



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Second Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, November 24, 2016

Day 52

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

Second Session

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Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (ND), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)	Sabir, Hon. Irfan, Calgary-McCall (ND)
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Hunter, Grant R., Cardston-Taber-Warner (W)	Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (ND)
Jansen, Sandra, Calgary-North West (ND)	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)
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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: 55 Wildrose: 22 Progressive Conservative: 8 Alberta Liberal: 1 Alberta Party: 1

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 24, 2016

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

Introduction of Visitors

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be my great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly a distinguished guest representing the Republic of Turkey. I'm very happy to welcome Mr. Anil Bora Inan, consul general of the Republic of Turkey. With the consul general here today is the honorary consul general in Edmonton, Mr. Kenan Tan. Between 2011 and 2015 Alberta averaged approximately \$27 million in annual exports to Turkey, and, in turn, Alberta averaged approximately \$66 million in annual imports from Turkey, so we'll have to balance that off at some time. We share an appreciation of learning from collaborative relationships between our postsecondary institutions. I would now ask Consul General Inan and Mr. Tan to rise and accept the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly the fantastic students of the grade 6 classes of Simons Valley school in Sandstone in Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill. They're here today with their teachers and chaperones, and there's a lot of names: Charlene Mudry, Laurie Reeve, Andrew Cull, Colleen Nabata, Vanessa Blyth, Beth Potter, Amie Lee, Susan Nicoll, Jessica Mehain, Kristi Peterson, Megan Limbird, Cheralee Rutledge, Maegan O'Brien, Candy Moe, Maha Abbas, and Tejinder Singh. I had the pleasure of visiting these classes earlier this year, and I'm so impressed with how well behaved and engaged the students are. I would like everyone to rise and please receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Are there any other school groups, hon. members?
Seeing none, the Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly Ms Rosalind Davis. Rosalind has been here meeting with all sides of the House to talk about the scourge of fentanyl addiction. Sadly, Rosalind lost her partner, Nathan, to fentanyl addiction, and my member's statement later today will be about that. I would ask that Rosalind please rise now and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

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

Mr. Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Ava Touch, who is a student with the Simons Valley school that was just introduced so well by their MLA. Ava is an important part of the Oxford House family. My dad is the executive director of the

Oxford House, an organization I'm proud to support, that works with addicts in our province. Ava's grandmother, Ms Twitney, is the finance co-ordinator at Oxford House, an important member of that team. I would like to let the Assembly know that just recently Ava, through a cycleathon, helped the Oxford House to raise \$12,000 for addicts. I can tell you, of course, that the Oxford House family is very, very proud of her, but I can also tell you that her grandmother is very, very proud of her. I would ask that she rise – I know that she's behind me – and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: She's pretty small for \$12,000.

The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly three members of the Strathcona County Diversity Committee: Anna Attademo, Parvaneh Tashakor, and Mariam Farooq. Coming from very different backgrounds, these three women provide leadership to the committee. They are also involved in volunteering for organizations such as the arts council, affordable housing, Heartland Housing, and Movie in the Park. Their wisdom and passion make them natural mentors for some of the less-experienced members of the committee. It has been a pleasure for me to get to know them and to support their activism to create an environment where everyone is welcome and supported. I would like to ask Anna, Parvaneh, and Mariam to please rise to receive the traditional warm welcome from the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly another home-schooling family from Wetaskiwin. If my constituents would please rise as I read their names: Yoshiya Kim, a surveyor from the oil field now working in Edmonton; his wife, Sandra Kim, a former volunteer firefighter with the city of Wetaskiwin and now a home-schooling mother of five for the past six years; Abigail, the oldest daughter who's in grade 10 and is interested in how policy is shaped; Anna, the younger daughter in grade 6 and here to learn about how government is formed and runs; and the youngest son, Daniel, grade 1, just happy to explore the grounds and building. If we could please welcome them with the traditional warm welcome.

Thank you very much.

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

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly Mrs. Leah McRorie. This is not her first time, and I doubt it will be her last. This fierce advocate for inclusion of people with disabilities has reached out to every side and party within this House. Whether you've met in person, received e-mails, or been skewered on social media, you know this tiny and mighty advocate will hold us all accountable as it relates to inclusion, equality, and human rights. Please join me in thanking her and giving her the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Are there any other members who have guests here today? [interjection] Hon. member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park, I didn't see you; my apologies.

Cortes-Vargas: That's okay, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly guests of one of our pages, Jessica Hermary. Her parents, Nadine and Robin

Hermery, live in the constituency of Strathcona-Sherwood Park, and they run a family business that has been in operation for 50 years. They are accompanied by Erika and John Auton, Jessica's grandparents, who also live in Sherwood Park. I would just like to ask them to all rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Now, are there any others, hon. members?

Ministerial Statements

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

Violence against Women and Girls

Ms McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to acknowledge the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, an annual day on November 25, which is tomorrow, designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999. To be free from violence is a basic human right, and every citizen has the right to live without fear, harassment, and violence.

Around the world and here in Alberta women continue to experience actions that threaten their dignity as human beings. It can be a demeaning comment, an act of physical or sexual violence, or it can end a life. Some people believe that violence against women and girls only happens in other parts of the world, yet I look around this Assembly and see the faces of women who have courageously shared their stories of abuse and survival. It happens in Alberta, and it happens far too often, leaving survivors to deal with fear, shame, powerlessness, and loneliness.

1:40

There is no excuse, Mr. Speaker, no reason that validates violence against women and girls: not a disagreement, not drinking too much, not the loss of a job. Canada's chief public health officer called family violence a serious public health issue, noting that women are most likely to experience violence, and the outcome is even more dire for indigenous women. Today and every day I will stand up to violence against women and girls in this province. It is entirely possible to prevent gender-based violence, and even more importantly, it is essential that we do.

That's where the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence Campaign leads the way. Every day from tomorrow until 16 days later, on Human Rights Day, December 10, Status of Women will highlight a different action aimed at preventing and eventually stopping violence against women and girls. In addition, on December 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women in Canada, we will be holding a vigil on the front steps of the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of the 14 young women who were murdered at l'école Polytechnique de Montréal, who died only because they were women.

You will notice many members, Mr. Speaker, wearing an orange button today with the phrase "share your action, 16 days, 16 ways" and our Twitter handle @Alberta_Women. We wear orange as it's the United Nations symbol of a brighter future and a future without violence. Tomorrow the Calgary Tower and the High Level Bridge in Edmonton will glow orange to remind us that a future without violence is possible.

We can all be part of the solution, Mr. Speaker, to a problem that has absolutely no place in our province. Thank you. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: Thank you.

The Leader of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Jean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise in response to the statement given by the hon. Minister of Status of Women. Violence against women is a very serious problem, affecting thousands of people in this province. We know that Alberta has some of the highest rates of violence against women in the country, whether it is intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. Many Alberta women may be suffering in silence, unsure or simply too afraid to leave the situation that they're in.

It is the duty of all political leaders, not just in our province and our country but around the world, to be part of the solution, not the problem. It's especially incumbent on men to recognize the pervasiveness of violence against women and ensure that the language we use does not minimize the seriousness of the issue. I will be the first to admit that in the past the language I've used has failed in that regard, but I commit to being part of the solution, rather than advancing the problem. When we hear someone minimize the impact of violence against women, we must call it out. When we see someone in danger or experiencing violence themselves, we must step in.

There is no simple solution to this serious problem. It will take all of us – every one of us – as political leaders to work towards solutions. Every single Albertan deserves to feel safe, and it's incumbent on all of us to raise our sons and our daughters and to teach our peers that violence against women in any form is absolutely unacceptable. There is no grey area. Strong communities that recognize the dignity, value, and worth of all women are better for it. Together we must work as political leaders and as all Albertans and all Canadians to curb violence in our communities. Value all people, and we will all be better for it.

Thank you. [Standing ovation]

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the House to provide unanimous consent so that a representative of the third party as well as the two independent members be allowed to respond if they so choose.

[Unanimous consent granted]

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

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the existence of a day dedicated to highlighting the desperate need to end all violence against women, but I am saddened that we need to have this day at all. While this day is recognized internationally, sadly we cannot think of it as another country's problem because women are being victimized daily in this province.

It is true that violent actions committed against women can sometimes have a direct correlation to the state of the economy, and we say that because we all know that Albertans are struggling at this time. Police services around the province are citing that domestic violence has spiked. In the first 10 months of the year the Calgary Police Service has responded to 20,000 domestic calls with close to 3,000 involving suspected violence. Think about that. We are talking about thousands of women and children in crisis.

As legislators we spend time debating the best actions for the economy, job creation, investment, and so on. During these economic arguments we put up a lot of figures and make dire predictions, but let's not forget what we're really here for, and that is people. We have a responsibility to understand the human impact when jobs disappear, unemployment jumps, bankruptcies spike, mental health deteriorates, addictions spin out of control. None of

these are acceptable excuses, but inevitably domestic violence raises its ugly head.

As an advanced-care paramedic I've seen the toll that violence takes on our society when women are victimized, and all too often first responders, like the hon. Member for Calgary-West, see the start of it, and we also see the fatal end.

I reiterate: everyone in this House needs to remember what we were sent here for, and that is people. More than ever we need to let the women and children of Alberta know that they are not forgotten and that we will stand with them. As legislators we are privileged to have this ability to address this issue, and so we should. On this day, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, we can take a vow to protect them while we fight to put an end to this terrible epidemic.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to stand, too, and speak to International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Around the world mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers are at risk of injury simply because they are female. In Canada alone the statistics are horrifying. Half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence. On any given night in Canada 3,500 women and 2,700 children live in shelters because it isn't safe at home, and on any given night 300 women and children are turned away from shelters that are already full in Canada. Finally, every week a woman is killed by her intimate partner in this country.

Violence includes the far more common psychological abuse, trauma every bit as damaging as physical trauma, causing fear, anxiety, and even suicide among women and their children. These may appear to be distant acts committed by anonymous people, but the women suffering, often in silence, are our friends, our neighbours, our family, our co-workers.

Right here in this Chamber the hon. Member for Calgary-North West has to be guarded physically because of the utterly contemptuous threat to her life. Tomorrow is not only a recognition of this widespread violence; it's also a commitment to end the violence, a task that falls to all of us.

Silence is complicity. Strong supportive voices, especially from men and boys, must be heard to say that misogyny, whether oral, in print, in social media cannot be tolerated. Awareness, education, and advocacy are tools used to fight this, but we in this Assembly have the power to do more. We can pass bills, reduce poverty, increase access to education and life skills for girls and boys, and ensure stable, safe living environments for women and children, as well as improve the criminal justice response. By speaking and acting together against violence wherever it occurs, by increasing the supports available to women and the children they care for, we will end violence against women.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Standing ovation]

1:50

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to rise today to recognize the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Violence against women is a human rights issue and a consequence of systemic discrimination and the persistent inequalities between men and women. This is especially true for indigenous women and girls, who are far more likely to be the target of violence. It's not just a global problem we discuss in theory; it's

an issue that we see here in our province, in our homes, in our communities, and, sadly, in our own political arena as women are abused and mistreated every day in our province.

Half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence. I'll say that again. Half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence, and that doesn't count the taunts and psychological abuse that far too many women continue to endure. Worse still, every six days a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner. It's absolutely horrifying to me that women and girls across the world and in our own province live in fear of violence.

As the son of a strong mother, as husband to a strong feminist who every day leads by example, and as a father of daughters this issue of ending violence against women is deeply personal for me.

We must recognize that violence takes many forms and acknowledge the difficulties many women face when they come forward about the violence that they have faced in their own lives. We must believe women when they do come forward and stand with them to fight against the culture of violence and harm that permeates our society. Our first response must be: I believe you.

I encourage all Albertans to participate in the United Nations 16 days of activism against gender violence, but it's also important to continue the activism every single day beyond that. It's up to all of us, men and women, to call out people who harass women online or in our daily lives. Believe the women who come forward with stories of violence, listen and act on what they have to say, work to create a culture that rejects violence, threats, or verbal abuse as a way to deal with problems or to exert control, teach and encourage the people around you that any and all forms of violence against women are simply unacceptable, and, most of all, support the women in your lives in their activism to end violence against women.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: Thank you.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition.

Government Policies

Mr. Jean: Today the NDP's economic plan received another thumbs down from Alberta's job creators. A survey from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business shows that 45 per cent of Alberta businesses are preparing to let go of workers over the next three months. In 37 days the NDP's carbon tax comes into effect. They are destroying with that 10,000 coal jobs in the province, and they are just flat out making life far more difficult for Albertans in need of hope and a hand up. With Christmas just around the corner and more jobs expected to be lost, how can the Premier possibly stand behind these NDP job-killing policies?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Official Opposition has his sources; we've got ours. Yesterday Canadian corporate executives urged the federal government and the provinces to keep taking action on climate change. This letter was signed by companies like General Electric Canada, SNC-Lavalin, Shell Canada, Rio Tinto, Teck Resources, Forest Products Association of Canada, and Suncor, a major employer in that member's riding. I hope he'll stand up for the employees at Suncor. I know this government will.

Mr. Jean: Well, 71 per cent of entrepreneurs also say that tax and regulatory costs are hurting their business. Translation: the carbon tax and NDP red tape is hammering their bottom line. Nearly everything the NDP has done since coming into government has made it more difficult for Albertans to succeed. They have taken more money out of people's pockets, they are attacking Alberta-owned power companies, and they are shutting down safe and reliable coal-generated electricity. How does the Premier think taxing and regulating jobs out of existence in Alberta will do anything but make things worse for Albertans?

Ms Hoffman: The market we inherited was broken. A government that shows leadership steps up to the plate and finds ways to fix it, and we fixed it by making sure we have a capacity market that will also ensure that the market benefits are affordable, stable, and predictable for consumers, both small industrial and local consumers. We have an obligation to keep the lights on in citizens' houses, and we're going to make sure we do that in an affordable way, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Jean: Yesterday the Premier said that she would like to see Albertans use food banks less, but everything this government has done has made Albertans use them more. In Calgary alone food bank use is up 22 per cent in just one year. What's the NDP's response? Well, to tax charities through a new carbon tax, to put a tax on everyone else, and to destroy 10,000 jobs in Alberta's coal industry, which will devastate many communities throughout Alberta. When will the Premier actually meet with the working men and women her policies are hurting so much?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, our government works every day to engage with Albertans. It's important that we hear their voices. Guess what? We heard their voice loud and clear a year and a half ago when we held an election, where the Official Opposition was proposing a plan that would relive the deep cuts of the '90s, laying off teachers, laying off nurses. Instead, we're working to support our private investments, those jobs that we have in Alberta, as well as supporting the public. I have to say that they were given a choice: do the proven failed methods of the past or choose a better path, and they chose that path.

The Speaker: Second main question.

Electric Power System

Mr. Jean: When I asked the Premier why her NDP government is punishing the people of Calgary, she responded, "The issue of the PPAs does not have a direct correlation to property taxes in Calgary." That's not true. Mayor Nenshi has made it clear that cancelling the PPAs threatens Enmax profitability, and that could mean losing the Enmax dividend. That means that property taxes in Calgary will go down by 4.5 per cent per year every year. Does the Premier think Mayor Nenshi is not telling the truth? Yes or no?

Ms Hoffman: The government has been very clear all along that we would welcome discussions with other parties involved in the PPA agreements that were executed. We're working to negotiate settlements, Mr. Speaker, as we have stated. We will protect Albertans by shouldering the up to \$2 billion cost that the members opposite are pushing so hard to just pass on to consumers without having their day to stand up for themselves and get a fair return. All Albertans deserve to have an opportunity to have their voices heard, their bills affordable, and that's what they have in this government.

Mr. Jean: Well, I know that profit is a dirty word for many across the aisle. Here's the bottom line. The profits Enmax has generated over the last eight years mean that they have been able to send back over \$450 million in dividends to their shareholders, the city of Calgary. When Enmax profits, the people of Calgary profit as well. By risking that dividend, this Premier will force property tax increases on every single Calgarian at the same time she's bringing in a massive new carbon tax. How does the Premier expect Calgarians to pay for all these new taxes?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. How does the member opposite sleep at night knowing that he wants to pass \$2 billion worth of potential liabilities onto Albertans from all parts of this province? That's the real question we should be asking ourselves.

While we have some provisional agreements moving forward, we're working on creating more opportunities to have a reasonable, fair, and balanced approach. When we have tough times, Mr. Speaker, we're always going to be on the side of Albertans. I wish the opposition would consider doing that every now and then instead of just siding with corporations.

Mr. Jean: The member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake had it right. This government is practising Whac-A-Mole politics. Change a policy without thinking, realize it is a mistake, and then make a bigger mistake trying to fix the first mistake. When it comes to the electricity system, we have seen thoughtless and reckless tax increases, ridiculous lawsuits, and banana republic like threats of retroactive legislation. Now we have a complete overhaul of the electricity market from a Premier that just months ago needed a basic primer on electricity. Can the Premier understand why Albertans are very worried right now?

2:00

Ms Hoffman: The member opposite quoted one of his caucus members. I'll be happy to quote another. The Member for Lacombe-Ponoka suggested that we scrap the climate leadership plan and replace it with one day a year when all utilities in the province are shut off. He said: "Prohibit fuels for a day. Prohibit the creation of electrical power for one day. It would actually [really] reduce greenhouse gases more than this bill will." [interjections] I don't have a punchline here, Mr. Speaker. I just want everyone to know how deep the Wildrose think tank is when it comes to climate change. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. members, you may have noticed that all of the children are sitting very quietly and watching because they know that there is soon going to be a recess. Very soon this afternoon you're going to get a recess.

Third main set of questions.

Investigations of Deaths

Mr. Jean: Secrecy and confusion continues to cloud the tragic death of four-year-old Serenity. Yesterday the Premier claimed that the child advocate received ongoing reports from the medical examiner, but the advocate says that that's not the case. His office didn't even receive a response from the medical examiner despite repeated requests for information on the autopsy. In fact, the advocate says that the only information he has is what's been reported in the media. So I'll try again. Were files hidden from the Child and Youth Advocate related to Serenity's death? Yes or no?

Ms Hoffman: I want to thank the member for raising this important question. All child deaths are tragedies, and this one is, of course, no different. The Premier did misspeak yesterday, and I want to apologize for that. When she said that the Chief Medical Examiner had been in touch with the Child and Youth Advocate, it was, in fact, the RCMP that the chief medical officer had been in contact with. There was, as I understand, no intention to keep any records. She simply misspoke. It was the RCMP, not the advocate.

Mr. Jean: Thank you for that answer.

Secrecy also pervades the office of the Chief Medical Examiner, however. Serenity's death has highlighted a serious problem with the time that it takes to complete an autopsy report, with hers taking more than two years to complete. When Alberta Justice was asked specifically how many other files have taken over two years to complete, they wouldn't even provide an answer, so I'll ask the Premier the same question. How many other cases have taken or continue to take the Chief Medical Examiner over two years to examine and conclude?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and to the member for a fair question. Obviously, this case in particular is very complex, and the government is reviewing the specifics of this case to identify what can be done better and to move forward as quickly as we can in due course and with due process.

With regard to other cases at this point I think that the office is right to focus their energies on making sure they wrap this up and move forward. But that's a fair question, and at a later date I'll be happy to answer it.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Jean: Thank you. It comes as no surprise to many Albertans, however, who read the headlines that the office of the Chief Medical Examiner has had problems over the past few years. With all the distractions that have taken place within the office, cases have simply lagged. We are coming up on the fifth medical examiner in a span of just two years. This office must operate properly so that deaths are properly investigated. What is the Premier going to do to reduce secrecy and increase stability within the medical examiner's office so that these deaths are properly investigated?

Ms Hoffman: I just want to say that I believe that all members on all sides of this House believe that we must do something to improve our child intervention system to also prevent those types of tragic situations from happening in the first place. I know that the staff works to prevent them as much as possible. We do need to focus on decreasing poverty, addressing systemic and long-lasting inequality. Not enough has been done to continue the review and augmentation of services for children. Of course, there is work to do to make sure that the resources are adequate to prevent these things and, if they do occur, that they are properly investigated. I think that's owed to all Albertans.

The Speaker: Thank you, Deputy Premier.
The Member for Calgary-Hays.

Child Intervention System

Mr. McIver: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Member for Fort McMurray-Conklin asked why the Child and Youth Advocate was not given access to little Serenity's autopsy report as he's entitled

to under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act. I thank the Deputy Premier for admitting that the Premier misspoke yesterday. It was courageous to admit that. Thank you. But it still takes us back to the original question, which I'm sure you'll agree is important, so I'll ask it again. Why did the Child and Youth Advocate not get access to little Serenity's autopsy report as he is entitled to under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act?

Ms Hoffman: Thank you for the question. I'll be happy to answer the first, but probably the specifics around the office will be better addressed by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. I do want to say that the RCMP has been in touch, and the Chief Medical Examiner was working with the RCMP. Of course, the Child and Youth Advocate office is well respected, and we will continue to work with them to find ways that we can improve the system. Thank you for the question. I will be happy to have my associate respond further.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. McIver: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Ms Simons' column today revealed that the Child and Youth Advocate was not supplied with an interim report, nor were they told that they could not have access to the information due to an ongoing police investigation. To the Premier: with an issue as serious as abuse and death of a child in care, what can you do in the future to get better and more timely information so (a) you can act on it and (b) you can keep this House up to date?

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

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the very important question. There is nothing more heartbreaking in the world than the death of a child. In this particular case the autopsy report wasn't forwarded because the RCMP still has an ongoing investigation, and they've asked us not to release this information at this time. So we are committed to working with them in ensuring that they have the tools that they need to continue their investigation.

In terms of the lack of communication around giving or not giving the report, we will work with the office on their procedures to see if we can make some improvements going forward, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. McIver: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know what? I think we all agree that Alberta's child intervention system is broken. It's a shame when Serenity and other beautiful children fall through the cracks, and Serenity has yet to receive more justice. I was happy to hear the Deputy Premier say that she wants to work with the Child and Youth Advocate. The Child and Youth Advocate told me that he likes the idea of an all-party committee. The Premier yesterday said: maybe. Has the Premier been able to move from maybe to yes on agreeing to an all-party committee to deal with children in care of the government so we can all work together as a team?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The question was raised yesterday, and the Premier did commit to following up with the member, particularly about his proposal. We still stand by the fact that we need some time to consider that and find the best path to move forward should that be the one executed. I appreciate that the member is proposing something that's solution focused. Of

course, we all are committed to finding solutions, and this case in particular, I think, speaks to the tragedy that has occurred and the fact that none of us want to stand by and have to talk about another one in the future.

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

Government Policy Development

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In 2016 this government brought in a host of new policies that are changing the very fabric of Alberta society, from energy and environmental transformation to large minimum wage hikes to dramatic investment decisions, in the midst of a profound recession. What is missing, of course, is a comprehensive analysis, details. Albertans and all of us are being asked to take a lot on faith. To the Premier: can you tell us why the government continues to announce massive policy change without tabling appropriate analysis, which the Legislature needs to properly inform debate?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. We continue to address a number of problems that we've inherited, and I think the responsible thing for our government to do is: when you have a system that you've inherited, show leadership, step up, do what's best, make determinations, work with the public service to gather the evidence, and move forward in a thoughtful way.

With regard to specific items of interest, I'd be happy to respond to any of those. I think we've tried to do that as best we can as a government in an open way as we move forward while protecting the interests of all Albertans, Mr. Speaker. So we're very proud of the work that we're doing and the fact that our government is addressing a number of very serious issues.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Dr. Swann: My follow-up question is for the Energy minister. Given that the government has referred repeatedly in the media to the expected report of the oil sands advisory group and given that this group has been tasked with, quote, how government might implement the legislated 100-megatonne-per-year limit on oil sands emissions, end quote, and given that there's no indication that the oil sands group will report while we debate the bill, what deliverables should this Legislature expect from the oil sands group?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Environment and Parks and climate change.

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. It's a good question. The oil sands advisory group was tasked with providing the government with advice on how to give regulatory effect to the oil sands emissions limit. Of course, the oil sands advisory group is made up of folks who asked for the oil sands emissions limit. They asked for it because it provides investment certainty going forward as we act on climate change and provide an investment climate that signals to the world that, yes, we are a carbon-constrained jurisdiction but that, yes, we are also a responsible oil and gas producer.

2:10

Dr. Swann: It's a bit confusing that they wouldn't report to the Legislature while we're debating the bill. That's all I'm saying.

To the Finance minister: given that on Tuesday this week both the Education minister and the Energy minister promised carbon tax funds, one to schools and one to backstop the electricity industry, and given that the agriculture minister has promised carbon funds to farmers and given that 60 per cent of Albertans have been promised a refund cheque, can the Finance minister show us the calculations for how this tax will cover the growing list of promises ministers are making?

Mr. Ceci: Thank you for the question. We have modelled the amount of money that'll be coming forward with the carbon levy over five years. We know what the amount of money is, and we've portioned, basically, a third to rebates, a third to efficiencies, and a third to innovations over those five years. So we have to, going forward, keep within those monies, that we don't have a bigger envelope than that, and I trust the ministers to come forward with requests that fit within that envelope.

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

Physician Services Agreement

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 18 the government of Alberta and the Alberta Medical Association signed a historic new agreement that I consider to be good for physicians, taxpayers, and, most importantly, good for Alberta families. Can the Minister of Health elaborate on the benefits Alberta families will see from the new amended agreement?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for this important question. The agreement that was in place certainly was seeing increases at rates that were unsustainable, 6 to 8 per cent increases in that one line item every single year. The agreement was negotiated by the third party. As soon as we took government, we asked the AMA to come back to the table because we knew that that wasn't sustainable. We want to have a strong public health care system for decades to come. Both recognized their responsibilities, and we were able to come up with a really strong agreement that's going to provide a significant benefit to Albertans both in terms of savings and access.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the same minister: for patients and families living in rural and remote communities, how will this new agreement help them?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was very pleased at the signing of the agreement to be joined by the president of the AAMDC. We know that for the first time Alberta will have in process a plan to actually manage where doctors go, where they're most needed, and the specific skill sets that are required for those communities. Many of those could be rural or remote communities, which we've heard from, or it could be specializations within urban centres as well. I know that one of the members opposite talked about how sometimes it feels like a whole gaggle of kids chasing after one ball to secure a doctor to come to their community. That's not fair. We're going to make sure that we're working in partnership with the communities and with the AMA.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Carson: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Given that the budget for physician services is a large component of Alberta health care costs, how will this new agreement reduce the rate of growth in health care spending?

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We did see, as I mentioned in the first response, historic increases of 6 to 8 per cent. This deal, we know, will save us in the range of up to \$500 million over the next two years. That's a significant investment that will be returned to the citizens of Alberta. And I have to say how proud I am of the fact that we had a very difficult situation, and we sat down with the impacted parties and found a better way to move forward, saving money for taxpayers as well as ensuring that we have stable access and actually an improved system in areas where it's certainly needed. This is going to help us enable the right care in the right place, the right investment.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
The Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Government Communications with Agencies

Mr. MacIntyre: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NDP has a big problem with secrecy. The Information Commissioner pointed out that she shouldn't have to tell the government not to break the law. Well, we received a FOIP that included an e-mail, sent after Enmax briefed the Assistant Deputy Minister of Energy about turning back their PPA, telling a public body recipient to read and delete the sensitive e-mail and its attachment. Is the Minister of Energy complicit in ordering the destruction of these documents, or is this another example of her not being aware of what's going on?

Ms Hoffman: It's my pleasure to be able to step up and assure this House and all members that neither did the minister nor any political staff direct the destruction of records that are required to be saved under the FOIP Act. My expectation is that public records are preserved and managed under the FOIP Act. I think we all deserve that expectation to be executed. With regard to a request for an investigation I have no concerns with that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MacIntyre: Given that we have an ADM in Energy telling the Balancing Pool, an independent agency, to break the law and given that we know that most of the Balancing Pool board has now resigned and given that court documents relating to the PPA lawsuit show significant discrepancies between what this government says and what Enmax says happened, what can we expect this minister to do with senior officials telling others to break the law?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Some days the opposition uses Google. I'll be happy to update them that this ADM is no longer an ADM within the ministry or the electricity file that was mentioned. The same briefing note that the opposition has released since July is the note in question, and this briefing note did go on to say that the "or more unprofitable" clause was never brought forward to the government. That's the update on the situation, and I can provide those assurances to the members opposite.

Mr. MacIntyre: About a year ago we had the CEO of Alberta Health Services resigning, citing that she was uncomfortable with the government's instructions to operate in voice mode. Given that now we have an assistant deputy minister telling an arm's-length

agency to delete embarrassing e-mails in violation of the law and given that almost every day we have discrepancies between what this government says and what the evidence shows, what answer can this minister offer Albertans disappointed in a government that once upon a time claimed to do things differently?

Ms Hoffman: I'm proud of my government's record, Mr. Speaker. The member who asked that very question has asked me on a regular basis to intervene and help his community increase access to 24/7 care. I'm working hard to make that happen, and these are the types of interventions that he's speaking to. That's the job of the Minister of Health, and I am proud of the record I've had in standing up for every one of our communities, including for the members opposite.

In terms of this situation it was made very clear that neither did the minister nor any political staff act in any way that was ill becoming of the office or our expectations. My expectation is that FOIP records are preserved and managed under the FOIP Act, and I welcome an investigation if one is approved. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. members.

Tobacco Reduction Strategy

Dr. Starke: Mr. Speaker, decreasing tobacco use is the single most impactful public health measure that could be pursued in our province. To that end, I would like to commend the Health minister for extending the ban on flavoured tobacco to include menthol. Minister, that was good work. But I am dismayed that AHS has decided to cut funding for highly effective programs funded by community-based grants under the Alberta tobacco reduction strategy. Minister, could you please tell Albertans why AHS is cutting funding for these programs?

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for raising the important question and for your support in moving forward in making sure that Albertans can be as healthy as possible and finding ways to improve smoking cessation as well as limiting access for children, who are proven to be attracted to some of these flavoured products. That certainly is a step in the right direction. I'll be happy to follow up with Alberta Health Services with regard to the specific question that was raised. I haven't had an opportunity to do that yet, but now I will certainly do that and be happy to follow up with the member.

Dr. Starke: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that the 2014 AHS annual report noted that there was a direct link between Alberta's increased life expectancy and decreased tobacco use and given that these community-based grant programs have been shown to be highly effective in contributing to decreased tobacco use and given that the Health minister should be actively supporting these measures that have been proven to contribute to the health and longevity of Albertans, to the minister: will you commit to restoring funding to these valuable and effective programs?

2:20

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much for the important question. I want to point out that the last question from the Official Opposition was about me intervening. This question is about me intervening in a different way, Mr. Speaker. I think the question is a fair question. If we know that there's an opportunity to have proven programs that have supported Albertans, I will ask the questions to make sure that the programs are moving forward in the best way possible in service

of Albertans. That's the job of the Health minister, and I'm proud to do it.

Dr. Starke: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that the cuts to community grants programs are hard to justify or, indeed, even comprehend and given that these programs can be cut without involvement of protected AHS staff positions and given that community-based programs are one of the most effective parts of the tobacco control strategy, to the minister: are you allowing AHS to protect union jobs instead of funding these programs, or have you been too busy defending your government's losing position on PPAs this summer to even notice that it's happening?

Ms Hoffman: That's quite a long stretch, Mr. Speaker, to get from point A to point B. Kudos for trying. I have to say that I will do my job, which is speaking to the organizations that we fund and entrust to deliver the best care to Albertans. In term of AHS that's smoking cessation. I will be happy to follow up with them and report back to this House. I'm proud to stand up for Albertans when it comes to smoking cessation opportunities as well as standing up for Albertans when it comes to making sure they're not being gouged unfairly for electricity deals that that party invested in.

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

Access to Information

Mr. Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Three weeks ago Premier Notley told the Assembly that transparency and openness are exactly what her government is endeavouring for, yet 19 months into office and the Privacy Commissioner is describing Alberta's access to information as a crisis situation. According to the commissioner's annual report 13 of the government's own ministries are heavily redacting documents requested by the Privacy Commissioner. To the Premier: why under your leadership is the government following the previous government's trend and keeping secrets from the people of Alberta?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think there is an annual period that the member referred to there, and I'm pretty sure it was before May 2015. We all agree that it's important to ensure that Albertans have timely access to the information that's important to them. It's clear that there have been many challenges for many years here in the province of Alberta in part due to the increase in complexity of the requests. I filed many of those when I was supporting opposition MLAs. I'm sure you're filing many as well. This includes requests that require consultation with third parties and involve multiple departments. We'll continue to work on moving forward and providing timely access and appropriate responses within the guidelines of the legislation.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, given that when this government was in opposition, they wrote letters to the Privacy Commissioner asking for investigations into delays in the release of records, clearly we know that they were well aware of the access to information problems before they took office, and given that they have done nothing to improve our system of governance, again to the Premier: is accountable government not a priority for the NDP, or does she just not care?

Ms Hoffman: Absolutely we're committed to being accountable. We have been addressing the backlogs, which have been impacting the ability to respond to requests in a timely manner. The system that's been in place is able to adapt to some of the different types of information requests, but it does take time, Mr. Speaker. We know that it's important to have timely access. That's one of the reasons why in the last budget we provided for increased investments in a number of areas that would support FOIP officers. Amendments were brought forward by the members opposite to take that increased funding to the FOIP offices out. You can't have it both ways. We're trying to move forward to increase access, and that includes supporting FOIP officers.

Mr. Nixon: Well, Mr. Speaker, this government has had 18 months, and that's about all they have left, so I suggest they hurry up.

Given that in 2006 the Government House Leader promised to "open the curtains on government secrecy and let the sun shine in on the closets of the most secretive government in Canada" – I agree – why, Madam Premier, does your government continue to fail to honour the promises of the Government House Leader to "ensure that the public information is available to those to whom it belongs, the public"? Stop the secrecy.

Ms Hoffman: I seem to recall times where people were making assertions that perhaps in 18 months we'd be looking at Premier Smith sitting in this very seat. We sure know what happened there, Mr. Speaker, so I'd ask that the members opposite respect the public and the choices that they make in democracy.

Mr. Cooper: Just let the sun shine in.

Ms Hoffman: We are committed to letting the sun shine in. That's why we're moving forward to develop best practices guidelines for all departments, to ensure consistency in how FOIPs are processed and also improve co-ordination across government departments to ensure more timely responses to requests. That includes in some areas needing to have the staff available to do that, so I hope next year you don't propose cutting those as well.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Violent Crimes

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. New data from Stats Canada determined that Edmonton is third in line for the murder capital of Canada. According to this data there were 604 victims of homicide in Canada in 2015. More than 5 per cent of those murders in Canada were all attributed to Edmonton. What is your ministry doing, Minister, to address this alarming increase in homicides within Alberta?

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

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. Keeping Alberta communities safe is a priority for our government. That's why our government puts more than half a billion dollars into policing. That's more than any of our western neighbours. We contribute on a per capita basis to municipalities to assist with policing. We also have investments in ALERT, which is an Alberta-specific model that does a great job of gathering intelligence and keeping it together. We will continue to work with our police partners to ensure that Albertan communities are safe and resilient.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that in Calgary the crime severity index, or CSI, which measures the volume of severity of police-reported crime, rose to its highest level since 2009 and given that Calgary reported the largest jump in crime for any Canadian city, what is your ministry doing about violent crimes in Calgary?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. I think I'd like to take a moment to clarify that even though the crime severity index has increased in Calgary, it is still down compared to years previous in the 1990s, you know, so this is still an improvement. Both Calgary and Edmonton and the whole province of Alberta are very safe. We will continue to invest in policing. We already invest more than in any other area. We have some of the best police in the entire country, and we will continue to work with them.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that in another study Alberta led the country in killings related to organized crime and given that this is shocking since in 2015 we saw a 205 per cent increase from the previous year in gang-related killings, to the minister: is the funding provided to ALERT and other police agencies enough, or have you just dropped the ball on this file?

The Speaker: The Minister of Justice.

Ms Ganley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Well, as I have said, we provide more funding to municipalities to assist with policing than in any other western province. I find it a little ironic that the members opposite who would cut billions of dollars out of front-line services are now complaining that we don't fund front-line services well enough. We invest in ALERT. It's a fantastic program, and we're proud of it.

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

Small-business Assistance

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A recent article by Don Braid highlights tough times in Calgary. Unemployment is at 10-plus per cent, and job seekers are nearing a hundred thousand, these both occurring without the full impact of minimum wage increases and a punitive carbon tax. The article notes these as primary concerns amongst struggling small-business owners and their employees. To the Minister of Finance: can you provide us with any research that shows that the 1 per cent reduction in small-business tax will offset negative impacts of your misguided minimum wage increases and carbon tax?

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much for the question from the member opposite. For research, I can tell you that other provinces have cut their small-business taxes, and the small-business owners are very happy with that in those provinces. We're harmonizing our small-business tax so it's not uncompetitive with other provinces. That's what small-business owners in the chamber told us. We are doing what they want. That's the right move.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe you should get some researchers instead of those ideologues on your staff.

Given that the same article cites a CFIB study indicating that 94 per cent of business owners lack confidence in the government's

plan to support small businesses and entrepreneurship and given that this government has had ample time to consult and develop a plan to support the very survival of small businesses in Alberta, to the Deputy Premier: if you have been consulting with small business, why do the vast majority of them lack confidence in your actions and plan?

2:30

Mr. Ceci: You know, these two years of recession have created a challenge for everyone, not just small-business owners but people who have day jobs, who work, who are employed on a daily basis, so it's a challenging time. What we've done is that we've put investments back into this province. We are putting more money back into capital investment than this government over here did. We're investing in small business by taking taxes, lowering them, and we're investing in tax credits all across this province – those will come in 2017 – which will create greater and greater stability.

The Speaker: Hon. member, I'll just remind you, no preambles, please.

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Speaker, but a few short years ago the Alberta advantage was in place. Given that 40 per cent of small businesses indicate imminent layoffs, citing low revenue and high costs, and given that local city councils and chambers are clamouring to provide lifelines even though the full impact of the carbon tax and minimum wage is yet to be felt, again to the minister: how high does unemployment have to get in Calgary and across Alberta before government takes real action, like suspending minimum wage increases and delaying the carbon tax, to address the real and devastating crisis Albertans are now facing?

Mr. Ceci: Perhaps the member opposite wasn't sitting – well, we delivered a budget in 2016, in April, and our main approach there was to invest in infrastructure. Jobs are happening as a result of that. We invested in the STEP program that they cut; 2,700 jobs resulted this summer from that. We're also investing in diversifying the economy, and that will create more jobs. And there's been an uptick in jobs, I think you would recognize as well. We're getting back on our feet, not going backwards, where you want to go.

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

Government-owned Housing Safety

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, recently I was reminded of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning as it took the life of Steve Steffler, a stalwart supporter and investor in our local music scene. I was very concerned to hear that in October another tragedy occurred, where a family of seven in Edmonton was rescued and evacuated from their social housing unit due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Now, given that this housing unit did not have a carbon monoxide alarm, to the Minister of Seniors and Housing: what is the government doing to avoid tragedies like this in the future?

The Speaker: The hon. minister of seniors.

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm deeply saddened by this tragedy. My condolences go to the Turi family and the Steffler family.

My ministry is taking immediate action by providing additional funding to install carbon monoxide detectors in all government-owned units by the end of January 2017. We have asked housing management bodies to make this a top priority.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: can she update the House on what the housing management body at Capital Region Housing has done to address this problem in this particular unit?

Ms Sigurdson: We have spoken with Capital Region Housing staff, and they have installed a new furnace and a carbon monoxide detector in their unit. Mr. Speaker, many social housing providers have been installing carbon monoxide detectors while doing other upgrades for a number of years. For example, Capital Regional Housing installs carbon monoxide detectors whenever it replaces older furnaces in the units. The action we are taking will accelerate having detectors installed in all government-owned social housing units across the province by the end of January 2017.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, given that this situation is indicative of the larger deferred maintenance deficit that we have in the province, that has built up over a number of years, to the Minister of Seniors and Housing: what steps is our government taking to ensure that we begin to address this deficit?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're investing \$1.2 billion in seniors' and affordable housing to ensure that Albertans have a safe and affordable place to call home. We have also partnered with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation through investment in the affordable housing agreement. This new agreement gives the province an additional \$95 million to address the disrepair of some of our aging housing units that we inherited from the previous government.

Financial Services Industry Regulations

Mr. Fildebrandt: Mr. Speaker, we understand that the Alberta Securities Commission has under serious consideration, following the lead of their Toronto counterparts, eliminating the commission-based fee structure for financial advisers. The opposition has not yet decided if this is a positive or a negative move, but it is a move that will have significant ramifications for this industry and for our economy. Will the Minister of Finance commit to open and public consultations with the Alberta Securities Commission to hear all sides out before any changes are made?

The Speaker: The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we're very interested in this issue. Financial planning is an important thing for all Albertans, and I wish more and more Albertans did it because we have such a high debt level in this province as individuals. You know, the thing I want to say is that the ASC is looking at this. They're following the lead of not only Ontario but of Canada, the Canadian Securities Administrators. They're looking at this issue. They'll start open consultations in December. The member opposite doesn't seem to know that, but in December, for five months, the ASC is going to be . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Mr. Speaker, I wish the government took financial planning more seriously.

Given, Mr. Speaker, that Advocis represents 9,000 financial advisers in Alberta – they're a hugely important part of our economy and a key part of helping Albertans plan for their future – before a major change to regulations affecting their industry is made, it only makes sense that they should undergo substantial consultations with them first, but for the second year in a row the Minister of Finance cancelled his meeting with them and instead sent a member of his staff. Is the minister as uninterested in smart financial planning for Albertans' personal lives as he is in smart financial planning for Alberta's government?

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Ceci: Actually, nothing could be further from the truth. I introduced Advocis here. I went to a reception last night where – I talked at the Advocis reception, and many members of this House were there. A member of my staff did meet with them for a good long time, and I understand that the Minister of Health met with them, too. So we are very interested in that sort of thing. We're interested in jobs all across Alberta; 9,000 people work in financial planning. We're interested in that here. You know, the member opposite seems to be more interested in jobs in Ontario, in jobs in Saskatchewan, in jobs in B.C. because he stands up for brewers in those places and not . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Mr. Speaker, I'm pretty sure that's just where they hire their political staffers from.

Given, Mr. Speaker, that financial adviser and financial planner are not professionally protected titles – anyone in Alberta can use those titles without repercussion, and this has the potential to leave the consumer of financial services open to advisers and planners who are clearly not qualified in financial matters. I'll refrain from discussing the qualifications of the Minister of Finance in financial matters. Does the minister have under consideration any proposals to protect Albertans from unqualified financial authorities other than themselves?

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much for the question. As I said in my first response, the Alberta Securities Commission will have an approximately 130-day consultation period, where any Albertans can weigh in on the paper that will be written and put out, and there will be public meetings as well. That's one thing. Then there will be a long period of review of those consultation responses. So I'm not sure what the member opposite is looking for. There will be consultation, there will be review, there will be recommendations. Is he saying that we should just make a decision here and not hear from Albertans? That's what we're going to do. That's what we're following up with, and we're doing that.

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

Electricity Power Purchase Agreements

Mr. Rodney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans don't know what to believe from this government when it comes to the PPA lawsuit. When asked recently if she would introduce retroactive legislation in order to nullify PPA litigation, the Premier refused to deny that she would, stating the simple catch-all that the government is prepared to do what it takes to protect Albertans. Just yesterday she accused the opposition of being the only ones talking about retroactive legislation. Can the Premier please clarify for everyone in Alberta: has your government at any point considered or drafted

retroactive legislation that would impact this crucial PPA situation for all Albertans?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for paraphrasing what the Premier has said on many occasions, which is that we are going to make sure we stand up for Albertans. We've made it very clear that we welcome discussions with the parties that were directly involved, and we've made some good progress on that. I look forward to updating members soon. We are working to negotiate, but of course when parties maybe aren't at the table, I think it's important for you to consider what other tools you might have to deliver the best results for Albertans. Certainly, I think that's what Albertans expect, a government that will take any measure necessary to defend them.

2:40

Mr. Rodney: Given that Albertans deserve more than just words – they need actions – and given that we've been told that the government has indeed drafted this legislation and that cabinet has approved it already and that the NDP may be utilizing it as a hard-ball negotiating tool, to the Premier: is your government stooping to the level of using potential retroactive legislation as a leverage club in your ongoing negotiations with Alberta PPA negotiators and holders?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, there are many hypotheticals and long reaches in that question, but in terms of what we're doing, we're absolutely committed to standing up for Albertans. We've made that clear since I stood up about eight months ago and said that we were going to do that moving forward, and we've taken measures to make sure that we have the best legal supports that are experts in the area to defend Albertans. We've also been engaging in active conversations to get the best results for Albertans, and I'll be happy to update all Albertans about that very soon.

Mr. Rodney: Given that in response to a question yesterday the Premier stated, "The issue of the PPAs does not have a direct correlation to property taxes in Calgary, and to suggest otherwise is really not helpful," and given that the mayor of Calgary has stated the complete opposite to that and given that the question was asked earlier today but unanswered by the Deputy Premier, let's try the Minister of Finance, who served on Calgary city council and must know: if Enmax pays Calgary no dividend, what is the exact significance for the city's budget, and who has a better understanding of what impacts municipal taxes in Calgary, this government or the locally elected city council? Please tell Calgarians.

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is about government policy, and I'm proud to say that our government supports a policy that will make sure that Albertans are protected. Consumers shouldn't have to pay for business losses because of regulatory loopholes that were secretly negotiated by Enron and also secretly approved so they wouldn't have to be published in the traditional way. I think that they are working very hard to try to pretend that they are experts on this file, and the only thing they're experts on is what happened in the past, and that was not good. We are doing things to move forward and protect Albertans.

The Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Syrian Refugees

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This month marks the anniversary of the first Syrian refugees coming to Canada and to our province to escape the unimaginably tragic circumstances still going on in Syria. Can the Minister of Labour please inform Albertans on the current number of Syrian refugees in our province and what supports this government is providing to them?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our government remains committed to successfully resettling these extremely vulnerable refugees who've come to Alberta. Over the last year we've welcomed more than 5,800 refugees, of which nearly 4,200 are Syrian. My ministry and ministries across our government in collaboration with community partners have taken a number of actions to support the refugees, from providing health services, education, and housing to income supports. Our government is working hard to make sure refugees are getting settled and receiving the supports they need to enter the workforce.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: with the federal government now beginning to reduce its support to Syrian refugees after being in our country for a year, what is our government doing to address this change?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Despite the reduced federal funding for the almost 4,200 Syrian refugees who now live in Alberta, we will continue to support them. Refugees can continue to access the supports provided by our settlement agencies such as language training, employment supports, orientation, and referrals, among others. When the Syrian refugees arrive in Canada, they already have permanent resident status and, like all Albertans, have access to a wide range of employment and training opportunities.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Loyola: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Again to the same minister: in our current economic conditions has the settlement of these refugees in the province affected Albertans' ability to receive similar supports or find employment?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, the Syrian refugees are like all Albertans and have access to the same resources. Immigrants to Alberta have played and continue to play a vital role in shaping our province's social, economic, and cultural life. There is no question that the current economic situation has affected many Albertans, including new Albertans. Our government continues to offer assistance to those seeking employment and training opportunities. Refugees are not taking anything away from Albertans. They are Albertans.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Strathcona County Diversity Committee

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sherwood Park has a reputation for being a homogeneous and exclusive community. In

fact, it is comprised of people from many cultural, family, and socioeconomic backgrounds. As in all communities, there are people who feel excluded. Sometimes these voices aren't heard, but more importantly there are people who work to create a community in which everyone feels genuinely welcome no matter what their circumstances are.

I was pleased to work with others in the community to initiate the formation of the Strathcona County Diversity Committee. This committee is a group of individuals who strongly believe that there is unity in diversity. The members of this committee demonstrate their passion and commitment to respect and inclusion by working alongside others who share these values. The main objectives of this group are to share, encourage, and celebrate diversity in Strathcona county, to identify and work through challenges faced by newcomers, and to promote safety and inclusion for all people.

It has been less than six months since this committee was formed, and already they have a list of remarkable achievements. They have become a familiar addition to community events and festivals, setting up booths to actively promote diversity in public settings. They joined forces with altView, the LGBTQ support agency in Sherwood Park, to walk in the local Canada Day parade. This committee responds to negative messages that speak against inclusion and diversity by writing letters to the local newspaper and by promoting positive messages through social media. They organize the highly successful blanket exercise to familiarize the community with indigenous history and begin a community dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the members of the diversity committee for the leadership they have shown to address the issue of inclusion in Strathcona county.

Thank you.

Harassment and Women in Politics

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, last week I posted the following on Facebook.

I have increasingly become disappointed with the level of debate and public comments directed towards public officials and in particular women serving the public.

Hateful, violent, sexist comments are not acceptable in any way or in any form.

I want to encourage all individuals to consider our words carefully. These are people's mothers, daughters, fathers and sons. We owe each other our best. Women in politics should not [have to] serve in fear.

I will do my best to ensure I speak in ways that will honour the women in my life and remind others [to do] the same.

This post isn't about one particular [incident] or case study, but the state of politics as a whole. If I want to be a part of the solution to the current level of debate, I need to add my voice. We encourage what we tolerate and we should no longer tolerate this.

When we work together to elevate [public discussion], we create a path where more women will want to get involved in politics. And that's in the best interest of all of us.

In the modern world, personal values are often discussed in [very impersonal ways] with total strangers on social media. This can be a good thing. We can learn a lot about each other through discussions of identity, matters of faith, and politics.

However, too often these discussions end... without resolution, when debate over competing rights escalates into [name-calling]. This is... where... attacks and bullying tactics are employed to devastating effect, driving wedges between us and tearing at the very fabric of [our] society...

I am hoping to point out that, lost in all this noise is the concept that as true equals, we have a responsibility to treat each other as such...

We all owe this much to each other, our Province and most certainly our children.

It's time for all [Albertans] to choose a better version of ourselves so we can bring the best out in others!

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

2:50 Fentanyl Use Prevention

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We're joined today by Rosalind Davis, whose partner, Nathan, tragically died from a fentanyl overdose. Illicit fentanyl is a scourge that knows no boundaries. There are no typical opioid addicts. On average, more than one Albertan dies every day from an overdose. It is a crisis and deserves to be treated like the emergency that it is.

Rosalind and Nathan had big plans. Both of them were professionals, Nathan holding an MBA and had a career as a stockbroker. They bought a house together and set about renovating it. It was while working on their house that Nathan hurt his back and was prescribed opioids. It became apparent there was a problem, and Rosalind confronted Nathan and asked him to seek treatment. He did. But this is where the system let him down. He was told that there would be a four-month wait for an outpatient treatment program. Fortunately, they had the means to pursue private treatment.

Sadly, after getting clean and sober, Nathan relapsed, something that is tragically common amongst people overcoming addiction. He again sought help but was unable to find the supports he needed to get and stay sober. Over time he started sourcing opioids on the street and died from an accidental fentanyl overdose.

Nathan is just one of the hundreds of Albertans who have fallen victim to the terrible disease of addiction to the point of losing their lives. Each and every one of these lives has their own story. There is no typical opioid addict. It could be your sibling, your parent, your friend. It could be someone who's street involved, or it could be your next-door neighbour. Opioid addiction is a crisis in Alberta, and while the provincial government and professional bodies have taken some steps to address it, much more needs to be done. Declaring a public health emergency seems to be an obvious step, and I again call on the Associate Minister of Health to do so immediately.

We also need to ensure treatment is available, both in-patient and outpatient, and we need to provide a variety of methods beyond traditional 12-step programs, which do not work for everyone.

I want to recognize and thank Rosalind and Nathan's family for dedicating their time to ending this crisis. It's too late for Nathan, but it is not too late for others.

Thank you.

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

Psychological Harassment and Bullying

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently tabled private member's Bill 208, which seeks to add psychological harassment and bullying to the Occupational Health and Safety Act. I introduced this bill because it's needed. Alberta is one of the few provinces that does not have this type of legislation. While I've received a great deal of positive feedback for this bill, what was unexpected was the volume of inquiries I've received about whether this legislation would cover political parties and politics in general. Most referred to the level of harassment and bullying seen

in the general public towards each other and, in particular, from those in public office and those seeking public office. Curbing this type of discourse is, of course, not something that we can legislate. Treating others with dignity and respect must be taught in schools, modelled by our teachers, our parents, and our public officials.

We here in the House, from all parties, have a role to play in this. Defending actions by saying that we have a “victim-as-virtue culture . . . creating a leadership class of wimps” will and does impact the future of this province. Mr. Speaker, how do you think this impacts young adults thinking of seeking public office? Do they think the path to success is found only by belittling and bullying those that oppose us? I surely hope not, and I strongly believe that this is not what Alberta is about.

We recently saw the most divisive election ever south of the border, that was defined by bullying. Let’s not bring this type of politics to Canada or Alberta. Apologizing after bullying and harassment isn’t good enough, Mr. Speaker. We need to check ourselves before we cause damage, use a filter, and think about who’s listening.

I am proud to say that I belong to a party and a caucus that preaches and practises respect, dignity, and inclusion for all. It is evident that if other parties can’t grasp and practise this, it will clearly be our gain.

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

Child Protective Services

Ms Sweet: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to rise and speak to an issue that has been at the centre of my professional life and close to my heart. Like all Albertans, the story of a child who is traumatized and neglected has touched me deeply. It has made me reflect on the choices we make in this Chamber and on the decisions we choose to make collectively as a society.

As you know, I had the great honour of being a child protection worker before I was elected. This was my career for 12 years, and I engaged in this work because I believe that every single child in our society should be afforded the opportunity to succeed. It was also a career that forced me regularly to confront the single most difficult question that can ever be asked of a parent: can you still care for your child? Mr. Speaker, there is not a single child protection worker who wants to remove a child from their home and from their family. There is simply nothing more difficult. Nothing cuts more deeply than this fundamental decision.

Today I’d like to express the enduring respect I have for my colleagues on the front lines, who are committed on society’s behalf to nurturing the well-being of Alberta’s most vulnerable children. My colleagues sacrifice their personal safety, time with their families, and their own mental health to do this work. They do this work because they care about our children, and in doing this work, they see the best and worst in our society. They see a world full of complexity, filled with intergenerational trauma, poverty, addiction, and mental health concerns. They see parents on the margins of society who simply can’t fulfill their basic duties.

But our front-line workers also see the very best in our communities and in our society. They see communities come together in times of need. They see hope in the eyes of every child. They see opportunity in working with parents, and they see the joy that occurs when families are reunited in a caring and safe environment.

Mr. Speaker, when members of the opposition ask what we have done to address children in care, I can personally tell you that we have protected thousands of children, we have reunited thousands of families, and we have supported our front-line workers in the most desperate of circumstances. At the end of the day, that’s why I’m here, to support our children and our future. [Standing ovation]

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, if I may, I don’t want this to run out. I would wonder if we can get unanimous consent to continue with the Routine.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: The Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Home-schooling Funding

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans are proud of our education system, which is based upon the principles of parental choice. We fund all educational choices to one degree or another, and in the case of home-schooling we fund a sound education and a good value for the tax dollars. Albertans are concerned over the actions of the Ministry of Education with regard to Trinity Christian school and Wisdom Home Schooling. Among other things, Albertans expect the Ministry of Education to do at least two things, hold Trinity and Wisdom and all education programs accountable for using sound practices in governance and funding and, secondly, apply regulations the same way that they would for any other educational authority.

The Department of Education began an audit on Trinity and Wisdom during the summer and informed them that they should continue operations as usual, yet in spite of that direction the department forwarded only a small portion of the funding for September and none for October, when the government arbitrarily and suddenly closed the school without warning. It would appear that the department predetermined the outcomes of the audit before it was complete. The minister needs to extend the full funding allocated to Trinity for their student enrolment up to the time that the school was closed.

This is not the only fiasco in home education. There are concerns about teaching resources, clawbacks to funding, and inconsistent implementation of reimbursement standards between home-school programs and public and independent school authorities.

Home-education families from across the province are coming together this Tuesday, November 29, in a rally at this Legislature to bring attention to the challenges they are facing with this minister and his Department of Education. We encourage all Albertan families to join us on the steps of the Legislature at 11 o’clock and ask this government to listen to them and to support your educational choices fairly and equitably.

3:00

Notices of Motions

The Speaker: The Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two items for which to provide notice to the House today. First, I would like to give oral notice of the intention to introduce Bill 35, the Fair Elections Financing Act, which will be sponsored by the hon. Minister of Labour and minister responsible for democratic renewal.

Secondly, I would like to give oral notice of the intention to introduce Bill 36, An Act to Enhance Off-highway Vehicle Safety, which will be sponsored by the most-excellent hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday during question period in reference to the budget for Human

Services I mentioned some numbers. I'm happy to provide five copies of the budget for Human Services, where it does show indeed that there is an increase, but on three separate occasions, which I've taken the time to highlight for the minister, where it comes to child intervention, the amounts for 2016-17 are indeed less than they were for the year previous, which shows to me that they have made cuts to that.

The Speaker: The Member for Banff-Cochrane.

Mr. Westhead: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a letter from 60 groups, including those in the oil and gas industry, urging the government not to back away from plans to bring in a country-wide price on carbon. These companies include Shell Canada, Cenovus Energy, Teck Resources Limited, and Suncor. Together they represent 15 per cent of Canada's GDP with \$300 billion in sales and over one million employees. "Putting a price on carbon, to reflect the real environmental costs, is the most effective way to reduce emissions, stimulate innovation and drive energy efficiency."

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

Mr. Ellis: Calgary-West, but thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Sorry. My apologies.

Mr. Ellis: I'm just tabling an article on behalf of the hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek. I believe he referred to a *Calgary Herald* article by Don Braid: Deepening Economic Crisis Spells Trouble for the NDP. I have the requisite number of copies to be tabled. Thank you.

The Speaker: Anyone else?

Hon. members, I believe there was a point of order from the Government House Leader. I'm going to use the fast track on this issue. It seems to me that the Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre may have inadvertently used the name of the Premier in his speech, and I'm sure he would agree to withdraw it.

Mr. Nixon: Certainly, Mr. Speaker. In my eagerness to ask my questions today, I mistakenly used the hon. Premier's name. I certainly do withdraw and apologize for that.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Orders of the Day Government Motions

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Evening Sitings

26. Mr. Mason moved:
Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 4(1), commencing November 28, 2016, the Assembly shall meet on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings for consideration of government business for the duration of the Second Session of the 29th Legislature 2016 fall sitting unless the Government House Leader notifies the Assembly that there shall be no evening sitting that day by providing notice under Notices of Motions in the daily Routine or at any time prior to 6 p.m.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that the Clerk did not want to miss the evening sittings next week.

[Government Motion 26 carried]

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 27 Renewable Electricity Act

[Debate adjourned November 22]

The Speaker: Individuals wishing to speak? The Member for Calgary-West.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's certainly a privilege to rise today and move a hoist on Bill 27.

The Speaker: Sorry. Hon. member, I'm advised that on this particular bill you have spoken already.

Mr. Ellis: I have not.

The Speaker: Is there another member who wishes to speak to the referral amendment? Oh, I'm sorry. It's on the main motion, sir.

We're back on track, we think. Main motion. Calgary-Greenway.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to rise today to move a hoist on Bill 27, Renewable Electricity Act, on behalf of my hon. colleague from Vermilion-Lloydminster. I have the requisite number of copies for the House. I would move that Bill 27, Renewable Electricity Act, be amended by deleting all the words after "that" and substituting the following: "Bill 27, Renewable Electricity Act, be not now read a second time but that it be read a second time this day six months hence."

The Speaker: Hon. member, you're moving an amendment to the main motion. Is that correct?

Mr. Gill: Yes.

The Speaker: Would you like to continue?

Mr. Gill: Please.

First of all, I'd just like to say that we in the caucus are not against the development of renewable energy in this province, not at all. In fact, I think you'll find that our government oversaw the growth of the wind energy sector in southern Alberta quite successfully. We're absolutely on board with expanding the role that renewables play in the Alberta energy market. There are a number of benefits that we could see from the increased use of renewables if these programs are implemented in a way that actually ensures their long-term viability and in a way that ensures that Albertans aren't going to be on the hook.

But what we are seeing from this government and specifically with regard to this bill is that the appropriate steps aren't being taken to ensure the success of these programs. Forgive me if you've heard this one before, but we don't believe that the government has done their homework on this. I'm sure you have heard me saying something to this effect before because it's a point that this government simply doesn't seem to get.

We recently saw that this government is actually bringing in a cap on the rate that Alberta power companies can legally charge for their product. This to me sends a very clear signal, and I think it's sending that same signal to the industry, by the way. The signal that they are sending is that they are slowly realizing that their collective actions, all these various policies that they have brought into force in the last year and a half, are harming business.

You won't hear this government admit it, but that is exactly what this rate cap is all about. They know that they're harming these businesses and that in a normal marketplace all of these costs that they are piling on mean these companies would have to raise rates. There's simply no other way for some of these companies to stay viable. They need to be able to offset the money that they're losing because of the NDP policies somehow. The government realizes this too late, once again, so they go with the heavy-handed approach to keeping the rates low.

3:10

They should have just done the actual work that being in the government requires, to go to industry, and not just the industry they want to pick and choose, and get some input. It can't just be their favourite companies that are getting to help shape policy. It has to be all the various hard-working Albertans that these ideas will impact, which brings me back to my point today. I don't believe that this bill can, in good conscience, pass second reading.

These are simply two unknowns presented in this bill. There is too much power being delegated to the office of the minister and too much uncertainty that we're told is going to be resolved in regulation. The problem with that is that we simply don't have confidence that this government will make those regulations in a responsible way. They haven't shown themselves capable of doing the necessary homework to bring forward responsible regulations that'll protect Albertans from the kind of favouritism they have displayed.

This bill needs to go back to the drawing board because there needs to be a lot more detail that gets brought forward to this House because we are all representatives of Albertans in this House. We are here to give them a voice, and I think that this bill in its present form takes away that voice. So in recognition of this, Mr. Speaker, and in the best interests of Albertans it's my hope that the government can take the appropriate time to revisit this legislation at a later date and ensure all related externalities are minimized and that Albertans are consulted appropriately.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. member, I'd like to clarify for the record that you are moving the motion on behalf of the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster. Is that correct?

Mr. Gill: That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Under 29(2)(a), anyone else wishing to speak to the amendment to Bill 27? The Member for Calgary-Foothills.

Mr. Panda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today to support the amendment moved by my colleague for Calgary-Greenway on behalf of his colleague the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned recently in this House, I am very much in favour of renewables being a power source, but I'm not at all certain that this Bill 27 is the way to go about increasing their use. By going to the committee, at least we could have got the experts here from the energy industry, could prepare properly, and they could have educated all of us, including me and the backbenchers of the government, about this Bill 27, whether this is the way to go or not. But we have been denied going to committee, so now all of us here, MLAs, are to go out into the stakeholders' community and do our own consultations.

We know the NDP has a hate for thermal coal fired electrical generation and label it a main source of climate-change-causing CO₂ emissions. In fact, people from Leduc-Beaumont actually call me and wonder why their MLA actually hates coal-fired electrical generation. We know the NDP cite coal-fired electric generation as

promoting premature deaths, but, Mr. Speaker, clean coal retrofit technology is not being allowed by this NDP government in order to reduce emissions and save our rural communities like Hanna, Forestburg, and Genesee.

We have not received the recommendations of the Boston report, advising the government on the costs and timelines for phasing out coal. At the time of writing this speech, I haven't seen that yet. The government told us that it will be soon, but we haven't seen that yet. Let's go out and hear from the experts first-hand.

This bill proposes to have 30 per cent of power from renewables, and the NDP brag that it will generate \$10 billion in investment. That sounds good, but of course we all will be paying for it through either our power bill or through our carbon taxes. What the NDP has not told anyone about this massive, arbitrary 30 per cent target on renewables by 2030 is that the estimated \$10 billion of private investment required is going to be more, much more.

Why will it be more? For every megawatt of installed solar, wind, and biomass from the NDP plan an equal megawatt of natural gas generation will need to be installed as a backup. The sun does not always shine, and Tesla storage batteries are not mainstream yet, Mr. Speaker. The wind does not always blow, and again the storage issues of that energy are not entirely solved. So for every coal plant we pay out, we will need to build wind or solar to match it and then build a gas peaker plant to be running all the time, ready to ramp up when the wind dies down or the clouds block the sun.

Biomass. Well, it's not clear whether biomass counts, but it requires a secure supply. Given that the forest management area plans are due and have not yet been approved by the minister of environment, there is no security of biomass supply. Natural gas will be needed. The nice thing about natural gas is that next to no transmission infrastructure is needed. The gas lines are already in the ground, and the generating can occur very close to the need. Natural gas is cheap and plentiful. Thanks to fracking technology, natural gas is being found everywhere, and high prices are not expected to return.

So why would someone waste their time and money and only install renewables, without guaranteed production of electricity and with a gas backup needing to be built anyway, when they can simply divert their money into natural gas only and be guaranteed to make money?

When you drive south along highway 2, Enmax has a natural gas electric generating station installed just south of Crossfield. There are three exhaust stacks, one for each 50-megawatt unit. That's 150 megawatts installed, and more 50-megawatt units can be installed on-site. As power is needed, the units come on, and as power is not needed, the units shut down. [A cellphone rang] Mr. Speaker, I think all the members are eager to get home soon.

Mr. Speaker, these natural gas power generation units are very clean, simple, reliable, and provide cost-effective electricity.

The NDP plan to tinker with the market to drive the price of electricity up in the hope of making the renewables viable. If the renewables aren't viable, the NDP will make them viable with the infusion of taxpayers' dollars. Shades of buying shares in or entire power producers and assets outright are right here in this bill in section 8, Mr. Speaker.

Then there is the build-out of transmission lines. Ratepayers have only started paying for the Bill 50 lines that connect our coal plants. Now, how much more do we need for these renewables and gas? I assume that it's not going to be \$10 billion. It's going to be much more. Such a waste of scarce capital, Mr. Speaker.

3:20

Relying on renewables alone is not enough, Mr. Speaker. That's why we need to consult the experts and delay this bill and hear the

answers from the experts that the government is denying us. I'm certain that we can make this legislation much better than it is currently presented. That way, we all can encourage lower carbon dioxide emissions to fight climate change.

Having said that, I urge all members of all parties here to support this amendment, brought forward by my colleague from Calgary-Greenway, and help make this legislation better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Are there any questions or comments under 29(2)(a) to the Member for Calgary-Foothills? Are there other individuals? Were you wishing to speak to the matter?

Mr. Rosendahl: Yes.

The Speaker: Please proceed, Member for West Yellowhead.

Mr. Rosendahl: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member says that Albertans will be on the hook. Well, we disagree in more ways than enough. Then he talks about the cap on energy and what the cap will do to business. Well, let's be clear. The cap is here to protect business and, of course, the consumers. The consumers are the ones that we really want to protect from the spikes in the energy bill. That's why we're proposing a cap. It makes sense, and it's the important thing to do.

Also, you talk about our bad policies, too many issues, and that we didn't do our homework. Well, I disagree there, too. We consulted with the AESO, the Alberta Electric System Operator; the Market Surveillance Administrator; the Alberta Utilities Commission; Alberta Environment and Parks; Alberta climate change, plus Alberta Treasury Board and Finance. We worked with these people in putting this bill together. It's important that we consulted with these people to do that.

It's important that we protect, above all, consumers against, like I said, the spike in the energy bills. One of our key priorities is to help ensure that electricity rates remain affordable for all Albertans and to avoid the price spikes of the past. In fact, from other jurisdictions we've seen the lowest price for renewables emerging from a competitive process. In some cases the addition of renewables will reduce the market price of electrical energy.

The bottom line here is: why should we wait another six months to put this legislation into practice? I urge all the members to vote against this hoist.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Any questions for the Member for West Yellowhead under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, the Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Mr. Hunter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to stand to speak about this motion to Bill 27, the Renewable Electricity Act, and to talk about some of the concerns I have heard from my constituents. I got out a bit further than the dome and talked to some of the constituents that would be affected by this bill. Some of my colleagues on this side have talked to their people as well. We've talked about renewable energy projects being started in their ridings, and these renewable energy projects are wind farms and solar projects. I'm disturbed by the manner in which the government is overhauling our power grid.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with this House an experience I recently had that was very illuminating to me. I attended an open house where a solar company was talking to the residents of the municipal district of Taber. Representatives from that company were touting to the residents the virtues and values of having this

solar plant put up in their neighbourhood. Many of the residents at this open house were upset about the project because it was going to be an eyesore right next to their acreages, that they had invested in for their retirement. I can definitely sympathize with the reasonable concerns they expressed, and that is why I went to this open house.

I found out new information at this open house that was very concerning to me. I asked someone from the company specifically how much they can produce electricity for at this proposed plant, and they said, "15.4 cents per kilowatt hour." So then I asked, "What is Alberta's Balancing Pool buying electricity at right now?" They said, "1.2 cents per kilowatt hour." So I asked them, "Well, are you going to get subsidized to the 15.4 cents?" They said: "Absolutely not. We're only going to get an 11.4 cents per kilowatt hour subsidy." I asked for how long this contract would be, and he said that they're getting a 20-year contract. So then I asked him, "Where else have you been doing projects like this one?" He responded that they're an international company. I asked about whether they had plans to do these in Saskatchewan, and they said, "Not at this time." I said, "Would you be doing it in Alberta if you didn't have this subsidy?" Their response was illuminating. They said no.

So the real question, Mr. Speaker, is: how can the government claim they are creating jobs with these renewable electricity projects? The reality is that they're buying jobs. We'll be paying a whole whack of money – and by "we" I mean taxpayers – to pay for these international companies to come set up shop here in Alberta, which they wouldn't do unless they had these subsidies.

I want to point out some hypocrisy in this government. I personally don't judge a company based solely on its size or solely where its headquarters are located, but I've heard NDP members rage against big multinational companies, and I hear them encourage Albertans to buy local. I find it ironic that this government plans to engage in big multinational contracts, with huge implications for Albertans, to build these renewable energy projects in our province. The government is getting its money from a massive carbon tax that they are levying from everyday Albertans to pay these multinational corporations to come in and do this. It would be interesting to hear how Albertans feel about the so-called champions for the little guy and for Albertans if they knew that this is what they were doing.

But back to my story. I also asked this company what the capital injection would be from this government. Now, they didn't quite answer this question, but looking a little deeper into this, I found out that the government is going to act like a cosigner, essentially, so that these companies can go to the bank and actually get the money they need to get these projects off the ground.

Mr. Speaker, let's say that your child, fresh out of university with a student loan and not a long track record of paying back credit, goes to the bank and says: I want to buy a \$500,000 house. The bank would look at your child's track record and financial circumstances and say that they're not going to give your child any money. So the child goes to you, the parent, and asks if you'll cosign for the mortgage, and you say yes. The bank doesn't look at your child's ability to pay. The bank is now only looking at your ability to bail out your child, which you're legally required to do as a cosigner. This is a situation that these companies have been presented with. What company would say no to such an arrangement with the government guaranteeing their loan?

3:30

Without these massive subsidies these projects aren't viable to stand up on their own two feet. While this government might claim that we'll have \$10.5 billion in private investment coming in, if the

government is guaranteeing these loans and taxpayers might have to pay all that money back to the bank, that means nothing in terms of new investment in Alberta. Would that money be coming in if the government was not guaranteeing these loans? If not, would the bank be willing to give them these loans? I guarantee you, Mr. Speaker, that they would not. So this whole idea that the government is creating jobs is ludicrous.

Projects of this nature and size haven't been sustainable in any other jurisdiction. They've been a complete disaster.

Now, I'm not saying that renewables can't work. We had over 10 per cent of our grid renewable even before this government took over. Many individuals, like my colleague from Chestermere-Rocky View, have been using solar panels for years. But when the government forces massive transition like this, we are looking at a boondoggle of epic proportions in the making.

In Germany they put more than a trillion dollars into making it work there, but it didn't. Now the government of Germany is moving away from this and back to coal. For some reason this government doesn't want to look at history and learn from past mistakes. I believe it was George Santayana who first said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." We're not even looking back into the histories that far, Mr. Speaker. As we speak, people in other jurisdictions are suffering from policies like the ones this government is just introducing now.

Pursuing a 30 per cent target by 2030 is a huge undertaking, and a target that seems to have been chosen by a communications department, not an economic one. Rather than making that percentage and due date the goal, how about we make this the goal: to keep electricity prices stable for Albertans while achieving a sustainable, stable power grid? No matter what kind of shell game the government tries with our power bills, when they drive costs up, we will either pay as ratepayers or as taxpayers, Mr. Speaker.

Meanwhile Albertans are already facing this economic downturn and struggling to pay their bills. Electricity is a daily essential. People can't simply stop using it, and I highly doubt families could reduce their usage enough to not see cost increases. I'd like to see this government provide numbers on this. I hope this government will look at the situation in Ontario, the situation in Germany and tread carefully when it comes to our power grid.

I want to say one more thing before I finish. I'm disturbed by the unwillingness of the current government to engage in proper consultation with landowners who are going to be living next to the visual evidence of these boondoggles. When NDP members of this House were in opposition, they slammed the government for – and I quote the now Minister of Infrastructure – "trampling" over property owners' rights. Well, I think the members of this House should review what they've said in the past about the Land Assembly Project Area Act, the Alberta Land Stewardship Act, and the Electric Statutes Amendment Act and see if they're talking differently now because they're the ones in power and their ideology favours some forms of electricity generation over another.

With that, I think I have made my views clear today, but this discussion is not over, and I look forward to many, many more robust discussions about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Are there any questions or comments with respect to the presentation by the Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner under 29(2)(a)? The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

Mr. Loewen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I think it's very interesting to listen to this member speak because he lives in an area where there are windmills already, power-generating windmills, so I think he can speak with some experience as to the desirability of them in the community and as far as what the local people are

saying about them. It's also interesting to note, of course, that they already exist in Alberta. These are ones that have existed before Bill 27. So there's wind power already being generated in Alberta.

I think it's also interesting to hear some of the comments that he's heard from these companies that are going to be taking these projects and bringing them to Alberta: guaranteed return on investments, guaranteed prices for power. Of course, the government has put a cap on the price of power now, but what happens when these companies all of a sudden aren't making money with the price cap? Who's going to pay then, Mr. Speaker? That is what I'd like to find out. Who's going to pay for the power then?

If the companies can't make money, it would just be like a restaurant where they put a cap on the price of a hamburger. Once the price of a hamburger comes to the point where the restaurant can't make any money, what's going to happen then? The restaurant has to close, or somebody has to subsidize the restaurant to help pay for the hamburger if they want that hamburger to be produced still.

There are two ways companies can make money in this market. One is by selling electricity, and the other is by subsidies from the government. What's important to remember is that, either way, that money comes from the taxpayer, either in the form of electricity costs or subsidies to the companies to keep operating. I wouldn't mind hearing the member speak a little bit more about that. I thought it was interesting to hear the comments from the companies that he was able to talk to.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Mr. Hunter: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the esteemed Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky. He talked about windmills. After the conversation with this solar company I went to them and talked to them about other renewable projects, and I asked them if they had any track record. They said, "Yes. We have actually built one of the largest wind farms in Alberta." I said, "Well, that's great. Tell me about it." I said, you know, "Is it viable?" They said, "Well, sort of." Their answer to this was that it was only viable in the fact that if they sold into the power grid at the going rate, they had to actually sell their carbon credits to California in order for it to become viable. Even projects in the past were not viable on their own in terms of selling into a grid.

I am a hundred per cent for renewable energy as long as it's sustainable and viable, as long as it is not going to put an undue burden on the taxpayer and the ratepayer. If our technology hasn't gotten to the point where we can actually on a large scale implement these projects, then we need to wait until we have that wholesale change in technology or that advancement in technology so that we can do that. These decisions should never be based upon ideology. They should be based upon: what is the best thing for Albertans?

Unfortunately, again, I alluded to the situation in Germany and in Ontario. Those are recent examples of where ideology was placed before the economics made sense, Mr. Speaker, and I would say that after a \$1.2 trillion boondoggle in Germany we don't want to go anywhere near that kind of a boondoggle. What we're looking at, in my opinion – and this is the thing where I think that Albertans, once they start right waking up to what's going on, are going to be absolutely irate. If the government thinks that Bill 6 concerned them, I think that they're going to see a lot more concern after Albertans realize what's going on.

The Speaker: Another member who would speak to the amendment? The Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

3:40

Mr. Loewen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'd like to speak to Bill 27 and this amendment. This plan is unrealistic and adds further uncertainty to Alberta's economy and electricity market. Wildrose believes in a realistic, renewable energy program, driven by private-sector investment, not government subsidies. Thirty per cent by 2030 is a plan that requires over \$10 billion of added private investment, but the PPA debacle, which was created by the government's carbon tax, has created investor uncertainty in Alberta's electricity markets and all across the economy. That's why these companies need subsidies, or guaranteed prices, in order to operate.

Ratepayers in other provinces have been promised painless accelerated transitions to renewables, only to see either government-funded bailouts or increased rates on their power bills. Ontario is a prime example of this kind of mishandling, and this government is determined to go down the same route as Ontario.

Phasing out coal earlier than federal timelines, regardless of technological improvements that have made our coal as clean burning as natural gas, is the wrong decision and an expensive one. To think that the plan is to pay billions of dollars to shut down clean-burning coal and replace it with natural gas is ludicrous. The government is committing to an arbitrary target of 30 per cent with no data or analysis to say whether that figure is realistic and at what cost and what the effects will actually be on the environment. This legislation is needed because renewables cannot get to 30 per cent in a free-market situation, which, of course, means that legislation will inevitably drive up costs to families and businesses, not to mention that this is unfair to existing renewables because they won't get this special treatment.

Phasing out coal early is a costly decision because we will have to pay generators for stranded assets, then pay them again for new gas production to serve as a replacement baseload. The previous federal phase-out plan left no stranded assets as the generators were allowed to run out the lifespan of their plants.

Now, we have been waiting for recommendations of the report advising the government on costs and the timeline for phasing out coal. One report, we've heard, says that it'll cost about \$8 billion to phase out coal, but once again this session we're being asked to debate legislation without hearing back from the high-priced panel that was commissioned with the task of determining the legislation's viability. Again, as usual, we have not seen the plan for coal-dependent communities and how they will be transitioned toward new industries.

There isn't a requirement to consider the economics of an electrical project under this bill or the need for that electrical project. Electricity should be generated in response to market demand, which includes ratepayers voluntarily choosing retailers who offer a portion of renewables. This legislation involves far-reaching government involvement, which, as we've seen, is never helpful. The renewables this government is considering have failed around the world. Why must we go down these same twisted and harmful trails? Can't we learn from others' past experiences?

There are other things. Why is this government so dedicated to destroying investor confidence that would create so much investment and jobs for Albertans?

Mr. Speaker, when this bill was introduced, the minister said this: "It also helps to diversify our economy and create jobs while protecting Alberta's environment." Well, there's one thing for sure: we have seen absolutely no evidence of any of those statements because we've seen no impact assessments. We've seen no reports. We don't know the cost this bill will cause. Where's the analysis? It's truly a wait-and-see bill. "Yeah, it sounds good. Let's do it. Let's pick some arbitrary numbers. Let's throw some ideas together

and see what happens." Well, I don't believe that Albertans want us to gamble on their future, on their jobs, on their families, and what this will cost.

Again, this plan is going to require over \$10 billion of private investment. Of course, we don't even know exactly how much. That's just a figure that we've picked because we haven't seen any reports. We haven't seen any analysis. Now, we know what's happened in other provinces, the damaging effects of going down this road without truly understanding the costs and the impacts that it will have. We look at places like Ontario that, of course, went down this route. Now they're backtracking. Now they're trying to find ways to solve the problems that they created. But this government wants to carry on and do the same thing.

This amendment makes sense. Why not take the time to get the report, do some analysis, and see what's actually going to happen here, what the possible effects are?

Now, Mr. Speaker, this government is just picking numbers out of the air again. No analysis, no facts, nothing that we can go on: over and over again we see this with this government. They say that some of these policies they have are supposed to bring stability to the marketplace, but every single thing has actually brought instability – no investor confidence anymore, investor confidence that would add jobs. They sue power companies. Do you think that's a good selling feature for getting companies to invest in Alberta? Lawsuits and talking about retroactively changing contracts? I don't think it sends a good message, not a good message at all.

Now, they talk like there was never a plan to phase out coal already. The federal government did have a plan to phase out coal over time. It wouldn't have left any stranded assets that would've been the responsibility of the taxpayer to pay for. That was actually a plan that wasn't going to cost taxpayers' money. That was clear.

But, Mr. Speaker, this government again is jumping into things that they don't understand fully. They're running by the seat of their pants. They continue to try these experiments, and these experiments are costly to Albertans, to families: over a hundred thousand jobs lost since this government came into power, and no plan to change that.

Mr. Speaker, I think it only makes sense that this government take the time to look at this properly and see what the effects will be. There's no protection for the consumer, for the taxpayer that will be on the hook for this. Nothing. Can you believe that we'd be considering a bill where there's no requirement to consider the economics of a project before it's approved? Does that make any sense? I don't think it makes any sense to Albertans.

Now, one of the members opposite – I think it was the Member for West Yellowhead – gave a list of who they consulted on this. You know who I didn't hear on that list, Mr. Speaker? I didn't hear "Albertans." All sorts of companies, of course, would love to jump in and have a guaranteed return on their investment because they build these things. You know, if I was building these things and you came and asked me if I thought it was a good idea, I'd tell you: "Yeah, it's great. Sign me up." No Albertans were consulted on this. Six months would give that time.

We have a government here that's losing popularity fast. I think that if we look at the last federal by-election, we can easily see that. That was, of course, close to your own riding, Mr. Speaker. Right there, in fact.

3:50

An Hon. Member: One per cent.

Mr. Loewen: They received 1 per cent – the same candidate that ran in the 2015 provincial election. That shows a lot, Mr. Speaker,

1 per cent, 1 per cent of the vote. [interjections] I mean, they were just narrowly ahead of the Rhinoceros Party, just narrowly. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. members, let the member finish.

Mr. Loewen: I think there'd be time for this government to sit back and listen to Albertans. If something like an election like that doesn't send a message to this government, if people rallying on the steps of the Legislature for multiple things and more rallies coming doesn't send a message to this government, I'm not sure what does. Obviously, all they can think of is going down the same rabbit holes that other governments went down that have caused nothing but grief to taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, obviously, the opposition hasn't had much success in getting the government to step back and do some research, provide the research to this House and to Albertans. Over and over again they expect us to pass bills with no economic impact study, no study on what the effects will be on the economy, no effects of what it'll do for the environment. Nothing. Over and over again this government comes up with these plans without any research to back them up.

Of course, you know, through a FOIP document we did find something about the carbon tax that the government had researched. It wasn't a very good response that they got to that, but of course they didn't provide that though we asked for something multiple times in this House. They pretended like it wasn't there. Obviously, it was. Over and over again, Mr. Speaker, the same thing: this government continues to pass bills in this House without the information to make an informed decision. Now, there's a possibility that if you had this information, maybe Albertans would buy into it, but I don't think so. Otherwise, the information would be here, but it's never here.

Now, obviously, Mr. Speaker, the best way for electricity to be generated is in response to market demand. People will buy; people will sell. The government having to get its hands in everything – and that's another thing this bill does. It allows greater intervention by government. I don't believe that's helpful. I don't believe that Albertans think that's helpful either.

We don't have an idea of the costs. There must be some studies out there on what's available right now for electricity and how much is needed and how much they plan to create and at what cost. These companies are already going around to places in Alberta and discussing what their plans are. Why don't we have those plans? Why hasn't the government compiled those and brought them to this House so that we could see what the cost is going to be and see how it's all going to work? This is an incredibly complicated system, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Were there any questions to the Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky? The Member for Calgary-Foothills.

Mr. Panda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's really very informative and educated information whenever my esteemed colleague from the outstanding riding of Grande Prairie-Smoky gets up and tries to hold the government to account. I see the heckling, but there is no information coming forward on the questions he's asking about economic impact analyses or evidence or consultations. I can understand them heckling us being the Official Opposition, but today even our colleague from Calgary-Mountain View, an experienced legislator in this House, asked the same questions. Kudos to him. In fact, it was music to my ears because I never saw him asking the kind of tough questions he had, but it's great to hear him asking those questions. That's our job.

We talked about polls. I don't want to go into that, you know. We can look at recent polls in Calgary-Foothills or Calgary-Greenway or other polls. I don't want to go into that, but I'm curious to ask my colleague about this amendment we are debating here and the points he raised about analysis. Also, to me, personally, based on my own observations here and the information I'm getting from my constituents constantly by e-mail and phone call, they're saying that the government appears to be tinkering with the market just to drive up the price of electricity with an intention to make renewables viable. That's the observation by many Albertans these days, Mr. Speaker.

I'm curious to ask my colleague from Grande Prairie-Smoky if he heard the same thing in his area of northwest Alberta and if he had any further success when he talked to the members opposite in private discussions, you know, if they were able to provide any evidence or analysis so all of us can make an informed decision. Really, if renewables are going to be meeting the target of replacing coal-fired electricity in a timely fashion, with no further economic impact to the taxpayers, maybe then we all will be open to supporting the bill. We are looking for that information. I'm curious to ask my esteemed colleague: what are his thoughts are on that? If he can finish his thoughts on that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Loewen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for the questions and comments there. You know, when I talk to my constituents about these things – my colleague used the word “tinkering,” and I think he's being kind when he uses that word. Tinkering would signify something small, but it's not small. What the government is doing are enormous overhauls of the Alberta economy. The carbon tax, \$3 billion: I'm sorry, but that's not tinkering. That's meddling heavily. That's interfering. That is not helpful to the Alberta economy. Making things more expensive here as opposed to other jurisdictions around us is not helpful. That doesn't help investment on a large scale or a small scale.

Living in the Peace Country, we see a lot of British Columbia plates – lots of them – at all the stores: Costco, Walmart, Staples, and Home Depot. Why do you think they come to Alberta to shop? Taxes, Mr. Speaker.

4:00

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. members.

Dr. Swann: Mr. Speaker, I won't belabour issues, but I'm pleased to speak to the second reading on this important bill, Bill 27, and enthusiastically support this in principle. This is the second reading. This is where we talk about the principle of the bill. Generally in third reading we talk about the details of the bill and how it might be implemented and what some of the problems . . .

The Speaker: Hon. member, just for clarity, you're on the amendment.

Dr. Swann: We're on the amendment. I will be speaking against the amendment. This is a critically important time in Alberta history. You know, we are almost the last ones to the game here in Alberta. The rest of the world is going on way ahead of us. I was wanting to just illustrate that by some numbers from the United Nations environment program which indicate public market investment in renewable energy was up 21 per cent last year, \$13 billion. This is a market that is booming. This is an investment opportunity that's growing. It is recognizing that we are moving on

from a fossil fuel dependent province to something that's a better mix. Obviously, we're going to need fossil fuels for decades, but let's start, at least, to make a serious commitment to renewable energy.

So let's not toss this bill out quickly. We are being asked to support, in the first phase, 400 megawatts of renewable energy in 2017 on a competitive bid process. There's nobody that's going to build new renewables without a longer term commitment, and we don't want people to bid without a competitive bid process. So if we want to see any start, any indication to the rest of the world that we're serious about shifting our energy dependency from coal-fired power to renewables, let's start now.

There may be many details that are untenable, depending on how this market unfolds. I agree in many ways that we haven't been given the details that we need to ensure that the energy that we are going to be paying for is competitive and that it's not going to cost more. But, frankly, as somebody who has been waiting for legislation for 12 years in my own political life and even before that, before I got into politics, we have to start making progress not only to convince our partners in Canada as well as internationally that we're serious about climate change but that we see the writing on the wall for energy savings, cost savings in the long term, jobs.

Increased numbers of jobs will be associated with renewable energy – that's a fact – two to three times more jobs associated with renewables than with the traditional fossil fuel energy. When people like our esteemed Calgary Economic Development director speak so positively about the opportunities even in Calgary to start moving in this direction for jobs and diversifying our economy, becoming less dependent on this single resource, I think we have to take notice. I think my concerns, like many, are that if we lose control over this building and if we, as a result of going too quickly, don't attract either the investment or have to start subsidizing investment because of artificial targets that aren't met with the phase-out of coal, then we're all going to be very uncomfortable with what happens in an already difficult economy.

But this is the time to talk about, in my view, the important message we're sending if we're now talking about the principle of the bill, slamming it at this level and punting it at this level without talking about all the dimensions that we need to, including how it's going to be, what the bidding process is going to be like, how much we're going to have to subsidize in some cases if the price is too low. If the price of electricity continues to be as low as it is, there is no question that those who are in contracts to produce renewable energy are going to have to be subsidized because they are going to have to make some money over the next 20 years or they're not going to build. That's just the reality.

Frankly, I'm willing to pay, as the Stern report from the U.K. has said, 1 per cent of GDP today so that my children don't have to pay 20 per cent of GDP to deal with the extreme weather events, the new infectious diseases, and the massive migration of people that are going to be coming here looking for a place to stay because they are flooded out of their own homes and can't get the access to the resources. I am willing to pay more to try and make sure that we move along this line.

This is a baby step, folks. This first 5,000 megawatts particularly is a baby step. Let's make sure that we don't throw out the baby with the bathwater. Let's give this a chance to see what it can do. We obviously don't have all the facts, but we're going to have to hold it accountable. We're going to have to have checks and balances. We're going to have to see what the timelines are with the coal phase-out.

But let's get serious about what is the most serious threat according to many institutions, including the United States Defense department. It says that global warming is the most serious threat to

stability on the planet today. That's pretty impressive when the United States Defense department says that this is something that we have to get serious about.

I misspoke, Mr. Speaker. It's only 400 megawatts at the first bidding. I said 5,000. It's a 5,000 surplus. That's what we have right now, and that will be keeping our prices so low, but it's 400 megawatts that's actually being proposed in the first competition.

I just wanted to get my views on the record because it sounds so negative right now. We can see the holes so far in the lack of detail, the lack of costs and benefits and how it's going to work in terms of sequencing, but I guess at this stage in the debate, pending more information, that I'm hoping we will see over the course of this debate, I am in principle very much in support of finding a way to move forward on renewable energy for our sakes and for future generations and for the sake of our pipelines. This seems to be an issue for much of Canada, that Alberta has not been responsible in managing its carbon, has not been responsible in enforcing good environmental regulations, has not been responsible somehow in ensuring that the health of the environment, which is the basis of our economy, has to be paramount if we're going to have an economy and if we're going to have a healthy population.

I will be voting against this amendment, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Under 29(2)(a)? Cardston-Taber-Warner to the Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

Mr. Hunter: Yes. I was interested to hear the points made by the Member for Calgary-Mountain View. He says that he's very much willing to pay more, but the question this House has to ask is: are we willing to tell other Albertans that they have to pay more? My question to the member is: are you so sure that you are right that you are willing to trump the 80 per cent that are against this and tell them that they have to pay more for their price on electricity?

Dr. Swann: Well, that's a fair question, Mr. Speaker. I've wrestled with this ever since I got into the Legislature. The population of Alberta in certain polls has said that they want to see business as usual. What does leadership look like when you see the writing on the wall and you see that many Albertans are not fully informed? In this case none of us are fully informed about the details of this issue. I guess they elected me to lead, to represent not only their interest but their children's interests. They elected me to ensure that I looked not only at short-term economics but the longer term economics and environment and health. That's part of the reason I was a champion for getting coal out of our electricity sector.

4:10

I think the question has not been asked: how much would you be willing to pay to ensure a better future for our children? It's usually presented to the population as, "Are you willing to pay substantially more for cleaner energy?" without saying what the health impacts might be and what the long-term impacts will be in terms of our pipeline opportunities. It's always a black-and-white question that seems to be asked in polling without kind of the nuances that people, I think, need. "Well, compared to what? What benefits am I going to get, and what costs am I willing to pay?" It's a much more complex question than just: are you willing to pay more or less for your electricity? It's kind of like asking people: are you willing to pay more taxes? Well, very few people will say yes unless it's going to deliver something more to their lives.

It's a difficult question. We have to wrestle with it as legislators. Are we going to kind of follow the polls, or are we going to actually lead on something that we know at a very deep level has been neglected for many years, particularly in Alberta, where we have the technology, we have the money, we have the smarts, we have

all the resources we need to lead on this issue rather than be dragged along with the rest of the world, that are moving way ahead? As I mentioned, the UN environment program indicated a very substantial increase in renewable investment all over the planet. People are looking for business opportunities not only because it's making money for them but also because it's moving us in the right direction as a planet.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Any other questions under 29(2)(a)? The Member for Calgary-Greenway.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View. That is very, very important and insightful information that you shared, those data. I'm not saying that we're against that. All the intent of this amendment is: let's call a time out because we have seen the behaviour of this government. We have seen the behaviour of this government on Bill 6, on the MGA, on the carbon tax. Can we consult on it with the stakeholders? That's the whole idea. Just delay it six months so that we can consult. Every single Albertan will be impacted. We recognize climate change, and we recognize that this is important. The whole world is going towards this direction, and we need to be there. I understand that, and we support that. All I'm saying is: why is the hon. member opposing that we do more consultation, sir, if I may?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. Swann: I wasn't going to speak about Trump, but I guess I have to. He has thrown a wrench, I think, into a lot of our thinking and planning. He has certainly raised a lot of questions about how competitive we're going to be. If the coal industry gets a huge spur from Trump in the States, it raises real questions about our ability to compete in our own petroleum industry, and it highlights, again, our overdependence on the U.S.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

The hon. Member for Banff-Cochrane.

Mr. Westhead: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to seek unanimous consent of the House to move to one-minute division bells for the remainder of the afternoon.

[Unanimous consent granted]

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

Mr. Hanson: Yes. Just speaking to the hoist amendment still.

The Speaker: Yes. You have not spoken to the amendment yet?

Mr. Hanson: Not to this hoist, no.

I just want to quickly, you know, reaffirm that what we're looking for is a six-month delay in processing this bill at second reading. It puts us into May. We'll be back in the House in May for sure. What can happen in six months? Can people change their minds about green energy? Absolutely they can. I spoke earlier about how in March of this year the Ontario government announced a 1,000-megawatt project in green energy – wind, solar, and hydro – and all of sudden in September: whoops; let's stop this. They announced in September that they're getting out of the renewables industry because it's just not profitable and it's costing Ontario, especially in the opinions of Ontarians toward their government, some pretty heavy costs. The Premier actually got on record apologizing to consumers in Ontario. This is what can happen in six

months. It happened in Ontario. You go from a 1,000-megawatt project to: we're shutting down our investment in renewables. All we're asking is to take a step back.

We say that we're here looking out for the best interests of Albertans, so why don't we do that? Let's take six months. Move this bill to the spring session. We can have a second look at it, and maybe during that time we can do some consultation with some people that aren't actually in the renewables business, talk to people that will be affected by it instead of the people that will profit from it. If those are the only people that you've consulted with, that's a little one sided.

I spoke also about the European countries. I mean, we don't have to look very far. We don't have to do very much research. You can get on the news wire. You can get on the telephone and call other jurisdictions and see how things are working out for them. Germany is going back to coal. Why is that? Because the wind turbines and the infrastructure are too expensive. They're not providing a good service to their citizens. Germany has a population of 80 million people. They've got a lot more tax base to work from than our entire country, let alone our province. They have 20 times the population of the province of Alberta. They can't afford to do it with their tax base.

What is it that makes our government think that they're so much smarter than the people in Ontario, so much smarter than the people in Germany, so much smarter than the people in Sweden, so much smarter than the people in New Zealand? All these people are going away. Oh, you're shaking your head yes. You're all that much smarter than all of those people. That is amazing. [interjections] Well, that's just plain arrogance.

The Speaker: Through the chair, please.

Mr. Hanson: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I will address the Speaker.

We have an opportunity here. Not to scrap the bill, okay? Everybody agrees that green energy is something that we can invest in, something that the private sector should invest in. But if we have to start subsidizing the solar industry and the wind industry and hiring companies from Ontario and manufacturers from outside of the country, how is that going to benefit Albertans other than the odd job for a labourer here or there? It's not going to benefit us at all.

We need to take six months for some sober thought, take some time for consultation, take some time to do some research into other jurisdictions. Maybe there's something that they've done that's failed that we can do differently. I don't know. But until we have that conversation, we're just guessing and going ahead blindly.

I remind the House that there's a project planned for my area. You know, you talked about consultation. Nobody was consulted. Suddenly a landman from a company from Ontario showed up, started banging on farmers' doors trying to make deals with them to sign contracts. He actually lied to them, said: "Well, your neighbours have all signed. You're going to miss out if you don't sign." People are smart enough to say: "You know, I'll wait. I'll talk to my neighbours first." Then they go talk to the neighbours and find out that he told them the same story. Absolutely nobody has signed out of 75 quarter sections of land that they want to put 90 wind turbines on. Nobody has signed an agreement with them. They didn't even come and consult with the county before they started knocking on doors. Is that consultation? As I said, he didn't have a whole lot of luck.

I don't believe my constituents want this project. I think they've been very clear on that, especially without any real plans or numbers showing that wind turbines are even feasible in our area. There aren't any in our area. There are some in southern Alberta,

the Pincher Creek area, where it's windy all the time. Wonderful. You know, I've lived up in my area for 50 years plus, and I don't see it being a place that could sustain wind turbines of any sort. It looks to me like it's a blind investment. It's only going to be there – as was said before, a private-sector company would not be investing without heavy subsidies from the government. Is that good planning, just throwing money into something because it's an idea and idealistic? It's ridiculous, right?

4:20

Why are we doing this? If there was such a profit to be made in green energy here in this province, up in my area, the people in my area would be building windmills on their own – I can guarantee you that – just like they do when it comes to oil and gas. We talked about this in the other bill, where small, innovative companies sprout up. You have a geologist and a petroleum engineer get together, and they have an idea. They go take over some fields that the other companies have walked away from and start building that up, and you end up with a company as big as Canadian Natural Resources, that started out just that way, innovative and willing to take a risk. They didn't ask for government subsidies.

We need to leave this to the public sector. Take six months and do some real research, do some real homework, make sure that this is what's right for Albertans before we just start throwing their money. Even if you use money from the carbon tax for the green slush fund, it's still Albertans' money. You're taking \$3 billion out of our economy to put into this stuff so that companies from Ontario can come here and install it and take the money home. Fabricators from other countries that are building the steel in the wind turbines can send their material over here and take their money home. That's going to take \$3 billion in investment out of our province every year. Again, everybody shook their head yes, so I have to assume that they still think that they're smarter than Ontario, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, all of these countries.

An Hon. Member: We're learning from other people's mistakes and moving forward on that. [interjections]

The Speaker: Quiet, please.

Mr. Hanson: Please, yes, why don't we learn from other people's mistakes? Why don't we? We're clearly learning from Ontario and Saskatchewan's mistakes when it comes to voting.

What I ask everybody to do is please vote in support of the hoist motion, put this bill back to May. [interjections] It's funny that you always want to yap but you never stand up and talk to anybody.

The Speaker: Hon. members, point made.

Mr. Hanson: Anyway, if I could get everybody to vote in favour of the hoist motion. If you're really interested in protecting the interest of Albertans, support the hoist motion. Thank you.

The Speaker: Are there any questions for the Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills under 29(2)(a)?

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Under 29(2)(a)?

Mr. Sabir: Yeah. Under 29(2)(a) it's my understanding that I can have a brief comment relating to the member's statement and a question, so I will have a brief comment, in the interest of time. We are almost at the end of the day.

In his comments the hon. member used the example of Germany, that Germany is moving back towards coal because renewables are

not working. Well, in Germany over the last four or five years the portion of renewable energy has increased. The reason they might go towards coal is that they have put a plan in place that they will retire all their nuclear plants by 2022. With that plan they have also stated that they will move towards a target of 80 per cent from alternative, renewable resources by 2050. These are just simple facts. [interjections] Yes, they're entitled to their own opinion but not to their own facts. That's the comment.

Mr. Hanson: After having the opportunity of actually visiting Germany over the last couple of months and talking to people there, actually talking to people, asking them what they think of their green energy program, the real people, the people that are paying the bills – they're actually not even repairing wind turbines because they're not profitable and cost too much to maintain. When the thing breaks down, they just leave it hanging there unless they can steal a generator off it or one of the propellers off it to supplement one, to get another one going. Once they've robbed all the parts off of it, they tear the thing down. They're still paying for the footprint on the land because of the infrastructure, but the units themselves, they're finding, are too expensive to maintain to justify the feeble amounts of power that they do get out of them when the wind is blowing.

Yes, they are replacing their nuclear power plants with coal. So we're going to shut down our coal and build turbines. It's like we're swimming – have you ever tried to swim upriver? That's exactly what we're going to be doing, sir, in the next six months.

All we want to do, Mr. Speaker, is move this bill to the spring session, give the government a chance to do some real research and some real consultation with people other than those that are going to profit from this bill.

Thank you, sir.

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

Is there anyone else who would like to speak to the amendment? The Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much. I recognize that we're late in the day here, but Albertans pay us to be here right till 4:30, so let's be here right till 4:30, shall we?

The fundamental question here is: do we as an Assembly, do Albertans and we on Albertans' behalf want to address climate change or not? Do we believe it's a problem worth addressing? If so, how are we going to do that? What tools are we going to use? What's the most cost-effective way of doing that? I think we do want to address climate change, and I think that even though we have a new administration coming in in the U.S. that appears to be sending very strong signals that they don't want to, that doesn't mean that we as Albertans don't have an obligation to do something.

Now, that raises the question: what is something? What should we do? The real question then is: do we trust the government? Not really is the short answer if you ask me. I don't really trust the government because if you were to ask the government, everything is fine. They're willing to enter into lawsuits that scare away investment, and while we sit here, they're in the process of announcing a settlement. I understand that there's about a hundred million dollars that is coming from the climate leadership plan that is going to go into coal-fired power phase-out. I don't know if that's a smart idea or a bad idea. I've no idea. But I don't really necessarily trust the government.

I'm not sure I trust the opposition either, though, because I'm not convinced of their sincerity that they would like to tackle climate change. I imagine that's a topic of some debate within their caucus.

I don't think there's a universal belief within the caucus as to whether or not they should. There are some who believe climate change is real and human caused, there are some who believe that we ought to do something about it, and there are some who don't believe that and think we ought to not do anything, that we should let the ice caps melt.

So, you know, I will be voting against the amendment. I will likely support the bill in principle, to the great disappointment of my good friend from Calgary-Greenway. I will bring some amendments, I think, once we get to committee. I have questions

about the target of 30 per cent, I have questions about where the money is actually coming from for this, and I have questions about the minister's control.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will return to my seat and see if we can vote.

The Speaker: I think it is 4:30, and the House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Monday.

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

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

Activity to Thursday, November 24, 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*)

Committee of the Whole — 1939-41 (*Nov. 22, 2016 aft.*), 2009-24 (*Nov. 24, 2016 morn., adjourned, amendments introduced*)

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.*), 1915-22 (*Nov. 22, 2016 morn., passed*)

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.*), 1971-77 (*Nov. 23, 2016 morn.*), 1994-2006 (*Nov. 23, 2016 aft., passed*)

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.*), 1944-57 (*Nov. 22, 2016 aft.*), 2038-47 (*Nov. 24, 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*)

Third Reading — 1941-44 (*Nov. 22, 2016 aft., 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*)

Third Reading — 1959-60 (*Nov. 23, 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.*), 1922-26 (*Nov. 22, 2016 morn.*), 1992-94 (*Nov. 23, 2016 aft., passed*)

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

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

Second Reading — 1960-66 (*Nov. 23, 2016 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1966-71 (*Nov. 23, 2016 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 2007-09 (*Nov. 24, 2016 morn., passed*)

Bill 32 — Credit Union Amendment Act, 2016 (Ceci)

First Reading — 1990 (*Nov. 23, 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]

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