and throwing out numbers like a thousand dollars a year based on studies where the very authors of those studies have discredited the conclusions reached by the members opposite, telling them that they are purposely misinterpreting and miscommunicating the elements of the studies. It's that kind of fearmongering that just ruins the debate and makes it very difficult for Albertans to figure out why they should believe the opposition on anything.

**Mr. Jean:** Hiding information from Albertans is not helpful. This isn't difficult. The Premier says that the cost of the carbon tax will be well over \$600 for the average family, but she is either failing to be up front with Albertans about all the new costs this carbon tax will have across our economy or she just never did the research. Which is it? This government should table their numbers and show Albertans their math so families can understand the full costs of this carbon tax. I will ask again: will the Premier release the full impact study of the carbon tax on Alberta families and the added cost to charities, businesses, and all of our front-line services?

**Ms Notley:** You know, first of all, Mr. Speaker, I've never actually used that number. Once again the member opposite is using incorrect numbers. That being said, what I would suggest is that members opposite, who are so fundamentally opposed to our plan on climate change, should tell Albertans what they would do differently because all we hear is: no, no, no; let's dig our heads further into the sand and pretend there is no problem. As the Official Opposition they have an obligation to tell people what they would do instead. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Quiet, hon. government members.  
The hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

### Government Policies

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Mr. Speaker, today Alberta welcomed Ontario's Liberal Premier, Kathleen Wynne, to the Legislative Assembly. While I'm sure their talk session was valuable, we aren't sure what benefit Albertans can get from Ontario's emissions plan. For power consumers it's meant skyrocketing power bills, massive subsidies to unprofitable initiatives, and Auditor General reports into billions of wasted tax dollars. A few months ago our Premier praised the Ontario plan. Is the Premier still endorsing this plan, and if so, what part does she think will benefit Albertans?

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, I would suggest on the first point that the level of diplomacy that's being demonstrated by the members opposite demonstrates exactly why we've made no progress across this country over the last 10 years.

What I will say is that I endorse the leadership of any leader in this country who understands the need to take action on climate change and to move forward to protect the health of Canadians for future generations.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Well, let's talk about diplomacy with other Premiers. We can't help but notice that the Premier to date has not

held a single meeting with one of our key allies, Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall. Saskatchewan is not only a close neighbour and friend to Alberta but has very similar interests in promoting both our energy and agriculture sectors. They unequivocally support pipelines, free trade, reforming equalization, and advocating for all of our export industries. To date the Premier has only taken shots at Premier Wall. Will the Premier build a united front on these issues and invite the Premier of Saskatchewan here the way she is . . .

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

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, once again the members opposite are simply incorrect. I've met with the Premier that they are referring to on a number of occasions. We've had conversations about Energy East; we've had conversations about carbon pricing; we've had conversations about disaster recovery efforts. We've done that, so quite frankly they should do their homework.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** The Premier has never invited Mr. Wall here, Mr. Speaker.

Currently Ontario has the largest subnational sovereign debt on the planet. They're now even receiving equalization payments. It's an example of what happens when a government fails to get its spending under control. It means higher taxes, but it also means less services for those in need. This week the NDP is scrapping our already high legislative debt ceiling, and Alberta has suffered four credit downgrades in just five months. Will the Premier stop following the example set by the Ontario Liberals, put a cap on borrowing, and get control of our out-of-control spending?

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, I . . .

**Mr. Cooper:** Point of order.

**The Speaker:** Point of order is noted.

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, in the past when Alberta has actually been able to play a leadership role in the country, they have done so by being grown-ups, by having conversations with their colleagues across the country, by being respectful, and by finding the kinds of things in common that they can work together on. Just today we have had demonstrated to all Albertans very clearly why these folks over there are simply not ready to govern. [interjection]

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks, would you please keep the volume of your responses down.

The Member for Calgary-North West.

### Premier's Office Communications Staff

**Ms Jansen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I asked the government about the million-dollar political team they have assembled to deal with issues in the Premier's office. I asked why all these highly paid communication folks came from outside the province at a time when jobs are desperately needed inside the province, and the response was: well, when New Democrats get elected, they want to hire people who share their world view. To the Premier: why does the NDP world view have to be trotted out by out-of-work NDP staffers from Manitoba and not Alberta?

**Ms Notley:** Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect, I do realize that there are many members of the third party who wish that their friends could have kept their political jobs, but when you hire staff who are definitively working in political positions, it's important to hire staff that come with experience, experience governing and experience dealing with issues across the

country, as well as people who can give you political advice. We hire people on that basis, which is exactly what the previous government did, which is exactly what the Harper government did, which is exactly what happens . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Premier.  
First supplemental.

**Ms Jansen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's the Doing Things Differently Gang.

Given that this government claimed to be streamlining its Public Affairs Bureau yet added a number of new people whose sole task seems to be grinding out press releases, it appears to be sharing the NDP world view in a very pricey endeavour. Along with their million-dollar issues management team, how much of a bill are taxpayers sucking up so NDP spin doctors can preach your world view?

**Ms Notley:** To be perfectly clear, Mr. Speaker, the people in my office, who I believe is what the member is referring to, operate within a budget which is effectively the same as the budget that existed under the previous Premier and is extensively lower than the budget that existed under the Premier prior to that, a good friend of the member opposite, I believe. In fact, I believe that we're doing our job in a cautious and financially responsible way, and we will certainly continue to do so.

**Ms Jansen:** Mr. Speaker, given that we've endured so many lectures from the Doing Things Differently Gang about how they're bringing fairness and perspective back to Alberta for Albertans, it's startling to hear that they needed to go outside Alberta for the team to message that out. Again to the Premier: now that you've hung an Albertans Need Not Apply sign on your comms shop, what actions do you recommend for unemployed Alberta comms professionals other than to apply for EI?

**Ms Notley:** Well, again, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the joy of exaggeration. You know, I probably did a little bit of it in my career in the opposition as well; there's no question. But suffice to say that there are many, many long-term, dedicated Albertans who are working in my office, and I very much appreciate the support that they give to our government each and every day.

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

## 2:10 Publicly Funded Health Care

**Mr. Malkinson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Copeman Healthcare Centre operates three private clinics in Alberta that charge membership fees for health services. Serious allegations are being made about this private medical facility's billing practices. To the Minister of Health: how is the minister ensuring that Albertans are not on the hook for any inappropriate billing?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. The allegations being made are very serious, and the business is currently being audited by Alberta Health. If there are any findings that show that the company breached the Canada Health Act, we will act. In light of any of these new allegations of fraud, I've directed my ministry to take a more rigorous approach, and there is going to be an investigation. I want to be clear that we will not allow excessive billing practices that undermine Albertans' access to universal public health care.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Malkinson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the allegations include preferential treatment and inappropriate fees that appear to go against the spirit of the Alberta Health Care Insurance Act, which prohibits physicians from charging patients for insured health services also billed to the province, again to the same minister: what assurance can the minister provide that our public health care system is being protected?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am incredibly proud to be a part of a government that believes public health care is a fundamental right that we must protect. I understand that we have a responsibility to safeguard our public health system from actions that undermine it, and the government takes the Canada Health Act seriously. We will investigate any alleged breaches to that act. You have my word.

**The Speaker:** The second supplemental.

**Mr. Malkinson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that our health care costs continue to rise and given the economic reality that we are currently experiencing, again to the Minister of Health: how is the minister ensuring that public resources are being used prudently?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will not allow excessive billing practices that undermine Albertans' access to universal public health care. This problem has persisted in Alberta for years thanks to the former government's inaction. We know that it can't continue, and that's why we are taking action.

Not only does the Official Opposition want to cut billions from health care, Mr. Speaker, but they'd love the idea of Albertans having to pay for it.

## PDD Service Eligibility

**Mrs. Pitt:** Mr. Speaker, today I spoke on the phone with Rebecca Neel. She is a bright young woman who has been self-advocating for help. Rebecca is a dedicated student who is always studying hard, but due to her quadriplegic cerebral palsy she requires extra help with daily activities. She wrote to the minister's office for help and urged for severe cerebral palsy to be covered for services under persons with developmental disabilities, or PDD. She got a generic response back from your office, but she wants to know today, to the minister: will you commit to a firm timeline to give Rebecca a clear answer?

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

**Mr. Sabir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. I will not speak to the specifics of this particular case, but when we get e-mails, we do provide a generic response, which is followed by a more detailed response. I may have acknowledged that I have received that e-mail, but usually a detailed response and follow-up is provided by the staff, and that will be the case in this particular instance as well.

**Mrs. Pitt:** Mr. Speaker, Rebecca hasn't received any further response from the minister.

According to the Cerebral Palsy Association in Alberta website this disability can be as mild as just a weakness in one hand ranging

to an almost complete lack of movement. Given that for someone with this condition daily living activities wouldn't be possible without a caregiver or financial help and given that changes could be made to allow case-by-case consideration of who would be eligible for PDD services, will the minister commit to re-evaluating the current blanket ban for services if an individual has an IQ over 70?

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

**Mr. Sabir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the member that our government is committed to providing needed and necessary services to those Albertans who need those services. That's why for PDD we have increased funding, and we are stabilizing the services instead of what the opposition would do: cut those services.

**Mrs. Pitt:** Mr. Speaker, it's completely unacceptable that this government thinks a Wildrose government would treat the vulnerable like this.

I have a real solution here today for the minister and cabinet. Given that this solution would ensure that people like Rebecca can live their lives independently and get assistance without constantly . . .

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, could I ask you to eliminate the preamble. You're past the group of five. What's your question?

**Mrs. Pitt:** Given that under 1(1)(c)(ii) of the persons with developmental disabilities act the cabinet has the authority under regulation to define eligibility, to the minister: when can Rebecca and other Albertans affected with developmental disabilities expect an answer?

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

**Mr. Sabir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. I said that I will look into this particular matter, but I will not speak to the specifics.

This program was there before us. We have done two things to this program. Whatever cuts were proposed by the previous government, we have reversed that and added funding to that program. The second thing: instead of imposing a solution on that sector, we have started consulting with them. I will work with the sector, work with the individuals, and work with the advocates to make sure that Albertans get the supports they need.

Thank you.

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

#### Motor Vehicle Registration and Key Tag Services

**Mr. Ellis:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the Service Alberta estimates the minister indicated that work has finally commenced to update the Alberta motor vehicle system, or MOVES. Last year's budget did not include any capital dollars for updating this old and archaic system, but this year we are told that \$4 million has been allocated to capital planning and that the department has already spent an additional \$250,000 to get the ball rolling. To the Minister of Service Alberta: what progress has been made to facilitate planning to improve our motor vehicle system?

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much for the question. On behalf of the hon. minister I will take that question under advisement. I want to assure the member in the House, though, that the government is committed to making sure that we have the most effective system in all respects for motor vehicles.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you minister, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that I recently raised important concerns regarding challenges that are faced by the War Amps key tag program as it relates to MOVES and given that during estimates the minister stated that "we're in some initial considerations of how we can find other creative solutions to this issue," again to the Minister of Service Alberta: can you outline what creative solutions you are looking at to improve the key tag program?

**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. As the Minister of Service Alberta indicated in estimates, there are a number of different options that her ministry is currently exploring. Before those options are presented, she's working with different stakeholders, including the Ministry of Transportation, to look at options to be able to provide to Albertans.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the key tag program is not only part of a charitable organization promoting health and wellness in support of Albertans who face special challenges as well as children and seniors and veterans and that it also provides a vital service to Albertans, to the same minister: will you commit today, please, to personally meeting with the War Amps organization?

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

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'll thank the member for the question. Obviously, War Amps is a very important stakeholder as are a number of other organizations throughout the province. Our government is committed to especially working with our vulnerable populations to ensure that they have the same access as every Albertan throughout the province. So the minister will be engaging with a variety of stakeholders.

Thank you.

#### Blood Plasma Supply

**Mr. Barnes:** When a Canadian organization expressed interest in expanding into Alberta to offer paid blood plasma collection services, the Health minister immediately decided to get in the way. This is despite the fact that 75 per cent of our blood plasma is purchased from paid donors in the United States. When we asked in estimates why our blood collection budget has grown by nearly \$30 million over the past two years, she blamed most of it on the exchange rate. Isn't it hypocritical and wasteful to choose expensive American products over plasma sourced here in Alberta?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to help educate the member opposite about the way the blood system works here in Canada. There was a tainted-blood scandal many years ago, in the 1980s, and a number of people contracted illnesses. As a response Canada worked to create Canadian Blood Services, and it's worked on a voluntary basis for many years very successfully.

There are plasma products that are purchased around the world from various organizations, and medications are added to that plasma. Even next door, where they are moving forward with paid

plasma, there is no ability to use the systems that are required to be able to make them into the medicines. They will still be shipping them over the border and having to buy them back, Mr. Speaker.

2:20

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

**Mr. Barnes:** Mr. Speaker, the minister likes to boast that she relies on evidence, but given that Canadian Blood Services has declared that paid plasma is every bit as safe and since they and Health Canada know that paid plasma is absolutely essential to ensuring adequate supply and protecting lives and given that the evidence has shown that paid and voluntary donation services can safely coexist, will the minister turn out her ideological buddies and start making sound decisions in the best interest of all Albertans?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do use evidence, and the evidence is very clear that we have a system here in Canada that's focused on a voluntary basis. Yes, all blood products are absolutely safe, blood products that are bought from across the border or blood products that are within Canada. We have a voluntary system, and I am absolutely excited about working with partners, just as they've done in Ontario and Quebec, to try to bolster that voluntary system in any way we can. But we will continue to buy plasma products should we require them because it's important that Albertans have access to the products that they need to be safe and healthy.

**Mr. Barnes:** Mr. Speaker, the facts are that blood plasma donors are compensated in other Canadian provinces. Given that this is done safely and it ensures a sufficient supply of life-saving blood products and since we have heard that this safe, common, widely endorsed, and crucially essential practice makes the minister, and I quote, quite nervous, I have to ask: is it a feature of the NDP world view to deliberately cost Albertans tens of millions of dollars in the blind pursuit of ideology, or is it just an unfortunate side effect?

**Ms Hoffman:** Just to be clear, yet again what's being asserted by the member opposite is not founded in good research. Let me explain that next door, in the one province that is moving forward at this point with paid plasma products, they are not able to fractionate them on this side of the border. That product will still have to go south of the border to be fractionated and bought back, Mr. Speaker, so exchange rates would still play a role.

Let's remember that during the election the Wildrose said that they would ship people south of the border to get services. I'm sorry. If we have to buy blood products, so be it. We believe in a public health care system, and I'm proud to stand up for it.

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

#### Carbon Levy and Postsecondary Education Costs

**Mr. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Feedback from postsecondary institutions indicates that they are having to cut back programs, services, and positions just to stay open. This is even before the carbon tax will be implemented. The carbon tax will increase costs for heating, electricity, transportation, and the list goes on. Institutions are concerned. To the minister: why are you imposing this devastating new carbon tax on postsecondary institutions at a time when they are already struggling?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, this government restored funding to postsecondary institutions and froze tuition, making good on our promises. I know that this is a wildly innovative thing to do according to the Official Opposition; that is, to keep the pledges one makes during an election campaign. However, it has been done, and we have moved forward.

In addition, of course, we are going to be making a great deal of investment in energy efficiency so that all institutions, whether they're health care or postsecondary, can reduce their emissions and therefore their costs, which is exactly the point of pricing carbon.

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

**Mr. Taylor:** As I said, they are having cutbacks at this present time.

Given that tuition fees will be lifted next year at roughly the same time that the carbon tax will be increasing costs at postsecondary institutions and given that the combined impact of these two realities means that there will be a large increase in costs for these institutions, how can the minister guarantee that the cost increases caused by this government's risky carbon tax won't be just passed down to students, or does it even care?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, our budget contains within it a significant amount of investment in energy efficiency and also in renewables. We will have more to say about our plans for the energy efficiency agency going forward.

You know, what Albertans have asked us to do is to diversify the economy, use the carbon levy to reinvest in the economy to create good jobs and to make our economy resilient for the carbon-constrained future. Underlying all of that, Mr. Speaker, is that Albertans understand that climate change is real, which is not something that the Official Opposition has embraced at all. [interjections]

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

Let us remember, Members, about saying things that might extend the volume in this room with the other side.

**Mr. Taylor:** You know, I asked about the costs that are increased for students.

Given that the Wildrose believes in protecting students from the rising cost of education by tying tuition increases to inflation and given that this government has already shown that their ideology-based budgeting process is leaving postsecondary institutions at risk, will the minister adopt a common-sense approach to tuition and stop exposing students and postsecondary institutions to the government's risky economic experiments?

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

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it interesting that the Member for Battle River-Wainwright is talking about how he's interested in protecting students when, in fact, in estimates in November 2015 he was waxing on about how raising tuition would allow for a better quality of education here in Alberta. He obviously either doesn't remember what he was saying in November or he's flip-flopped on his policy. Regardless, nobody trusts the Wildrose to protect postsecondary education in this province.

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

### Oil Sands Secondary Organic Aerosol Emissions

**Dr. Starke:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A Canadian study published in this week's edition of the prestigious scientific journal *Nature* has raised serious concerns. It indicates that the oil sands are a major source of secondary organic aerosols, or SOAs. Production rates of some 45 to 84 tonnes per day make the oil sands one of the largest anthropogenic sources of SOAs in North America. To the environment minister: what current methods are being used to measure and monitor the levels of SOAs in Alberta?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. Indeed, Alberta environment officials worked with the committee that published this study because we thought the findings would be valuable to how our province approaches air monitoring. The findings from this study will help us better understand potential environmental and health impacts of the oil sands. We're currently reviewing the report.

Thank you.

**Dr. Starke:** Mr. Speaker, given that the environment minister has previously told this Assembly as well as members of the AAMD and C that beyond carbon dioxide, all coal plant emissions, including NOx, SOx, and particulate matter, must be considered and given that these emissions were given as one of the reasons for the accelerated phase-out of coal-fired generation, to the minister: applying the same criteria, if SOAs from the oil sands are determined to be similarly deleterious to the environment, will you shut down the oil sands like you are shutting down coal?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, our energy industry continues to power the Alberta economy, and we know that industry wants to work with us to ensure that those resources are developed as responsibly as possible. That is why this government, for example, is moving forward with the joint oil sands monitoring agreement with the federal government, and it is why we passed new legislation just this morning to ensure that we have the most robust monitoring and that we have the most resources going to where they ought to go.

**Dr. Starke:** Well, Mr. Speaker, it appears that there's a double standard here. Given that the environment minister was recently given an award for promoting the health of Alberta – and I congratulate her for that – through the phase-out of coal and given that long-term exposure to SOAs can also result in significant health risks not unlike those attributed to coal, to the Health minister: you have said that the phase-out of coal was done in the interests of the respiratory health of Albertans. Does it fit with the NDP world view to use the same rationale to eliminate oil sands production?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Certainly, we are very proud of the fact that we have a climate leadership strategy. Our intentions are mapped out in that climate leadership strategy. As you'll see, we had support from oil sands producers. They stood on a stage with us. They believe that our vision for moving forward with a responsible climate leadership strategy is going to be good for Alberta, good for their companies, and that means it's going to be good for the oil sands.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

2:30

### Pipeline Approval

**Mr. Rosendahl:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the drop in the global price of oil we know now more than ever how important it is that we diversify our markets for our energy products. I've heard from constituents and industry alike who've told me that if we want to increase our market access going forward, we need to ensure that these new markets see Alberta as one of the most environmentally responsible energy producers in the world. To the Minister of Energy: how is the climate leadership plan influencing the national conversation on pipelines?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. Certainly, our climate leadership plan places us in good stead going forward in the conversation. The week after it was announced, I had comments from a national group that said that it had already turned the conversation around on pipelines. We're balancing the need for stronger action on climate change with sustainably developing our resources. Just recently an Abacus poll showed that two-thirds of Canadians support pipelines as well as a renewable energy strategy.

**Mr. Rosendahl:** Thank you, Minister. Given that the previous approach to pipelines and market access has not been working and given that we need to ensure that we are working in a collaborative way if we want to continue to move forward, again to the Minister of Energy: how has industry responded to our approach?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. Industry absolutely understands that we need to work thoroughly and collaboratively as partners to get pipelines built to tidewater. That's why recently Murray Edwards of CNRL and Brian Ferguson of Cenovus published an op-ed on behalf of many companies. [interjections] They said:

It's time for a new conversation about building pipelines in this country... about how Canada can get full value for its oil production while also addressing environmental concerns, including climate change. This dialogue needs to take place...

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

I want to remind members again. Keep the volume down, please. Hon. members, I'm looking at you.

Second supplemental.

**Mr. Rosendahl:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that increased market access is not only good for Alberta but good for all of Canada and given that we've seen some hesitancy from parts of the country in getting onboard, to the same minister: are we getting through to our provincial counterparts?

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you again for the question. Mr. Speaker, just this morning I was pleased to hear Premier Wynne say that she supports our approach. She said: it is very important to me that within the context of the Canadian energy strategy we find a way to support the environmentally responsible transportation of fuel. We will continue to have respectful and thoughtful conversations with both our federal and provincial counterparts as we move forward with this important project.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

### Farm and Ranch Worker Regulation Working Groups

**Mr. Strankman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday this government finally announced the membership of the farm and ranch worker round-tables. Inevitably, there have already been complaints from producer groups and the public about the makeup. It is vital that farmers and ranchers and especially members of the round-tables have faith in this process. They must be assured there will be no political interference. To the minister: if your government disagrees with the input from these round-tables, will the government ignore those recommendations and arbitrarily decide the legislation?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I'm quite proud of the makeup of these tables. We've had a real good balance from various groups, including farmers and ranchers. With that balance, I'm looking forward to the recommendations they're going to make over the year. We need those recommendations. As I'm sure the member knows, agriculture is very diverse in this province. We need those recommendations going forward so government can write those regulations, and I'm really looking forward to that process.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Strankman:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Given that this legislative process has been flawed from the very beginning with the lack of consultation before legislation and given that we have seen very little openness and transparency from this government, to the minister: is there a framework or working documents of any sort that your mediators and round-table members will start with, and will you table them in the House?

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

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. There are going to be six technical working groups, made up, again, like I said earlier, from various interests right across the province, very balanced interests. I'm looking forward to the recommendations. It's going to give them the opportunity to have an open voice in any of these technical working groups going forward so that they have their input. I'm looking forward to the recommendations. As I'm sure the member might realize, these are recommendations, but it is the government's role to write regulations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Strankman:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Given that nobody cares more about the safety of farms and ranches than those men and women that own them and given that a vast number of those already have private insurance equal to or superior to WCB levels, to the minister: if the round-tables come back to the government and the recommendations are that equivalent private insurance would suffice, would you act upon it, or has this possibility been completely negated from the start?

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I might remind the member that the WCB, Workers' Compensation Board, is in effect as of January 1 of this year.

**Mr. Nixon:** It's ineffective. Yes. We know.

**Mr. Carlier:** It's been very effective. Thank you. It's been very effective. A lot of farmers and ranchers right across the province have signed up for it knowing the value to it, knowing that it protects their workers and themselves as well, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, the vast majority have signed up for it, and so far it's been a very good process.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Indigenous Postsecondary Student Supports

**Mr. Rodney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The U of A has proposed several self-funded, shovel-ready projects such as the Maskwa house of learning which could provide great benefits to students within one year of construction starting. Alberta's indigenous population is young. It's growing at two and a half times the rate of Canada's general population and experiences lower educational and career attainment. To the Minister of Advanced Education: when will you commit to evaluating whether Maskwa house will be deemed worthy enough to be included in the capital plan?

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you to the member for the question. I appreciate his interest, that is shared by many in this Legislature, about improving indigenous participation rates at our postsecondaries across Alberta. This is something that our government takes very seriously, and I'm personally committed to making sure that indigenous members of our province start participating in postsecondary education at rates equivalent to other Albertans. To that end, Mr. Speaker, I'm looking at Maskwa house with great interest as well as a number of other initiatives that postsecondaries are taking to improve indigenous participation. We will make a decision on going forward with those things . . .

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

**Mr. Rodney:** Thank you for the answer, but the question was: when?

Given that the Advanced Education minister predicts postsecondary enrolment for 2016-2017 at more than 263,000 students and given that Maskwa house would be an incredible asset for both indigenous and nonindigenous postsecondary students, to the same minister: how much longer will all Alberta students be denied this visionary resource which would increase their access to invaluable cultural learning and economic opportunities across this province?

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

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, there are a number of interesting initiatives happening with indigenous education all across the province. The University of Lethbridge has been doing great work with the First Nations colleges in the southern part of the province to increase indigenous participation. Northern Lakes College in the Minister of Municipal Affairs' riding is also doing fantastic work increasing indigenous participation in postsecondary institutions. We're looking at all of the things that postsecondary institutions are doing across the province to increase indigenous participation, and we will implement the best practices so that we can encourage further indigenous participation in postsecondary education.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr. Rodney:** Given that 10 other projects are proceeding in the adult education capital plan and given that an increase in enrolment

is expected for indigenous Albertans and given the importance of ensuring that Alberta's indigenous students have equal access to developing the skills required to more fully participate in the opportunities available in our province, to the minister: it's one thing to talk about it, but specifically can you tell us exactly how you will support initiatives such as those at not only the U of A but at other postsecondary institutions across Alberta and when?

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

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, what we won't do is cut \$4 billion from our provincial budget, which would necessarily impact the ability of postsecondary education all across the province to attract and teach students. Furthermore, like I said in my previous answer, we are working with our postsecondary partners all across the province to look at the best practices for increasing indigenous participation, and we are committed to furthering that work as we go along.

Thank you.

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

#### 2:40 Affordable Housing and Supportive Living

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In speaking with communities, municipal leaders, and social agencies, I've heard that finding safe and affordable housing is becoming more difficult as the economic downturn continues to affect families and individuals across this province. To the Minister of Seniors and Housing: how is the ministry addressing the long wait-lists faced by Albertans who are in need of affordable housing?

**The Speaker:** The minister of housing.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to say that Budget 2016 includes nearly \$1.2 billion in capital investment for Alberta's affordable and social housing portfolio. This significant investment will build more affordable housing and renew existing housing, meaning more people will be moved off waiting lists and into safe and affordable homes. Over the next five years we're investing more than \$147 million into projects for new housing in communities of greatest need, more than \$581 million for major replacements and renewal, and \$120 million in new housing for indigenous people off-reserve.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Albertans are aware that new housing units are needed across Alberta and given that we also have older social housing facilities that were left to deteriorate, to the Minister of Seniors and Housing: what is being done to protect these housing assets and bring them back into the system to add to the much-needed housing supply?

**Ms Sigurdson:** Mr. Speaker, the member has touched on a key challenge we face. Most of the government-owned or -supported housing stock is more than 30 years old and in need of significant maintenance and repairs. These units must be renewed and preserved so they can contribute to the system in the future. I'm proud to say that Budget 2016 invests more than \$238 million to help maintain and preserve these existing social housing facilities and, as mentioned previously, more than \$581 million for major replacements and renewal. These investments will create safe, affordable homes for Albertans who need them.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the minister for that answer. Given that evidence indicates that when Albertans have a safe place to call home, their quality of life improves dramatically and their economic security increases and given that some Albertans are facing adversity that requires more than just a home, to the same minister: how is our government addressing housing for individuals who require wraparound support?

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

**Ms Sigurdson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to tell the member that my ministry is working with the Human Services ministry to develop new housing programs to support Albertans who are facing homelessness or have specialized needs. Budget 2016 earmarks \$13 million in capital investment from the Ministry of Seniors and Housing towards this work. Projects will address the needs of individuals who require wraparound or comprehensive support, including Albertans with developmental disabilities or mobility challenges. Projects will also address the need for permanent supportive housing for homeless Albertans. I look forward to providing more details about these projects in the very near future.

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

The Member for Livingstone-MacLeod.

#### Special Areas

**Mr. Stier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unlike most rural municipalities, Alberta's special areas were created in 1938, under the authority of the Special Areas Act, as a result of hardship brought upon southeastern Alberta during the drought of the '30s. Given that the minister is about to undertake a summerlong tour around the province, including a stop in Hanna, which is the administration centre for the remaining special areas, in an effort to consult and to gather feedback before passing the MGA bill this fall, to the Premier: will the MGA consultations consider changes to the administration and structure of special areas?

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

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'll thank the member for that question. The Minister of Municipal Affairs will be travelling around Alberta throughout the month of June, doing extensive consultations on the existing MGA. I can assure the member that the issue that he's speaking of, the special areas, is a topic that, actually, I've spoken about with their hon. member who represents the area. We're wanting to work collaboratively with the existing board that's there to look at solutions for the long term.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Stier:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that response. Given that the government is conducting a comprehensive review of the act, as we've just discussed, and given that the government's 1961 Hanson commission recommended a return to locally elected municipal government, to the minister, then: what has been the justification for maintaining this agency known as the special areas for this long?

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

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'll thank the member for the question. It's unfortunate that the third party can't respond because, quite frankly, "Why has it remained special areas since 1961?" is a fantastic question for the former government. I

mean, the original reason that that area was designated special areas is because it's a huge amount of land, very sparsely populated, and there were challenges with that being represented as a traditional MD or county.

Again, the Minister of Municipal Affairs is open to looking at conversations as far as transitioning to a locally elected board.

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

**Mr. Stier:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker and to the minister. Given that in the Municipal Affairs business plan one of the key strategies is to “modernize the Municipal Government Act . . . to support Alberta’s municipalities in governing in an accountable, collaborative, sustainable, inclusive and effective manner,” to the minister: can you say today if the updated MGA will include any changes to the Special Areas Act?

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

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'll thank the member for the question. The member will know that we can't speak to legislation that hasn't been tabled in this House. But I will say, regarding the member's question, that the Minister of Municipal Affairs is open and has been open to municipalities in her consultations and is looking for solutions that not only our local officials want, but we're committed to working in partnership with our municipalities in furthering the best interests of all Albertans.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** In 30 seconds we will start Members' Statements.

### Members' Statements (continued)

#### Climate Change Initiatives in Banff-Cochrane

**Mr. Westhead:** Just like our government, municipalities in the constituency of Banff-Cochrane are also taking their commitment to the environment seriously. I'm proud that the mayors of Banff and Canmore added their voices in support of our climate leadership plan. Banff Mayor Karen Sorensen said, “We applaud the direction toward climate leadership taken by the Province, which will help us sustain our tourism economy and provide a better future for all Albertans.” Similarly, Canmore Mayor John Borrowman said: “The plan resonates well with the Town of Canmore . . . I am proud to see Alberta taking on this environmental leadership role nationally and internationally.”

Facing the reality of a changing climate, we all have to do our part. Towards this end, Banff and Canmore have achieved a high degree of success with their Roam regional transit system, supported by provincial GreenTRIP funding. These two municipalities have also created solar incentive programs and have implemented anti-idling policies. Banff recently adopted a policy to reduce emissions from their vehicle fleet. The town of Cochrane is also taking a leadership role with its renewable energy framework, a commitment to significantly reduce per capita energy consumption, and a plan to divert 80 per cent of waste from landfills.

Another fine example is the municipal district of Bighorn, a founding and active member of the Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association and the Calgary region airshed zone. These are groups dedicated to improving management of waste streams and air quality monitoring respectively.

Taken together, Mr. Speaker, it's clear that municipalities in Banff-Cochrane have taken a leadership role on the issues of climate change and environmental stewardship. They are valued partners in our government's provincial climate leadership plan as we position Alberta as the most responsible energy producing jurisdiction in the world.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-South West.

#### 2:50 University of Alberta Science Hardware Hackerspace

**Mr. Dang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I was fortunate enough to be able to tour the Science Hardware Hackerspace, located at the University of Alberta. Lovingly called the Shack by its staff and students, it was established in 2015 by the department of physics as a space for undergraduate students to gain hands-on experience in their relevant fields. The Shack allows students to become familiar with tools such as 3-D printers, scanners, CNC mills, and other state-of-the-art electronics. A central focus of the Shack is peer-based learning, where students can learn new skills and pass those skills on to their peers as well.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for students to gain access to the types of technologies they will use in their professional careers, whether it's in research or in industry. We need to ensure that our students and researchers have access to spaces that allow them to experiment, that allow them to invent, and that allow them to explore new ideas, Mr. Speaker. As someone who has worked in research for start-ups, oil, and technology companies in the past, I understand the absolute value of having such a space for these students. These facilities are becoming more and more affordable, more and more accessible every day, providing great opportunities for students to become better creators.

Mr. Speaker, this is why I'm proud of this government for following through on commitments to fund and improve funding for postsecondary education. Well-funded education creates world-class graduates who live and work in Alberta, building on our economy and our innovation sectors.

I want to thank the staff at the Shack for giving me a great opportunity to come and learn about their space. I'm excited to see what's going to come out of their work.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

#### Everest Climb to Challenge Family Violence

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How does one step up in their own way to challenge domestic violence? I've said many times that the community in which I live and the people in my community are incredible and worth me bragging about them.

Lethbridge is the home of yet another wonderful person, a person who as a child lived and grew up in an abusive home dominated by domestic violence. As a young boy he witnessed so much violence that he was terrified. It ended only when he got away. He has become an incredible advocate for an end to domestic violence as an adult and is doing so in his own way. Now at 45 years of age he has committed to raising money for the Lethbridge YWCA, with an eventual goal of \$250,000. Doing one of the things he now loves to do, he has so far raised \$27,000, approximately 10 per cent of his goal.

Mr. Speaker, he is Trevor Stuart. Trevor is a local realtor and has overcome one of his greatest fears, the fear of heights. He is



bringing attention to domestic violence by climbing some of the world's highest mountains. Trevor is currently on an expedition to Mount Everest. He reached the summit last Sunday. I was very nervous when I heard about the tragedy on Sunday where four lives were lost and one was in serious condition. Lethbridgeans were praying and hoping that Trevor was safe, and I was incredibly relieved yesterday when I learned that he reached the summit and safely returned to a base camp in China and is now on his way down the rest of the mountain.

Trevor is a brave soul and a really fine man. He pays all . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member. Your time has passed.

### Introduction of Bills

**The Speaker:** I would remind members on the introduction of bills to be brief with your introductory comments.

The hon. Minister of Culture and Tourism.

#### Bill 22

#### An Act to Provide for the Repatriation of Indigenous Peoples' Sacred Ceremonial Objects

**Miranda:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave today to introduce Bill 22, An Act to Provide for the Repatriation of Indigenous Peoples' Sacred Ceremonial Objects.

In bringing this bill forward, we are signalling our commitment to engage First Nations and Métis leaders as partners to secure critical input and advice on this piece of legislation. The legislation is intended to remedy the issues created by the failure to proclaim section 2 of the First Nations Sacred Ceremonial Objects Repatriation Act, otherwise known as FNSCOR. Bill 22 will build upon the intent of FNSCOR to provide a mechanism to facilitate repatriation of sacred ceremonial objects currently held in provincial museum collections to more indigenous communities in the province. We are making this bill available for consideration . . .

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

[Motion carried; Bill 22 read a first time]

### Tabling Returns and Reports

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Airdrie.

**Mrs. Pitt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the requisite number of copies to table of a letter from the hon. Minister of Human Services for constituent Rebecca Neel, a general form letter sending her elsewhere for services.

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

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the requisite five copies of a report by Dutch consulting firm Deltares comparing Springbank to McLean Creek across 10 criteria. Five were in favour of Springbank, five were the same in both, and zero were in favour of McLean Creek.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-South West.

**Mr. Dang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table the requisite number of copies of a document showing the Wildrose MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo reposting an advertising

video reporting climate change to be a hoax, as referred to by the Premier in question period today.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, there was a point of order today, but I've been advised by the Opposition House Leader that it's been withdrawn.

### Orders of the Day

#### Private Bills

#### Third Reading

#### Bill Pr. 1

#### Bow Valley Community Foundation Repeal Act

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Banff-Cochrane.

**Mr. Westhead:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move third reading of Bill Pr. 1, the Bow Valley Community Foundation Repeal Act.

**The Speaker:** Are there any members who would like to speak to the motion?

[Motion carried; Bill Pr. 1 read a third time]

### Government Bills and Orders

#### Committee of the Whole

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

**The Deputy Chair:** I would like to call the committee to order.

3:00

#### Bill 16

#### Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016

**The Deputy Chair:** On amendment A4, are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered? The Government House Leader.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We're considering amendment A4, which was introduced yesterday, and I indicated to the House that I wished to study this amendment prior to expressing an opinion on whether it was acceptable or not. Subsequently the hon. Member for Calgary-Greenway has submitted to my office two other amendments, which I have also considered. I understand that they've been consolidated into an amendment that will be made directly following the disposition of this one.

However, Madam Chair, I am going to speak against this particular amendment. The way Bill 16 is written allows for flexibility in developing regulations to ensure that concerns like the one which formed the basis of the member's suggested amendment can be addressed. Under section 129.4

the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations respecting any matter concerning the operation of a transportation network company, including, without limitation, regulations . . .

(h) providing for any other matter that the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers advisable for carrying out the [purposes].

Madam Chair, once the insurance framework is ready, our government would be happy to address the concerns raised by the member opposite in putting forward this amendment, but in the meantime I'd advise the members of the House to defeat this amendment.

**The Deputy Chair:** Thank you, hon. member.

Any other members wishing to speak to amendment A4?

Seeing none, I will put the question.

[Motion on amendment A4 lost]

**The Deputy Chair:** We'll return to the original bill, Bill 16. Are there any members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Calgary-Greenway.

**Mr. Gill:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to move an amendment.

**The Deputy Chair:** Hon. member, can you please provide the amendment first, and if I could just review it before you continue.

Hon. member, please go ahead.

**Mr. Gill:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to move that Bill 16, Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016, be amended in section 9 in the proposed section 129.4 by adding the following after clause (b):

(b.1) respecting requirements to be met by the owners of vehicles used to perform services for transportation network companies;

(b.2) respecting requirements to be met by drivers performing services for transportation network companies.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Chair:** Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to amendment A5?

**Mr. Mason:** I don't know if the hon. member wants to speak to his amendment or not.

**The Deputy Chair:** Oh, sorry. My apologies, Member.

**Mr. Gill:** Madam Chair, this amendment seeks to clarify that the drivers and the owners of vehicles operating within TNCs are being clearly defined within the legislation. By adding both drivers and owners, we're covering the various forms of business models found in this industry. This will result in increased safety precautions being implemented for TNC drivers and operators. These individual regulations would be up to the individual municipalities in which these companies operate. We're simply seeking to ensure protections for passengers and drivers in the event of an accident and just want to make sure that at the end of the day, you know, everybody is protected: the drivers, the passengers, whoever uses these services.

I really hope that we can get support from all parties on this amendment. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**The Deputy Chair:** The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Well, I'd like to indicate to the House that I have accepted this amendment and will encourage members to support it. What this does is that it extends the capacity for regulation beyond the regulation of the TNC itself, which was the focus of the bill that was brought forward, to include owners of the vehicles used to perform services for TNCs and also drivers performing services for TNCs.

Now, I should indicate that it is somewhat at odds with the original philosophy of the amendments that I have brought forward to the Traffic Safety Act, which focused very much on holding the company accountable. The measures contained in the original bill before you focus very much on making the company accountable for ensuring that proper insurance is in place, that proper drivers' licences are being used, and that proper criminal information checks are conducted and for keeping those things on file, subject

to audit by Transportation. That, in my view, is the best way to proceed because it puts the onus on the TNC and saves the government considerably in terms of resources to try and enforce this, and that is how we'll proceed in developing the regulations.

However, this gives additional tools to provide regulations for the owners of vehicles that do not necessarily belong to the company or the person driving – that's certainly a distinct possibility – and to provide regulation with respect to the drivers. If those things were needed, then these tools are here. It is not my anticipation that we will immediately draft regulations under these two sections, but it does provide flexibility in the future, if that is needed, to regulate in those areas.

That's why I have accepted this amendment, which has been consolidated from two amendments previously submitted to my office by the member. I would think that it strengthens the bill, strengthens the ability to ensure that the public remains safe, and that has been our entire focus. The focus on insurance, adequate drivers' licences, and criminal activity checks conducted by the police are all there to make sure that people have as safe a ride as possible, not to pick winners and losers in the industry but to provide a level playing field that ensures public safety as the highest principle.

With that, Madam Chair, I will encourage members of the Assembly to support this amendment.

**The Deputy Chair:** Thank you, hon. minister.

Are there any other members wishing to speak on amendment A5?

Seeing none, I will put the question.

[Motion on amendment A5 carried]

**The Deputy Chair:** We are back now on the original bill, Bill 16. Are there any members wishing to speak to the bill? The Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

3:10

**Mr. Cyr:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise today to speak on Bill 16, the Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016. After reviewing this legislation, members of the Assembly can see that this bill seeks to accomplish a number of changes to the Traffic Safety Act. Some are straightforward while others are more convoluted and concentrate power into the hands of government, the executive, which means that important issues facing Albertans will be dealt with behind closed doors and away from Albertans. Other ideas work towards improving public safety and removing unnecessary penalties for people in our province.

I believe that the elimination of penalties for those who hold outdated insurance cards, or pink cards, is a step in the right direction. I know that there are a lot of people around Alberta who do hold these cards in their cars. They pay their insurance, get these pink cards, and then throw them right into the glovebox. Although the government would have us believe that it is sinister to drive a truck or car that isn't a Smart car, there isn't anything clandestine about putting your new pink card into your vehicle's glovebox and then driving that vehicle for work or pleasure.

As I look around the House today, I'm sure that I can see a few people who have done the exact same thing with no bad intent. In fact, I am sure that there are a lot of people in this Assembly and throughout Alberta that try to get their pink card into the glovebox as fast as they can before they lose it. Changing a law that is punishing people who are simply putting their pink cards into the glovebox before cleaning out last year's pink card is just an easy decision. It's about time that this law was corrected. It's simple, straightforward, and it's about to be rectified.

We can also find some positives in this legislation when we look at how the bill tackles a loophole that currently protects impaired drivers. As I understand it, the way the law is currently written allows for a loophole to exist which gives an individual who is accused of multiple charges of impaired driving a way to avoid escalating penalties that would typically apply to repeat offenders. Again, Madam Chair – and please correct me if I'm wrong – the loophole exists if someone appears before the court on several unrelated charges on one day. They can avoid those escalating charges because their trials are on one day but would not be able to skirt around those penalties if they had different charges being tried on different days because their mounting convictions would continue to push them further along the repeat offender list, which has increasing penalties.

This seems like a ludicrous loophole, and repeat offenders of such dangerous criminal acts should not be able to fall through these cracks. I don't have the number in front of me of how frequently this happens, but in my opinion once is too often. This is not justice for the families who experience heartache every day over the loss of a loved one who has been taken by the hand of a drunk driver. Organizations like MADD, or Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and countless other public awareness campaigns go through great effort to explain the risks and damages that are caused by impaired drivers. Their selfish actions put our communities in harm's way and create irreparable damage to the lives of thousands of Albertans. There's absolutely no reason why people who are accused and convicted of these reckless acts on numerous counts should not be facing the strictest penalties possible.

The same can be said about another proposed change to the Traffic Safety Act, and that is concerning the punishment for first-time impaired drivers so that their punishment reflects the same reprisals faced by repeat offenders. Of course, we cannot change the Criminal Code in this Assembly, but what we can do is enforce the participation in the ignition interlock program. This program makes it so that when someone is charged and convicted of their first drunk-driving charge, they have to install what I'm informed is essentially a built-in breathalyzer before they are able to drive again. The vehicle's ignition does not fire up until the device checks the blood alcohol level of the driver. I believe that this is a needed addition to the legislation.

As mentioned moments ago, the past couple of decades have seen a rise in public awareness campaigns and a greater public understanding of the adverse effects of impaired driving. People know the dangers of drinking and driving. People know that they are putting themselves and the entire public at risk when they consume alcohol over the legal limit and get behind the wheel. It's time that the punishment fits the crime. It's not just about the punishment; it's about creating a way to encourage healthy habits for first-time offenders. I believe that we must create a system of laws to discourage repeat offenders as a part of helping offenders learn sober habits when they are allowed to drive again. This bill would encourage these habits and improve the safety of our communities.

The same can be said for the provision in this legislation regarding illegal street racing. Drag racing, drifting, street car racing, whatever you want to call it, can cause serious harm to those who are participating in it and to the public at large. My brother had a long street in front of the beach, and we had youth abusing that long stretch. There were children in front of the beach at all times. This is looking for a tragedy, looking to actually creating a situation that puts our children and adults at risk. It's good to see that we are actually looking at reducing the number of street racing offences that happen. Street racing often causes bodily harm or death, and the perpetrator should be punished accordingly, plain and simple.

There are benefits to this legislation, as I have laid out, but there's also a serious problem in Bill 16. This bill writes the government a blank cheque to regulate transport network companies, an area of the industry that is becoming more predominant in Alberta. This is a policy area that should include public consultation and should be governed with the utmost transparency, not regulated behind closed doors. This is something that the government knows. But to protect itself from public scrutiny, they have decided to bury this amendment to the act, that we have not passed at this last one, that I've already spoken to a while ago. The government has consolidated power away from this Assembly, leaving everything to be decided by regulations, which is something that we have seen in Bill 6 and we are going to probably see with Bill 20 that comes through.

Madam Chair, this government hasn't provided any clarity whatsoever on what the regulations of transport network companies will look like. They haven't even defined what a transport network company is under the act. A simple definition will go a long way. In the end we have not even been provided with that, a simple thing as saying what a wonderful transport network company is.

We know and Albertans know that this is the government's back door to regulate certain ride-sharing companies out of the market. If it isn't, then why won't the government level the playing field? They are going to regulate ride sharing behind closed doors at a provincial level while leaving taxis to be regulated by municipalities. Can the Minister of Transportation explain why there is a double standard for companies that are seeking to provide the same service? Albertans expect that their government doesn't make it harder for people with good ideas to enter the marketplace. They expect a fair handshake or a fair share. Now, we expect the government to get out of the way when they're trying to build a future for themselves and their families.

3:20

As some of my colleagues in this House have already mentioned, how will the impending regulations affect carpooling? This is something that we brought up with an amendment. Madam Chair, I am certain that this government will come back and say: of course we're not going to regulate against carpooling. I'm sure of this because I'm certain that they already know what they plan to put into the regulations on this bill. That's why it really erodes the accountability of this act. It's unfortunate that the government, who continually touts itself as the leadership, doesn't have the political wherewithal to have an open and transparent debate as to what the future of ride sharing will look like in Alberta. Instead, they would rather ignore the rallies and protests that have been happening in front of the Edmonton and Calgary city halls. They would rather kill off the ride sharing in other regulations. This bill may pass, but I can guarantee that as the Official Opposition we are going to be holding our feet to the fire to stand up for Albertans that are trying to carve out a living for their families by making a little bit of extra money on the side.

I call on this government to make the process surrounding ride sharing more transparent. I see that I am running against the clock, Madam Chair, and I will stop there.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**The Deputy Chair:** Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak? The Government House Leader.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Well, you know, there's a lot in that last speech to respond to, I think.

First I want to congratulate the Member for Calgary-Greenway. I was in opposition for 15 long years, and I only ever got one amendment accepted by the government. I think it took me about eight years, and this is only his first session, Madam Chair, so congratulations to him. That was, I think, a very positively directed set of amendments.

I want to respond to the Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake. I do reject his assertion that we're trying to kill TNCs and that we have some secret plan and regulation to do that. That's completely unfounded, and I don't know why he would stand and say that with absolutely no evidence. I've said all along that the focus of the regulation will be on three things. It will be on ensuring that there's proper insurance, that there is a criminal check done by the police, and that the drivers will have adequate licences to operate commercial vehicles. I've said that those are the three things that we're going to regulate, and that's what we're going to do, so for him to say that, you know, we haven't said what we're going to do is just not right.

To the fact that he makes statements about how we're doing this in regulation and taking it away from the House, you know, the hon. member should realize that there are actually hundreds and hundreds of regulations that already exist, and you don't do regulation by legislation. In most cases you do regulation in regulation, and that's why they call them regulations and not laws. The laws provide for regulatory authority, and regulations are made under the legislation. There are hundreds and hundreds of sets of regulations in this province, other provinces, and federally that regulate all sorts of activities: hunting and fishing, agriculture, motor vehicles. The list goes on and on. The hon. member should probably avail himself of the MLA library and have a look at the regulations that are there.

I want to, you know, indicate that we have not defined – and I mentioned this yesterday – the TNC in the legislation because TNCs are constantly evolving. We know that Uber is coming forward with its carpooling ride-sharing app, which was, I think, the reason why we saw the amendment that we did yesterday from the Official Opposition. They've just announced today their food pickup service. There may never be a reason to regulate some of these things, but the fact of the matter is that this is rapidly evolving technology, and we don't really know what it's going to look like in the future. We can't keep coming back to the Legislature every three months or every six months in order to change the legislation to deal with those technological developments.

The hon. member did say one thing that kind of revealed his hand a little bit at the end, that they would stand up to protect TNCs, people trying to earn a living by earning a little money on the side. That's an interesting way to talk about earning a living: a little money on the side. I couldn't live with a little money on the side, Madam Chair. I don't think he could. I don't think anyone can earn a living by earning a little money on the side.

It really references one of the problems, the social conflicts that have been unleashed by this technology, and that is that there are groups of drivers who have been operating on a full-time basis and have made a living out of it, and these technological changes change the equation. We've resisted the temptation to wade in here and say that we're going to protect the traditional taxi industry because the technology does change, and we do have to adapt to it. We respect people's right to earn a living.

So it's important not that we pick winners and losers but that we protect everyone from being undercut by a complete lack of regulation that jeopardizes public safety. Companies are operating, then, you know, so far inside the margins of anything that could support an income. It comes at the expense of the public safety. There is a role for regulation, there's a role for government, and I

think we've chosen exactly the right path. We've picked safety as the focus to make sure that some people are not undercutting others by sacrificing the safety of the public, and I think that's a legitimate role. That is the focus of this legislation. It always has been, Madam Chair. We're not trying to pick winners and losers in this approach. I think that we've hit the right note, and I urge all hon. members to support the bill.

**The Deputy Chair:** Thank you, hon. Government House Leader.

Anybody else wishing to speak to Bill 16? The Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

**Mr. Smith:** Thank you, Madam Chair. You know, I've appreciated listening to the comments of the people back and forth on both sides of the House on this issue, and I will confess that there are times when I think that my age sometimes catches up with me. I guess, maybe I look at some of the . . .

**Mr. Mason:** I resemble that remark.

**Mr. Smith:** You resemble that remark.

I can honestly say this. There are many things that, as we've had them discussed and as we've done some reading and reflecting, I can appreciate about Bill 16, the Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016. I, too, would echo the comments of some of the members here when they say that we are sometimes very human people and that we can be fallible and we can have pink slips in there that can be sometimes years old, quite a collection. For some of us in this Legislature maybe we've just received our driver's licence, but for most of us we've had them for many, many years, and there can be piles of that. So I appreciate a law that actually addresses in a reasonable fashion an issue that could have been cause for losing, once again, a little bit more money to the Traffic Safety Act.

3:30

As far as the TNCs, I will plead a great deal of ignorance when it comes to these, coming from a rural community where we don't have any of these Uber or Tapp or any of those kinds of operations. Much of my knowledge comes from simply listening in this House and having discussions with my own family and friends that actually live in the city. You know, I think that in many ways the discussion with regard to safety is an important one to have, and I think that moving to put some regulation on these TNCs, as they're called, these transportation network companies, seems to be a reasonable thing.

I guess the conservative in me, though, also realizes that we do need to have a balance. We can often use safety to overregulate. I would hate to see us regulate to the point where some of these individuals who are choosing to use and to be a part of this service would no longer be able to do that. I applaud the safety concerns but would want to make sure that we have found the right balance. While I still need a lot of educating on this issue, I think we can move forward, and we can address any issues in the future if we need to.

Again I'll plead some ignorance here. I've lived a life of 56 years as of May 11 of this year and had made the decision early in my life that I would not partake in alcohol and have never personally regretted that decision after having seen family members who have struggled with that all of their lives. So when it comes to a discussion on impaired driving, it's not something that I'm overly familiar with, but it is one where I believe the safety issues that have been brought up by some people are of valid concern.

I believe that we as a society do need to ensure that people that struggle with alcohol in their lives are held to account but held to account in reasonable ways. I look at the amendments that will strip

the exceptions for first-time offenders and ensure that they are participating in the ignition interlock program, and it seems like a reasonable step from this perspective. However, having never had to think in those terms before in my own personal life, these things do seem reasonable, I would suggest. I never really realized before looking at this that you could avoid escalating penalties by showing up for all of it on the same day.

**Mr. Mason:** Smart lawyer.

**Mr. Smith:** Well, I guess.

To me, again, it just seems reasonable that you would face each of these charges and be responsible and accountable for them.

I look at these things in this bill, and I see some things worthy of support here. So I guess I would thank the House for the opportunity to become educated and to learn a little bit more about some of the rules and regulations that are a part of the Traffic Safety Amendment Act.

I will be voting in support of this bill.

**The Deputy Chair:** Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak?

Seeing none, are you ready for the question on Bill 16, Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016?

[The remaining clauses of Bill 16 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

**The Deputy Chair:** Shall the bill be reported? Are you agreed?

**Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair:** Opposed? Carried.

The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Mason:** Madam Chair, I move that the committee rise and report.

[Motion carried]

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Madam Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has had under consideration certain bills. The committee reports the following bill with some amendments: Bill 16. I wish to table copies of all amendments considered by Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly.

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

Does the Assembly concur in the report?

**Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker:** Any opposed? So ordered.

## Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

### Bill 16 Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016

**The Acting Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Northern Hills.

**Mr. Kleinsteuber:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to speak to Bill 16, the Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016. [interjections]

I'll move third reading. Sorry.

**The Acting Speaker:** Hon. minister, I believe you need to.

**Mr. Mason:** Okay. I was just trying to delegate. That's all.

Madam Speaker, it's my honour to move third reading of Bill 16, the Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016.

**The Acting Speaker:** Are there any members wishing to speak to this? Calgary-Northern Hills.

**Mr. Kleinsteuber:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Talking to Bill 16, take 2.

I rise here today to speak to Bill 16, the Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016. This bill proposes amendments that will reflect current and future traffic safety issues and objectives. In total nine amendments are included in Bill 16, and they are part of the government's ongoing efforts to update the Traffic Safety Act and to make sure these updates align with other legislation.

One of the most significant changes will affect private vehicle-for-hire operations, or ride-sharing companies, and will define how these transportation network companies, or TNCs, will operate in Alberta. Some of the current well-known TNCs are Uber, TappCar, Cowboy Taxi, and Lyft, spelled L-y-f-t, to name a few. This bill will give the Transportation minister the authority to define TNCs through regulation. This definition will be shaped through consultation with stakeholders. This is a rapidly evolving industry, and this provides flexibility to tailor regulations to best suit the safety needs of Albertans on our province's roads and highways.

There are three public safety concerns related to transportation network companies that this bill addresses. The first is that drivers should have an appropriate driver's licence. Whether full-time or part-time, commercial drivers have a responsibility for their passengers, which requires greater skill and road knowledge than other drivers. Those people that would like to drive for a TNC would need to upgrade their licence to a class 1, class 2, or, at a minimum, a class 4.

Two, drivers would need the appropriate insurance. This will have the effect of not only protecting the passenger but the driver as well. We expect that the superintendent of insurance will have an appropriate insurance product ready for the market in July.

The third concern relates to a police information check. This must be conducted by law enforcement agencies and will help ensure the safety of the TNC passengers. As the Transportation minister said last week: when you call with your app for a stranger to come pick you up, you need to know that that person has not got a criminal record and that they are capable of driving you safely and that if you do get into an accident, you're going to be protected with the requisite insurance.

3:40

Madam Speaker, under these rules a TNC must not allow any of its drivers to operate under the company unless the driver has the appropriate insurance coverage, driver's licence, and a police information check. The TNC must make these records available to peace officers and/or government of Alberta staff for review upon demand. Any violators would be fined a maximum of \$50,000 per offence per day. There is also a provision in the bill to allow TNCs to appeal penalties to the Transportation Safety Board.

Madam Speaker, the government has received many comments from Albertans on this topic. This input has informed the common-sense framework being brought forward.

Another significant amendment included in this bill will strengthen impaired driving legislation. This will be done by removing the ability for first-time offenders to apply for an exemption from the ignition interlock program. To be more specific, in the ignition interlock program the driver must blow into

a breathalyzer device before their car will start. As the legislation currently stands, first-time offenders can apply to be exempt from this successful program. The proposed amendment will remove this exemption except for individuals with a specific medical condition that would prevent them from blowing. Research has clearly proven that the alcohol interlock program reduces recidivism among first-time offenders.

The issue of impaired driving continues to have heartbreaking impacts on drivers, passengers, and their loved ones. As a society we must continue to work to prevent this from happening, and this is the intent of this amendment.

Madam Speaker, the current legislation has a technical loophole which allows drivers to avoid lengthier suspensions by appearing in court on the same day for multiple impaired or drunk-driving charges. This loophole is unfair and is clearly not in the best interest of Albertans. It defeats the intent of the law to apply stiffer penalties for repeat offences. An amendment included in this bill's legislation will close that loophole.

Other amendments are strictly administrative. For example, the bill will change the spelling of "motor cycle," making it one word, to align with the federal legislation and to ensure it's consistent throughout the legislation.

In total nine amendments, as outlined in this bill, are expected to clarify regulations in the Traffic Safety Act. It will also clarify the framework under which the transportation network companies operate.

Madam Speaker, I personally believe the initiatives in this bill will help make Alberta roads significantly safer. I'll be supporting this bill at third reading, and I encourage other members in this Legislature to do the same.

Thank you.

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

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the bill? The Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

**Mr. van Dijken:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you to the minister for the good work that's been done.

**Mr. Connolly:** Do you want two words for motorcycle?

**Mr. van Dijken:** Radical changes. Anarchy in the language.

It's good work that's being done here. I think the minister has brought some very common-sense solutions and common-sense amendments into the Traffic Safety Act, and I wanted to thank him for that. We have several amendments here, even down to consistent spelling throughout the act, some very common-sense housekeeping things done.

We also do see the addition of the transportation network companies. I would be remiss to not speak to that and the fact that we in opposition are putting great faith in the minister and in Executive Council to come up with the definition that is going to be able to carry us forward in a way that we are intending with regard to these new technologies that have been coming forward.

As the minister has stated, these are continually evolving technologies. I do believe that we are going to see more and more functions with regard to these technologies, and I think they have a lot of potential for improving day-to-day life for Albertans and improving the way we can get things done more efficiently in our transportation networks and more effectively to make life just a little bit easier for all Albertans.

Of course, public safety is first and foremost. The hon. minister has brought that forward as the criteria for bringing public transportation, these transportation network companies, into the legislation. The focus is on public safety, yes, but I will have to put

faith in the minister and Executive Council to bring forth a definition that is not going to stand in the way of the ability for this technology to evolve and provide further services in Alberta.

We talked a little bit yesterday with regard to parcel deliveries, with regard to the simple activities of carpooling. That is going to be a difficult definition to get an understanding of in situations where the ride sharing is not necessarily a ride for hire but a ride for the sharing of costs and just carpooling. How can we move forward on that? As the minister stated even today, we see that we have food delivery coming forward in these transportation network systems.

We largely are focused here on, of course, passengers. I know the taxi industry. In our consultations with the industry, both transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft and TappCar but also with the taxi industry, the taxi industry has assured us that if they are treated in a way that is fair and amiable and on a level playing field, they will be able to adjust and compete. There is a balancing act there.

Again, I will encourage all members of this Legislature to support this bill as I will be voting in favour of Bill 16.

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

Are there any members wishing to speak on 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, are there any members wishing to speak on the bill?

Seeing none, I will ask the Minister of Infrastructure and Minister of Transportation to close debate.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I want to thank all members for the excellent contribution to the discussion on this bill. I appreciate all discussion, even that with which I disagreed. I think it brought forward important perspectives.

I think this bill is about balance. It's about making sure that we improve safety on our roads, that we close loopholes that could be used potentially by impaired drivers, that we tighten up our enforcement in that area. I think that's something that all members agree to.

There are some minor housekeeping pieces there, that have been pointed out, like the spelling of motorcycle. I don't know if the hon. member knows that there were actually three different spellings. There was motorcycle as one word, which is the correct spelling now; there's two words; and then there's a hyphen . . .

**Mr. Cooper:** By whose definition?

3:50

**Mr. Mason:** We are legislating in the English language, I'll have you know, hon. member. [interjections] We need to be consistent in our own spelling. You may spell it however you wish. You may even use a hyphen, hon. member, but we're not going to.

There are very serious things in this bill as well, and I appreciate that people have made comments with respect to that.

I think I neglected to respond to one point made earlier, during committee, by the Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake, and that was that we were treating the taxi companies and the TNCs differently, leaving all regulation of taxis to municipalities. That's not entirely correct. We regulate for taxis in the area of what licences drivers must have and in the insurance coverage that they must have. We are doing it a little bit differently with respect to the – I think the part that's a little bit different is the police record check, but we are making sure that there's some consistency there as well. That's something that's currently done by municipalities and will now be a provincial requirement. We're leaving that piece, in the case of taxis, to municipalities. So there is a slight difference there. But fundamentally on the major points we're treating the taxi industry and the TNCs the same. We already regulate taxis in 2 out of the 3

areas at the provincial level. That's not currently being done by municipalities.

In closing, I want to thank all members for this. There is going to be another round. This is the second of three rounds of changes to the Traffic Safety Act as we get into strengthening the coverage that we have to make our roads safe. This is actually the highest priority of the Transportation department, safety on our roads. We've set the goal. It's been a little bit controversial in terms of our internal discussion about: do we go with a goal of zero fatalities on Alberta roads? And we've decided that that is the goal that we're going to aim for. We may not ever quite get there, but that is the focus and the goal that is driving much of the department's work. It is something that I think all Albertans support.

There are many interesting things coming in transportation, I want to say. It's a very interesting field. I guess I will leave people with the thought that the rate of technological change in transportation is accelerating almost exponentially, and I don't believe that people will recognize our roads in 10 or 15 years from now. It's coming much faster than I think most people believe. Electric cars are already here, autonomous vehicles are right around the corner, and we don't know what's going to happen after that. All of that is very interesting.

I know the joke has been made that some members may have thought that *The Flintstones* was a documentary, but I actually admit that I thought that *The Jetsons* was a documentary. I think we can all look forward to lots of change. The one thing that's going to stay the same is that the rate of change is going to continue.

I thank all members for their support for this bill. Madam Speaker, if we could now go to the vote, I'd be happy.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Government House Leader.

[Motion carried; Bill 16 read a third time]

### **Bill 10 Fiscal Statutes Amendment Act, 2016**

[Adjourned debate May 26: Cortes-Vargas]

**The Acting Speaker:** The hon. Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park.

**Cortes-Vargas:** No, thank you. I'll cede my time.

**The Acting Speaker:** Are there any other members wishing to speak? The Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

**Mr. Hanson:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I wish to put forward an amendment to Bill 10.

**The Acting Speaker:** Please go ahead.

**Mr. Hanson:** Thank you very much. I move that the motion for third reading of Bill 10, Fiscal Statutes Amendment Act, 2016, be amended by deleting all the words after "that" and substituting the following:

Bill 10, Fiscal Statutes Amendment Act, 2016, be not now read a third time because this Assembly has not received satisfactory evidence or assurances that the government is prepared to take the necessary measures to see Alberta's triple-A credit rating restored by the credit-rating agencies.

**The Acting Speaker:** The amendment will be referred to as RA1.

Are there any members wishing to speak to the amendment? The Member for Spruce Grove-St. Albert.

**Mr. Horne:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm just waiting on a copy of the amendment, but I firmly believe that the hon. member is mistaken in saying that there is not sufficient evidence in that this government is completely and totally committed to building the infrastructure we will need to grow our economy moving forward. We are committed to investing in our education for our students, which will lead to the economic growth and prosperity that Albertans deserve and expect. This budget is about choice. We have made that choice.

Quite frankly, I find it a little concerning that the opposition is so committed to cutting the services that Albertans expect while we are investing in the public services, in the infrastructure that Albertans deserve and expect.

Thank you.

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

The Official Opposition House Leader.

**Mr. Cooper:** Why, thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise, particularly following whatever just happened here. It's a pleasure to rise and speak to this reasoned amendment, that I know members in this House will be surprised to hear that I think is quite reasonable. We have seen over the past number of days and weeks a consistent downward spiral in the credit rating of this great province of ours. What this amendment actually does has nothing to do with the choices that the government is claiming they've made in their budget and has everything to do with the credit rating of this province and the negative impacts that this government is having on that credit rating.

Let's be clear. This isn't about spending choices; it is specifically about the credit rating here in the province. What the amendment does is that it provides very sound reasoning as to why the bill should not be read a third time. That reason is that the Assembly has not received satisfactory evidence or assurances that the government is prepared to take necessary measures to see Alberta's triple-A credit rating restored. This reasoned amendment is about the evidence and assurances that the government hasn't provided the Assembly.

**4:00**

But, Madam Speaker, what is equally as important as providing assurances to this Assembly that the government is serious about protecting our credit rating is that the government is serious about communicating to the credit-rating agencies about what the plan is here in Alberta. What they have done is the exact opposite of that. In fact, on the day after the budget was introduced, which included some significant challenges in the path forward for our province, our credit rating was downgraded, and the government did nothing to reassure Albertans, this Assembly, or the credit-rating agencies that they had a clear plan that took the financial future of our province as a key priority for the future of our province.

Then we moved along with the introduction of this bill, Bill 10, that puts the debt limit of our province on the path of infinity and beyond, with not just a 10 per cent debt limit, not just a 15 per cent debt limit, that the hon. Minister of Finance said just last fall gave us plenty of room, but no debt limit. What happened was that the hon. Minister of Finance reassured this House: don't worry; I'm going to be talking to the credit-rating agencies about our plan. So he went ahead and met with a number of those agencies, and only hours after that meeting – I'm not entirely sure what took place – our credit rating was downgraded again.

One of the significant reasons that those credit-rating agencies referred to, Madam Speaker, was this Bill 10 and removing all of the debt ceiling that was in place here in the province. One of the

key issues that they pointed to was removing all accountability when it comes to spending and debt to GDP in the province of Alberta.

What we're suggesting here today, in order to provide assurances to the Assembly and, equally as important, to Albertans and to the credit-rating agencies, is that this bill, which played a significant role in additional downgrades, be not read, that we ought not proceed down a path that we know is creating pain and uncertainty amongst the investment community, amongst the credit-rating community, and, in turn, creating uncertainty for Albertans, creating uncertainty for Albertan families when it comes to not having a clear understanding of what the financial future and the financial viability of our government looks like because of the significant amounts of debt that this piece of legislation, Bill 10, allows the government to take onboard.

I encourage all members of this Chamber that are serious about protecting the financial future of our province to support this reasoned amendment. What this reasoned amendment has the potential to do is to send a message to those folks who go ahead and provide the credit ratings for our province, a message that the government, that the government members, that the front bench is serious about the credit rating in our province, not because it's great for us to go around and say, "Hey, we've got a triple-A credit rating; we're a pretty big deal" but because that triple-A credit rating means a significant amount of savings for our province.

That triple-A credit rating means that when we need to borrow money – and we all have our opinions on how much money we should or shouldn't be borrowing – when there is a need, we then can borrow at the best available rate, and that triple-A credit rating saves money for our province, saves taxpayers' money. Every downgrade that we receive costs the taxpayer of Alberta. That means that every downgrade costs the moms and the dads, the truck drivers, the plumbers, the butchers, the bakers, the candlestick makers, and the mechanics. Let's not forget the mechanics.

**Ms Renaud:** Don't forget the bakers.

**Mr. Cooper:** I already got the bakers. And I even have the Joneses.

Madam Speaker, the downgrading of our credit is a significant risk to all Albertans and to a number of those I have pointed out already this afternoon. Unfortunately, we don't have enough time to read into the record all of the types of folks that this has a negative impact on. And while from time to time here in the Chamber we can enjoy some humour amongst peers and colleagues and foes – I think that's important – that doesn't mean that what we are dealing with isn't a very serious issue, because it really is.

This is a serious issue that has a significant impact on the direction of our province. It has a significant impact on our ability to compete across this country and on the world stage. Not only does it cost taxpayers money with increased borrowing costs, but it also costs municipalities a significant amount of money. One of the reasons is that municipalities engage with the provincial government to borrow and utilize that tradition of the strongest possible credit rating to receive wonderful rates to borrow for very important projects that happen, the very projects that the government is supporting, whether it's roads or schools, all of those things, the important key infrastructure projects. Particularly in the case of municipalities, when they borrow to do other projects that are the municipal responsibility, be it reservoirs or waste water, they have the benefit of borrowing through the provincial government to receive those triple-A credit ratings.

For some of those small municipalities – I think of the outstanding constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills and communities like Cremona, that are just a couple of hundred

people, communities like Beiseker, that are just under a thousand – without the benefit of the provincial government being able to provide financing to them, on their own they would pay a significantly higher credit rate.

**4:10**

The challenge is that when the provincial government doesn't take care of its responsibilities and the areas of jurisdiction which it presides over, it has a negative impact down the line to our municipal partners because the cost of borrowing is going to go up for our municipal partners. Whether it's a recreation facility or a road in their community that they bear responsibility for or a sidewalk or a seniors' facility, all of those are going to cost more because this government hasn't laid out a clear plan that allows credit-rating agencies and Albertans to have faith in the long-term financial viability of our province.

I would strongly support this Assembly to send the right message to those agencies, to Albertans, that we take seriously our credit rating, that we are willing to do what it takes to lay out a plan, and to not create something so ambiguous as no debt ceiling. We even proposed that a debt ceiling is better than no debt ceiling, and the credit-rating agencies have said that that would be a step in the right direction.

I know that the government doesn't love to take tips or pointers from the Official Opposition – and I don't begrudge them that, although I think they would be a lot better off if they did take a few more of our ideas – but they should at least listen to the credit-rating agencies and the investment community, that say that the direction of Bill 10 is not the right direction for this province. That's exactly why all members of this Assembly should send that message by supporting this amendment, and I encourage everyone to do so.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member. It's always interesting what you can throw into your argument.

The Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park.

**Cortes-Vargas:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to speak in the House against the amendment being proposed. Throughout the last few months I've spoken to many of my constituents, and the constant topic of conversation is: how are we going to respond to our economic circumstances? Strathcona-Sherwood Park makes up a large section of the Industrial Heartland, an area that contributes to Alberta's overall GDP, with operating investments of \$3 billion, and a lot of my constituents are employed in the heartland businesses and are experiencing these setbacks from the oil prices.

I mention this because we have a choice in this House, and the members opposite are proposing, without a shadow budget, in explaining where they would cut, to cut drastically, to do the things that have been done in the past and have drastic social effects. The members on this side of the House are looking for a choice. They're looking for a plan, investment, and the Alberta jobs plan provides just that.

Not only that, but I've been continuously talking to the Industrial Heartland as they contribute to a lot of the work, and I tabled a few weeks ago a quote of their response to our budget. I'm just going to read it out here for the record. This is from Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association. It starts:

Job creation and economic diversification remain a key focus for the Alberta Government as indicated in the release of Budget 2016, The Alberta Jobs Plan. Most notably, the Petrochemical Diversification Program will stimulate investment and employment in Alberta's value added sector, helping to diversify and strengthen the province's economy.



See, we have a plan. We have a plan to respond to what's happening. It is not to cut and slash budgets, which is the only thing that the members on the other side are proposing, and they don't have even a shadow budget to explain where they would take this from. So until they are able to produce those kinds of details, we will continue to say that that will come out of front-line services, that that will come out of teachers, that that will come out of educational assistants, and that is what the voters of Alberta rejected in the last election.

We have a choice. Right now we're facing a drastic drop in the price of oil, and it affects how much revenue is gained in Alberta revenues. We have to make sure that we make a choice to reinvest in our economy, to reinvest in jobs, make sure that we are able to address the issues that are facing everyday Albertans. That is why I reject this. In order to do that, we need to put these tools in place, put these actions in place in order to make sure that we are able to address the immediate issues that Albertans are facing.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to speak against the amendment and to strongly recommend that members in this House reject the amendment.

Thank you.

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

Are there any members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, I'll call the question – oh, on the amendment. Sorry. Please go ahead, Drayton Valley-Devon.

**Mr. Smith:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. When I stand up here, I want to stand up to support this amendment. I want to stand up to support this amendment because I have a feeling that we must be living in two different Albertas. I say that in all seriousness because while I do not doubt the previous member's rendition of the quote from the Industrial Heartland group, if that's what its full name was, I can tell this House that in Drayton Valley they have measured this budget, they have measured this government, and they have found it very wanting.

When I talk to the people that have lost their jobs and lost their businesses, it's not solely because of a drop in the price of oil. There are many things that this government has done that have sent economic signals across this country and literally across the world and have scared capital and businesses out of this province.

Madam Speaker, this amendment is suggesting that until this Legislative Assembly and until the people of Alberta can be given some assurances, some plan, something that can show us that this government has some recognition that debt can cripple a province, that debt will and always has crippled economies, then business and financial institutions will indeed refuse to invest in this province.

I don't know what you're hearing, but I know that I have had many, many local and international businesses come into my office that are shaken to the core by the actions of this government. I have had vice-presidents of international corporations in my office. I will not name them, but they exist nonetheless. They have talked about risk profiles. When they go to the heads of their companies, when they go to their boards, when they make financial plans, they must provide a risk profile for any economic venture that they choose to try and bring into this province, and when they have to talk about the actions of this government, the risk profile gets longer and longer and longer and longer, to the point . . . [interjection] I'm not lying. They're telling me this.

4:20

I have no investments in these companies. I have no dealings with these companies. I've never worked for these companies, but these

companies employ my citizens, my constituents. These companies pay the taxes in my community. These companies make investments in the future and the lives of the kids with their donations. They're telling me that they will not invest their capital. They can invest it anywhere they want in the world, and they will not invest it in this province. You can shake your heads, and you can roll your eyes, but it's a fact.

There are companies started by entrepreneurs in my town that have been successful for 30 years. They have worked in and around Alberta, in western Canada. They've invested in other countries. Now they're shut down. Now they no longer employ anybody. That's not simply, solely because of the price of oil. It's because of the economic decisions of this government, and we see that happening and affecting our credit rating. Debt has consequences.

If you wonder why I get a little frustrated and upset sometimes, it's because I do care about those people that are in poverty. I do care about our education system. I do care, like all the members in this House, for our seniors. I do want to see social housing and the social licence being extended to the people of Alberta, and I know that that can only occur when we take care of the finances of this province.

I met the other day with the ATA local down in Wetaskiwin, and they said: well, what would you do? And I said to them: I'm not suggesting that this is an easy answer. There's a reality that we all face. Whether it's personal, whether it's a corporation, or whether it's this province, when you accumulate significant debt, many of the answers are no longer available to you. The options that you face are very limited, and often the options that you have to pursue are going to hurt and hurt very badly. If you really want to have small class sizes and you really want to have teachers and you really want to have aides in the classrooms, then control your debt. If you want to see cutbacks, don't control your debt. There will come a time – and it will not be too long from now – when financial institutions will simply start forcing you to make decisions that you don't want to make.

We are in serious financial trouble when we have a government that does not seem to understand how they are going to control the debt. That's what this triple-A credit rating being downgraded time and time and time again is doing. It's telling our financial institutions that we've got a problem. It's telling our corporations, it's telling our businesses that we have a problem. This is why I would speak to this amendment. Until this government comes out and is able to explain how it is going to cut back its spending, how it is going to start to pay back its debt, we are going to be in trouble.

Nobody wants to see front-line workers cut. Nobody wants to see nurses cut. As much as you want to say that that's what we want to do, it is not the truth. We did not campaign on that. We did not campaign on that. I think we know what we campaigned on. [interjections] I'll let you explain what you think you campaigned on. Allow me the same ability to be able to explain what we campaigned on.

We know that if we continue to go on down the path of unending spending and borrowing, our interest payments will soon be the third-largest expenditure of the government. That is a wise use of taxpayers' money?

While I understand that there may be, Madam Speaker, some people in this Legislature that don't want to support this amendment, this amendment has a great deal of validity because it has allowed this House to have a conversation about what is important when it comes to our financial situation. I would argue that those people that want to see a reasoned, rational discussion about how we can control our spending while minimizing the social impact to the best of our ability – that is in the best interest of the

people of Alberta, and this amendment has allowed us to be able to pursue that direction.

Downgrading a triple-A credit rating, once you've achieved it, is never a very good idea because the benefits that come from that triple-A credit rating, Madam Speaker, are immense. It means that we do have the ability to pursue a modicum of debt, pay a modest rate of interest, that allows us to be able to get the best bang for our dollar. But it's always wise, when you're borrowing, to have a path forward to paying that debt off. We would love to be able to hear from this government how they are going to do that. What kind of measures are they going to take to see a renewal of that triple-A credit rating, which is so beneficial to Albertans? You cannot continue to borrow and spend forever – you can't – so how are you going to get off that track? What are you going to do? I think it's a reasonable thing.

Albertans, financial institutions, the other members of this Assembly, all would love to be able to see a clear plan for getting control of our spending and for stopping the accumulation of our

debt. I think, Madam Speaker, that we have an opportunity, by voting for this amendment, to pause, to consider how we can set a debt limit and make it an effective one. We've tried before. It wasn't an effective way of doing it. Obviously, this government underestimated its need for only – only – a 15 per cent debt limit. So let's take the time. Let's vote for this amendment. Let's make sure that we've received satisfactory evidence, satisfactory assurances on how we're going to move forward. Let's take that time, by supporting this amendment, so that the people of Alberta will be the winners as we move forward in this province.

I think that I've probably pursued this to the extent that maybe I've changed minds, perhaps? Hope springs eternal in the breast of this . . .

**The Acting Speaker:** Sorry. I hesitate to interrupt you, hon. member, but pursuant to Standing Order 4(2) the Assembly will stand adjourned until Monday afternoon at 1:30.

[The Assembly adjourned at 4:30 p.m.]

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

**Activity to May 26, 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)

Committee of the Whole -- 1019-24 (May 18, 2016 aft., passed), 987-95 (May 18, 2016 morn.)

Third Reading -- 1172 (May 25, 2016 eve.), 1174-79 (May 25, 2016 eve., passed on division)

### **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)  
Committee of the Whole -- 979-81 (May 17, 2016 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1180-81 (May 25, 2016 eve., 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.)  
Committee of the Whole -- 950-51 (May 17, 2016 morn.), 1041-49 (May 19, 2016 morn.), 1103-13 (May 24, 2016 aft.), 1115-23 (May 24, 2016 eve., passed), 1077-81 (May 24, 2016 morn.)  
Third Reading -- 1124 (May 24, 2016 eve.), 1197-99 (May 26, 2016 morn., adjourned)
- 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.), 971-79 (May 17, 2016 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1012-18 (May 18, 2016 aft.), 1024 (May 18, 2016 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1068-69 (May 19, 2016 aft., passed)
- 12 Aboriginal Consultation Levy Repeal Act (Feehan)**  
First Reading -- 802 (May 3, 2016 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 904-907 (May 12, 2016 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 985-87 (May 18, 2016 morn., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1069 (May 19, 2016 aft., passed)
- 13 Veterinary Profession Amendment Act, 2016 (Gray)**  
First Reading -- 872 (May 10, 2016 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 965-71 (May 17, 2016 aft., passed on division)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1024-25 (May 18, 2016 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1069 (May 19, 2016 aft., passed)
- 14 Health Professions Amendment Act, 2016 (Hoffman)**  
First Reading -- 872 (May 10, 2016 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 983-85 (May 18, 2016 morn., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1076-77 (May 24, 2016 morn., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1077 (May 24, 2016 morn., passed)
- 15 An Act to End Predatory Lending (McLean)**  
First Reading -- 901 (May 12, 2016 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1062-67 (May 19, 2016 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1153-57 (May 25, 2016 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1172 (May 25, 2016 eve., passed)
- 16\* Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016 (Mason)**  
First Reading -- 921 (May 16, 2016 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1067-68 (May 19, 2016 aft.), 1071-75 (May 24, 2016 morn., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1157-63 (May 25, 2016 aft.), 1219-23 (May 26, 2016 aft., passed with amendments), 1197 (May 26, 2016 morn., adjourned)  
Third Reading -- 1223-25 (May 26, 2016 aft., passed)
- 17 Appropriation Act, 2016 (\$) (Ceci)**  
First Reading -- 950 (May 17, 2016 morn., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1025-29 (May 18, 2016 aft., passed), 995-1000 (May 18, 2016 morn., adjourned)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1070 (May 19, 2016 aft., passed), 1031-41 (May 19, 2016 morn.)  
Third Reading -- 1096-1103 (May 24, 2016 aft.), 1113 (May 24, 2016 aft., passed on division)

- 18 An Act to Ensure Independent Environmental Monitoring (Phillips)**  
First Reading -- 964-65 (May 17, 2016 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1125-35 (May 25, 2016 morn., passed on division)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1191-97 (May 26, 2016 morn., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1199-1205 (May 26, 2016 morn., passed on division)
- 19 Reform of Agencies, Boards and Commissions Compensation Act (Ceci)**  
First Reading -- 1011 (May 18, 2016 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1153 (May 25, 2016 aft., passed), 1135-40 (May 25, 2016 morn.)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1171-72 (May 25, 2016 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1173 (May 25, 2016 eve., passed)
- 20 Climate Leadership Implementation Act (\$) (Phillips)**  
First Reading -- 1095 (May 24, 2016 aft., passed)  
Second Reading -- 1163-70 (May 25, 2016 aft.), 1173-74 (May 25, 2016 eve.), 1181-90 (May 25, 2016 eve., adjourned (on amendment))
- 22 An Act to Provide for the Repatriation of Indigenous Peoples' Sacred Ceremonial Objects (Miranda)**  
First Reading -- 1219 (May 26, 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)  
Committee of the Whole -- 924-31 (May 16, 2016 aft., passed with amendments)  
Third Reading -- 931-34 (May 16, 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)  
Second Reading -- 1171 (May 25, 2016 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1197 (May 26, 2016 morn., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1219 (May 26, 2016 aft., passed)



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