

### Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature Second Session

# Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, December 1, 2016

Day 56

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

#### Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 29th Legislature

Second Session

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

Aheer, Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Rocky View (W)

Anderson, Shaye, Leduc-Beaumont (ND)

Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (W)

Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (ND)

Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (W)

Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (ND),

Deputy Government House Leader

Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne (ND),

Deputy Government House Leader

Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (ND)

Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (ND)

Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP)

Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (ND)

Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (ND)

Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (W),

Official Opposition House Leader

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Government Whip

Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake (W),

Official Opposition Deputy Whip

Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (ND)

Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (ND)

Drever, Deborah, Calgary-Bow (ND)

Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC),

Progressive Conservative Opposition Whip

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Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (PC)

Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (ND)

Fildebrandt, Derek Gerhard, Strathmore-Brooks (W)

Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (ND)

Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)

Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (ND)

Gill, Prab, Calgary-Greenway (PC)

Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (ND)

Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (PC)

Grav. Hon. Christina. Edmonton-Mill Woods (ND)

Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (W),

Official Opposition Deputy House Leader

Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (ND)

Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (ND)

Horne, Trevor A.R., Spruce Grove-St. Albert (ND)

Hunter, Grant R., Cardston-Taber-Warner (W)

Jansen, Sandra, Calgary-North West (ND)

Jean, Brian Michael, QC, Fort McMurray-Conklin (W),

Leader of the Official Opposition

Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (ND)

Kleinsteuber, Jamie, Calgary-Northern Hills (ND)

Larivee, Hon. Danielle, Lesser Slave Lake (ND)

Littlewood, Jessica, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (ND)

Loewen, Todd, Grande Prairie-Smoky (W)

Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (ND)

Luff, Robyn, Calgary-East (ND)

MacIntyre, Donald, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (W)

Malkinson, Brian, Calgary-Currie (ND)

Mason, Hon. Brian, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (ND),

Government House Leader

McCuaig-Boyd, Hon. Margaret,

Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley (ND)

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McLean, Hon. Stephanie V., Calgary-Varsity (ND)

McPherson, Karen M., Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill (ND)

Miller, Barb, Red Deer-South (ND)

Miranda, Hon. Ricardo, Calgary-Cross (ND)

Nielsen, Christian E., Edmonton-Decore (ND)

Nixon, Jason, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre (W),

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Panda, Prasad, Calgary-Foothills (W)

Payne, Hon. Brandy, Calgary-Acadia (ND)

Phillips, Hon. Shannon, Lethbridge-West (ND)

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Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie (W)

Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (ND)

Rodney, Dave, Calgary-Lougheed (PC),

Progressive Conservative Opposition House Leader

Rosendahl, Eric, West Yellowhead (ND)

Sabir, Hon. Irfan, Calgary-McCall (ND)

Schmidt, Hon. Marlin, Edmonton-Gold Bar (ND)

Schneider, David A., Little Bow (W)

Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (ND)

Shepherd, David, Edmonton-Centre (ND)

Sigurdson, Hon. Lori, Edmonton-Riverview (ND)

Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (W)

Starke, Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC)

Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (W)

Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (W)

Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (ND)

Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)

Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (W)

Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (ND)

van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (W)

Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (ND),

Deputy Government Whip

Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (ND)

Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (W)

#### Party standings:

Wildrose: 22 Progressive Conservative: 8 Alberta Liberal: 1 Alberta Party: 1 New Democrat: 55

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Oneil Carlier Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

Joe Ceci President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance

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Irfan Sabir Minister of Human Services

Marlin Schmidt Minister of Advanced Education
Lori Sigurdson Minister of Seniors and Housing

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#### Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Coolahan Deputy Chair: Mrs. Schreiner

Cyr McKitrick
Dang Taylor
Ellis Turner
Horne

# Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Chair: Mr. Sucha Deputy Chair: Mr. Schneider

Anderson, S. Hunter
Carson Jansen
Connolly Panda
Coolahan Piquette
Dach Schreiner
Fitzpatrick Taylor
Gotfried

# **Standing Committee on Families and Communities**

Chair: Ms Goehring Deputy Chair: Mr. Smith

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

# Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Shepherd Deputy Chair: Mr. Malkinson

> Cooper Littlewood Ellis Nixon Horne van Dijken Jabbour Woollard Kleinsteuber

# **Special Standing Committee on Members' Services**

Chair: Mr. Wanner Deputy Chair: Cortes-Vargas

Cooper McIver
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Jabbour Schreiner
Luff

# Standing Committee on Private Bills

Chair: Ms McPherson Deputy Chair: Mr. Connolly

Anderson, W. Kleinsteuber
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Drever Rosendahl
Drysdale Stier
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#### Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Ms Fitzpatrick Deputy Chair: Ms Babcock

Carson Loyola
Coolahan McPherson
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Goehring Starke
Hanson van Dijken
Kazim

# Standing Committee on **Public Accounts**

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# Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

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Deputy Chair: Mr. Loewen

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

Kazim

#### Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m. Thursday, December 1, 2016

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

# Statement by the Speaker Chief of Staff to the Speaker Bev Alenius

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, if I could have your indulgence for just a moment. Someone who has dedicated a lifelong career to this Assembly, Mrs. Bev Alenius, in the Speaker's office as chief of staff, is seated in my gallery yet again for another day. Beverly has made the decision to retire after a truly remarkable career of some 43 years. She began her career with the government of Alberta and found and worked her way into that neutral and austere office of the Speaker. In almost 20 years of being in the Speaker's office, Bev has proved herself a loyal, dedicated, and passionate person with a unique and witty sense of humour, which I'm sure some of you, like me, may have suffered the wrath of.

I want to sincerely thank her for her dedicated service. Bev has served with three Speakers and numerous Legislatures, with some being various shades of blue and the last with some little slight shade of orange. Bev was neutral to colour. I know I speak for all of you when I say that we could not have done our jobs without her support and guidance.

On behalf of all of the members I want to congratulate you, Beverly, for your retirement and thank you for your public service. [Standing ovation] Thank you very much.

Now, I heard a word used this morning which helped to describe yesterday's events in the House, and the word was "buoyant." I'm sure we will have a buoyant and positive ride on the river today.

#### **Introduction of Visitors**

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

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Ms Caroline Saunders, the consul general of the United Kingdom. Ms Saunders is a career diplomat with diverse experience overseas. It's a great pleasure to host her here today on her first official visit to Edmonton. The United Kingdom is one of Alberta's oldest friends and allies, and I'm pleased to say that our jurisdictions continue to benefit from a very robust trade and investment relationship. The consul general's visit is a great opportunity for us to strengthen our established ties while exploring new areas of cooperation in a variety of sectors such as clean energy, low-carbon solutions, health care, agrifood, and more. Our esteemed guest is seated in your gallery. I see that she has risen. I ask all members to join me in giving her the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome. It's a pleasure to meet you.

#### **Introduction of Guests**

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Peace River.

**Ms Jabbour:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hon. members, I would like to recognize approximately 100 constituency assistants in the gallery today from across Alberta. These fabulous people are key

to the democratic process in Alberta. They allow us as members to provide nonpartisan services to our constituents. They are often the first point of contact in our communities. Their jobs are demanding and difficult, and we would like to take a moment to thank them for their dedication to all Albertans. This group is here today to participate in the annual winter constituency employee learning and development seminar, which was developed specifically for their unique roles, with the requirements that they have in mind. We're pleased to be holding this seminar in Edmonton so that following their professional development sessions, they were able to come to the Chamber and join us and see the democratic process unfold. Among this group of wonderful people are your assistants from Medicine Hat, David and Laura; my assistant from Peace River, Ada; and Page, who is from Edmonton-Manning and supports our Deputy Chair of Committees. Could I please have all of them rise to get the warm welcome of this House.

**The Speaker:** Welcome to all of you. That, I think, was a vote of thanks and appreciation.

The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Dianne Balon, who is with the Alberta Blue Cross. Dianne's career with Blue Cross spans over 30 years, and she is currently vice-president, government. Alberta Blue Cross is familiar to most people for its role as a benefit provider, but I want us to remember that they also oversee programs aimed at promoting health and wellness for all Albertans. For that work and partnership I commend Dianne and her colleagues at Blue Cross. I ask that Dianne please rise and receive the warm welcome of our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the Rotary Club of Edmonton Northeast. These folks celebrated their 50th anniversary this past February. The face of the club has changed considerably over the past 50 years, but much has remained the same. The Rotary Club of Edmonton Northeast is still known as the friendly club and as champions for children. This year they made a very generous, significant donation to the Beverly memorial cenotaph. This donation played a major part in ensuring that the oldest cenotaph in Alberta received much-needed renovations. Today the club members come from all over the capital region but are very committed to northeast Edmonton.

I'm going to ask my guests to rise as I say their names, and I'll try to do this as quickly as possible as the list is significant. Loie Unwin, Pieter Zeeuwen, Brenda Tyson, Shirley Lowe, Garry Sigmund, Christine Downey, Elaine Grant, Sean Draper. Mr. Speaker, one of our very own pages is also a member of northeast Rotary, and that's David Draper. John Younie, Amanda Slugoski, Jan Preece, Darrell Holowaychuk, Dave Birkenhagen, Kelly Baker, Shirley Smith, and Lautaro Amiune. I'd ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The Minister of Advanced Education.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Advanced Education minister I have the pleasure of leading the finest department in the public service of the government of Alberta. I'm pleased to introduce 21 of the public servants from that department who are visiting us today. These are all people who work to ensure

our higher education system is one of the best in the country, and I welcome them from the apprenticeship and student aid division, advanced learning and community partnerships, strategic and corporate services as well as the deputy minister's office and the ministerial correspondence unit. They work in a variety of roles from administrative duties to co-ordinating policy and protection of critical information. As a former public servant myself I know the tremendous pride they take in their work on behalf of all Albertans.

Today we have visiting with us Francis Marte, Raeesa Merali, Iona Neumeier, Launa LeBeau, Fahim Hassan, Diane Wishart, Sandra Poole, Michelle Ranger, Deb Ridley, Chris Winton, Cindy Holowach, Carolyn Fewkes, Guy Germaine, Kerri Hill, Melissa Kean, Corey Bodnarek, Claire Tunney, Carmen Diep, Sue Gadag, Taylor Wynn, and Evan Richet. I'd ask them to please stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

#### The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Bow.

**Drever:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions for you today. It is a pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly three individuals from a not-for-profit called HomeFront. I'll be speaking about HomeFront later today in my member's statement. With us today we have Lauretta Enders, board chair; Maggie MacKillop, executive director; Tracy Neumann, director of development and communications. I would also like to introduce Staff Sergeant Rob Davidson from the domestic conflict unit with the Calgary Police Service. These individuals were instrumental in helping me craft my private member's bill, the Residential Tenancies (Safer Spaces for Victims of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2015. I greatly appreciate their support and all the work that they do to help victims of domestic violence. Please join me in welcoming them, and let them please receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

1:40

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to introduce to you and through you my wonderful constituency staff from the magnificent constituency of Calgary Bow. Harrison Clark studied clinical massage therapy at the West Coast College of Massage Therapy in Victoria, B.C., and now is happy to be back in his hometown of Calgary, Alberta. Heather Erlen studied a double major in women's studies and political science at the University of Calgary and also works with the constituency office of Calgary-Acadia. Harrison and Heather are invaluable not only to me but also to the constituents of Calgary-Bow. I would like them to please stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

#### The Speaker: Welcome.

The Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A distinct pleasure for me to introduce to you and to the House an extraordinary group, with two representatives of the group, Parents Empowering Parents. This society was founded as a result of the crystal methamphetamine crisis that plagued the province in 2005. In 2006 their work and the work of this Legislature made Alberta the envy of other provinces when the protection of children act was unanimously brought into law. Their society is now on the front lines of our opioid epidemic, and they are working hard to present solutions for individuals, families, and this government. With us today are the vice-chair, board of directors, Mr. Craig Wehner, and the executive director, Lerena Greig. I'd ask them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Mr. Speaker, it's my great honour to introduce to you and through you to this Assembly my part-time constituency assistant, Arie deValois. I am so proud and thankful to have him as part of our team. He is a person who is understanding and truly empathetic to the situations brought to us by our constituents and whose patience is greater than that of Job. I ask Arie to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms Woollard: Mr. Speaker, it's my great pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly my cousin Valerie Tootoosis Bull. Valerie was born and raised in Medicine Hat, Alberta, and she was the first member of our family to earn both a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Alberta. Subsequently Valerie was a dedicated and inspiring teacher for many years, teaching in different First Nations schools such as Stand Off and Maskwacis and, finally, in Little Pine, Saskatchewan. Valerie worked tirelessly to promote literacy in her students and always enthusiastically supported students in recognizing, celebrating, and being proud of their culture and heritage. If Valerie and her granddaughter Kakike could please stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater.

Mr. Piquette: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly half of my constituency assistance team, Jocelyn Saskiw from Athabasca. Jocelyn is primarily responsible for handling my events planning and co-ordinating my schedules. Quite literally, without her assistance I wouldn't know whether I was coming or going. Due to her passion and dedicated work our constituency is very well served. I'm hoping she's in the House here. If she is, if she could please rise and receive the customary warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a group of staff and parishioners from Annunciation Catholic church. My guests here today are Father John Louis; Sharon Smith, fundraiser lead for the annual Annunciation gala; Paul Cavaliere, chair of the parish pastoral council; and Julien Bilodeau and Bob Smith, both co-chairs of the Annunciation fundraising committee. These very active and engaged members of Annunciation church in my constituency of Edmonton-Meadowlark do a great deal to serve their congregation and families in our community. I look forward to speaking to some of this work in my member's statement later today. I would now ask them to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for St. Albert.

**Ms Renaud:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and introduce two young men – well, they're a little older now – that I met while I was the executive director of Lo-Se-Ca Foundation. I've known these two gentlemen for many years, and I'm so proud that I've been able to be part of their lives. I'd ask them to stand: Scott Vodola, Dan Huising, and their staff Aminata. Dan Huising,

by the way, was my climbing partner on Kilimanjaro. Please give them the traditional welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Hanson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you two of my staff from the Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills constituency. These two ladies keep things flowing smoothly in my constituency and do all the paperwork. That saves me a whole bunch of time. Also, I'll take this opportunity to introduce my lovely wife, Donna, who's also up in the stands. If Sharon Christensen and Nancy Pratch-Wiebe and Donna would please rise and receive the warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to you and through you Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Cheryl Christie. Steve served for four years on the AUMA board – and included with that is vice-president of cities under a half million – and many other provincial committees. Steve is currently the chair of the Red Deer waste-water commission. He was first elected to town council in 2004 and as mayor in 2010. He's currently in his second term as mayor of the city of Lacombe. His lovely wife, Cheryl, a very efficient wife, is also my constituency office assistant. I think I'm the third or maybe the fourth MLA that she's worked for over the years, so she knows how to manage an office and sometimes me as well. Anyway, will you please stand and receive the warm welcome of the House.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through Shauna McHarg, Nick Dira, and Ali Abrahim. You may remember that Nick suffered a spinal cord injury last year, and I'm sorry to report that despite having a great attitude and tremendous perseverance, he is still having difficulties accessing the system through AHS as well as his own health files. He has run into numerous AHS roadblocks despite working with a health advocate. I will be tabling this later. For now please wave and please accept the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Airdrie.

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the greatest introduction that I will ever make in this House. It is my honour and privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly my family: Molly, Brady, and my husband, Kent. Now, they're both here today, missing a little school, but they have learned some things, and they're here to witness the live question period. They do watch us online quite a bit, and they even pound on the tables, usually only when the Official Opposition does something right. The have great respect for us all.

Now, my daughter, Molly, is in grade 3, and she's very successfully reading chapter books – we actually couldn't get her away from one last night – and this year she joined the swim club. She's trying to beat my 22-year-old record for girls' 50-metre backstroke, and she's got two more years to do it, but I'll be very proud when she's the one that replaces me on that board. Molly also has the gift of debate, and I think she just might be the future representative for Airdrie. Please pray for me in her teenage years.

Brady is in grade 1, and he is a sight word machine, very brilliant and working hard. Just this last weekend he was awarded the heart-and-hustle award at his hockey game. Now, he might have it in his back pocket, Mr. Speaker. We've caught him sleeping with it, brushing his teeth with it. He's got it everywhere. So we're very, very proud of him. I'm happy to report that Brady is a very good negotiator, which adds much to our family dynamic.

Lastly, my lovely husband, Kent. We've been married for 10 years, and he is a proud electrician who has recently actually developed our basement. Words of advice: don't let an electrician actually develop his own basement because it is brighter than the sun in there. Now, Mr. Pitt is the glue that keeps our family together, and I'm so grateful. Now I just need him to pay attention to us during the Roughrider games.

Thank you very much for being here today. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

1:50

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, I have requests for a couple of other introductions. I would seek the guidance of the House.

The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Yes?

**The Speaker:** Could we have unanimous consent to go beyond 1:50 for some more introductions?

**Mr. Mason:** If you would like me to move that, Mr. Speaker, I will now do so.

[Unanimous consent granted]

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

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly my constituency assistant, Nina Karimi. Nina is, of course, instrumental in providing the constituents of Calgary's greatest constituency, Calgary-Klein, with top-notch provincial representation. What's also equally as important is that she's really able to keep me in line. Nina, I'd like you to stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Mr. Yao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to rise and introduce to you and through you two members of our office up in Fort McMurray. They are the brains of the organization. Without them I could not function. Laila Goodridge and Carol Christian, if you'd please rise and receive the warm welcome of this House. Both of these folks have worked very hard as we've been inundated by concerned citizens that dealt with the fire. Ms Christian also lost her home in the great fire, and she continues to persevere. I thank them both for that.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, if there are no additional introductions – Little Bow.

**Mr. Schneider:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker. However, I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly one of my constituency assistants. She runs my office in Vulcan. She also keeps me in line, and that's what I let her do. Her name is Lisa Ludwig, and if she would please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

#### **Oral Question Period**

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

#### Carbon Levy Rate

Mr. Jean: It seems the NDP's desire to raise carbon taxes has no end. Here's what the Premier said: "We have never outlined that \$30 was where it was going to stop." The Premier sure talked a tough game about opposing increases a couple of weeks ago, but now there's no limit to where this government is willing to go to make Albertans pay to heat their homes, drive their cars, or pay for groceries. How much money does the Premier think Albertans need to pay in carbon taxes before enough is enough?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier. [some applause] We might need to give a little extra time to the clock after.

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, you know, it's very clear that Alberta's climate leadership plan played a critical role in the decision that is going to help Albertans that we heard about last Tuesday. It is really unfortunate the partisan games that the opposition is playing again today. Almost a year ago the Leader of the Opposition asked, "Can the Premier give us one single example of a pipeline – any pipeline – that is closer to construction or approval as a result of her quiet diplomacy?" The answer is yes, but the problem is that I have to give him two.

**Mr. Jean:** I'm sure that the 100,000-plus Albertans that are unemployed find that comforting.

The Premier said that she consulted the power industry about jacking up the carbon tax, but like just about everything the government says these days, that's not true. Enmax, the company that the government is suing, says that that's complete nonsense. They know that this is going to hit consumers extremely hard, but the NDP doesn't seem to care at all. They don't care that it will make Alberta less competitive, and they don't care that it will hurt Alberta families a lot. How can you justify this massive tax increase to the millions of Albertans who will be much poorer as a result of it?

Ms Notley: Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, I understand today that the member opposite outlined what they would do differently. Let me just review to make sure I have it clear. First, they'd burden Albertans with the power company market losses of up to about \$2 billion. Then they would subject consumers to a 900 per cent increase in electricity bill volatility. Then they'd stop \$10 billion of private investment into renewables. Then they'd replace a made-in-Alberta climate plan with a made-in-Ottawa plan, and then they'd deny the need to act on climate change. But you know what else they forgot? Number six, they'd make sure we undid the Kinder Morgan approval.

Mr. Jean: Under the NDP's plan it actually means that families will be forking out \$2,500 a year in extra taxes to pay for tens of billions of dollars in corporate welfare handouts and green slush funds for this government. Parents will be seeing busing fees jacked up for their kids, municipalities will be dinged big time – and that means higher property taxes for all Albertans – charities will be picked dry by the millions, businesses will be forced to pass their losses on to consumers, and families will be crushed by the weight of all of this NDP legislation. This will hurt people's lives. Why won't the Premier put an end to this ridiculous NDP carbon tax?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, the member opposite seemed to fail to notice that the federal government is moving ahead with pricing carbon, so we have two choices. We can go forward with our made-in-Alberta climate change plan, that is a result of extensive consultation with industry, with communities, with stakeholders, because that's what Albertans need and want, or we can hand the whole thing over to Ottawa, cover our ears, and shout angry tweets out east. But you know what? That doesn't help Albertans. We're going to do the right thing.

The Speaker: Second main question.

#### **Electricity System**

Mr. Jean: It's very clear that the NDP cares more about impressing elites than doing the right thing by Alberta's working families. When Ottawa says, "Jump," the NDP says, "How high?" as they go up. Our shutdown of coal is becoming a multibillion-dollar boondoggle. The cost of shutting down coal: \$1.4 billion. The cost to cover NDP-made losses in the power system: over \$500 million, and it won't stop there. They've made a complete mess of the whole power system in Alberta. When will the Premier put an end to this mess that she's created?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, the member opposite really doesn't get it. What this government is doing is that we are putting an end to price volatility. We are protecting consumers. We are moving forward on phasing out coal in order to protect the health and safety of Albertans, and we are injecting stability into our economy, which is allowing more investors to come back in. You know what? I'm quoting investors when I say that. Our government had a lot of heavy lifting to do, and we got to work, we got it done, and I'm very proud of that.

Mr. Jean: The NDP raised prices on power companies, and Albertans will pay for that. Now this government is asking taxpayers to bail them out. It's this government that kick-started dramatic losses in our Balancing Pool by raising taxes. They only have themselves to blame, and Albertans know it. The government continues to be in litigation against Calgary-owned Enmax, a lawsuit that is simply a lose-lose for Calgarians. Will the Premier then take the easy step of reversing the carbon tax increases on our power companies and end this ridiculous lawsuit? Yes or no?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, we are going to move forward on the plan that we have put in place, that we know is going to get results for Albertans. We inherited an electricity system that was broken. We inherited an electricity system that was about to increase costs dramatically for consumers. The members opposite want us to retain a system that would have the upper price go up 900 per cent. It is jaw-dropping that they continue to advocate for this approach. We're standing up for Alberta consumers, and we're proud of that. 2:00

Mr. Jean: By shutting down coal power, this government is taking billions of dollars of generation offline. With their new changes the NDP has created a \$25 billion gap in our system and through new legislation and new regulations will leave taxpayers vulnerable to pick up a big part of that tab. This is billions of dollars the government is experimenting with, and it's causing serious uncertainty in Alberta. Has the Premier done any assessment about how much money taxpayers are on the hook for under her new NDP plan?

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, but I'll say it yet again, what we knew is that under the plan that we inherited, Alberta consumers were looking forward to a 900 per cent increase in the volatility of their electricity bills. Ignoring that for the sake of maintaining a risky, failed ideological experience is not good governance. We decided to go for good governance, and we're very proud of that.

The Speaker: Third main question.

#### **Deaths of Children in Care**

**Mr. Jean:** Mr. Speaker, for two weeks we've been asking questions about Serenity and children in care in Alberta, and the answers have in no way been satisfactory. By now the minister should have some detailed talking points in his binder in front of him, and I will ask him a simple question, which Albertans are hoping he can answer with some detail. Will the minister tell us of two or three specific things that his ministry does differently now so that Albertans can be reassured that this government has actually learned something from the tragic death of Serenity?

The Speaker: The Minister of Human Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. I certainly recognize that it's a deeply concerning issue for everyone in this House, for me. I met Serenity's grandmother at the door of the Legislature steps last night. I can tell the member that the Premier has asked me to establish a committee, which will include members from across the aisle. We will look into this issue, and we will make sure that we have enough safeguards in place that we can prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

**Mr. Jean:** The lack of answers, any action, and specifics is very disturbing.

Let's try another minister on the same matter. Last week I asked the minister how many cases had been delayed for two years because of the mess at the office of the Chief Medical Examiner. I didn't get an answer. The Human Services website actually says that 13 children who died in care over two years shockingly had their cause of death listed as pending. Can the Justice minister please explain why five child deaths in 2014 and eight from 2015 still don't have autopsy reports or causes of death specified? Why?

The Speaker: The Minister of Justice.

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. Nothing could be more tragic than the death of a child, particularly in care. We take these things very seriously. I obviously can't speak to the specifics of any one case, but we can look into those and get back to him. The office of the Chief Medical Examiner does take these cases seriously. In some instances, as is the case here, the RCMP may ask us to withhold the report. In other instances we may be awaiting a specialist medical report. So there are a number of factors that can play into these things.

Mr. Jean: Mr. Speaker, eight questions, not one real answer.

The care of vulnerable children is one of those issues that Albertans would have thought the NDP government could actually get right. I expected that it would have been one of those places where we would have seen some real progress. Instead, we have a Human Services minister who simply doesn't get it, and we have a Justice minister that only continues to make excuses for the mess

that is the coroner's office. Is the Premier proud of the performance of these two ministers on the one issue that Albertans might have actually expected this NDP government to have gotten right?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, our government is working very hard to improve the work that we do to support vulnerable children across our province, and we have done a number of significant things. We introduced a child tax benefit, which pulled about 300,000 children out of poverty. We've introduced a school nutrition program. We've increased funding to children's intervention services by \$37 million. We increased funding to the children's advocate so that the transparency that the members opposite are looking for could be assured and grown. We have taken specific action. We will take more action. We are convinced of this, and the members opposite... [interjections]

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Hon. members, if we could stay at buoyant and not explosive, it would be really helpful.

The leader of the third party.

#### **Carbon Levy Rate**

(continued)

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our Premier once told Prime Minister Trudeau that a \$50 carbon tax was too steep for Alberta's economy. Then she told the CBC, "We don't think it's economically responsible to commit moving to \$50 a tonne when the province of Alberta is struggling as much it is right now." This week the Premier folded like an umbrella on the issue and agreed to the \$50 tax. To the Premier: why didn't you stand up to Alberta like Peter Lougheed instead of throwing us under the bus like Bob Rae?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would not stand up "to" Alberta. I would stand up for Alberta, and that's exactly what I'm doing.

You see, here's the thing. The federal government has the authority to put a \$50 carbon tax in place, so we can either accept their rules or we can implement our rules. We have put in place our rules. We said that this was something that we could move on should we get progress on pipelines. On Tuesday we got progress on two pipelines, and I know that Alberta is ready to move forward by being a responsible energy producer, getting the best price for our product . . .

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

Mr. McIver: Thank you. Alberta taxpayers and corporations are used as pawns for political posturing by the NDP. The government's own figures say that moving to \$50 will raise \$4 billion a year. That's \$20 billion over five years. Agreeing to this much higher carbon tax when Alberta hasn't even started recovering from the recession is destabilizing. The Premier has even suggested that there's no ceiling. Surely the Premier can't mean that. To the Premier: what is your upper limit for a carbon tax that Albertans will be forced to pay?

**Ms Notley:** You know, Mr. Speaker, I would certainly recommend that the member opposite read, oh, the TD Bank report on carbon pricing, read the recommendations that were made public last week by CEOs from across Canada on the value to our economy of finally

moving forward on carbon pricing, or read any of the many other reports that actually suggest that if it is done carefully, that is exactly the most effective way to reduce carbon while at the same time supporting economic diversification. That is what we're going to do. It is the responsible way to go, and the price that the member across the way is talking about doesn't come into effect until five or six years from now.

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

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier initially announced that \$20 or \$30 would be fine enough on carbon. Now she's happy to accept Prime Minister Trudeau's \$50 price tag. Oddly enough, the Finance minister has been unable to articulate a debt repayment plan even though interest payments from this government's debt will be \$3 billion a year before the next election. That's the government numbers. To the Premier: is an unlimited price on carbon your way of paying for the out-of-control spending of your government?

**Ms Notley:** Well, again, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the member opposite read our climate leadership plan, and he will see exactly what it is that we are paying for. We are paying for transitioning our economy to a more progressive energy-producing province, to more renewables, to more diversification. That's what it does, and that gets results. You know, over there we have Team Do Nothing for 44 Years, Team Angry, and Team Get Results right here.

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

#### **Provincial Fiscal Policies**

Mr. Clark: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am a proud Albertan, and I will never cheer against the province that I love. The approval of two pipelines is great news, and I will give the government their due. But lost in all the celebration is the fact that this government is making the same mistakes as governments before it. Alberta remains on the resource revenue roller coaster, with no meaningful plan to get off. We don't have an economic diversification problem; we have a government revenue diversification problem. To the Premier: do you have any plan to get off the resource revenue roller coaster, or will you simply cross your fingers and hope that the price of oil goes up?

The Speaker: Thank you.

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite sure exactly what the member opposite is asking for, but we have laid out a clear and careful plan forward for the people of Alberta. As we all know, our government was left with an economy that was deeply vulnerable to the drop in the price of oil. As a result, there were two different approaches you could take: you could cut services, or you could cut more services. What we decided to do was support Albertans, have their back, and map out a careful plan to balance, which is exactly what we're doing, and we're doing it while we're supporting Alberta families, Alberta businesses, and Alberta's future.

2:10

**Mr. Clark:** Your careful plan to balance relies on the price of oil going up and nothing more.

It is pretty clear that the NDs think the previous government must have managed finances pretty well because they haven't found any real savings since taking office. Now, the Alberta Party knows that it is possible to find at least \$2 billion in savings without firing teachers, nurses, or other front-line workers. Every sector in Alberta has to do more with less, Mr. Speaker, every sector except the provincial government. Again to the Premier: will you commit to working with the great people in Alberta's public service to find real savings without sacrificing front-line . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to report to the member opposite that under the great leadership of our Minister of Finance that's exactly what we are doing. We are getting off the roller coaster, we are not tying our spending to the price of oil, and we are carefully bringing our spending into line while protecting important public services, while protecting Alberta businesses, while protecting Albertans, and that's what we will continue to do.

**Mr. Clark:** A plan to maybe, possibly balance the budget by 2024 is no plan at all, Mr. Speaker.

The budget needs to not only be balanced, however. We need to actually get to surplus to pay back the debt that the NDP have accumulated. Now, the Alberta Party has a plan to eliminate Alberta's deficit while getting Alberta off the resource revenue roller coaster. It starts with capping the amount of resource revenue that we would use for operational expenses and allocating the rest to debt repayment and to the heritage fund. To the Minister of Finance: will you accept this plan of capping the amount of nonrenewable resource revenue we assume we're going to use . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

**Mr. Ceci:** Thank you for the question. You know, what this Minister of Finance will do is that I'll continue to move forward with the plan we had been elected on, the plan that we are moving forward with. That plan controls spending, diversifies our economy, and invests in capital infrastructure throughout this province. That plan is the right plan. Their plan would have brutally cut the services. Their plan would have cut more. I don't think the Alberta Party plan has a great deal to teach us on this side.

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

#### **Bovine Tuberculosis**

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ranchers in southeastern Alberta have been going through an incredibly stressful time since the case of bovine TB was detected in a cow slaughtered in the U.S. Some of these ranchers get one paycheque a year for their calf crop. It happens during the fall calf run. This means the CFIA quarantine of these cattle could not come at a worse time for these producers. It has caused substantial hardship and stress for the ranchers that . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member. The minister of agriculture.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government is committed to helping producers through this tough time. I've been very committed to ensuring that our government is doing what we can to support our farming families. I raised the issue with the federal agriculture minister in October and again when we were together in China a few weeks ago. I ensured that officials from my department have met with producers in the region to provide an update and address concerns related to finances, mental health, and the status of investigation. I've been in close contact with beef producers, who understand what they need in terms of resources and responses.

Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Given that these ranchers likely did not plan for the extra feed and yardage for these calves this late into the fall and given these extraordinary costs to producers already in a tough cattle market, to the same minister: will there be any financial supports for these producers?

Mr. Carlier: Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to helping producers through this tough time. Producers know that both the federal and provincial governments are stepping up with support. We'll continue to work with Alberta Beef Producers and individual ranchers to take steps to ease their financial burden. Alberta Beef Producers have said that our commitment is a bright spot in what's been a very gloomy fall and that they appreciate the steps we've taken to ease the financial burden on producers. We will work to ensure AgriRecovery funds flow as simply and quickly as possible. We will continue to listen to beef producers and affected parties.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've heard from this minister that Alberta beef is in high demand across the world, including developing markets in Asia. Given that exports are vital to our beef producers, again to the same minister: what is the government doing to assure markets that Alberta beef is safe, healthy, and the best tasting in the world?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government supports our farming families and is incredibly proud of the beef industry in this province and the product we export to the world. We do not anticipate any market disruptions as a result of this situation. Isolated cases of bovine TB are periodically reported in Alberta and other provinces.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta beef continues to be the best in the world. We all know that. I will continue to be a proud advocate to ensure that our beef is able to reach the consumers that want it. While members on the other side deride us for going on trade missions, I will always be proud of our beef and will continue to open markets abroad so that our farm families can continue to prosper.

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

#### **Electricity System**

(continued)

Mr. MacIntyre: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NDP have bitten off more than they could chew when it comes to the electricity file. Now, to make matters worse, they are legislating from crisis to crisis in an attempt to cover up mistakes. The NDP are lending the Balancing Pool hundreds of millions of dollars to cover losses from cancelled power purchase arrangements, but these losses could go on for years, so the bill has no limit. I'll give the Minister of Energy a chance to not be completely irresponsible. Just how much is this mistake of yours going to cost Albertans?

The Speaker: The Minister of Energy.

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. You know, our government inherited a volatile electricity system, and from the get-go in deregulation things weren't set up properly. The Balancing Pool was created but was not given the ability to borrow money, and it was not given the ability to stretch it out over

time, and that's the legislation we've brought forth to give the Balancing Pool some tools to manage this situation.

**Mr. MacIntyre:** Well, I've got breaking news for the minister. It doesn't matter if it's a ratepayer or a taxpayer that's footing this bill for your mistakes. It's all the same hard-working Albertans.

Given that the NDP like to use a make-policy-now, pay-for-mistakes-later approach and given that this is likely to be just the first big cost coming our way on account of the NDP's mishandling of the electricity file, has the Minister of Energy done any sort of economic study of the total cost her government's electricity plan is going to cost Albertans, and will she publicly release it?

The Speaker: The Minister of Energy.

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you for the question, Mr. Speaker. You know, doing nothing was going to cost Albertans a lot. It was going to cost over \$8 a month on their utility bills and over \$300,000 on small utility bills. We are going to settle the other PPAs. When we do have all those figures in place, we absolutely will be releasing those figures.

Mr. MacIntyre: This is just another tumbling domino in the series of changes that have had to be made since the NDP foolishly raised the carbon tax on specified gas emitters. Given that another domino is the ongoing battle with Enmax because the NDP didn't know their file and given that the NDP have yet to confirm they won't make their lawsuit go away by forcing legislation, can this Minister of Energy clarify: are you set to turn Alberta into a banana republic by enacting retroactive legislation? Yes or no?

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Mr. Speaker, thank you for the question. You know, we've come up with several announcements over the last week which tell the province about our plan. What we aren't going to do is follow a five-point plan that is going to lead to the creation of no more pipelines ever.

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

#### **Drywall Tariff**

**Mr. Drysdale:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In September this year the federal government imposed a tariff on drywall being imported from the United States to western Canada. This was based on eastern Canadian drywall companies lobbying the federal government to ensure that western Canada paid more for its drywall. Overnight the price of drywall went up in Alberta. To the Minister of Economic Development and Trade: what are you doing to work with the federal government to get these tariffs lifted and ensure that Alberta builders have access to affordable drywall?

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

2:20

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll thank the member for the very pertinent question. First of all, I want to begin by saying that, like all Albertans, I'm concerned about the potential impact of this trade dispute on the costs for families, especially those rebuilding from the Fort McMurray wildfire. However, the local industry here in Alberta and across Canada has suggested that their competitors in the U.S. are not dealing fairly, and governments have an obligation to follow up on that. So our interest is in ensuring that both producers and consumers have access to an impartial system where competing claims can be . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

First supplemental.

**Mr. Drysdale:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that even during this period of economic hardship Albertans are still building new homes and given that the rebuild of Fort McMurray will require great amounts of building supplies, to the minister: if this government is not successful in having the tariffs removed, how will this affect the cost of building new homes in Alberta?

**Mr. Bilous:** Again, Mr. Speaker, you know, we recognize that this is a very unfortunate situation. We have two different interests going on here. The federal government has an obligation when a claim has been made that there's been an unfair dumping of gypsum into the Canadian economy, so that's where they initially imposed the tariff. I can tell you that they are trying to fast-track hearings and trying to get to a resolution very quickly.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

**Mr. Drysdale:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the federal government is working to not have the U.S. government put tariffs on softwood lumber from Canada and given that the federal government put tariffs on U.S. drywall coming into western Canada, to the same minister: will you stand up for the forest and construction industries in Alberta and work with the federal government to be fair with our major trading partner?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, both the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and myself have been working very diligently on the softwood lumber file, and I've been in regular conversation with my federal counterpart, Minister Freeland, on this issue and also on the softwood lumber issue. I just want to say that, first of all, there's nothing contradictory between pursuing a remedy for softwood lumber and issuing antidumping tariffs on drywall. Both are about ensuring that Alberta businesses and consumers have fair, equal, and undistorted opportunity in markets here and internationally.

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

#### **Carbon Levy and Education Costs**

**Mr. Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. School boards are using their reserve funds to provide inclusive learning environments, and I know at least one that has had to lay off education assistants because their reserve funds have run out, so students with special learning needs are being left without critical supports that they need. Now the government with its carbon tax is making the situation much worse. Can the minister please explain to Albertans how taking money from educational priorities like inclusion by imposing a carbon tax on schools is going to help address the needs of Alberta students?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much for the question. Schools are a very, very good and appropriate place to work on the climate leadership plan because, of course, not only are we building a way by which we can help to diversify our economy, increase efficiencies in the public institutions which we own such as schools, but we are teaching important lessons. You know, I was just at a couple of school boards in the last couple of days. They're very pleased to both work on

renovations around their energy use and provide the important lessons that our children need.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

**Mr. Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if those lessons are at the expense of inclusion.

Given that Edmonton public reports that the carbon tax will take \$1.2 million this year and another \$1.8 million next year out of funding that could have gone towards inclusion and given that one school board reported to me that they receive approximately \$3 million per year in inclusion funding yet spend closer to \$7 million to address special needs, can the minister explain to the school boards across the province how they will be able to continue to support all children when the carbon tax robs them of millions of dollars that should be going to our students?

The Speaker: The Minister of Education.

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, school boards are very happy to work with us in order to work with our climate leadership plan, and they have been doing so already. To connect one program with another is entirely spurious, and it does not speak to the way that either the school boards or Education operate. It's maybe the way the opposition's logic operates, but it certainly has no bearing in reality in my schools.

**Mr. Smith:** Mr. Speaker, given that the congregated learning disabilities program in Calgary for students with special learning needs is shutting down in part because of transportation and since those students will be transferred to regular classrooms in larger schools throughout the city as satellite programs and given that these students will no longer have the safety and security found in a responsive and flexible learning environment that can adapt to their changing needs, is the Minister of Education willing to meet with these parents and explain why their children's education must be sacrificed to the ideological NDP carbon tax.

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, if this is a trend, where the opposition is going to try to attach anything that happens to be going on to the climate leadership plan, it's going to be very, very long until the Christmas break. We're working very hard for responsible decisions for our school boards. They're working together. Certainly, I'm aware of that specific question, but to even suggest that it somehow is tied to a carbon price is not only misleading, but I think it does a disservice to the way the opposition should be operating in a responsible manner.

#### **Renewable Energy Contracts**

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, a solar power company proposed in my riding illuminated some disconcerting information. This company indicated that it can produce electricity at a whopping 15.4 cents per kilowatt hour whereas the Balancing Pool is currently buying electricity at around 1.2 to 1.6 cents. I learned that this government is offering to subsidize this company at a rate of 11.4 cents per kilowatt hour or else it could not be viable on its own. Will the minister please explain how increasing the cost of electricity to taxpayers by an astonishing 863 per cent is actually in the best interests of Albertans?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm actually not entirely sure at all what the hon. member is talking about. However, what we can say is that, of course, the government of Alberta put

out a request for proposals to procure our government electricity that is currently being procured via wind. We put out a proposal to see what the competitive market might offer us in terms of solar. We've made no decisions on that matter. What I will say with respect to the economic benefits of renewables in rural areas is that a 300-megawatt project, for example, will create 300 jobs and 1.5....

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, given that this government has trumpeted the notion that companies like Enmax were engaged in contracts that were not in the best interests of Albertans and given that this government now is proposing to guarantee loans for unviable green-energy products and given that I was informed that these contracts will be for 20 years, will the minister confirm to Albertans how long these contracts will be that they are saddling Albertans with?

Ms Phillips: Mr. Speaker, it really depends on what the hon. member is inquiring about. First of all, we have said, on advice from the ISO, that we shall in fact move forward with a contract for differences of competitive procurement model for our utility-scale renewables that will make up 30 per cent of Alberta's energy for electricity, and the other 70 per cent will be natural gas, which will be procured in a capacity market situation, which we are now consulting with industry on. As for the other request for proposals that we indicated, we asked the market how much they would be able to provide to the government of Alberta in terms of our ongoing electricity...

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

**Mr. Hunter:** Only the NDP government would ask those guys what they want.

Mr. Speaker, given that projects of this nature have been colossal failures in other jurisdictions – for example, the Solyndra solar project in the United States, that left taxpayers on the hook for \$535 million in government guarantees – and given that someone needs to pay for the cleanup of these epic boondoggles, to the minister: who in Alberta will be liable for the cleanup costs should these unviable companies go under? The landowner who leased the land, the municipalities, or the taxpayer?

Ms Phillips: Mr. Speaker, only the Wildrose, the Party of No, would stand up in this House and, first of all, indicate that we don't want a market-based solution to bring renewables into this province, that we want to slam the door on those jobs, not even just Alberta-wide but in his own riding. It is shocking that they would want to slam the door on the renewables revenues for the municipalities, for the local landowners, for the entire regional economy, both in southern Alberta and in northern Alberta. This side of the House is going to create jobs and look forward to the economy of tomorrow. [interjections]

2:30

The Speaker: Thank you.

You may have passed the buoyant stage. The Member for Calgary-West.

#### **Phoenix Sex Offender Treatment Program**

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Phoenix program for treating sex offenders is world renowned. While rehabilitating sex offenders may not be politically popular, ensuring the safety of

citizens is popular, and it's the job of government. The Phoenix program helps to prevent these offenders from recommitting crimes when they are released, yet we have learned that AHS is planning to end this critically important preventative program. To the Health minister. You said that the decision about the Phoenix program took you by surprise because you don't – and I quote – make decisions about specific programs. Minister, what is your stance today on cancelling this program?

Thank you.

Ms Hoffman: The assertion that the member opposite tried to share here couldn't be further from the truth, Mr. Speaker. Our top priority is the safety of our communities. I understand that the Phoenix program has been very successful, and if there are ways to strengthen or improve the program, I think that we deserve the opportunity to have that review and determine how it might be able to move forward in an even better way. The program has been very successful, and it will continue to be very successful.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the minister has confirmed that public safety is a very high priority and given that the offenders accepted into the Phoenix program are motivated to learn skills to help them function in society and given that if they are not treated, they will be back on our streets without the tools to avoid reoffending, which puts the public, including children, at risk, again to the Health minister: since you were not initially aware of AHS's plan to cancel the Phoenix program, what are you doing to ensure that the Health minister always knows about these kinds of decisions?

Ms Hoffman: Let me be very clear. The member opposite knows nothing about the program or its future. There was a very clear point in time, at the end of the current program, to do a review and find ways to improve it. The determination on how the program is going to move forward hasn't been determined yet because AHS is in the midst of doing the review. The program will continue to exist, it will be here, and if there are ways that it can be even better and serve more people and protect an even greater population, I think we owe it to them to give them the opportunity to do that exploration. But the assertion the member opposite makes couldn't be further from the truth.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that cancelling an effective treatment program for sex offenders in a secure facility like Alberta Hospital seriously compromises public safety and given that Alberta's Solicitor General should have been aware of the plans of AHS to cancel the program, to the Solicitor General: when did you hear of the threat to the Phoenix program, and what actions did you take to stop this plan upon learning of it?

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice.

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Well, as the hon. Minister of Health has now said twice, there never was a plan to cancel the program. There is no plan to cancel the program. The program is very effective. We intend to continue the program. I never learned of it because there was no such plan.

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

#### Door-to-door Sales

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've heard horror stories from constituents, especially seniors, who got a knock on their door and were misled into signing expensive furnace leases by unscrupulous salespeople. Now I'm hearing how pleased they are that this government introduced a plan to ban door-to-door sales of household energy products. My own mother may now be able to remove the sign she has posted on her front door prohibiting long-term energy contractors from ringing her doorbell. To the Minister of Service Alberta: who does the ban cover, and what motivated this decision? [interjections]

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta.

Ms McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I certainly listen when Albertans raise concerns about consumer protection. I find it disheartening to hear that the opposition is heckling such that they don't find this an important issue. Since 2010 well over 1,000 Albertans have complained about aggressive, unsolicited door-to-door energy sales. After alarming spikes in complaints this year alone, we took action. We banned unsolicited door-to-door sales of furnaces, natural gas and electricity energy contracts . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

First supplemental.

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that I've also got independent contractors and installers in my riding, who go into homes to conduct their business, to the same minister: how will the government's ban on door-to-door energy sales impact these small businesses?

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

Ms McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again thanks to the member for the question. I am still deeply concerned that the opposition is laughing at this issue. I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to protecting Alberta's families from unsolicited, high-pressure sales tactics, but we still want to encourage good business practices. Albertans can still invite contractors and salespeople into their homes to discuss and sign a contract, certainly. In fact, many successful energy companies do not . . . [interjections] Mr. Speaker, if I could have my time back.

**The Speaker:** Hon. minister, with respect, I decide the time. Second supplemental.

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that since the government introduced the ban on door-to-door energy sales, I've heard complaints about other kinds of door-to-door sales, again to the same minister: will the government be banning door-to-door sales on other products?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll continue. I'm pleased that ATCO, Enmax, and EPCOR all joined the RCMP, the Better Business Bureau, and seniors' groups because vulnerable seniors have been the target of this particular misleading practice. I'm proud of our ban on these misleading practices. We are committed to taking action and to continue listening to Albertans. If there are other concerns about other kinds of door-to-door sales, we would be happy to hear those concerns. I encourage any Albertan who has

experienced misleading or aggressive sales at their door to contact my office, and certainly I hope . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Cooper: Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order noted.

The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

# Carbon Levy Rate (continued)

**Mr. Loewen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Imagine Albertans' surprise to learn that one of this government's orders of business was to implement a carbon tax. This is interesting as at no time was this part of their election platform. In the retail industry this is known as a bait and switch, and it's considered a reprehensible way of doing business. Now we find out that \$30 a tonne was never the ceiling. They are now using a sliding scale, and the top end is currently to be \$50 a tonne. To the Energy minister: why are you and your colleagues enacting crippling legislation that will hurt most the very communities you were elected to represent?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, our carbon pricing policy architecture is designed to ensure that we have rebates and so on. If the federal government does move forward with their plan, it will reach \$50 per tonne by 2022.

Now, of course, we have five steps from the opposition, unveiled earlier today. Step one, of course, no climate leadership plan, meaning no pipelines. Slam the door on that. Step two, have a plan imposed on us by Ottawa. Step three, continue with \$300 million in health care costs and pollute the air while not supporting the natural gas industry. Step four, make sure you slam the door on billions in renewables. Step five, don't...

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

**Mr. Loewen:** No answer to why they're entering into crippling legislation.

Things are bad in northern Alberta, Mr. Speaker, and they're getting worse. Given that the Member for Peace River made a member's statement expressing concern around northern Alberta travel issues and given that she expressed concern that those communities pay nearly 20 cents more a litre for gasoline and given that this \$50 a tonne tax will cost families an additional \$2,500 a year when implemented, how do you propose that these northern towns, one of which quoted over \$125,000 in tax increases – that's for a school division – and these counties and especially the rural school boards, who are suffering from high transportation costs, absorb the millions of dollars of increased . . .

2:40

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member. The Minister of Environment and Parks.

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, if the hon. member would like to consult the budget, we have put \$2.2 billion of reinvestment into communities over the next five years. We have moved forward with a very robust rebate program covering 65 per cent of Albertans, 60 per cent with a full rebate. Those cheques will be issued in January. In addition, we are making sure that we're moving forward with a thoughtful plan to reinvest in technology and so on to make our oil and gas industry resilient for the carbon-

constrained future, and all the while that whole climate leadership plan is getting us two pipelines.

**Mr. Loewen:** No answer on how these school boards are going to absorb these costs.

Mr. Speaker, given that no one gives like Albertans – we donate more to charities per capita than any other province – and given that charities primarily rely on our goodwill through fundraisers and donations and given that the increased cost of heating, gasoline, and other expenses, estimated by one Peace Country nonprofit to be as high as \$75,000, will greatly diminish the great work that these good people will be able to do, to the minister: how do you propose that we help the thousands and thousands of Alberta's most vulnerable, that may be turned away due to lack of funding stolen away by what amounts to an ideological sin tax on charities that . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Ms Phillips: Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, the opposition or the folks who would like us to not move forward with energy infrastructure would like to slam the door on a carbon-constrained future, would deny the science behind it and all of the new opportunities. I mean, that's just not how we're doing business on this side of the House. We have moved forward with a round-table for nonprofits to ensure that we've got the right investments of our energy efficiency dollars, which are numbering some \$645 million over the next five years, making sure those are properly invested. We've got the right programs in place for nonprofits. We have stabilized funding to schools, which the other side of the House would have cut by billions . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. minister. Calgary-Lougheed.

#### **Indigenous Peoples' Health**

**Mr. Rodney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the recently released aboriginal peoples survey one-third of Canadians did not report excellent or very good health, but alarmingly that figure rose to 50 per cent for First Nations people living off-reserve. Chronic conditions, including high blood pressure, arthritis, asthma, mood disorders, and diabetes, affect almost two-thirds of off-reserve First Nations people. To the Premier: when will indigenous Albertans enjoy levels of health and wellness that are comparable to Albertans in the general population?

The Speaker: The Minister of Indigenous Relations.

**Mr. Feehan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for what I think is an excellent question because it really reveals the fact that the government of this province and the government of Canada have failed to address the issues of the indigenous community for, well, essentially a hundred years in this province. We have finally come along to address some of the structural issues that are causing these problems, and we are doing so not only on-reserve but off-reserve by increasing child tax credits, by having school programs, and by working very closely with the First Nations communities to make true differences in their communities.

**Mr. Rodney:** Given that the same study found that off-reserve First Nations females were significantly more likely than males to report having one or more chronic conditions and given that poor health outcomes are linked to smoking, incompletion of high school education, unemployment, low household income, and other unmet health needs, to the minister: what is the government doing – please

be specific for Albertans, sir – to strengthen Alberta's nonprofit agencies that provide support for women to address these very factors?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much for the question. I want to identify that we've done a number of things specifically for women in the indigenous community. This year for the very first time we gave core funding to the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women, something that was never done by the previous government. We've also increased the amount of money being given to the friendship centres, which work with the women. We've been working across the board in every one of our ministries to institute the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples to ensure that there are changes in our curriculum, in our health programs, and in our employment programs, all of which changed the structural indicators.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Rodney: Given that the Child and Youth Advocate recommends making mental health programs more accessible in First Nations communities and given that the advocate also recommends that Alberta's mental health services incorporate cultural components in treatment strategies for young people and that Human Services, Education, and Health require professionals to have adequate training about the history of indigenous peoples, to the Minister of Advanced Education: sir, what steps are you taking to ensure that educational opportunities to achieve these competencies are available to Alberta's current and future professionals?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we continue to support the work of Advanced Education by providing predictable, sustainable funding, which we've done in two consecutive budgets, with 2 per cent increases each year. Of course, we continue to make sure that all Albertans have opportunities to achieve high-quality, affordable education by keeping tuition costs low through a third year of a tuition freeze. We continue to work with the presidents of the universities and colleges to look at the issues of access for all Albertans, particularly the rural and indigenous people of this province, and we continue to find ways to improve the system.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

# Members' Statements Official Opposition Policies

Ms McPherson: Mr. Speaker, Alberta has a brand new party, the Party of No. On a day when Albertans were breathing a sigh of relief, when surely we could all be united in feeling just a little bit more hopeful, the Party of No made an appearance. To the news that two pipelines were approved, the Party of No said that they wouldn't get built. To the news that respect and consultation with diverse voices led to cabinet approval, the Party of No said that consultation should end. To the news that approval wouldn't have come without climate leadership, the Party of No demanded that we scrap the climate leadership plan.

But that's what we've come to expect from the Party of No. No to the climate leadership plan. No to any climate change plan even if it gets us a pipeline. No to letting people speak their minds even if we disagree with them. No to investing in front-line health care instead of privatizing. No to new child care spaces. No to farm safety. No to ensuring that all kids feel safe in school. No to corporations paying their fair share, and the only thing that a flat tax flattens is nurses and teachers. And last week they said no to banning scam artists who target the elderly.

The Leader of the Opposition has gone so far as to say that he would get rid of every piece of legislation, every piece of regulation, every single thing this government has done. Mr. Speaker, you know you might be taking your job too literally when you vow to repeal the Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Day Act. So I guess we shouldn't be surprised when even just for one day the Party of No can't put Albertans before their pride and rally behind these pipeline projects and what they'll do for our province.

But no matter, Mr. Speaker. The opposition can keep being the Party of No. With this government and with this team, Team Get Things Done, we will keep moving Alberta forward.

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

#### **Bovine Tuberculosis Quarantine**

**Mr. Strankman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fifty Alberta ranchers continue to face an uncertain future due to the bovine tuberculosis quarantine in east-central Alberta. The poor communication exhibited by government agencies has left ranchers with more questions than answers. Government officials assure us that timely communication is the standard while producers are adamant that they are being left out of the loop. This must be fixed ASAP. With no long-term and only partial measures being proposed to compensate for over 10,000 head of cattle currently under orders to be destroyed, producers are left wondering what the future holds for them and their livelihoods.

2:50

While the source of the outbreak is still unknown, we have learned that it is of a strain previously unknown in Alberta. That is cold comfort to those affected, and the lack of answers compounds the problem. Every rancher in Alberta knows that they, too, could have been the victim of poor government policy, and unfortunately good people's lives are disrupted because of that.

Additionally, we know that the CFIA plans to set up a high-risk quarantine feedlot for the affected ranchers. That will alleviate some concerns, but it would further ease them if the ranchers had a firm idea of not only the timeline but accurate details for setting this feedlot up. This government needs to make sure that they have a plan to ensure that the CFIA follows through with their proposals, and I look forward to timely, comprehensive updates from our agriculture minister as well.

This unfortunate incident has been going on for over two months now, Mr. Speaker, and we have been fighting to get answers and results for our affected constituents. We will continue to do so until this crisis has passed. With 50 premises currently under quarantine, people's futures are at stake. It is our responsibility here in this House to ensure that these operations remain financially viable for generations to come.

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

#### **Annunciation Catholic Church in Edmonton**

**Mr. Carson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am very grateful to have opportunities in Edmonton-Meadowlark to build relationships and engage with many of the exceptional members of the Annunciation Catholic church, a few of which I had the pleasure

of introducing today. Annunciation church has a fascinating history as part of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Edmonton. It is one parish among 125 that stretch from the Rocky Mountains in the west to the Saskatchewan border in the east and from Olds in the south to Mayerthorpe in the north, covering over 80,000 square kilometres

The parish in Edmonton-Meadowlark was established in 1959, officially opening in 1963. Today, serving a congregation of about 2,000 families, the mission statement of the Annunciation Catholic church includes being a welcoming, multicultural parish that connects people with their faith. Their recent sponsorship of a Syrian refugee family set to arrive in Edmonton later this winter is just one example of the initiatives that Annunciation takes part in to help support families and our community. I was honoured to be a guest at their recent gala, held on October 21 at the Hotel MacDonald, to raise funds for this Syrian family of four. The decision to provide this support was very timely as 2016 was declared to be the Year of Mercy for the Catholic Church by Pope Francis.

Annunciation church serves the community in many ways, whether it's providing for those in need through their weekly emergency food bank, collaborating with other churches in the food for good gardening project, or providing community support to charitable organizations such as the Bissell Centre, the Marian Centre, and the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation. I have great respect and deep appreciation for the members of Annunciation and their commitment to bringing their values to life through acts of benevolence. Their dedication, compassion, and collective generosity to our community truly make it a better place.

Thank you

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

#### **HomeFront Services for Domestic Violence Victims**

**Drever:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to the accomplishments and dedicated work of HomeFront, a not-for-profit organization in Calgary whose mission is to "create a safe community by eliminating domestic violence through direct client services, justice coordination and facilitated community action." For 16 years this Calgary-based agency has confronted the cycle of domestic violence in the home. HomeFront utilizes a unique model of integrated services that work alongside police, justice, child and family services, probation, treatment, and community agencies. This model has proven to be very successful and has gained attention across Canada and around the world.

Helping nearly 6,000 families a year, HomeFront can celebrate the fact that 83 per cent of families who receive their outreach intervention see an end to domestic violence in their homes, and 75 per cent of charged files are resolved in docket court, with only 25 per cent advancing to trial. Simply put, Mr. Speaker, HomeFront's approach to domestic violence saves lives and has consistently proven to be a valuable model of service that is necessary in helping break the cycle of family violence.

While crafting my private member's bill, Bill 204, Residential Tenancies (Safer Spaces for Victims of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2015, HomeFront CEO Maggie MacKillop and Staff Sergeant Rob Davidson, head of the domestic conflict unit of the Calgary police department, were instrumental in bringing the voices of Albertans that were directly impacted by family violence to the legislation. I am greatly appreciative of their support and their efforts to curb the epidemic of family and domestic violence in this province.

Thank you.

#### Racism

Mr. Dang: "Hey, white person." "Tired of political correctness? Questioning when immigration will stop?" "Tired of antiwhite propaganda?" "It's only racist when white people do it." These messages were plastered across Edmonton for the world to see. These messages were what passed for public discourse. Mr. Speaker, a former MP and current PC leadership candidate stated: "Our national railways would not have been built if we had been governed by 'social licence' rather than rule of law." These are racist statements. I have a fairly thick skin, but one of the messages that I've received on social media stung a bit more than the rest. It read loosely: grow a bleeping brain and some ethics, you dumb chink

When we hear politicians talk about screening people for barbaric cultural practices and screening for anti-Canadian values, we all suffer. When we let ourselves forget that this hate and vitriol affects real people, we all suffer. We cannot sit idly by and comfort ourselves by saying that this is nothing more than a fringe minority. We cannot sit idly by and believe that we have nothing to be worried about. Because we should be worried, Mr. Speaker. We should be worried and know that this type of politics is not just coming to Alberta and Canada, that this kind of politics is already here.

Mr. Speaker, for all hon. members in this House, for every single Albertan who believes in equality: speak out, make noise, and make a difference. This can't wait.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Judicial Appointments**

Mrs. Littlewood: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we received news that the inquiry committee of the Canadian Judicial Council made the recommendation to remove Justice Robin Camp from the federal bench. This develops from a tragic ongoing story that involves the sexual assault case of a 19-year-old woman who was subjected to language where Justice Camp repeatedly referred to her as "the accused" and asked, "Why couldn't you just keep your knees together?" and "Why didn't you just sink your bottom down into the basin so he couldn't penetrate you?"

The inquiry determined that Justice Robin Camp demonstrated "antipathy towards laws designed to protect vulnerable witnesses, promote equality, and bring integrity to sexual assault trials" and "relied on discredited myths and stereotypes about women and victim-blaming." Albertans must have confidence in the judicial system. The mere perception that sexual violence is excused or explained by blaming victims undermines a safe, free, democratic society and could further disempower victims from coming forward with these sorts of allegations.

I should know. This fall on the steps of my city hall in Fort Saskatchewan, as part of the White Ribbon Fort Saskatchewan campaign, I decided to share my own story of being raped, how I didn't want to tell anyone for fear of judgment, slut shaming. Like many women, I believed it was my fault. I share this story in the House because the women in my home constituency of Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville need to know that they are not alone, that I believe you.

I stand with a government who gets it, who is increasing diversity in all areas of government, including the judicial bench, so that Albertans can see themselves in those that interpret and apply our laws and have confidence in them. Mr. Speaker, Albertans need to

know that our justices are qualified. I do not want to hear again a quote that says: my colleagues knew my knowledge of Canadian law was very minimal; it was nonexistent. Albertans need to know that our government is committed to supporting survivors and ending victim blaming or excusing it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Standing ovation]

**Mr. Bilous:** Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to waive section 7(7) to go past 3 o'clock.

[Unanimous consent granted]

#### 3:00 Tabling Returns and Reports

**Mr. Smith:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Member for Cypress- Medicine Hat to table a letter that was sent to the Minister of Health. I have the requisite copies.

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

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Member for Calgary-West I've got five copies of a report from the *Red Deer Advocate* talking about how trial lawyers were concerned that the Phoenix program was going to be unfunded and shut down.

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We've heard in this House recently some accusations of inaccessibility, and I'm happy to table a letter in this House – it's from the *Strathmore Standard* – in which the mayor quotes about just how accessible and impressed he's been with this government's engagement, particularly on the issue of the hospital improvements in this riding that have been long awaited.

Ms McKitrick: Mr. Speaker, I'm rising today to table five copies of the letters sent out to all Members of the Alberta Legislative Assembly by the Credit Union Central Alberta, which I referred to in my Bill 32 speech on November 30, 2016. The letter notes that the Alberta government consulted with the credit unions and that the proposed changes to the Credit Union Act are keeping in line with what credit unions need to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of Alberta credit unions while providing further benefits to Albertans and the provincial economy.

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

**Mr. van Dijken:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my colleague from Calgary-Foothills I table a letter from the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce that he referred to in the House this morning in the Bill 30 debate.

The Speaker: The Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Mrs. Littlewood: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have five copies to table of a letter sent to myself from the town of Vegreville by Mayor Myron Hayduk. It is a letter that just details a further request for advocacy on behalf of Vegreville and the immigration, refugee, citizenship case processing centre, asking the federal government to reverse their decision.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I believe we may be at points of order.

The Opposition House Leader.

**Mr. Cooper:** Why, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today. Given that it's Thursday afternoon and the first day of December, I felt a wave of the Christmas season come over, so I thought perhaps it would be best if I just withdrew the point of order.

**The Speaker:** On behalf of all members of the House season's greetings to you, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And a Merry Christmas to you, sir.

#### Orders of the Day

#### Transmittal of Estimates

**Mr. Bilous:** Mr. Speaker, I have received a certain message from Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, which I now transmit to you.

The Sergeant-at-Arms: Order!

**The Speaker:** The supplementary message is that the Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required by the Legislative Assembly for the service of the province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Please be seated.

The hon. Deputy Government House Leader on behalf of the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the 2016-17 supplementary supply estimates on behalf of the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance. When supplementary estimates are tabled, section 4(5) of the Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act requires that an update to the consolidated fiscal plan be tabled. The quarterly fiscal update tabled this past Monday provides the larger context for requests for additional spending authority from the general revenue fund.

Mr. Speaker, these supplementary supply estimates will provide additional funding for support to the Legislative Assembly for the work of the Electoral Boundaries Commission. When passed, the estimates will authorize an approximate increase of \$1.5 million in expense funding.

#### **Government Motions**

27. Mr. Bilous moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:

Be it resolved that the message from Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the 2016-17 supplementary supply estimates for the general revenue fund, and all matters connected therewith be referred to Committee of Supply.

**The Speaker:** Are there any members who wish to speak to Motion 27?

**Mr. Cooper:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and speak to what is a very important motion. I rarely have the opportunity to rise and say something nice about the government, but when I do, I think it's warranted. Oftentimes in this House we see supplementary supplies ranging in the hundreds of millions of . . .

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, if I could interject just a second. We have copies of the motion that are being circulated.

Mr. Cooper: I would love to see it.

**The Speaker:** I'm corrected. They will stand.

Hon. member, please proceed.

**Mr.** Cooper: I was just about to praise you and I almost stopped myself, but thank you.

Often we see this in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Today we see one for a significantly smaller sum. I know that the opposition has supported the use of these resources for the Electoral Boundaries Commission. I hope that the boundaries commission doesn't make any significant changes to the constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills because my colleague from Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre and I have agreed that we would armwrestle to see what happened after that, and we all know what will happen if it came to that.

I might just say that I look forward to safe passage of the supplementary supply estimates.

**The Speaker:** Are there any other members who would like to speak to Motion 27?

The hon. Deputy Government House Leader to close debate?

[Government Motion 27 carried]

28. Mr. Bilous moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:

Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 61(2) the Committee of Supply shall be called to consider the 2016-17 supplementary supply estimates for the general revenue fund for three hours on Monday, December 5, 2016, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

[Government Motion 28 carried]

# 3:10 Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

#### Bill 30 Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act

[Debate adjourned December 1: Mr. van Dijken speaking]

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

**Mr. van Dijken:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to Bill 30, the Investing in a Diversified Alberta Economy Act, I will continue from where I left off. This is the first policy that has received some positive feedback from economic development groups and chambers across the province although they are not pleased at the final result because there is confusion over how narrow the Alberta investor tax credit appears and who is eligible. But we need to create jobs. It's a very serious issue facing our province, and we need to try and generate growth, investment, and jobs. The Nisku industrial park, just south of Edmonton, the largest industrial park north of Texas, is looking like a ghost town these days.

The capital investment tax credit is meant for large capital investments, the kind that hopefully could bring some life and productivity to manufacturing areas like Nisku. I know that the minister hopes to encourage up to \$700 million of new investment in Alberta with this tax credit. The capital investment tax credit offers a 10 per cent nonrefundable tax credit of up to \$5 million to Alberta companies involved in manufacturing, processing, and tourism infrastructure on a minimum capital investment of \$1 million. That means that somewhere between 14 and 70 businesses will be assisted in creating jobs.

With a budget of \$70 million over two years, I can see this program becoming very popular and therefore oversubscribed. This is a concern moving forward as to who is going to be chosen to be able to qualify for this tax credit. Now, I know that an additional \$5

million is dedicated in the capital investment tax credit to Culture and Tourism to develop supports for Alberta's cultural industries. I will be watching very closely to see which cultural industries are funded. These are nonrefundable tax credits, not grants or loans or loan guarantees, and this, in my mind, is the next best way to help business over a major income tax cut.

Now, the Alberta investor tax credit is meant to bring investors and small businesses together. This is a 30 per cent tax credit for share investments made in small Alberta corporate businesses between April 14, 2016, and December 31, 2019. Again, I too can see this program, with a budget of \$90 million over three years, becoming oversubscribed.

It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that during Committee of the Whole we heard from a number of the members from the governing party that spoke with great excitement about the prospect of receiving a return of \$1.98 on every dollar refunded under this program. One thing we should take into consideration is that if the government truly believes in a tax credit program to drive investment, diversification, and growth in this province and if the 98-cent return is considered acceptable, why are we putting limits on the program? If the programs have been proven to generate growth, to generate diversification, and to generate investment and the return is acceptable, it would make sense to then expand the program and make it available to all those that would be willing to invest in the province of Alberta and in processing and manufacturing.

The maximum amount that can be raised by an eligible business is \$5 million directly through investors or \$10 million through Alberta venture capital corporations in every two-year period. The maximum tax credit for an individual other than a trust will be \$60,000 per year, meaning qualified investments of \$200,000 per year. The Alberta investor tax credit is available for investments in companies that are engaged substantially in proprietary technology research, development, or commercialization; interactive digital media development; video postproduction; digital animation; or tourism; or so says the minister's fact sheets.

Another government member has suggested that things like agrifood and agribusiness will also be included here. I would note that this is definitely a way where we have the opportunity with the renewable products that we produce in this province to gain, diversify, and value-add on those products and create even more growth and investment in the province, and this is a good thing. So to include agribusiness in this program would be very much advisable, I believe.

I can only hope that the minister knows what his government members are saying on his behalf because he rejected our attempt to confirm that all these sectors are covered. But he has assured us that it will be broad enough to include those key sectors, so we will hold him accountable to that.

With that understanding, Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill and trust that we will be able to measure the growth of the economy as a result of this bill. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Are there any questions under 29(2)(a) of the Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock?

Are there any other members who wish to speak to the motion? The Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

**Mr. Orr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise just a couple of issues. I am in support of the bill generally, of course, because it does reduce taxes for Albertans, and that's always good. I guess I do just think that Albertans need to also realize, though, that there's a bit of sleight of hand here in some ways. Even the title of the bill, I guess, is a bit of a shift of understanding. We're calling this a bill to invest in a diversified Alberta economy.

We've heard the members across the way say a number of times that we shouldn't be relying on a one-market economy, as if this is a one-pony show in Alberta. I would suggest that they either don't understand the nature of Alberta's economy or that's a deliberate misrepresentation because the Alberta economy is, in fact, much, much more diversified now than it has been in our past. I would encourage the government members opposite to actually read the government's own report on that, the 2015 report on the economy, in which it's very clearly pointed out that, in fact, the oil and gas sector in 1985 was 36 per cent of our GDP. Listening to the government members, you would think that it's higher than that now or maybe, at the very least, only marginally lower.

The reality is that the oil and gas sector in Alberta now is no longer 36 per cent of our GDP, but in fact it is half of that. As a percentage of our GDP it has declined by 50 per cent. So to say that we are in an economy in Alberta that is overly reliant on one industry, that we have this one-market economy, that we need to diversify as if it has never been happening is absolutely not a clear statement. If any other sector of our economy were to decline by 50 per cent, we would be extremely alarmed. Here we're saying that now that oil and gas is only 18 per cent of our entire GDP, somehow we rely on a one-market economy, that we need to diversify, as if we haven't been, as if we aren't – there's just not a correct representation of the facts there.

The other areas that are strong – and I guess you could ask: "Where did the other 18 per cent of what used to be 36 per cent for oil and gas go? What is it?" Well, business and commercial has grown, finance and real estate has grown 15 per cent, and construction is 12 per cent. These are things that have grown tremendously, and to say that we are overly reliant on only one industry when we have several industries that are actually very close to it and it's only 18 per cent of the total is just simply a misrepresentation of reality.

3:20

I do understand, though, that if you have the goal to keep oil in the ground and you want policies that cap the oil sands and you want to tax everything in order to somehow change behaviour and suppress our best income, then it makes a nice storyline – don't ruin a good story with the facts – but it's just not a right representation.

The other part of this that I think is important is that these other growth industries will in fact contract if oil and gas declines even lower than the current 18 per cent that it is because, truthfully, it is the big wages of oil and gas that have supported the growth in those other industries. It's oil and gas that have provided the capital and the liquidity that have fostered the very diversification that we've been looking for.

Take the construction industry, for instance. I don't have detailed numbers, but if you took the growth caused by oil and gas out of construction, construction would not have grown as it has.

Finance and real estate. The same Alberta government 2015 economic report states very clearly that the reason the financial sector has grown in Alberta is because of the oil and gas investment. So if we are bound and determined to diversify oil and gas into nonexistence, then finance and real estate will suffer substantially and will go down, as the report indicates.

Same thing with business and commercial. Much of that has been driven by both the wages and the capital and the liquidity that oil and gas have provided.

Prior to the oil and gas boom in Alberta, Alberta, quite frankly, was a very poor province, and our growth in these other areas was very, very minimal. So to try and say that somehow we're a one-pony show in Alberta, that we haven't been diversifying and we're

not diversified I think is entirely a misrepresentation to the citizens of Alberta

Another aspect of this is the implication that somehow we need to have investment in other industries in Alberta. I find that fascinating because we, in fact, have almost the highest per capita investment in this province already. The three highest areas in the country for investment are Newfoundland and Labrador, first of all; Alberta, second; and Saskatchewan, third. Now, where does that money come from? It comes from the oil and gas industry.

We can go ahead and diversify down to zero our oil and gas industry, and we will discover that we have extremely reduced per capita investment in our province. Are we now having to create some sort of artificial means of investing in our province? I think investment is great, but to give the implication that there's been no investment is entirely incorrect, again. The sector where Canada can compete in our world, where it is and was receiving great levels of investment, is exactly the one where we're trying to destroy here. Are we trying to incentivize nonprofitable sectors? Is that what this is about? So often government programs to create business end up becoming ways in which smart business guys game the government and walk away with piles of money.

Every country has niche advantages. We need to take advantage of our niches. By the very money that we're depreciating now, we have been able to grow, to diversify, to expand in other areas. The truth is that oil and gas is the one that has helped us in these other areas, and now we have policies that impede our most successful wealth-creating industry in the nation, I would say, not just Alberta.

Some of you may be familiar with the StrengthsFinder book and inventory assessment of personal strengths. The point of that whole thing, that's been fairly popular over the last few years, is that you need to find out what your strengths are as an individual and focus on your strengths in order to succeed. Here I find that we are not focusing on our strengths; we're trying to focus on our weaknesses and somehow pull ourselves up by our bootstraps while we ignore our strength, our strongest industry. Canada's Olympic team concentrates on improving athletes' strengths, not trying to make them into something that they aren't. We need to improve our economic strengths, not withdraw from our best opportunities to succeed.

I support the bill, but I find a lot of it disingenuous, and the communication to Alberta I don't think is fair or realistic.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Are there any questions or comments to the Member for Lacombe-Ponoka under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing and hearing none, the Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to have another opportunity to rise and speak to Bill 30 today. Overall, this bill has met many of our expectations in terms of economic stimulation. Investor and capital tax credits can be extremely effective tools when appropriately applied. Further, we are pleased and in fact thankful for the minister and his team's thoughtful consideration of our amendments and in particular his support of three of our motions for amendment, a rare and appreciated hat trick that we will savour but not become accustomed to. Our caucus always endeavours to offer productive solutions when the opportunity arises, as do our colleagues beside us as well, and I thank the minister for recognizing our constructive intent, supporting these three amendments, and embracing the spirit of developing the best possible legislation for all Albertans in as nonpartisan a way as possible.

While it has been mentioned time and time again during debate on this bill, we need to look no further than British Columbia to see the positive impact investor tax credits can have on the government when they take a hands-off approach and allow the market to determine where capital and investment dollars will flow. This is perhaps an area where we could have been grateful for more consideration of a few more of our amendments, but, alas, we will not be greedy, if only on behalf of struggling Albertans who are desperate for capital and investment flow in the areas of creation of economic activity and jobs – a very desperate situation for us here in Alberta, indeed.

Our caucus's sentiments are such that we believe that if both of these programs were opened up with greater latitude and more clearly prescribed within the legislation, it would increase the effectiveness of the proposed tax credits and the potential for broader cross-industry uptake and hence an even greater diversification of investment and much-needed job creation.

I do appreciate the minister's best intentions in that he has noted that he will exercise the discretion afforded him within the bill to ensure the program is as successful as possible. We look forward to seeing that discretion in action as he addresses potential applicants from diverse sectors and across Alberta: urban, suburban, and rural. I am encouraged through his actions and collaborative spirit that the minister's heart is in the right place with this legislation, and I have no doubt he will work extremely hard to ensure private industry turns these tax credits into real economic growth and mortgage-paying jobs.

As much as we trust that the minister has the best intentions, we would have liked to see a more formal reporting structure within this bill. Accountability and transparency are key whenever hard-earned tax dollars are being spent, and we would have liked to see a formal public report published each year and presented to this Assembly to ensure the program is working as intended and that dollars are being allocated as efficiently and as effectively as possible.

The minister has committed to ongoing communications with this Legislature and with Albertans around the impact of this program, so we look forward to being kept appraised to provide further positive input from our caucus and to giving kudos as kudos may be due.

We intend to hold him to his word on transparency. It is not that we do not trust his or the government's best intentions on this legislation; it is just that disclosure and analysis of hard data allows for transparent and unbiased review and reflection for all of us in this House in search of the best possible outcomes.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to express our caucus's support for this bill. No, it's not perfect, and we would have liked to have seen a few more changes, a few more acceptances of some well-thought-out amendments, but this is a solid step in the right direction, and we appreciate and applaud the work by the minister and his hard-working staff on this legislation and the programs contained within it.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, are there any other questions or comments to the Member for Calgary-Fish Creek?

Seeing none, are there other members who would like to speak to the motion? The Member for Calgary-Hays.

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to rise in support of this legislation and thank the government for it. I'll try not to repeat too much of what my colleague just said, but I will say that this is important. As someone who made his living as an entrepreneur for over a decade before I first got elected, I know how much this might mean to a lot of businesspeople.

3:30

I'll say, Mr. Speaker, that one of the sayings that I and some of my friends who are also entrepreneurs used to have in the day is that everybody has the right to lose their life's savings in their own business, and I stand by that. But, of course, nobody goes into a business with the intention of losing their life's savings. They go into business with the intention to make the world better, to make a good living, to row their own boat, to set their own course, to maybe create something new that hasn't been created before. These are the aspirations that really make Alberta and Canada and the world better: people that put themselves out there at their own risk.

In many cases people that do that, of course, will put a mortgage on their very home, talk to their husband, their wife, or whomever they live with and agree to put the biggest asset that they have or a portion of it on the line to start that new business because sometimes you just need help. I will say that this bill that the government has brought forward may provide help for entrepreneurs to either get started or get to the next step. I want to thank the government for providing the one vehicle where that may well happen.

I think we really need to appreciate those people that go into business. My experience is that they're not greedy, they're not selfish. They're hard-working people. You know what? Lots of people go into business, Mr. Speaker, because they can't get a job, so they essentially buy themselves a job. They decide they're going to provide a service, whether it's a personal service in the construction business, sales and marketing business, whatever it happens to be. These are people making their way in the world, the same as people with jobs, only they have more on the line. In many cases, instead of having one boss, as people often do if they have a job, they have many bosses. Every one of their customers is their boss. If they have money borrowed from the bank, the banker is their boss. Even their suppliers are sometimes their boss because the suppliers can choose to supply them or not.

When you get to the point where some of these entrepreneurs have a chance to be successful with support from programs like this legislation puts in place, I'll be proud to sit down and vote for it in a few minutes, Mr. Speaker. I hope that the minister will be diligent in trying to make sure that the money gets to the right place to create success. I hope he is diligent in reviewing the legislation on a regular basis to make sure that it doesn't need to be improved or tweaked or upgraded or even cut back in some areas based on the experience that Albertan companies have. Based on the good work that the minister and his staff have done until now, I am prepared to give him that chance and wish him all the best and indeed Albertans all the best that involve themselves with the results of the legislation that we're talking about here today.

Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Are there any questions or comments under 29(2)(a) to the Member for Calgary-Hays?

Seeing and hearing none, are there any other members who wish to speak to the motion?

Seeing and hearing none, the hon. Deputy Government House Leader to move closure.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll keep my comments fairly brief as I think we've had some fairly robust discussion on this bill in the House. What I want to indicate is how extremely proud I am of this piece of legislation, not just myself but also our government. It sounds as though we're going to have support from all parties in the House, which is fantastic.

I want to begin by thanking all of my cosponsors. These are government MLAs who have worked hard to provide not just

feedback and input as well but to bring together input and feedback from organizations, businesses, entrepreneurs that they've met with. I'll give a shout-out to the MLA for Edmonton-Centre, the MLA for Stony Plain, for Calgary-Glenmore, for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

As well, a very big thank you – I appreciate, you know, hearing members thank the ministry staff for all of their hard work on bringing together a program like this. It took an incredible number of hours. You know, I often say that Economic Development and Trade is the best ministry and has some of the best civil servants although I'm sure my colleagues would argue that each of their ministries, in fact, have the best. I know that they've worked very, very hard on this

Last but not least, really the most important group to thank are the very people who helped us design this bill, which are the small-business owners, the entrepreneurs, industry leaders, chambers of commerce, venture capitalists, economic development associations across the province as well as municipalities that provided input. Again, you know, a very significant piece of legislation which I'm confident will help our small businesses grow. It will help build on our strengths.

You know, on the topic of diversification, those that have heard me speak around the province know that when I talk about diversification, I talk about building on our strengths, and Alberta has a significant number of strengths. Some of our industries outside of oil and gas may not have been given the attention that they deserve, and this bill will help them to grow.

We know that there have been significant supports in the past for certain segments of the oil and gas sector although I'm proud to say that this does apply to companies that are looking to innovative, creative solutions, new technologies that apply to the oil and gas sector. This fits hand in glove with our climate leadership plan and with the direction that our government is taking the province, to invest more in renewables and find innovative solutions to drive down our greenhouse gas emissions and really be the clean energy hub or clean energy producers of the world. This bill really embodies our government's commitment to supporting small businesses, to supporting entrepreneurs around the province and working with our industry leaders.

The last point I'll make: I appreciate that some members of the House have said that they thought the program should have more money. Others have talked about how maybe it's too much, how long the program is. I feel that this is a great start. I am going to be monitoring these two tax credits very carefully over the next couple of years, and again, if the program has as much success as we believe it will, then I will be championing a 2.0 in a couple of years from now and looking at either extending it or tweaking it or whatever we need to do

I think this definitely will give Alberta and Alberta enterprises and entrepreneurs a real leg up. It will support them. I know industry and entrepreneurs are excited. So without further ado, Mr. Speaker, I will take my seat and be hopeful that we will pass this today, and then we can share this with Alberta businesses and get them back on their feet.

Thank you very much.

[Motion carried; Bill 30 read a third time]

#### Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

#### Bill 33

Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2016 (No. 2)

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Government House Leader I move second reading of Bill 33, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2016 (No. 2).

Mr. Speaker, as I think all members of the Assembly know, miscellaneous statutes typically reflect provisions that are very straightforward and noncontentious. This bill has been circulated to the opposition parties, and I believe that there is consensus on all of the clauses of the bill. I would encourage all members to please give their support to Bill 33 and its provisions.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The Opposition House Leader.

**Mr. Cooper:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's nothing that I love more than moving a few commas, punctuation, and just overall grammar, so I, too, was thrilled to review the clauses of the bill and, as the Deputy Government House Leader mentioned, did have the opportunity to review the bill prior. There certainly are no objections on behalf of this side of the House, so I look forward to a quick passage as well.

3:40

The Speaker: Are there any other members?

Mr. McIver: Well, very briefly, without repeating every word the hon. official government House official, the Leader of the Official Opposition or the House leader of the Official Opposition said, I just want to say – I'm not sure what I just said, but thank you to the previous speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the government side for sharing this with us. When there's something that's in many cases housekeeping and other things overdue, long-term things that we all agree on, it's actually a nicer way to do business in a cooperative fashion. There. I've taken up enough time. I think I just said thank you.

**The Speaker:** Any other members who would like to speak to second reading of Bill 33?

[Motion carried; Bill 33 read a second time]

#### Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

**The Chair:** Hon. members, I'd like to call the Committee of the Whole to order.

#### Bill 33 Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2016 (No. 2)

**The Chair:** Are there any questions, comments, or amendments with respect to this bill? The hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

**Mr. Cooper:** Thank you. I'd like to continue my ongoing impassioned support for the bill.

**The Chair:** Any other members wishing to speak to this bill? You're ready for the question?

Hon. Members: Question.

[The clauses of Bill 33 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

**The Chair:** Opposed? That's carried.

The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that we rise and

report.

[Motion carried]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

**Ms Sweet:** Madam Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has under consideration certain bills. The committee reports the following bill: Bill 33.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Does the Assembly concur on the report?

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: Any opposed? So ordered.

The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Seeing as information I've received recently is that roads in southern Alberta are actually not in very good shape and seeing as how we've had a very, very productive week with robust conversation, we want to ensure that all members of the Assembly get back to their homes and families safely. For those reasons, I move that we adjourn until Monday, December 5, at 1:30 p.m.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:46 p.m.]

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.)

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 cl]

#### 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.), 2091-2100 (Nov. 29, 2016 morn.), 2192-2202 (Nov. 30, 2016 aft.), 2218-24 (Nov. 30, 2016 eve., passed with amendments)

#### 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)

Committee of the Whole — 2115-33 (Nov. 29, 2016 aft.), 2224-29 (Nov. 30, 2016 eve.), 2231-41 (Dec. 1, 2016 morn., adjourned)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Reading — 1747-54 (Nov. 8, 2016 morn.), 1835-42 (Nov. 9, 2016 aft.), 1944-57 (Nov. 22, 2016 aft.), 2038-47 (Nov. 24, 2016 aft.), 2077-86 (Nov. 28, 2016 eve., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 2086-90 (Nov. 28, 2016 eve.), 2135-55 (Nov. 29, 2016 eve., adjourned, amendment introduced)

#### 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)

Committee of the Whole — 2157-74 (Nov. 30, 2016 morn.), 2208-18 (Nov. 30, 2016 eve., passed with amendments)

Third Reading — 2241-47 (Dec. 1, 2016 morn.), 2262-65 (Dec. 1, 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)

Second Reading — 2203-06 (Nov. 30, 2016 aft.), 2207-08 (Nov. 30, 2016 eve., passed)

#### Bill 33 — Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2016 (No. 2) (Mason)

First Reading — 2186 (Nov. 30, 2016 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 2265-66 (Dec. 1, 2016 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 2266 (Dec. 1, 2016 aft., passed)

#### Bill 34 — Electric Utilities Amendment Act, 2016 (\$) (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 2114 (Nov. 29, 2016 aft., passed)

#### Bill 35 — Fair Elections Financing Act (Gray)

First Reading — 2060 (Nov. 28, 2016 aft., passed)

#### Bill 36 — An Act to Enhance Off-Highway Vehicle Safety (Mason)

First Reading — 2060 (Nov. 28, 2016 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 2189-92 (Nov. 30, 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 209 — Active Schools Week Act (Shepherd)

First Reading — 2060 (Nov. 28, 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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