



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Second Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, November 10, 2016

Day 48

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

Robert H. Reynolds, QC, Clerk

Philip Massolin, Manager of Research and
Committee Services

Paul Link, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

Shannon Dean, Law Clerk and Director of
House Services

Nancy Robert, Research Officer

Gordon Munk, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

Trafton Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel

Brian G. Hodgson, Sergeant-at-Arms

Gareth Scott, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

Stephanie LeBlanc, Parliamentary Counsel
and Legal Research Officer

Chris Caughell, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms

Janet Schwegel, Managing Editor of *Alberta Hansard*

Executive Council

Rachel Notley	Premier, President of Executive Council
Sarah Hoffman	Deputy Premier, Minister of Health
Deron Bilous	Minister of Economic Development and Trade
Oneil Carlier	Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Joe Ceci	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
David Eggen	Minister of Education
Richard Feehan	Minister of Indigenous Relations
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
Lori Sigurdson	Minister of Seniors and Housing

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Coolahan
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
Fitzpatrick	Taylor
Gotfried	

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Ms Goehring
Deputy Chair: Mr. Smith

Drever	Orr
Hinkley	Pitt
Horne	Rodney
Jansen	Shepherd
Luff	Swann
McKitrick	Yao
McPherson	

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Shepherd
Deputy Chair: Mr. Malkinson

Cooper	Littlewood
Ellis	Nixon
Horne	van Dijken
Jabbour	Woollard
Kleinsteuber	

Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

Chair: Mr. Wanner
Deputy Chair: Cortes-Vargas

Cooper	McIver
Dang	Nixon
Fildebrandt	Piquette
Jabbour	Schreiner
Luff	

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Chair: Ms McPherson
Deputy Chair: Mr. Connolly

Anderson, W.	Kleinsteuber
Babcock	McKitrick
Drever	Rosendahl
Drysdale	Stier
Fraser	Strankman
Hinkley	Sucha
Kazim	

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Ms Fitzpatrick
Deputy Chair: Ms Babcock

Carson	Loyola
Coolahan	McPherson
Cooper	Nielsen
Ellis	Schneider
Goehring	Starke
Hanson	van Dijken
Kazim	

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Mr. Fildebrandt
Deputy Chair: Mr. S. Anderson

Barnes	Luff
Cyr	Malkinson
Dach	Miller
Fraser	Renaud
Goehring	Turner
Gotfried	Westhead
Hunter	

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Chair: Loyola
Deputy Chair: Mr. Loewen

Aheer	Kleinsteuber
Babcock	MacIntyre
Clark	Malkinson
Dang	Nielsen
Drysdale	Rosendahl
Hanson	Woollard
Kazim	

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 10, 2016

[The Speaker in the chair]

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

Introduction of Visitors

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

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly His Excellency Agustin Garcia Lopez, ambassador of Mexico to Canada. His Excellency is accompanied today by Mrs. Cecilia Villanueva, consul of Mexico in Calgary; Mr. Iker Reyes, minister counsellor; Mr. Luis Brasdefer; and Mrs. Juana Ruiz, deputy consul of Mexico in Calgary. I'm pleased to say that there's a great potential to build on our already strong relationship between Alberta and Mexico, which includes common interests in energy, agriculture, trade, and investment. Albertans value our relationship with Mexico, and this visit is a great opportunity to explore new areas of collaboration. They are all seated in your gallery. I invite them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly, and I say bienvenido.

The Speaker: Welcome to the Legislature. I must tell you, Your Excellency, that the hon. minister does a much better job of Ukrainian than he does of Spanish.

Introduction of Guests

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

Ms Luff: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly visitors and students from Almadina Language Charter Academy. There are apparently 90 of you here today. Welcome. They are from the wonderful riding of Calgary-East and, also, the wonderful riding of Calgary-Fort. You'll be hearing a little bit more about them later today in my member's statement. Would they please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Mr. MacIntyre: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you parents and children from Destiny Christian School, just outside of Red Deer, who are here visiting the Legislature today and seeing what we all do for them, on their behalf. If they could all rise now, please, and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Stony Plain.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you the SML Christian Academy group. They're a group of grade 9 students from Stony Plain. I had the chance to spend some time with them, and they had very interesting questions. They were so passionate about their questions and what they wanted to learn today. I'd like to introduce Mrs. Vanessa Hamilton and her class. If they would rise, we will give them the traditional warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, are there any other school groups?

Seeing none, the Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all Members of the Legislative Assembly Captain Richard Dumas and Major Nik Nystrom. They are seated in your gallery. Captain Dumas has served since 1978 and is currently the adjutant of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and aide-de-camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. Major Nystrom, officer commanding B squadron of the South Alberta Light Horse, Alberta regiment, is currently employed in the Department of Economic Development and Trade. These gentlemen have been invaluable to my role as the government liaison to the Canadian Forces. I want to sincerely thank you both for your service and dedication to Canada. Please stay standing while we give you the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The leader of the third party.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Weidlich. Lieutenant-Colonel Weidlich is the commanding officer of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and a veteran of three international operations. In addition to his army reserve career, Kevin is also chief of staff to the Progressive Conservative caucus. He is seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and I proudly ask him to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you a group from the Iraqi Canadian Association of Edmonton, which is a nonprofit organization that operates out of my riding of Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview. I'll ask them to rise as I say their names. We have Dhiaa Raheem, Abdulrahman Al-Rasheed, Anna Mikael, Ammer Jawdat, Ziyad Altorany, Ola Al-Obaidi. While promoting awareness between Iraqi rights and others, the association assists Iraqi Canadians in Edmonton in a number of ways through translation services, and they offer language assessment and employment services to newcomers and connect them with community resources. I'll ask all members of the Assembly to join me in giving them the warm traditional welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Greenway.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Mr. Rajesh Angral; his wife, Manu Bhagat; and their seven-year-old son, Soham Angral. Rajesh is a long-time friend of mine and also a mutual friend of the hon. Minister of Human Services and the hon. Member for Calgary-Foothills. Rajesh, you know, is very active in our community, a community leader. He runs ethnic radio stations and holds multicultural events in and around the city. I ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome. It's particularly pleasing when I see two or three parties acknowledging friendships with our guests.

The Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of this Assembly Mr. Khalid Hansraj. Khalid is the managing director of the Clean Energy Technology Centre in Drayton Valley. The CETC is central Alberta's go-to full-service business incubation facility, where researchers and entrepreneurs can access a variety of business supports, including commercialization services and corporate training. Most notably, the CETC is working with two companies, BioComposites Group and Gas Recapture Systems, both of which I've spoken about in this Assembly. BioComposites Group alone is projected to create 200 direct knowledge-based jobs and 600 indirect jobs by 2022. Supporting new business ventures in support of diversifying our economy is critically important to Albertans. I would ask Mr. Hansraj to rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly a couple of people visiting from my constituency today, Stefana Mocanu and her husband, Vasile Mocanu. Stefana is a local author who when she arrived in Canada in 1989 had an English vocabulary that consisted of only three words: hello, thanks, and, that most Canadian word, sorry. It was her ambition to write books one day, and recently she published her debut novel in English, *Finding Eve*. Stefana would like to encourage others with the message that dreams come true when you work hard, believe in yourself, and never give up on your dreams no matter how impossible they seem. I'd ask them both to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

1:40

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly two sets of guests, the first being Savannah Rae, who is a grade 6 student at Queen Alexandra school, located in the Premier's constituency of Edmonton-Strathcona, accompanied by her grandmother Helen Rae, who lives in my constituency of Edmonton-Meadowlark. They are here today for a tour of the Legislature and to watch question period.

Mr. Speaker, my second set of guests are Jeffrey Swanson and Austin Hurley. They are grade 12 students at Jasper Place high school, located in my constituency of Edmonton-Meadowlark. They are job shadowing me today and are also here to watch us through question period and to see what it's like to be an MLA.

I'd now ask all my guests to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Ms Usha Gupta. Usha is an innovative and creative leader, currently holding the position of president of the Niketan dance school, where she mentors students in traditional Indian dance. Usha has received numerous awards for her work in the community and has just recently been inducted into the city of Edmonton's 2016 Arts and Culture Hall of Fame. There's no question that Ms Gupta's influence has impacted the arts community in a profound way. I would like to invite all the members of the House to attend her upcoming music and dance

event, Unnatti, on November 20 at Festival Place. There will be a 3 p.m. show celebrating the prosperity and growth of Indian culture as well as a bazaar, taking place between 2 and 7 p.m. Usha is already standing. I ask all the members to please give her the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

Dr. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my real pleasure today to rise and introduce to you and through you to all Members of the Legislative Assembly Dr. Alexander Paterson. If Dr. Paterson could rise. Sandy Paterson has been a medical colleague of mine for 40 years. He currently works at the Tom Baker cancer centre in Calgary, and his expertise is in the treatment of breast cancer and in maintaining bone health in cancer patients. Sandy is job shadowing me today as an MLA, and I've been vetting him for the Calgary-Fish Creek Alberta NDP nomination. Dr. Paterson, please receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly seven members of the Alberta Federation of Labour child care working group. Please rise as I call your name: Siobhán Vipond, Chris Gallaway, Glynnis Lieb, Susan Cake, Ron Palmer, Sam Nuako, Cori Longo. The child care working group runs the Fair Start for Kids campaign and sponsored a petition, which I will table today, calling for universal early childhood education and care. Let them now receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Airdrie.

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Mr. Sean van der Lee. Please rise. Sean is my lawyer, for good reasons. He is my friend, and I'm fairly certain we will see him sitting on this side of the House when the Wildrose forms government in 2019. Please receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

I believe there's another introduction from Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Loyola: Yes. Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you the members of the Mill Woods seniors friends group, many of whom live in Edmonton-Ellerslie. The executive is made up of Sudhir Somaiya, C. Patel, DharamPaul Mahajan, Maheshchandra Naik, Navin Bhatt, Kantibhai Patel, R. Patel, and Ramesh Patel. The executive of the Mill Woods Seniors and Multicultural Centre run a group that caters to various needs for our seniors in our community. Every Wednesday the group will organize its programs for its members that provide them a platform to acquire skills so they may become more independent. Last month it was my pleasure to help this group organize a presentation on elder abuse along with the office of the Seniors Advocate. The group has now been active for over two years, and I wish them the very best for their success as they continue to serve the community. I'd ask them all to stand and please receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Are there any other guests for introductions today? The Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all the members of the House the members of the Southwest Edmonton Seniors Association, known as SWESA. SWESA's goal is to ensure that seniors can pursue activities with their peers, enriching their lives through healthy and satisfying recreation and social engagements. Their organization is a cornerstone and has accomplished much for individuals over 55. Here with us today are Doug Carter, Ev Carter, and Phyllis Fleck. I'd ask you to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, let me just make an underlying point. We have today military individuals. Tomorrow we will all be celebrating in our constituencies the great life that we have of peace in this country. Earlier this week we had First Nations Legion members who have served our nation. I just emphasize to all of us that the celebration of this event, the recognition of this event is more about the price that's paid and the peace for the future than it is about the past. We must never ever forget.

Members' Statements

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

Almadina Language Charter Academy

Ms Luff: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to speak about the quality of public education in Alberta and about a particular school that embodies that quality. Often when I talk to parents, especially those about to choose a kindergarten for their children, they ask me: "What's the best school? Where will my child have the best chance of success?" My answer to that question is always "anywhere" because here in Alberta we are fortunate to have one of the best and most equitable school systems in the world.

OECD and PISA data show that regardless of socioeconomic background, any child in any school in Alberta has a similar chance of success. I'm proud of the teachers, principals, and school board trustees who support the success of all our children in all our schools in Alberta every day.

One such school doing excellent work to educate students in my riding is Almadina Language Charter Academy. I had the pleasure of recently attending their 30th anniversary. One of the things that always strikes me when I attend an Almadina event is the strong community engagement. Hundreds of families were present to celebrate the anniversary. Among the alumni present was a cardiologist who spoke of the sense of community, high-quality teaching, and goal-setting environment at Almadina that helped him strive to be able to reach his dreams.

Almadina specializes in teaching ELL students. At Almadina English language learning is embedded in every program of study, including subjects such as math. They are also, to my knowledge, the only school in Alberta that teaches Urdu, Arabic, and French and where the children sing the national anthem in all of these languages.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Almadina on 30 years of innovative education for ELL students as well as 30 years of building an active, engaged school community.

Almadina is excellent and unique, but so are many schools in our exceptional Alberta public school system. I am proud to be part of a government that truly values education, that continues to fund

every new student that enters our public system. This recognition of the value of education will ensure Alberta's success now and into the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The Leader of Her Majesty's Official Opposition.

1:50

Carbon Levy

Mr. Jean: Albertans are worried about the economy. Forty-seven thousand full-time jobs have disappeared since last October here in Alberta, but the NDP's carbon tax, lawsuits, and dangerous economic policies continue to make things much worse. Like it or not, the U.S. election made it clear: America will pay no carbon tax. This means our number one competitor in oil and gas will have a significant competitive advantage, and it has Albertans even more worried. Why is the Premier driving jobs out of our province and slamming Albertans with a new tax they simply cannot afford?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think the first thing to note is that our climate leadership plan was developed with the expectation that nobody else was actually going to have a carbon tax in place. The fact of the matter is that what happens in the U.S. or does not happen in the U.S. has no relevance to what we already were planning to do because we modelled them to not be doing it. This narrative that has developed in the opposition over the last 24 hours, where they're celebrating what appears to be bad news to Alberta, is actually wrong.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Mr. Jean: Acting alone on carbon taxes leaves Alberta in a bad situation, and the Premier's refusal to back down on the carbon tax has Albertans even more worried. The Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors has said that because of this carbon tax, quote, Alberta is going to continue to be less competitive and that is bad news for Alberta's economy and Alberta workers. End quote. Premier, this tax is bad for everyone in Alberta, whether it's workers, families, schools, municipalities, businesses, and, yes, even charities. Why won't the government at least let Albertans vote on a carbon tax through a referendum?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our government believes that climate change is real. Our government believes that a responsible global citizen needs to take action to address the issues around climate change. We also believe that this will ultimately improve our marketability in markets not just south of the border but throughout the world. That's why our climate change plan has specific plans in place for trade-exposed industries to ensure that we remain competitive. I would urge the member opposite to look into that.

Mr. Jean: Mr. Speaker, even this Premier has admitted this carbon tax will hurt our economy's ability to grow. Here is what Gary Leach, the president of the Explorers and Producers Association of Canada, had to say, quote: if our major competitor isn't levying a carbon tax on energy intensive industries, there's a real risk that those industries are going to migrate out of jurisdictions that levy that kind of tax. End of quote. Premier, Albertans are really nervous. They want the government to put their interests first. Why,

then, is the NDP threatening jobs and our economy with this new carbon tax and won't back down?

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, as I've said before, I believe that our climate change leadership plan will actually promote the kind of diversification that we need to grow our economy. [interjections] An organization called Canadians for Clean Prosperity, an organization that includes former Conservative MP Monte Solberg – I think you've heard of him – put out a report earlier this fall that endorses our plan, and they say, "The hybrid model, applied at the national level with regional trading, is seen to . . . alleviate [the] competitiveness concerns."

Speaker's Ruling Decorum

The Speaker: Table officers, you might just stop the clock for one moment.

Allow me to just underline again – we're all going to be heading home for constituency week – that the objective here is to have an engaged debate and dialogue. Let's be conscious of not only the number of hecklings but, more importantly, the volume.

Second main question.

Energy Policies

Mr. Jean: Let's quote somebody else. "Our position on the Keystone [is] that if we ship unprocessed bitumen to Texas . . . we will give tens of thousands of Alberta jobs to Texas." That was the position of this Premier and the NDP government in June 2015. Now, yesterday TransCanada announced it remains fully committed to the project. The incoming U.S. administration has said that it's going to approve this pipeline. There should be no question about it: if this gets built, it's going to be great news for Alberta's families. Will the Premier change her position on the Keystone pipeline? Yes or no?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would urge the member to read the newspaper as I've actually commented on this at great length, but if we want to go for round 5, that's fine. The fact of the matter is that with the current economic situation that Albertans are facing and with the current need for our energy industry to move towards recovery, it is our view that we need to work with all members of the industry to find ways in which they can increase their trade with the United States. But in the meantime our focus is on ensuring that we get Canadian access to tidewater from a Canadian port in order to ensure that we . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Mr. Jean: Well, I didn't hear a yes or a no there.

With free trade agreements being put under the microscope, it's more important than ever that you defend Albertans' interests. The Keystone pipeline will create a lot of jobs here in Alberta, remove the bottleneck in our oil sands, and help Albertans get back on their feet in time of need. The Prime Minister supports it, Saskatchewan supports it, but this Premier has failed to speak out publicly in favour of it. It's a yes. Albertans want to know if this Premier is committed to defending our industries and Albertans' quality of life. Again, does she support Keystone? Yes or no?

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Ms Notley: Again, Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated, we are happy to work with our energy industry to find ways in which we contribute to their opportunities to enhance trade with the United States. But what is a really good use of this government's time is to focus on those things over which we have agency, and we have agency over pipelines in our country, so those are the matters that we are going to focus our attention on.

Mr. Jean: Mr. Speaker, these are simple yes or no questions, and they matter to Albertans. Here's another issue that the Premier refuses to give an answer on. We've asked both the Premier and the Deputy Premier this question several times and still have not got a clear answer. The NDP's ideological coal shutdown means that the province looks set to fund a \$1 billion transmission line to help B.C.-owned hydro. B.C. is asking Alberta to pick up the tab. Will Albertans be paying for this \$1 billion transmission line in their power bills or in their taxes? Yes or no?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, first of all, the decision to move Alberta off of coal-fired electricity generation is not an ideological one. It is a science-based one, it is a health-based one, and it's an environmental protection based one.

Secondly, honest to God, the member opposite is making stuff up. There is no \$1 billion transmission line, and I would suggest that he stop trying to scare people with suggestions of the same.

Mr. Jean: Clearly, your economic moves are scaring Albertans enough.

Electricity Power Purchase Agreements

Mr. Jean: Earlier this year the NDP government decided to completely undermine investment confidence in Alberta by going to court to rip up 17-year-old contracts. Now we hear rumblings that the NDP will abandon their hopeless court case. That should be good news; however, the rumblings say that the NDP will instead use legislation to accomplish what they have no hope whatsoever of accomplishing in court. Will the Premier please assure investors that she won't turn Alberta into some sort of banana republic that uses legislation to rewrite long-standing contracts with Alberta-owned companies?

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, as I've said before, this is a matter that, in particular, is before the courts. In general, our government is committed to the notion of ensuring that consumers in Alberta pay the fairest prices possible for their electricity, and we will do everything we can to ensure that that is what happens.

Mr. Jean: Our FOIP documents show clearly that the Premier needed a basic briefing about how the power system works here in Alberta last March. Now we have these rumblings about using legislation to rip up long-term contracts. The Premier should know how these bad, heavy-handed decisions cause capital to flee, hurting Alberta families. Albertans want the Premier to be on their side. She needs to put away her ideological hammer. Can the Premier confirm that she won't use legislation to undo these long-standing negotiated contracts, that were done in the best interests of Albertans?

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me just say that there's a quote we'll hold on to, that those contracts were in the best interests of Albertans. But more to the point, let me just say this. Our government will do everything we can to ensure the fairest and

most competitive energy and electricity rates for Alberta consumers, industrial and residential, because that's our job.

2:00

Mr. Jean: Mr. Speaker, ripping up a long-standing government contract is something that is unacceptable in a democratic government, in a modern economy. It will scare away investment to Alberta just when we need people to invest in our electricity system the most. The companies that sign these contracts include some that are wholly owned by the people of the cities of Edmonton and Calgary. Will the Premier show respect for Edmontonians and Calgarians and go back to the negotiation table with Enmax and Capital Power and clean up the mess that her government has made?

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, I will agree with one thing that the member says in that we are certainly trying to clean up a mess that was left for us. That being said, the driving principle that we will adhere to as we do this work is to ensure that the citizens of Alberta get the best deal possible, and we will do whatever is necessary to ensure that outcome.

The Speaker: I just would like to point out that I've been very, very generous, but there's a loud voice coming from right in that row someplace. I would hope . . .

The leader of the third party.

Keystone XL Pipeline Project

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is desperately in need of pipelines to get our resources to market. Without them we are forced to sell at a steep discount. Like it or not, Alberta is a resource-based economy, and without a robust industry we can't sustain the jobs, the public service, and our high quality of life. To the Premier: the pending change in administration in the U.S. has offered renewed hope that the Keystone XL pipeline will become a reality. Will you now please express your full and enthusiastic support for this project?

Ms Notley: Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, I think, first of all, that we need to be somewhat cautious in terms of taking every single, solitary platform declaration from the folks south of the border and assuming that immediately they will become fact. What we know is that between now and Christmas the federal government will be having to make a decision about a pipeline within our country. That is the focus that we are keeping our attention on because that is the thing over which we have most agency and which comes first. Overall, as I have said before, we stand with our energy industry. We are going to do what we can to help them improve their economic return.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday an NDP private member actually taunted our PC caucus for supporting Keystone XL. We know that the member was reading from a prepared script. I respect that the Premier doesn't want to talk about promises, so let's talk about fact. Premier, when the day comes that the U.S. President approves Keystone XL, will you and your government stand in the way?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, the answer to that is: of course not.

Mr. McIver: Well, sometimes small progress is what we get. Thank you, Premier.

For someone who is supposed to have Alberta's best interests at heart – and you claim to be a pipeline champion – you don't sound very enthusiastic about this opportunity. Since Keystone will go a long way towards providing jobs that are desperately needed in Alberta, good mortgage-paying jobs, between now and the day the President, we hope, approves this pipeline, will you stand up and begin to champion the Keystone XL pipeline?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, I think the whole story of this pipeline and the fact that the previous government spent gosh knows how much money going down to the States and lobbying and lobbying and lobbying and then a decision was made and there was absolutely nothing they could do about it – the reason why is because it's a pipeline to tidewater over somebody else's country. When it comes to things that we can do, the agency that we can demonstrate, the work that we can do to deliver outcomes for our industry partners, we need to focus on the places where we can actually have an impact. That's exactly – exactly – what our government has been doing.

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

Ethics and Accountability Committee

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Shortly after being elected, this government created an all-party committee with the ambitious and overdue goal of reviewing the core statutes that govern our democracy. The first year the committee was a success. We passed most motions unanimously, but we simply ran out of time because the job was too big. If you don't believe me, just ask the hon. Government House Leader, who said, and I quote: I acknowledge that it may not have been realistically possible to get through everything that was on its plate. To the Premier: will you accept the unanimous request of the committee and re-establish it so we can finish our important work?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, our government will be moving forward with some of the recommendations that came out of that committee, but at this point it is not our intention to re-establish it.

Mr. Clark: Well, that's a shame, Mr. Speaker, because we agreed on a lot. We agreed on the need to get big money out of politics, and the process worked. We voted unanimously in favour of doing so. We proved the process worked because this government listened to the opposition's concerns about taxpayer dollars going to opposition parties, and I will offer my kudos to this government for agreeing that it's not what Albertans wanted. Again to the Premier: given the thoughtful input of stakeholders like the Chief Electoral Officer and the Ethics Commissioner and especially the hundreds of Albertans who shared their views with us, will you let the committee finish its work?

Ms Notley: Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, on our side of the House we did truly want the committee to work, and it's unfortunate that members of the other side of the House did not. They walked out, they delayed, and, quite frankly, they engaged in bullying behaviour of the chair and other members. You know what? We made a commitment to Albertans to take big money out of politics. The members opposite don't want to take big money out of politics. Ultimately, we're not going to let them filibuster in order to avoid having that happen.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, this is very frustrating. The committee worked. That is the truth. Never once in the history of this Legislature has any committee reviewed four pieces of legislation in a year. It's never happened. It can't be done. All of the members

on this committee worked very hard, including government members, who gave up time with their families to improve democracy. At least, that's what I thought we were doing. I want to ask the minister responsible for democratic renewal – Minister, I know you're better than this. I know you care about democracy. Please prove me right. Re-establish the committee.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite is correct. We do care about democracy. We do care about making sure we're getting big money out of politics. After the unanimous passing of Bill 1 to ban corporate and union donations, this government is committed to following through with that. The opposition agrees. The Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock was quoted as saying: this committee is now dysfunctional, in my opinion. The committee was not working. The opposition members were filibustering, making unfounded accusations against the chair, and at one point they all walked out. We will move forward with legislation that makes sense and will return democracy.

The Speaker: Thank you hon. minister.
The Member for Calgary-East.

Small-business and Self-employment Assistance

Ms Luff: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In tough economic times Albertans are resilient. In my constituency I see nonprofits working with people seeking to start their own businesses and exciting, new small-business incubator markets. It's crucial that the government work with Albertans to help them move forward. To the Minister of Labour: what government programs are available to help Albertans learn the ropes of starting their new business?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour.

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the self-employment training program we are giving a leg-up to Albertans who are looking to start a new business as a way to support themselves and their families. Albertans can visit self-employment training providers across the province to receive formal instruction on business plan development, one-on-one business counselling, coaching, guidance, as well as how to implement that business plan. We are very pleased to help equip the entrepreneurs with the tools and the confidence that they need to realize their dreams and contribute to the prosperity of Alberta.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Luff: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the tough economic times in my riding and in Calgary in particular can the minister tell us how many Albertans benefited from this program and where they're located?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In today's challenging economy and competitive labour market it's more important than ever that Albertans have the support that they need to become self-employed if they choose to. Since May 2016 we've added more than 500 new seats in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat. In fact, I'm very pleased to say that we recently signed an agreement with Meyers Norris Penny to support 150 seats in Calgary. We recognize the importance of this program and are looking to expand it to other communities throughout the province.

2:10

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Luff: Thank you. Given the need to make every dollar count, can the minister tell us how much the government of Alberta is investing in this program?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently Alberta Labour has self-employment contracts equalling approximately \$5 million over the next two years. Approximately \$1.9 million is allocated to the self-employment training this fiscal year in partnership with the government of Canada. We will use every penny we can under our labour market development agreements to help enterprising Albertans, especially at a time when they need it most.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Oil Sands Advisory Group Membership

Mr. MacIntyre: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it's another day and another NDP adviser wanting to shut down our pipelines. This time it was oil sands advisory group member Karen Mahon, who fired off a fundraising e-mail this Tuesday as the Canadian director of Stand, an antidevelopment organization formerly known as ForestEthics, soliciting donations to stop Kinder Morgan, to kill Alberta jobs. Well, actions speak louder than words. Will the Premier condemn the work of her panel member's fundraising to destroy Alberta jobs, attacking our industry, and working to stop pipeline expansion?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, first of all, on the issue of our work advocating for Kinder Morgan, I could not be more proud of our Minister of Energy, our minister of trade, our minister of environment, and all the other members of our caucus, who are regularly advocating on behalf of getting our product to tidewater. With respect to particular members of the OSAG, let me be clear. Those people were put in place to give us advice on how to move towards the cap on emissions. They were not put in place to give us advice or to do anything else with respect to pipelines, so what they do on that matter doesn't really matter.

The Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier.

Mr. MacIntyre: Mr. Speaker, out-of-work Albertans are baffled and, frankly, offended. Given that the oil sands advisory group is tasked with advising this government on the oil sands aspects of the climate leadership plan and given that this plan includes a cap that independent estimates say will result in the destruction of up to \$250 billion worth of desperately needed jobs and investment, why on earth did this government appoint this person to this panel, and when will Ms Mahon be shown the door?

Ms Notley: You know, Mr. Speaker, the issue of putting an emissions cap in place, first of all, has done tremendously positive work for our government, for our province, and for industry in terms of earning social licence. The idea itself came from the industry. That idea came because we brought all parties together to start talking to each other instead of at each other, and that is why we have all parties on the OSAG. We will continue to govern on that basis by bringing people with disparate views into a room to work out solutions, not just yelling at them across the aisle the way the members opposite do.

Mr. MacIntyre: Mr. Speaker, this government has zero credibility – zero credibility – on the energy file. Bernard the Roughneck has done more in the last month to defend Alberta’s energy industry than our own silent Energy minister over there. Given this NDP government’s atrocious hiring practices, that have seen a slew of antipipeline activists – Marcella Munro; Tzeporah Berman; the Energy chief of staff, Graham Mitchell; and Karen Mahon among many others – receiving healthy salaries courtesy of Alberta’s taxpayers, Albertans are left wondering: is there anyone over there genuinely defending Alberta’s development interests?

Ms Notley: You know, Mr. Speaker, for years the members opposite have advocated for the oil industry by talking to a really small group of people in an echo chamber and refusing to listen to Albertans, to Canadians, to community members, to indigenous people, and to people who care about this issue. The way you move towards resolution, the way you move towards solutions, the way you move towards getting the job done is to talk to everybody, and we will not apologize for it. In fact, we will do it more.

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

Electricity System

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta’s electricity generation is largely made up of coal, 51 per cent, and natural gas, at 39 per cent. If renewable generation replaces 30 per cent of coal generation by 2030, it leaves natural gas generation at 70 per cent, yet this government has done nothing to incent new natural gas generation. In fact, we see the opposite. To the Premier: what happens to prices and stability in 2030 if natural gas has not replaced the baseload currently provided by coal?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our plan, as I’ve said all along: we are, true, going to 30 per cent renewables by 2030, 70 per cent likely natural gas. We’ve worked with the AESO. We have a plan to move along in increments so we can keep the lights on, we can keep prices stable, and attract new investment into Alberta in a responsible fashion.

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Speaker, that plan seems to have a stick in someone’s eye.

Given that this government has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars, taxpayer dollars, vilifying companies like Capital Power and Enmax and given that Capital Power recently delayed their Genesee 4 and 5 plants, a \$1.4 billion project, because of uncertainty around Alberta’s coal phase-out, PPAs, and electricity markets, again to the minister. Your government talks about creating jobs and attracting investment. Talk is cheap. Will you withdraw your punitive lawsuits and work collaboratively with industry to ensure such important projects get off the ground to give us that baseload?

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you for the question. You know, we work every day with our industry, talking about the issues, how we can work together. At the beginning of my ministry I said that I will always work with industry. We will be collaborative, and there will be no surprises. We’re doing that. Minister Bilous and I are working on the coal phase-out with regulations. We worked with Minister Phillips. [interjection] Again, we’re working with industry every day.

The Speaker: Hon. member, I might point out that . . .

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Sorry. The hon. minister of environment.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Speaker, I don’t see “collaboratively,” and frankly I see a lot of surprises.

Given that Capital Power also stated that the Genesee project is partially contingent upon fair asset compensation for early coal shutdown and given that the government continuously disputes industry expert estimates on what that compensation should be and given that this government is currently hiding the Boston report from the public and this Legislature, to the Energy minister: will you stop the charade, release the report, and work transparently with these companies in order to ensure an adequate supply of natural gas generation before 2030?

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: As I mentioned earlier, we are working with the companies. We have said all along that we will negotiate with them, and, you know, we will deal with the six companies that are post-2030. Just to be clear, we have people who have supported this position, and one of the opposition members, the Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, in an interview said: we can provide options for green power to consumers that they don’t currently have. That’s what we’re doing in this whole movement to cleaner power.

Beer Tax

Mr. Fildebrandt: Mr. Speaker, when the government introduced protectionist tariffs on out-of-province beers in October 2015, we warned the minister that this was unconstitutional. The minister refused to listen, and the courts ruled against them. When they took a second kick at the can with a revised tariff program in July of this year, we again warned the government that this was unconstitutional. Both times they refused to listen. Yesterday an injunction was granted by the courts against this unconstitutional tariff. We told the government that these taxes would end in a lawsuit. Why didn’t the minister listen?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, the courts have ruled on an injunction, nothing more than that, and we are moving forward with our great beer program, that’s supporting Alberta brewers in this province. It shows that we’ve got Albertans’ backs. In the last two weeks I’ve had two questions from this member talking about this sort of thing. I just want to know: why is he standing up for Ontario and Saskatoon and not Alberta?

2:20

Mr. Fildebrandt: Not understanding trade agreements: it sounds like someone who just got elected elsewhere, Mr. Speaker.

Given that regardless of what the minister thinks is good beer tax policy, it’s obviously unconstitutional to put a tariff on Canadian products from other provinces – we put forward our six-pack beer tax plan, which would support small and medium-sized brewers in Alberta while clearly respecting interprovincial free trade under the Constitution so we could avoid being sued. Again, would the minister reconsider his position and work with the opposition to craft a beer tax policy that is compliant with the Constitution?

The Speaker: By the way, fellow members, if you are nice to each other, you can go and have a beer rather than talk about beer.

Mr. Ceci: I have a question for the member across the floor. I want to know: has he ever gone out and talked to the Alberta brewers and the people who are working in those industries? If you talk to them,

Mr. Speaker, they support what we're doing, they support the jobs that are developing, the investment that is happening. I just want to know: why does he want to put Albertans out of work? [interjections]

The Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Fildebrandt: We just want to know what the minister has been drinking, Mr. Speaker.

The government is suing itself over power purchase agreement contracts that they broke. The government is being sued over the gross mishandling of the Trinity home-school shutdown. The government was sued over its unconstitutional beer tax changes in October 2015. Now the government is being sued over its beer tax changes from July. So far the government's most successful job-creation program is for B.C. litigation lawyers. How many times does this government have to be sued before they understand that they should hire lawyers before, not after, they get sued, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Ceci: You know, I just want to reassure everybody that we have the most open beer market system in the world, in Alberta, in the country. Over 7,000 products of beer are available here. That tells us that everybody who wants to get beer into this province, everybody who wants to drink different beer can do it in this province. We're not obstructionist to anybody.

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

Resource Industry Jobs

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people in my constituency have gone through downturns in the economy before. This time is different, however, because in my constituency they also believe that the policies of their government are actually working against them. For instance, the decision to shut down coal early will negatively impact constituents at Westmoreland Coal and the Genesee power facility. Will the Minister of Energy please explain to these workers which green energy company, not a government program but a company, they can apply to for a job in order to take care of their families?

The Speaker: The Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our government is committed to phasing out coal over a period of time, up until 2030. I want to remind the House that 12 out of the 18 facilities are closing pre-2030 due to federal regulations. The remaining six: we're working with not only the companies, but also I've struck a panel to engage communities, workers to ensure that there is a fair and just transition moving forward.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that a carbon tax, emission control caps, and a host of other NDP initiatives have scared oil capital out of this province and given that many oil-related companies have either left the Drayton Valley-Devon constituency or are working with skeleton crews and given that the hotels across my constituency are literally vacant and the restaurants are empty and given that I have many constituents looking for work to pay their mortgages and take care of their families, how many new jobs has this government created in the Drayton Valley-Devon constituency?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll begin by pointing the member to the Alberta jobs plan, where this year what's forecast is record investment in our province. Non oil and gas investment this year is expected to reach a high of \$38 billion. Capital investment in the manufacturing and service sectors is expected to reach a record high of \$21 billion. The oil and gas sector is expected to invest \$28 billion in Alberta this year. As well, we've had a number of folks from Calgary Economic Development, the city of Edmonton: all recognize that we're turning a corner.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that oil and gas, agriculture, and timber are the top three industries in Alberta and given that we've lost 47,000 jobs across the province since October and given the international trading policies the President-elect of the United States espoused on the campaign trail and given that the softwood lumber agreement expired in October, what is the minister of agriculture going to do to protect the jobs in my constituency that depend on softwood lumber exports?

The Speaker: The Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to start by saying that in the past three months there has actually been a net growth of jobs in Alberta by 25,000. Now, we recognize that we still have a long way to go, but I can tell you that this is exactly why currently the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry is in Asia with companies from our agriculture and forestry sector, promoting trade to increase the capacity and increase our market share in those countries. Next week I will be going over to Asia myself again with a series or a number of companies, looking at increasing the amount of exports that Alberta companies have in our Asian markets.

The Speaker: There was a point of order noted. Is that correct?

The Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Municipal Government Act Amendments

Dr. Starke: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last spring the Modernized Municipal Government Act was introduced, and since then the government claims to have conducted robust consultation that addressed the needs of our municipal partners. We are now well into November, we've completed second reading on the bill, yet municipalities across our province are in limbo with respect to how this legislation will affect them. To the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The AAMD and C convention occurs next week, but Committee of the Whole discussion on the MGA has mysteriously been pushed until the following week. What sort of radical amendments are you hiding from our municipal partners?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I'm very proud of the work that I have done building a relationship with municipal leaders from across this province in the time that I've been in this role. We have worked tremendously hard to engage very closely and to be the most transparent anyone has ever seen, I think, with any piece of legislation. We have from day one been open with what we are doing with this. There are no big surprises. What you see is what you get: a Modernized Municipal Government Act designed to help municipalities move into the current century.

Dr. Starke: Mr. Speaker, the mayor of Calgary certainly wouldn't agree with the minister.

To the same minister: given that your self-described exhaustive consultation now appears to be an utter and complete sham and given that this AAMD and C fall convention appears to be the last opportunity for the municipal leaders to thoroughly discuss the proposed changes to a bill that they might have to live with for the next 20 years and given that if you actually addressed stakeholder concerns, there would be no reason for you to further delay the MGA, please, Minister, why are you intentionally delaying the debate on amendments to this bill until after the AAMD and C convention?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The implication embedded in that question is absolutely absurd. The amount of feedback that we got from Albertans was so great. I mean, we heard from thousands and thousands of Albertans about what they wanted to see in the MGA. It takes time to compile that, to thoughtfully incorporate that information into some amendments coming forward. I'm looking forward to bringing them forward, and I reassure all municipal leaders that there will be no surprises.

Dr. Starke: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that the government's plans to centralize industrial assessment into the NDP politburo will have serious negative consequences for many municipalities and given that it will do a complete end run around years of accumulated expertise that has been developed, putting municipal finances at risk and given that this is the very kind of government interference in local decision-making that this very minister decried just yesterday, how will you work with municipalities to address this issue and mitigate assessment inconsistencies?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Centralized industrial assessment is not a surprise. That's why we presented it in May, why we gathered feedback on it from a number of stakeholders throughout the summer. Inconsistent industrial assessment and many issues were raised by industry stakeholders during consultation on the MGA. Albertans deserve a fair, predictable, efficient tax structure, and that includes industrial property taxes. We are interested in improving how industrial assessment is assessed, and I look forward to working with municipalities to ensure that as we move forward with this, it happens smoothly.

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

2:30 Door-to-door Furnace and Energy Contract Sales

Connolly: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In recent days I've heard concerns from my constituents in Citadel and Hawkwood about misleading door-to-door sales of furnaces. I've heard stories about door-to-door salespeople leaving the impression that they are with the government of Alberta in order to pressure my constituents to buy furnaces. Often these salespeople are returning two or three times to the same house even in one day. To the Minister of Service Alberta: has there been an increase in complaints about this kind of sales practice?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta.

Ms McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. In fact, I've heard a multitude of these same complaints, and unfortunately they seem to be getting more common. After a total of 41 complaints about furnace sales from 2010 to 2015, this number has jumped to 147 so far in 2016 alone. The scale of this

jump in complaints is obviously concerning. We are monitoring this situation very closely and evaluating our options for protecting consumers, particularly our seniors, from misleading practices when it comes to the sale of furnaces and other household energy products.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Connolly: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that we have seen growing concern about these furnace sales and given that in the past we have also heard concerns about door-to-door electricity contract sales, to the same minister: can you tell the House what our constituents can do to protect themselves from these predatory practices?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the energy contract sales the member mentioned, we unfortunately continue to see high numbers of complaints, with 244 complaints registered with Service Alberta so far this year. We saw a dramatic jump in complaints in 2015, and they've continued. When a salesperson comes to your door, Albertans should not feel pressured into signing a contract on the spot that they don't want. Albertans should also be aware that they have the right to cancel a contract within 10 days of receiving it for any reason. I encourage anyone with concerns about door-to-door sales to call our consumer protection line at 1.877.427.4088 or visit servicealberta.ca to learn about their rights.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Connolly: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. Given that concerns regarding these unethical practices seem to be growing, to the same minister: what actions are being considered to protect consumers?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member. As the minister that is responsible for much of our consumer protection, when Albertans raise concerns, I certainly listen. We're absolutely committed to protecting Albertans from unfair business practices, and that's why we're evaluating our options to protect consumers. I encourage any Albertan to call or write to my office with their experiences of these practices, and I encourage the members across the aisle as well if you're constituents are coming to you with these concerns. Their thoughts and ideas are important to me about how to strengthen these protections.

Thank you.

Renewable Energy Projects in Southern Alberta

Mr. Stier: Mr. Speaker, landowners in municipalities in southern Alberta are very concerned about this government's plan for renewable power. There has been no information or local consultation about locations of proposed wind and solar projects, transmission lines, or infrastructure. These new, unsightly projects could further degrade our beautiful viewshed and the critical tourism industry there. To the environment minister: where exactly are these projects going to be located, and can you guarantee that the rights of landowners will be respected in those proposed regions?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have introduced new legislation, the Renewable Electricity Act, and in that act we do speak of environmental impact assessments, depending on the size of the project. That wasn't in the former legislation at all, so there will be protections for landowners going forward.

Mr. Stier: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't think we heard where they're going to go.

Landowners have heard that stuff before, and now there's a continued lack of trust. Given that this NDP government has yet to repeal that draconian property rights legislation the Land Stewardship Act, better known as Bill 36, that they always opposed, and given that legislation could be used as a big stick in negotiations around wind and solar projects, will the minister confirm that there is no intent to use any of those draconian bills to force wind and solar projects through in areas where landowners will be negatively impacted?

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thanks for the question. The new legislation is going to enable projects to be built, but to be clear, investors will come in, and there will be rules for each project. We don't decide what the projects are. In consult with the ISO and the renewables auctions, investment and businesses will come in and do those, but landowners will be consulted before any projects are decided.

The Speaker: No preamble on this one.

Mr. Stier: Mr. Speaker, the lack of overall commitment and consultation on landowners' rights from the members opposite is still troubling. Given that in addition to locations and consultations, no information has been released about potential compensation to landowners whose operations could be negatively affected by these wind and solar proposals, will the minister confirm today that all landowners affected by these changes will be fully compensated at fair market value, or is expropriation a high possibility?

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: I believe I've previously answered that. In the new act there is a provision for consultation, and at the end of the day, that will be respected. But I do have to say that there's lots of, you know, support for this. The mayor of Stirling said: I think there is great opportunity for us to do something here in considering wind farms. Mary Moran from Calgary:

As investment in renewable energy in Canada is growing rapidly, Alberta has been largely on the sidelines in this key part of the future . . . supply, so we are pleased to see policy that provides the long-term certainty and stability that encourages global and local companies to invest.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Greenway.

Public-private Partnerships for Capital Projects

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other day I asked the Minister of Infrastructure if he would continue to use P3s given the success of the northeast leg of the Anthony Henday, and he stated, quote: the jury is still out on P3s. Unquote. Well, the funny thing with a P3 is that all projects built in this manner undergo a value-for-money assessment. Could the Minister of Infrastructure please tell this House what the value-for-money assessment for the northeast leg of the Anthony Henday project was?

The Speaker: The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is fully committed to ensuring that Albertans finally have the infrastructure that they have needed for so long, that we utilize the tool of

infrastructure to ensure that Albertans have jobs during this time, using it as a stimulus measure. There is very clear evidence that that is moving us forward and boosting our economy. I'm proud of the work we've done, and we will ensure always that we utilize the tools that will most effectively ensure that Albertans get access to that infrastructure for the best price and the best quality.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Gill: Well, it's a good thing that those . . .

The Speaker: No preamble, hon. member. What's your question?

Mr. Gill: Given that the good old PCs got Deloitte & Touche LLP to do a value-for-money assessment which indicated the P3 model provided a saving of \$371 million on the northeast Anthony Henday project alone, to the minister: while the P3s have not always worked for schools, they repeatedly worked for major infrastructure projects. Given their repeated success, is the jury back in on P3s?

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is moving Alberta forward finally, and that means getting taxpayers the best value for their dollar. The opposition would take Albertans backwards by finding ways to shovel public money to their deep-pocketed friends regardless of whether a P3 makes sense for Albertans. We are going to consider the evidence to ensure future projects get taxpayers the best value for their dollar.

Mr. Gill: Given that the minister of seniors stated in estimates, "We are moving away from private or community ownership and back towards the province financing and owning housing assets" despite the exceptional results found when the previous government partnered with the private and nonprofit sectors in this area and given that it seems like this government is reluctant to partner with the private or nonprofit sector in any capacity, to the Minister of Infrastructure: are you opposed to P3s and other public-private and nonprofit partnerships because of the economics or the NDP's world view?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are taking a look at our departments and practices to make sure, and that includes evaluating whether P3s are a good deal for taxpayers. The PC world view would have them focus on helping their friends get richer rather than doing what's best for everyday Albertans. We will continue to make sure that taxpayers get the best value for their dollar in Alberta.

2:40

Members' Statements

(continued)

Carbon Levy

Mr. Loewen: Never before has a carbon tax on Albertans made less sense than it does today. The United States will have no carbon tax for at least four years. The state of Washington voted against it. Australia repealed theirs, and their economy is growing. France is nixing its carbon tax because of fears of its impact on the economy. Major western economies know we all have a role to play in reducing global emissions, but that can't come at the price of killing jobs, punishing charities, and hurting families.

It's why thousands of Albertans gathered together last week to peacefully rally against this carbon tax, a carbon tax that the Premier has admitted will shrink the economy, a carbon tax that will cost the typical household a thousand dollars a year and will raise the cost of everything. People gathered in my city of Grande Prairie. They gathered in Calgary, in Edmonton, and all the way to Lethbridge. It's certainly no secret that almost two-thirds of Albertans oppose this carbon tax, and polls have confirmed this.

Albertans are scared. They see their friends, neighbours, and family members unemployed and hurting. Their hours have been cut, their wages reduced. People see this government providing little more than window-dressing jobs plans that have done nothing to offset the hundreds of thousands of job losses suffered in this province.

They are seeing reports that next year for the first time more wells will be drilled in Saskatchewan than in Alberta. One of the reasons: it's because policies matter. The government can't control the price of oil, but they can control how they react to it, and they have reacted poorly. This government did not run its election platform on a carbon tax. This is a blatant attempt to avoid a referendum on a provincial sales tax, plain and simple.

Locally the county of Grande Prairie has been helping subsidize charities' utility bills. Once this tax hits, local charities will be hard pressed to handle the burdensome costs. The county has been generous, but this increase, coupled with the other effects of the carbon tax, will hit the county hard.

The Premier should accept reality, put the good of the province first, and, at the very least, put the NDP's damaging carbon tax to a referendum.

Oil Sands Emissions Limit Act

Dr. Swann: I stand today to speak on a very difficult new reality for Albertans who believe the science of climate change and the urgent need for greenhouse gas mitigation. Strong leadership was long overdue in Alberta. All of us must share in the cost of reducing emissions. This government has shown welcome leadership, but real change is never easy. It's even less easy following the election of an unpredictable U.S. President who denies man-made climate change.

While I support the targets and timelines for cleaner energy development with its triple benefit for climate, jobs, and an alternate economy, we must hit pause on other parts of our energy-focused legislation, especially on less urgent bills such as Bill 25. Given Alberta's deep dependence on oil and gas, our current economic weakness, and the yet unknown economic threat from the U.S., I see merit in pausing and allowing the new reality and expert views to inform further our decision on the bill before us. Not stop, just pause, a pregnant pause, perhaps.

I've heard the Premier say that her climate plan was developed independently and that actions of our biggest customer and competitor will have no effect. Even so, I don't believe that anyone planned for the U.S. to go full speed in reverse. Proposals announced by Mr. Trump in his truth-challenged campaign have already begun to unfetter the U.S. fossil fuel industry and may drastically alter the investment climate and competitiveness here in Alberta. The ramifications of this election are sending shock waves through the global and Canadian economies. From free trade to energy, many U.S. policies are now in doubt. We have no idea yet what economic effect these changes will have on Alberta, nor have we in opposition yet seen a reasonable analysis of the effects our Alberta carbon policies might have.

Here in this House we serve Albertans. We're mandated to craft for them the best possible laws, policies, and regulations. Our

struggling economy and uncertain investment climate are now faced with unpredictability that will be better understood in the new year, when the oil sands advisory group reports.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member. Your time is up.
The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-St. Albert.

Métis Week

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to rise today and speak about Métis Week. Taking place the week of November 16 every year, the anniversary of Louis Riel's death, Métis Week is observed across the Métis homeland.

Riel's political passions were a rallying point for many. For the people of Quebec he was a champion of French language rights. For the people of Manitoba he was founder of their province and a unifying force, bringing the first western province into Confederation. For the Métis he remains a fearless visionary who fought to secure a just and fair future where all Métis people could live proud and self-determining lives. For Canada he was the son of a new nation, the Métis, born from the intermarriage of First Nations people and European newcomers.

A complex figure, Riel spoke the languages of Cree, French, and English. But he also spoke the language of resistance, and as the leader of the Northwest Rebellion Louis Riel was hanged on November 16, 131 years ago. In Riel's own words:

I am more convinced every day that without a single exception I did right. And I have always believed that, as I have acted honestly, the time will come when the people of Canada will see and acknowledge it.

With time he has become a part of the fabric of our country. If we look around Alberta, we see the importance of the Métis to our province. Towns like St. Albert, Lac La Biche, St. Paul, and Lac Ste. Anne were founded by the Métis, and the fur trade that pushed European exploration westward was often supported by the Métis. The Métis have also served in our military, in our Legislature, and have led our communities. Whether it's fiddling, jigging, or singing, the Métis have helped to shape our culture.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all Albertans to celebrate the contributions of the Métis people to our shared history and to celebrate Métis culture next week.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

University of Lethbridge Achievements

Ms Fitzpatrick: Mr. Speaker, almost a year ago I spoke of Lethbridge's footprint in outer space through the Herschel SPIRE project. The University of Lethbridge has yet again come to the forefront. In just the past few weeks five of its faculty members have been elected to royal societies around the world in a breadth of disciplines that speak to the university's strength as a liberal education institution that has grown into a respected research leader.

Dr. Louise Barrett, psychology, Dr. Joe Rasmussen, biology, and Dr. Bruce McNaughton, neuroscience, were all recently elected to the fellowship of the Royal Society of Canada. Dr. Artur Luczak, a neuroscientist, was elected to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. Dr. Paul Hayes became the first U of L faculty member elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. While these faculty members are singled out for their recent awards, they represent an excellence that is prevalent throughout the university's six faculties and schools.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that people are taking notice. Last week the U of L was ranked third place amongst the undergraduate

universities in Canada. It has been in the top three for five consecutive years. The U of L has greatly exceeded even the most optimistic goals of its founders, one of whom was my grandfather-in-law Reed Ellison. This is reflected by its record enrolment, its impact on the southern Alberta region, its now 40,000-plus alumni, and an ever-growing national and international reputation. As the U of L is coming up to its 50th anniversary, stay tuned. There's more to come.

2:50

Remembrance Day

Mr. Orr: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow this House won't sit. We will all come together, however, along with Canadians from the west coast to the prairies to the Maritimes. We will join and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and democracy and those who continue to do so in a world where tyranny persists. Countless men and women have given their lives so that we can enjoy the privileges we do today as Canadians. Tomorrow we will remember their courage and valour in the face of evil and despair.

This year we will mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, where more than 24,000 Canadian soldiers were killed, wounded, or went missing. We will also commemorate Beaumont-Hamel, a devastating battle for Newfoundland, where only 68 of more than 800 soldiers who took part answered roll call the next day. We will also use tomorrow to honour the men and women who currently wear the uniform and put their lives on the line for our safety and security. Tomorrow we honour the fallen, revere the brave, and salute all the members of the Canadian armed forces and their families for their service and sacrifice for our country.

I urge all Canadians to attend a Remembrance Day service in their community, of which there are many planned. I also urge them to spend some time with a Canadian veteran, old or young, and learn about the roads they've travelled to protect the sanctity of our freedom and democracy. These ordinary men and women have truly accomplished extraordinary things. On behalf of this entire House, to them I say thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

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

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As chair of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices I am pleased to table five copies of the committee's report recommending the reappointment of Ms Jill Clayton as Information and Privacy Commissioner for a five-year term, recognizing the excellent service she has rendered Albertans. Copies of this report are available online or through the committee's branch.

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table five copies of a memo in response to questions from the Member for Calgary-Mountain View from November 3, 2016.

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

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to table five copies of a document that is a petition entitled Fair Start

for Kids Campaign. This was sponsored by the Alberta Federation of Labour child care working group. Fair Start for Kids is a province-wide campaign for universal early childhood education and care. I am particularly pleased to be tabling this document as I have been a child care advocate since my children required child care. Now both my grandchildren and my one great-granddaughter require child care. Things have not changed much over that 40-year period.

The Speaker: The documents, hon. member. We normally don't make elongated statements at this particular part of the agenda. Could you wrap it up, please.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yes. I'd like to read the petition into the record. "We the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to . . ."

The Speaker: I think we need some clarification. If you would just wait a minute.

Hon. member, I'm advised that you do not need to read the petition. If you would ensure that the pages have the document.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Mr. MacIntyre: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three documents to table, referenced yesterday during the debate on Bill 27, the Renewable Electricity Act, by my hon. colleague from Chestermere-Rocky View. The first is five requisite copies of the Postmedia article on global wind turbines going bankrupt. The second is a review of the energy return of solar PV by Mr. Euan Mearns, citing the study regarding .83 as the EROEI. The third document is the source document for Energy Return on Energy Invested for Photovoltaic Solar Systems in Regions of Moderate Insolation.

A fourth document that I wish to table is one that I referred to today. It is a copy of the letter from Ms Mahon soliciting funds for the shutdown of the Kinder Morgan pipeline.

The Speaker: The Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Dr. Starke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I'd like to table the requisite number of copies of a document entitled A Shot in the Arm: How to Improve Vaccination Policy in Canada from the C.D. Howe Institute, which I referenced during debate on Bill 28 this morning.

The Speaker: I believe we are at points of order. The House leader for the Official Opposition.

Point of Order Referring to the Absence of a Member

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little hesitant to rise today on this particular point of order. The citation is referring to the absence or the presence of a member. Earlier in question period the deputy House leader referred to the absence of a minister in a fairly boastful way, about him being overseas in China. I just think that the rules should be applied equally to both sides of the House. I did, however, notice that yesterday during question period the minister took the opportunity to tweet about his trip in China. I think that during question period it would probably be advantageous if he didn't, as he may incite himself in his absence from question period. I just think that the rules should be applied equally.

The Speaker: Absolutely, hon. member.

The Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: All right, Mr. Speaker. First of all, for the member opposite to be talking about a member tweeting during QP when the member is in a different time zone in a different country: I don't even think I need to argue that point.

But, Mr. Speaker, you know, I just want to clarify. The purpose of the rule is to prevent members from being shamed for not being in the Chamber. The purpose is not to prevent a reference to legitimate business that a member is doing that may take them away from this Chamber.

I also want to point out the fact that the minister that we're speaking of has put out a press release with dates and where he will be. So it is on the public record, of public knowledge the work that he is doing elsewhere.

The Speaker: Hon. minister, might you agree that, technically, the matter ought not to have been raised. It seems to me that there is some point that needs to be made here. However, let's understand that there is a difference, in my perspective, from a tweet from another place versus mention in the House. They are two different issues.

But I think, to the Opposition House Leader, that was not what was intended, in my perspective, in the original intent in the standing orders. Please, let's all – and I can tell you that you may have on occasion heard me make that reference in error. I hope that this just simply draws our attention to the matter.

3:00

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 30

Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act

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

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading of Bill 30, the Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act.

Bill 30 would enable government to establish the Alberta investor tax credit and the capital investment tax credit. Together these tax credits would drive innovation, diversify our economy, and create new jobs. The Alberta investor tax credit, or AITC, would offer a 30 per cent tax credit for investments made in small Alberta businesses between April 14, 2016, and December 31, 2019. With a budget of \$90 million over three years, the AITC would be provided on a first-come, first-served basis starting on January 1, 2017. Under the legislation eligible businesses would be allowed to raise a maximum of \$5 million directly through investors or a maximum of \$10 million through Alberta venture capital corporations in every two-year period.

The maximum tax credit for an individual would be \$60,000 per year, supporting up to \$200,000 in investments. The tax credit would be refundable, Mr. Speaker, and could be carried forward for up to four years for individual investors. There would be no maximum tax credit for corporate investors. It would be nonrefundable and be carried forward for up to four years. Investments would need to be equity investments and be held for at least five years to ensure that the company has the capital for an appropriate length of time to use for operations and growth. Equity

investments would need to be used for activities that support a company's growth.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the AITC would be available for investments in companies that are substantially engaged in proprietary technology research, development, or commercialization; interactive digital media development; video postproduction; digital animation; or tourism. The investment criteria were developed through extensive consultations with business and investment leaders across Alberta and are designed to encourage economic diversification.

The legislation would also enable government to establish community economic development corporations, or CEDCs. CEDCs are for-profit investment funds that invest equity in locally owned businesses recognized for their positive social, economic, and environmental returns to communities. My department would be engaging in targeted stakeholder consultations to ensure the program design is successful. The CEDC portion of the program would be implemented more toward the summer of 2017.

The registration process for AITC will be announced pending passage of this piece of legislation.

The second tax credit this legislation would enable, Mr. Speaker, is a capital investment tax credit, or CITC, which would encourage large-scale capital investment here in Alberta. As with the AITC, the CITC would support new jobs by fostering increased economic activity through the labour required to construct or make these new investments in capital assets or through the positive impacts in related industries once these investments are up and running and turning a profit. CITC would offer Alberta companies a 10 per cent nonrefundable tax credit of up to \$5 million. In addition to this, the tax credit would be available to companies across the province involved in activities of manufacturing, processing, and tourism infrastructure, companies that are making an eligible capital investment of over \$1 million.

Eligible costs would closely align with capital costs allowed under the federal government's capital cost allowance, including the acquisition of buildings, equipment, and machinery. Applicants will be required to apply for conditional approval in advance of the investment, with the tax credit being claimed only when the capital investment is in use and the company is turning a profit. I need to add, Mr. Speaker, that that came directly from a number of consultations with business and industry leaders across the province in all sectors who asked, on the capital investment tax credit, that there be a precondition or a conditional approval screening type of thing, not a first-come, first-served basis.

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

The application process would be competitive, with each application being evaluated based on its positive economic impact. It's expected, Madam Speaker, that CITC would support \$700 million worth of investment and up to 4,600 direct and indirect jobs. These tax credits offer the right support for Alberta businesses at the right time. Introducing these measures at a time when businesses are facing challenges will make Alberta more competitive in attracting and retaining investments while creating much-needed jobs. Together these tax credits provide significant support to Alberta businesses when they need it most.

Madam Speaker, this legislation would ensure that the government continues to promote economic diversification, support employers and entrepreneurs in creating jobs, and encourage investment in the province. I can say that I am very proud of the work that our government has done in preparing this piece of legislation, the number of consultations and meetings that not only I but my colleagues on this side of the House have had, meetings

with businesses, industry leaders, entrepreneurs in all sectors, in all corners of the province.

Madam Speaker, these two tax credits are something that the business community has been asking for for decades. This is something that other jurisdictions have had. The province of British Columbia has had an investor tax credit since 1985, and because of it, they have helped to diversify their economy and drive investments in their local businesses. It is about time that Alberta levels the playing field and continues to remain the most competitive and best province to invest in.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Are there any members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Calgary-Foothills.

Mr. Panda: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to talk about Bill 30, the Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act. Wow: \$165 million over three years – that's a lot of money – \$70 million for capital investment tax credits over two years, targeted to manufacturing, processing, and tourism; \$5 million for capital investment tax credits for the cultural industries; and \$90 million over three years for the Alberta investor tax credit. It is targeted to proprietary technology research, development, or commercialization; interactive digital media development; video postproduction; digital animation; and tourism. Some of these make a lot of sense, and others seem a bit random, and I look forward to hearing the explanation from the minister.

The economic downturn has resulted in staggering job losses in Alberta. While the low taxes in Alberta have resulted in diversification away from the energy sector, from 33 per cent to 25 per cent of GDP over 25 years, more can be done to break our addiction to and reliance on one sector of the economy. I came from a meeting with a stakeholder this morning who does proprietary technology research, development, and commercialization. It was an Edmonton-based company, and they do business in the energy sector all over the world, Madam Speaker. They're very interested in these programs. Proprietary research and commercialization are a challenge in every sector, but as they say, the devil is in the details, and the Wildrose will be watching how you manage those details.

Normally we on this side, Wildrose, would not support a bill like this to allow programs to target only certain sectors of the economy, but there are some differences here that will keep my mind open. These programs are nonrefundable tax credits. They're not grants, the free money some governments like to hand out. These programs are not loans. Banks and credit unions hand out loans and evaluate businesses on their merits. Government loans employ the bank of last resort, or crony capitalism, and these programs are not loan guarantees; that is, the use of the Alberta government's triple-A credit rating to allow a lower interest rate for borrowing and assuming the project in case of default. Oh, sorry. Alberta doesn't have a triple-A credit rating anymore.

3:10

Most importantly, investor confidence is at record lows, and we have a jobs crisis that needs special measures. Edmonton has a lot of developing industries that these programs target. I went to a start-up party 7 and saw first-hand the interactive digital media development happening in this city. I didn't see any members from the NDP at that launch party, where businesses showcased their new products. At least the ministry is trying to do something for the business community.

The Calgary Chamber of commerce called for these tax credits and convinced the government, with the first investor tax credit

program, to help equity capital flow to small business in our province. British Columbia, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, and a number of U.S. states have investor tax credit programs. Alberta loses new business to British Columbia because of this program, and B.C. has higher taxes, including a sales tax.

Now, the minister talks about tourism getting a boost from these tax credits. He has touted supporting up to 4,400 new jobs over three years and contributing up to \$500 million to the province's GDP. I hope these are really new jobs and not just replacement jobs for the communities where oil and gas is on the decline. That's about 1,500 new jobs per year, Madam Speaker. We shall see.

Not only job creation; let's talk about enhancing our tourism products. Let us start with the basics, hotels, Madam Speaker. I'm talking about hotels in the province. When you get to some of these tourist communities like Canmore, Waterton, Pincher Creek, Banff, Edson, Hinton, Jasper, Drumheller, the quality of some of the tourism establishments, the hotels and the restaurants, is old and dated. They have not changed in 40 or 50 years. The buildings are old, tired, rundown, and worn out. They are nothing special architecturally and have no need of historical designation. They harken back to an era when the highways through the mountain passes were dirt two-lane roads.

We ask people from all over the world to travel to Alberta, to come and visit Alberta. They are not all staying in a Fairmont or at a fancy hotel property, Madam Speaker. If these visitors have not made accommodation arrangements in advance, when they get here, they're often disappointed. International tourists do not want to stay in a roach motel. You can have wonderful memories and experiences in Alberta, but if the stay in the hotel is poor, then all that goodwill goes down the drain, and then they won't be back again in Alberta. I can only hope the hotel sector steps up and uses the capital investment tax credit to update and modernize their hotels so that Alberta can have reputable products and visitors will keep coming back.

Now, Madam Speaker, there is one more good thing about this bill. It creates a registry of venture capital corporations. If we know who all the venture capital corporations are, we have another tool that can be used to connect businesses seeking investment to them and unlock even more private investment. But this is where things get complicated with Bill 30. You see, the minister will have the power to require venture capital corporations to seek approval before they can change their share structure. The minister will also have to approve the venture capital corporation to raise money. The minister can also dictate to the venture capital corporation whether or not the investment in a business is allowed depending on how many employees the business has and the wages the business has. That sounds heavy handed. We heard the minister say that it will be first-come, first-served for these tax credits, but we still don't know how the minister will select the winners of these credits. Is it ministerial interference or essential oversight?

As I interact with more stakeholders during the break next week, Madam Speaker, I'm sure we'll come up with a number of questions. I'm sure many hon. members would like to ask a few questions of the minister. I'm also certain that the NDP would like to have their stakeholders come in and tell us how important this program is to the targeted sectors. I look forward to more discussion during Committee of the Whole. I'm hoping that the minister will have answers for us in the next debates.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Mr. Clark: Well, thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the minister for bringing this forward. Bill 30: there's a lot to it. It's very dense. It's a bit like eating a brick of cheese. Even if you like cheese, it kind of leaves you feeling a bit stodgy. But I will do my best to unpack some of the more important aspects of the bill and share my thoughts on it.

First off, I want to say that I like the intent of the bill. I certainly agree with the principle of an investor tax credit, of the capital investment tax credit. I have to agree with it because it was our idea. We proposed it and pushed very hard for it, so I will happily and enthusiastically support the minister for picking up the torch and moving it forward. Certainly, no, we're not the only ones who supported this good idea. The chambers of commerce around the province, many economists think this is certainly a better idea than the job-creation tax credit. Without going on too much – I don't want to praise the government too much lest anyone get the wrong impression – it's certainly far better than the job-creation tax credit they originally proposed. So good on them for doing that.

What I would quarrel with in this bill is the scope of the tax credit itself and the amount of the tax credit that is available. Given the economic challenges facing our province, given the desire for us to attract business to broaden Alberta's economy in a very challenging time – and I say this as a member representing Calgary-Elbow and Calgary facing more than 10 per cent unemployment. Our province as a whole facing unemployment above 8 per cent is a huge issue for the people all over this province. There are people I have talked with who have done all of the right things in their life. They've gone to school, they've tried hard, they have started a career, they've raised children, they've invested in a home, and they find themselves out of work. They say: this was not the plan. They're not out of work through any fault of their own. They're out of work because of an unfortunate circumstance.

Certainly, a lot of that has to do with the global economic downturn, with the energy rout that has gone on and on and on. I would suggest that it's exacerbated by government policy and made worse, but this bill and this idea of an investor tax credit can undo some of that damage, can turn that around and get Albertans working again and get business investment happening again. Things like the PPA lawsuits certainly don't help. They drive investment away. Ideas like this and tax credits like this can in fact create economic activity and create jobs and create prosperity for Albertans, but I would suggest that \$90 million over three years, \$30 million a year, is far too low. What I would rather see is a substantially higher level of tax credit, perhaps in the nature of .05 per cent of GDP in the first year. That's \$150 million. That's a lot of money; there's no question. But if we genuinely want to get after it and really want to create and stimulate investment in this province, I think that's what we should be looking at. Frankly, I'm not certain how much impact a \$30 million tax credit is going to have. Is it even going to be measurable? Is it going to have an impact right away, or is it the sort of thing that over the course of years and years eventually we'll find that the economy has gradually broadened?

3:20

Speaking of broadening, the bill itself and the tax credit I think is too narrow. It's put the government in a position, put the NDs in a position of picking winners and losers and saying, "These are industries that are desirable and good, and those are industries we don't like." Frankly, I don't like that concept one bit. I think that really the only reasonable criteria ought to be: has this particular business been given money from government already? If the answer is no, then I think they should be eligible for this credit, and I think

that it should be relatively straightforward to apply for the investor tax credit as well.

The other question I had – and I'll thank the minister for his response to my note. The capital investment tax credit is a prequalification tax credit whereas the Alberta investor tax credit is first-come first-served. Now, prequalification: that actually makes a lot of sense when you're talking about capital projects. You may or may not choose to go ahead with the capital project based on whether or not you will in fact qualify for the credit. So in that vein it makes sense. But the investor tax credit being first-come, first-served, that could work, the problem being: what if it runs out early in the year? What if we get a flood of applications early on and the \$30 million is gone? Well, on one level, great news. We've got lots of folks investing, and that tax credit is all used up. That's great. But that tells me that there's more investment out there that could help diversify our economy, could help put Albertans back to work.

What if those businesses, those investors, had been counting on that tax credit and they find, "Uh-oh, we were the thirty-first million dollar spot"? They say: "You know what? That means the investment no longer makes sense. We're going to pull that back. We're going to put it into another province or we're simply not going to do it at all. We're going to keep the money in the bank." That's an unfortunate situation, and I'd be curious to know from the minister in the course of debate if this is something that his ministry has considered. Is it something that they've done some research and some work on to know whether \$30 million is the right number or, frankly, it was arbitrary? They picked it out of the air, and they just said: that sounds like a nice saleable figure; we'll use that.

So I would like to see the scale of this investor tax credit ramped up to be substantially higher than that \$90 million over three years number, which really is only \$30 million a year, obviously, and also the scope of it and the eligibility for the investor tax credit to be far broader than it is. I think in doing that, perhaps the government will in fact achieve its stated objectives of encouraging investment in the province.

Again, I'll remind the government that it is not only things like investor tax credits that will attract investment but the overall economic price for doing business in a particular jurisdiction. When you have corporate taxes going up as they have and when you have a government that seems willing to go to extreme measures to tear up old contracts, that doesn't help. That creates a very unfavourable investment climate, notwithstanding tax credits, because there's a fear that if a government decides in the future that these tax credits were perhaps not such a good idea, the government will just come and change the rules and take the money away from you. So I would really remind the government that these sorts of things – while it may feel good ideologically to go take on these big companies, I would encourage you to remember the impact that has on investor confidence. I would also encourage you to recognize that you're misguided in your perception of what these electricity companies are.

But staying on topic, I do think it's a positive, this bill. I have my concerns in areas. I'd like to see it expand, but generally I am in favour of it, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)?
Seeing none, the Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today and speak to Bill 30, the Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act. I'd like to thank the minister for his contribution. I hope to see more legislation in the vein of what we're potentially seeing here. Many of the actions that the government has taken to

date have not been helpful, and I'm optimistic that the legislation before us today will at least not make things worse, that it will in fact be helpful. So I wanted to thank the minister for his contribution to this.

Most of the things that this Legislature and this government have done to date have not been helpful, however. We've seen a 20 per cent increase to the business tax in this province, Madam Speaker. That has not incentivized a single person to come to Alberta. Not a single business has decided to come to Alberta because taxes went up 20 per cent on profits. Increases on income tax of up to 50 per cent for some income earners have not incentivized a single person to do business and invest in Alberta. The \$3 billion carbon tax, with the exception of a few corporate welfare recipients, has not incentivized anyone to do business in Alberta. The \$15 minimum wage is going to hurt business in Alberta, and the government suing itself with the PPA lawsuit significantly damages investor confidence in Alberta. These are actions that have significantly hurt the economy in this province.

But this particular bill has the potential to be positive, and we're going to have to proceed in more in-depth debate before we can assess if this bill is in fact going to be on the whole positive or not. I'm optimistic at this time. The bill establishes a capital investment tax credit and the Alberta investor tax credit. The intention is to attract more capital, more investment to Alberta, something that is desperately needed to create jobs in the province. I'm very happy to see that the government is acknowledging that if we don't have investment into this province, we are not going to see jobs created.

In the 1990s this province had by far the most business investment in the country, many, many times more than any other province on a per capita level. Even on a gross level we were in the same ballpark as Quebec and Ontario. That is an amazing fact, Madam Speaker. But we have seen investment very much dry up in this province, and it is important that we take measures to try to attract some of that capital back.

Now, I have some concerns, some very real concerns about this bill, and we're going to be asking serious questions of this government and of the minister of economic development and diversification. If we can get real and substantive answers, if the minister participates fully in the debates and we can get the answers that we require, then I am hopeful that we could find some level of consensus on the bill.

One of my major concerns with this bill, however, is that it is overly targeted and sectoral and prescriptive rather than broad-based economic policy. Good economic policy does not have the government deciding which sectors are to gain and which sectors are not to gain because the sectors that do not gain from a policy but still pay taxes are therefore subsidizing the other sectors or businesses that do receive the benefit. It is a form of robbing Peter to pay Paul. We're very concerned that the legislation targets some specific sectors rather than the economy as a whole.

The legislation targets proprietary technology research, development and commercialization, interactive digital media development, video postproduction, digital media, and tourism. Now, these are all very important parts of Alberta's economy, and these are all sectors that we want to encourage growth in. I'm very concerned, however, if we are only targeting these sectors, because if you provide a benefit to some sectors but not others, those other sectors still have to pay the taxes and therefore subsidize other sectors of the economy. That is not good economic policy, Madam Speaker.

3:30

I hope that the minister will take heed of this. There is a lot of merit in an investor tax credit. That's a concept that I believe the

Official Opposition can get behind, but it is very concerning if it is targeted only at some sectors. You know, when there are two businesses in downtown Brooks and one can qualify – downtown Brooks is bigger than you think, Madam Speaker. When two businesses, side by side, are looking to invest and expand their operations but only one can qualify and the other cannot even though they might be investing the same amount of money – they might be looking to hire the same number of new employees, they might be looking to do almost identical things, but one is included in the sectors that are included in the legislation and the other one is not – that is not fair. That is actually limiting the potential economic development and new jobs that we're creating in this province. These sectors need to be supported, but good economic policy should be broad based and not sector specific as much as we can help it.

Another concern is that one of the sectors listed here is development and commercialization. On the plus side, that's a pretty broad thing. We're arguing for broad-based public policies, but it is an ill-defined area that is eligible for these tax credits. Development and commercialization are very ill-defined in the legislation, and I hope that the minister can perhaps explain and discuss that in some more detail.

Now, the cost to the treasury of this is substantial, at \$165 million. As the Member for Calgary-Elbow has pointed out, we could very well potentially want significantly more than that, but \$165 million is still a very substantial cost to the treasury. When we are engaging in tax expenditures of this kind, we need to be doing so very carefully and very deliberately, with all of the information possible at our fingertips. When we are spending \$165 million in a tax expenditure like this, we need an economic impact study. We should not be passing major economic policies or major expenditures or tax expenditures as a Legislature and as a government without having all of the information available.

The government claims that the CITC and the AITC will create up to \$700 million of investment, and I sincerely hope that that is true. I hope that we will get there, but I have not yet seen any math or evidence or studies of any substance to support that. I am hopeful, but we need evidence. We need more than a news release claiming that it will be so. I'm asking that the minister engage in debate, answer these questions, and provide an economic impact study on what he hopes the CITC and the AITC will achieve.

I'm also very concerned by the potential for the arbitrary use of power in the minister's role in this bill. There is a hard cap of \$165 million. While that is positive in that it limits the cost of the program, it also gives the minister potentially the power to pick which applicants are to receive this credit and which ones are not. This is not an open-ended tax expenditure program, say, you know – remember the children's sports tax credits federally. I think there were about a hundred tax credits passed federally at some point for various purposes. These things can get out of hand if we have too many tax credits.

Those were open-ended programs, where, if you qualified, you did receive the credit. That is not necessarily so in this case if I understand the legislation correctly. It is that those eligible to receive the credit will not necessarily actually get the credit because there is a hard cap of \$165 million, and the minister himself will play some role in determining, if there are more applicants than money available, who will get it. That is always very concerning, to give that kind of power to politicians.

It will not necessarily happen, Madam Speaker, but I'd be very concerned about voting to give power to a minister to say: I like this company, but I don't like this company. Perhaps this business has endorsed the government policy at some point and given them kind of cover, and this business has been a pain to the government, and

they're not going to get a tax credit. Or perhaps it could be what constituency a business is in. This business is in a government constituency, and this business is in an opposition constituency or a swing constituency.

Political considerations should not be a part of this kind of decision-making. While no one is accusing the government of doing it – they have not done it; the legislation has not passed – I would be very concerned about giving those kinds of powers to a minister. That kind of decision-making will inevitably creep in even if the minister has the very best of intentions, as I'm sure he does. When you give politicians that kind of arbitrary power without proper oversight, abuses of that power become extremely difficult to prevent.

I am certainly open to supporting this bill, and I am optimistic that this legislation will, on net, be positive, but we need more information, and I hope that the minister will be in the Chamber for the entirety of this debate to participate in the debate, particularly when we get to Committee of the Whole and the back and forth and the questions that we have, the amendments that we are likely to present. If the minister will deal in good faith with the Official Opposition and, I believe, all opposition parties, then there is a chance that we can come to some kind of consensus. As rare as that happens to be on these kinds of pieces of legislation, we might actually get to it from time to time.

I look forward to further debate and the minister's responses to our concerns. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)? The Member for Calgary-Shaw.

Mr. Sucha: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I wanted to follow up with the member about one item that he spoke of specifically and especially since he is the Wildrose critic for Finance as well.

Mr. Fildebrandt: It's minister now. [interjections]

Mr. Sucha: Oh, right. Shadow minister.

Anyway, as he spoke to this, he said that he wasn't very fond of sector-specific tax credits, that were specific to one area. When I was in university, I actually studied television broadcasting, and that is a sector that needs sector-specific tax credits to actually stay competitive. In fact, you study about these tax credits and how to leverage them as well to really help to promote the industry. The industry has a lot of growth, it's very dynamic, and it's a very competitive industry. You really want to bring it into this province. Our province has a very competitive tax credit system for television and film, which has helped for many great series like *Fargo* to be filmed here as well.

So this creates a lot of concern for me, and I would hope that the hon. member can clarify some things. Would it be the Wildrose's stance to eliminate this tax credit if they are not a fan of sector-specific tax credits?

The Acting Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you to the Member for Calgary-Shaw for the question. As now I've been appointed a minister, I'm getting used to answering questions in the House.

Thank you for the question. It's an interesting, reasonable, and good example that he's brought forward: sector-specific tax credits, like we have for television and for movie production. As a basic rule we want to avoid sector-specific tax credits. They do distort the marketplace. There is a role for them from time to time. We should

not be dogmatic or overly ideological about these things, but as a basic principle of good economic and fiscal policy, that's something that we want to avoid.

When we go down the road of sector-specific tax credits, it gets very easy to riddle the tax code and make it more complicated, more distortionary. If we have an overall high basic corporate income tax rate and then we decide that now we're going to provide sector-specific tax credits for one industry, the lobbying effort to amend the tax code both on the business and the personal income tax sides to favour every other specific industry gets very intense. In Washington, D.C., the lobbying industry exists primarily to influence the tax code, and similar situations exist in the lobbying industry in Ottawa and to a lesser extent here in Alberta. In Alberta we're blessed to have, compared to other jurisdictions, a relatively simple tax code.

3:40

Mr. Cooper: It was even more simple before.

Mr. Fildebrandt: It used to be more simple, Madam Speaker, and we have committed to making it more simple again.

As a basic rule we want our tax code to be as simple as possible. It is sometimes reasonable and pragmatic to have some kind of carve-out, some kind of sector-specific tax credit. We should not be so dogmatic as to say that we would never do that, but we want to be very cautious when we're doing that.

We also have to think: what is the goal of that tax credit? Every government program, every tax expenditure, every government spending program should always have a goal, a measurable goal, attached to it. I believe the goal we're trying to achieve here is economic development, investment, and economic diversification, and there are sectors of the economy that would certainly be positive for us to grow as part of economic diversification which are not listed here.

So if we're trying to consider: "What is the goal of this piece of legislation? How can we cast as wide a net as possible to achieve the goal?" I believe the intent of the legislation here is of good intent that, I know, the Official Opposition, the government, and the Member for Calgary Elbow have so far supported. How are we going to achieve that? How are we going to measure that? I think that the way we've defined the sectors here is still overly narrow, overly prescriptive, and if we can broaden that definition to more sectors of the economy, there's a better chance that we can find consensus on this piece of legislation.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Any more under 29(2)(a)? No?

Then I will recognize the hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's an honour to rise today to speak to Bill 30, Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act. Although I applaud the sentiment and intentions of this bill and thank the minister for presenting it to this Legislature, sadly even the title of this bill may mislead Albertans. This bill invests in Alberta at the most nominal level, and the government, sadly, isn't even committed to its own program on a long-term, go-forward basis. We need that stability to attract long-term investment and hence jobs. This government has taken what was originally actually a very good idea and transformed it into some sort of a Franken-program, pardon the term. It has been mentioned to the minister in the past.

Dr. Starke: That's my term.

Mr. Gottfried: Oh, that's his term. Halloween was a few weeks ago, I think.

These tax credits were suggested in April while the Calgary Chamber, Calgary Economic Development, and many other groups have been calling for this for months, so we're glad to see it. Our caucus promoted the idea of introducing a small-business venture capital tax credit program in our Engage document, released earlier this year. We do believe in this initiative. Certainly, that is the thing that we can agree on. Something needed to be done to overcome a decided lack of investor confidence in our province.

Venture capital tax credits are an excellent way to connect investors with small to medium-sized businesses and, when done properly, offer an exceptional return on investment for the issuing government. However, therein lies the problem. The program needs to be developed, implemented, and supported in such a way to initiate and maintain long-term investment and thereby success. It does absolutely no one any good to commit a small sum of money for a short period of time in the hopes that some kind of magic and hope will take care of the rest over the long term.

I'm not always prone to throwing out kudos to British Columbia, but British Columbia has an excellent venture capital tax program. Between 2001 and 2008 every dollar issued as a tax credit generated \$1.98 in provincial tax revenue. I would argue that that's a pretty good investment for Albertans. During that same period \$256 million in tax credits issued attracted over \$2.3 billion in equity investments. These investments helped not just create but leverage new, stable, long-term jobs while strengthening that province's economy. We should be taking heed and building and improving upon the success that their program has yielded. Unfortunately, this government has decided to introduce an inferior, made-in-Alberta, NDP-world-view vision that I hope we can improve upon.

You need look no further than the Alberta investor tax credit to see this. This tax credit only applies to companies who work in specific areas such as information technology, health technology, interactive digital media, and digital animation. Now, here's the first area where I have problems with this bill. I understand and appreciate that the government is trying to diversify the economy, and I support that endeavour always. Any and all economic growth is good for Alberta as long as it's sustainable. We agree on that. However, by limiting this tax credit to an arbitrary group of sectors, as was mentioned by other hon. members earlier, this government has limited the potential success of this program and the opportunity for success for more Albertans and, dare I say, jobs for more Albertans.

This program should be available to all businesses in Alberta which employ fewer than a hundred people. Out of every 20 start-up companies, you can expect maybe one star which becomes a breakout success; three zombies, which are companies that are still alive but not growing; and 16 failures. This government is gambling this entire program, again a well-intentioned program, on hitting that one star out of the park rather than letting the market decide, as was, again, mentioned by earlier members. We need to be sure that we're not picking winners and losers. If only particular sectors that the minister likes or that this government likes or wishes to make winners are able to apply to this particular program, then the government is very openly and publicly picking winners and losers, again not letting the market and those private investors who are leveraging decide.

A vast number of businesses in Alberta are struggling right now. We all know that. I see it in my own constituency in strip malls, in the manufacturing sector, across all sectors, indeed. By opening this up to all small and medium-sized businesses, the government would be exponentially increasing the chance of success for this program,

and I would encourage them to do that. Obtaining early-stage venture capital is not an issue exclusive to burgeoning industries. Even small companies in the most developed sectors – oil, gas, agriculture, forestry – struggle with obtaining funding at that stage of development. Removing the sector restriction and extending the three-year window for the AITC program indefinitely would exponentially increase the success and reach of this program.

I'm all for developing new industries and moving towards a diversified economy. However, ignoring industries which have traditionally been successful in Alberta helps no one. These industries have been successful for a reason. They are the best prepared to create more jobs and attract further investment. This readiness is not restricted to any particular sector, Madam Speaker. Make no mistake; we need those jobs and that investment now, ready to execute, shovel ready, with both feet on the ground. However, we should be trying to encourage investment in businesses which have the potential to create and sustain jobs, those that are willing to put their own skin in the game and those investors along with them.

Emerging industries, which the government is heavily targeting, often take time to incubate, to get off the ground, to become sustainable, and to develop long-term success models. We should be assisting businesses in this process, not helping them initially and then running away once they start to become successful. The government has demonstrated an unlimited willingness to spend money. It would only make sense for them to contribute a relatively small sum of money, leveraged against the potential of a \$2 return on a \$1 investment, and this has been documented, of course, as noted in other jurisdictions.

With the program itself, this government has had months to consult with businesses and others to fine-tune this program, yet questions remain. Where are the parts of this bill that address exiting a small business or company if the partnership doesn't work out? What if small businesses merge, acquire? What if small businesses become successful and grow beyond a hundred employees? Hopefully, the minister will take the time to answer these questions over the course of debate, and I hope that he'll be open to positive amendments which will improve this legislation.

3:50

Now, if we move to the capital investment tax credit, again the government has taken what was initially an excellent idea and warped it. I think the NDP might call it bending a curve. As it stands now, the CITC will only apply to businesses in manufacturing, processing, and tourism infrastructure, industries which, I would argue, deserve our support, but why not extend it to all businesses in Alberta? Shouldn't the government be encouraging any and all capital investment in our province at this very difficult time in our economy? Is this not the same government which has budgeted for billions and billions of dollars of infrastructure spending? In the face of an economic downturn they feel this is the best way to stimulate the economy, but I would argue that leveraging private investment and other capital investment in our economy is a very successful way to increase economic investment and economic activity and jobs.

If you believe that, would it not make sense to leverage that private money to achieve the same results, to multiply that \$1 to create \$2 and maybe even higher leveraged results? In that way, you create a number of jobs at a fraction of the cost of a wholly publicly owned capital investment project. But that might be contrary to the NDP world view.

Again, the government is only half-heartedly committing to its own program. The CITC is a two-year investment of \$70 million. Why, Minister, only two years? Individual companies are able to

access \$5 million in tax credits through this program. If each year is \$35 million, that means there's potential for seven companies in a single year to eat up the allocated money. Again, the government has committed billions and billions of dollars to capital infrastructure projects which are still nothing more than a wish and a dream and in many cases do nothing to leverage the economy. Why not reallocate some of that money into this program so that the private dollars can be leveraged to build projects which are ready now while also helping Alberta businesses? Again, the private sector is much better at being shovel ready, with both feet on the ground.

Within the actual workings of the program itself our caucus has enormous concerns with the bureaucratic burden placed upon applicant businesses and individuals. In British Columbia, if you're claiming a venture capital tax credit, you simply enter the amount of the credit you're claiming onto two lines of your T1 income tax return: simple, transparent, and not caught up in red tape nor costs of administration. However, in Alberta this program will force investors or companies to apply to the minister – and I know the minister has better things to do – for his approval before they can claim the tax credit. To make it worse, the minister is able to rescind that approval of the tax credit, and there is no firm timeline in terms of responses from the minister nor the necessity for explanations from that minister.

We should be striving to make this program easier, perhaps working ever more closely with civic and regional economic development agencies, collaborating with regional tourism organizations, and making sector outreach across all sectors a key component of such capital or investor initiative. Madam Speaker, we need to make such programs, to encourage and leverage private and corporate investment, easier to access, not more difficult. I am hopeful that comments and amendments to improve this legislation from all members of this House will be welcomed to the benefit of all Albertans.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I just cannot comprehend why this government would do and embark on such a positive initiative half-heartedly and not commit fully to this program over the longer term and, in the process, make it very difficult to access for anyone who does not fit into the realm of the NDP world view.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any members under 29(2)(a)? The Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm happy to hear that generally there is support for this bill. I think it's really excellent for the province. I'm really excited about it. I did hear the member opposite speak about the B.C. program, which has been wildly successful for British Columbia. From 2001 to 2008 B.C. gave out \$191 million in venture capital tax credits. I'm wondering: would the member like to see a reduction in the AITC tax credit available in Alberta from \$30 million a year?

Mr. Gotfried: No. In fact, to the hon. member, thank you for the question. We'd like to see this program extended to a longer term period and committed to with enough money that it can be accessed not only by the restricted industries that are targeted but across all industries. When we're investing billions and billions of dollars in infrastructure, quite frankly, with \$1 equalling \$1, and we have an opportunity to take in a \$1 investment and leverage against investor and private capital and corporate capital to create \$2 in tax revenue, I think that that is an easy formula for us to take onboard.

I'm encouraging greater investment, so if there are any discrepancies in any dollars here, I think what we have from the B.C. example – again, I'd like to see a made-in-Alberta solution. Not everything that works there is going to work exactly as it does here, which is why we need to ensure we have the research in place to demonstrate what we can do. We will have that information and those statistics as we go forward if we have a well-developed and well-structured program that, hopefully, will yield similar if not better results to what we've seen in British Columbia.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

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

Seeing none, are there any other members wishing to speak to the bill? The Member for Stony Plain.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm proud to stand up and speak today on Bill 30, Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act. It's consisting of two new tax credits that will enable growth in small business and will support investment, entrepreneurs, and the criteria for both were developed in considerable consultation with businesses and investment leaders throughout Alberta.

The Alberta investor tax credit will refund 30 per cent on investments made by small businesses, support up to 4,400 new jobs over three years, and contribute up to \$500 million to our province's GDP. This bill is very broad. Any company engaged in development or commercialization can qualify for the AITC as a small business as well as including sectors that traditionally are not included in this type of bill.

Madam Speaker, we have consistently lagged behind other jurisdictions in Canada for too long both in terms of venture capital dollars invested and deal flow. B.C.'s small-business venture capital tax credit, that supports equity investments, has been in place since 1985, and our new Alberta investor tax credit includes many of the proven aspects used in that jurisdiction. Companies under the program in B.C. have faster revenue and employment growth than control samples, and by encouraging local investors to invest in Alberta, we will see Albertan companies expand, innovate, create jobs, and show small-business success during our current tough economic situation.

The Alberta investor tax credit will allow investors the option of investing directly and acquiring the tax credit, or they may choose to invest indirectly through funds such as registered venture capital corporations. In this way, Madam Speaker, the AITC is a de-risking tool that makes investing in Alberta more attractive and encourages the private sector to see the benefits of investing in nontraditional sectors, resulting in a more diversified economy here in Alberta. Investments will be eligible for this tax credit on investments as of April 14, 2016, and by making this available to Alberta businesses that have at least 80 per cent of assets in Alberta, we continue to support companies with a significant presence in Alberta.

Businesses that are substantially engaged in research and development, development of interactive digital media, and tourism, to name a few activities, will benefit substantially from this bill, Madam Speaker. In the riding of Stony Plain itself our small and medium businesses are one of the pillars of our communities. Having programs that are designed to benefit them will support our rural communities as it supplements existing programs and addresses existing gaps.

The second tax credit included in Bill 30 is the capital investment tax credit, which will support \$700 million worth of investment and

up to 4,600 direct and indirect jobs here in Alberta, and though there are companies that are struggling here in Alberta, private capital investment remains higher here than in any other province in Canada. As part of our jobs plan the capital investment tax credit will refund part of a business's costs for new machinery, equipment, and buildings, which can help increase a company's output, because "while government must play a key role, it's up to all Albertans to support our entrepreneurs," as Arlene Dickinson, CEO of District Ventures, points out. This tax credit will encourage large-scale capital projects by offering a 10 per cent nonrefundable tax credit of up to \$5 million, which is expected to incite \$10 million to \$40 million worth of exports province-wide.

4:00

Due to these challenging economic times and the global drop in the price of oil here and around the world we see lower cash flow, which can be boosted by investor confidence and timely investment decisions. Because the capital investment tax credit is not sector-specific, it will be available to companies across the province, industries such as manufacturing, processing, and tourism infrastructure that are making an investment of \$1 million or more. The activities identified have strong potential for growth in the current economic environment and over the long term. This includes much of the oil and gas supply chain as well as industries that have the potential to grow in the future. Through the short-term nature of the CITC we have the opportunity to re-evaluate the program as the economic situation evolves.

By continuing to promote diversification of our economy, supporting our employers and industry, and enabling entrepreneurs and job creators as well as encouraging investment in Alberta, we are demonstrating meaningful action on the economy in Alberta.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

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

Seeing none, are there any members wishing to speak on the bill? The hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

Mr. Cooper: Why, thank you. It's my pleasure to rise this afternoon on what's been a spectacular week. I'd like to begin by congratulating the government for going a week without being found in contempt of the House. I would also like to start by congratulating the minister on Bill 30. My hon. colleague the independent Member for Calgary-Elbow mentioned the size of the bill. When you compare it to the first bill that the minister introduced, he's really made up for the one-page piece of legislation. I hope that this particular piece of legislation is significantly more successful than the last piece of legislation that the minister introduced.

You know, I was thinking this afternoon, Madam Speaker, about this piece of legislation and about the minister. Let me preface my comments, and I mean this in the most genuine way: I have nothing but the utmost respect for the Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

An Hon. Member: But . . .

Mr. Cooper: I don't know if I would say but. [interjections] This is a serious matter, okay? There are children in the gallery, the cutest children ever to be in the gallery.

I was reminded of a song. As you know, Madam Speaker, from time to time I am reminded of songs, and this particular song is called *The Greatest*:

Little boy in a baseball hat

Stands in the field with his ball and his bat

Says, "I am the greatest player of them all"

Puts his bat on his shoulder and he tosses up his ball.

And just for the sake of our analogy today, we can imagine the boy to be the hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview in this particular case.

And the ball goes up and the ball comes down

Swings his bat all the way around

The world's so still you can hear the sound

The baseball falls to the ground.

We'll call that ball Bill 1. This, Madam Speaker, was really that, a strike, and it was unfortunate. But you know what?

Now the little boy doesn't say a word

Picks up his ball, he is undeterred

If there's one thing I can say about the Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, that is true about him.

Says, "I am the greatest there has ever been"

And he grits his teeth and he tries it again.

And the ball goes up and the ball comes down

Swings his bat all the way around

The world's so still you can hear the sound

The baseball falls to the ground.

I know that this minister wasn't solely responsible, but we'll call that the carbon tax.

He makes no excuses, he shows no fear

He just closes his eyes and listens to the cheers.

We'll call that the backbench.

Little boy, he adjusts his hat, picks up his ball, stares at his bat

Says, "I am the greatest [in the land]"

And he gives his all one last time.

And the ball goes up like the moon so bright

Swings his bat with all his might

The world's as still as still can be

The baseball falls, and that's strike three.

Now it's supertime and his momma calls

Little boy starts home with his bat and ball

Says, "I am the greatest, that is a fact

But even I didn't know I could pitch like that!"

Madam Speaker, I often speak to the good people of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills when they are disappointed or frustrated with this government. It's my hope that Bill 30 won't be strike 3 for the hon. member but will be a home run because I think it's important that we do our best. I often say to the folks in Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills that I want the government to do what's best for our province because I am an Albertan prior to a politician.

Now, we've seen some big swings and misses from this government, but as I said, I have nothing but the greatest respect for the minister, and here he is, taking another swing. It's my hope that he isn't found to be the greatest pitcher in the land but the greatest hitter in the land and hits one out of the park with Bill 30.

Now, we have heard some challenges around this particular piece of legislation, and I share many of those with my colleagues with respect to the reach of the investor tax credit. I share some concerns with my colleagues around limiting sectors with respect to this particular tax credit, but there are a number of things inside this piece of legislation that do provide some potential opportunity. I know that I have heard from some economic developers, some chambers who are voicing their support for this piece of legislation.

You know, it's been a good week, and I don't want to focus too much on the negative plight that we're currently in with respect to jobs, Madam Speaker, because I know that Albertans know very well where we are as a province.

It might sound like I am supporting this particular piece of legislation wholeheartedly. I would say that's a bit of an overstatement. I support

this legislation with some reservation, with some concerns, and I look forward to having those addressed at Committee of the Whole.

In the meantime I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

4:10

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As riveting as this afternoon has been, with some fascinating stories and very good initial debate, looking at the clock, I move that the House adjourn until Monday, November 21, at 1:30 p.m.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:11 p.m. to Monday, November 21, at 1:30 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, November 10, 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 number until the conclusion of the Fall Sittings.

Bill 1 — Promoting Job Creation and Diversification Act (Bilous)

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

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

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

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

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 27, 2016; SA 2016 cP-26.3]

Bill 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]

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

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

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

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]

Bill 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 — 378-84 (*Apr. 6, 2016 morn.*), 399-409 (*Apr. 6, 2016 aft.*), 415-28 (*Apr. 7, 2016 morn., passed with amendments*)

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

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 27, 2016, with exceptions; SA 2016 c10]

Bill 5 — Seniors' Home Adaptation and Repair Act (Sigurdson)

First Reading — 398 (*Apr. 6, 2016 aft.*)

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

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

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

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2016 cS-7.1]

Bill 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*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 27, 2016, with exceptions; SA 2016 c13]

Bill 7 — Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2016 (Ganley)

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

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

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

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

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 27, 2016; SA 2016 c6]

Bill 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*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 27, 2016; SA 2016 c8]

Bill 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*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2016 c11]

Bill 10 — Fiscal Statutes Amendment Act, 2016 (Ceci)

First Reading — 599 (*Apr. 14, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 671-82 (*Apr. 19, 2016 aft.*), 691-703 (*Apr. 20, 2016 morn.*), 730-32 (*Apr. 20, 2016 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 950-51 (*May 17, 2016 morn.*), 1041-49 (*May 19, 2016 morn.*), 1077-81 (*May 24, 2016 morn.*), 1103-13 (*May 24, 2016 aft.*), 1115-23 (*May 24, 2016 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1124 (*May 24, 2016 eve.*), 1197-99 (*May 26, 2016 morn.*), 1263-85 (*May 30, 2016 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 13, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 13, 2016, with exceptions; SA 2016 c17]

Bill 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*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2016 c4]

Bill 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*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 27, 2016; SA 2016 c3]

Bill 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*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2016 c15]

Bill 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*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 27, 2016; SA 2016 c9]

Bill 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*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2016 cE-9.5]

Bill 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.*), 1197 (*May 26, 2016 morn., adjourned*), 1219-23 (*May 26, 2016 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1223-25 (*May 26, 2016 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 27, 2016, with exceptions; SA 2016 c14]

Bill 17 — Appropriation Act, 2016 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading — 950 (*May 17, 2016 morn., passed*)

Second Reading — 995-1000 (*May 18, 2016 morn., adjourned*), 1025-29 (*May 18, 2016 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1031-41 (*May 19, 2016 morn.*), 1070 (*May 19, 2016 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1096-1103 (*May 24, 2016 aft.*), 1113 (*May 24, 2016 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 27, 2016; SA 2016 c5]

Bill 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*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 30, 2016; SA 2016 c7]

Bill 19 — Reform of Agencies, Boards and Commissions Compensation Act (Ceci)

First Reading — 1011 (*May 18, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1135-40 (*May 25, 2016 morn.*), 1153 (*May 25, 2016 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1171-72 (*May 25, 2016 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1173 (*May 25, 2016 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 27, 2016; SA 2016 cR-8.5]

Bill 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.*), 1288-98 (*May 31, 2016 morn.*), 1311-21 (*May 31, 2016 aft.*), 1338-56 (*May 31, 2016 eve.*), 1357-72 (*Jun. 1, 2016 morn.*), 1405-07 (*Jun. 1, 2016 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1408-24 (*Jun. 1, 2016 eve.*), 1425-42 (*Jun. 2, 2016 morn.*), 1458-61 (*Jun. 2, 2016 aft.*), 1479-91 (*Jun. 6, 2016 aft.*), 1493-1541 (*Jun. 6, 2016 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1541-43 (*Jun. 6, 2016 eve.*), 1545-57 (*Jun. 7, 2016 morn., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 13, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 13, 2016, with exceptions; SA 2016 c16]

Bill 21 — Modernized Municipal Government Act (Larivee)

First Reading — 1310 (*May 31, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1583-96 (*Nov. 1, 2016 morn.*), 1624-28 (*Nov. 1, 2016 aft.*), 1634-41 (*Nov. 2, 2016 morn., passed*)

Bill 22 — An Act to Provide for the Repatriation of Indigenous Peoples' Sacred Ceremonial Objects (Miranda)

First Reading — 1219 (*May 26, 2016 aft., passed*)

Bill 23 — Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2016 (Mason)

First Reading — 1454 (*Jun. 2, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1478 (*Jun. 6, 2016 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1478 (*Jun. 6, 2016 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1479 (*Jun. 6, 2016 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 13, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 13, 2016; SA 2016 c18]

Bill 24* — Forest and Prairie Protection Amendment Act, 2016 (Carlier)

First Reading — 1571-72 (*Oct. 31, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1609-24 (*Nov. 1, 2016 aft.*), 1629-34 (*Nov. 2, 2016 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1786-91 (*Nov. 8, 2016 aft.*), 1797-1806 (*Nov. 9, 2016 morn., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1849-54 (*Nov. 10, 2016 morn., adjourned*)

Bill 25 — Oil Sands Emissions Limit Act (Phillips)

First Reading — 1606 (*Nov. 1, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1641-43 (*Nov. 2, 2016 morn.*), 1677-89 (*Nov. 3, 2016 morn.*), 1703-13 (*Nov. 3, 2016 aft.*), 1754-61 (*Nov. 8, 2016 morn.*),

1776-86 (*Nov. 8, 2016 aft.*), 1806-09 (*Nov. 9, 2016 morn.*), 1826-35 (*Nov. 9, 2016 aft.*), 1854-60 (*Nov. 10, 2016 morn., adjourned*)

Bill 26 — Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Day Act (Littlewood)

First Reading — 1659 (*Nov. 2, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1660-69 (*Nov. 2, 2016 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1669-73 (*Nov. 2, 2016 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1673-76 (*Nov. 2, 2016 aft., passed on division*)

Bill 27 — Renewable Electricity Act (\$) (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 1701 (*Nov. 3, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1747-54 (*Nov. 8, 2016 morn.*), 1835-42 (*Nov. 9, 2016 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 28 — Public Health Amendment Act, 2016 (Hoffman)

First Reading — 1726 (*Nov. 7, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1793-97 (*Nov. 9, 2016 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1843-47 (*Nov. 10, 2016 morn., passed*)

Bill 29 — Vital Statistics and Life Events Modernization Act (McLean)

First Reading — 1774 (*Nov. 8, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1823-25 (*Nov. 9, 2016 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1847-48 (*Nov. 10, 2016 morn., passed*)

Bill 30 — Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act (\$) (Bilous)

First Reading — 1774 (*Nov. 8, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1873-81 (*Nov. 10, 2016 aft., passed*)

Bill 31 — Agencies, Boards and Commissions Review Statutes Amendment Act, 2016 (Ceci)

First Reading — 1822 (*Nov. 9, 2016 aft., passed*)

Bill 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*)

Bill 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*)

Bill 203 — Fair Trading (Motor Vehicle Repair Pricing Protection for Consumers) Amendment Act, 2016 (Carson)

First Reading — 280 (*Mar. 17, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 473-83 (*Apr. 11, 2016 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Families and Communities*)

Bill 204 — Alberta Tourism Week Act (Dang)

First Reading — 468 (*Apr. 11, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 616-30 (*Apr. 18, 2016 aft., passed*)

Bill 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*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force January 1, 2017; SA 2016 c12]

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

First Reading — 902 (*May 12, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1241-49 (*May 30, 2016 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1249-55 (*May 30, 2016 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1255-57 (*May 30, 2016 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 13, 2016 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 13, 2016; SA 2016 cP-19.7]

Bill 207 — Veterinary Profession (Clear and Timely Price Disclosure) Amendment Act, 2016 (Cortes-Vargas)

First Reading — 1822 (*Nov. 9, 2016 aft., passed*)

Bill 208 — Occupational Health and Safety (Protection from Workplace Harassment) Amendment Act, 2016 (Coolahan)

First Reading — 1822 (*Nov. 9, 2016 aft., passed*)

Bill 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*)

Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2016*) [Comes into force May 27, 2016; SA 2016]

Table of Contents

Introduction of Visitors	1861
Introduction of Guests	1861
Members' Statements	
Almadina Language Charter Academy.....	1863
Carbon Levy	1870
Oil Sands Emissions Limit Act.....	1871
Métis Week.....	1871
University of Lethbridge Achievements	1871
Remembrance Day	1872
Oral Question Period	
Carbon Levy	1863
Energy Policies.....	1864
Electricity Power Purchase Agreements	1864
Keystone XL Pipeline Project	1865
Ethics and Accountability Committee	1865
Small-business and Self-employment Assistance.....	1866
Oil Sands Advisory Group Membership.....	1866
Electricity System.....	1867
Beer Tax	1867
Resource Industry Jobs.....	1868
Municipal Government Act Amendments	1868
Door-to-door Furnace and Energy Contract Sales.....	1869
Renewable Energy Projects in Southern Alberta.....	1869
Public-private Partnerships for Capital Projects	1870
Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees	1872
Tabling Returns and Reports	1872
Orders of the Day	1873
Government Bills and Orders	
Second Reading	
Bill 30 Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act.....	1873

Alberta Hansard is available online at www.assembly.ab.ca

For inquiries contact:

Managing Editor

Alberta Hansard

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875