



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Second Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, December 8, 2016

Day 60

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

Second Session

Wanner, Hon. Robert E., Medicine Hat (ND), Speaker
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Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (ND), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (W)	MacIntyre, Donald, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (W)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (ND)	Malkinson, Brian, Calgary-Currie (ND)
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Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP)	McPherson, Karen M., Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill (ND)
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Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (ND)	Miranda, Hon. Ricardo, Calgary-Cross (ND)
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Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (ND)	Panda, Prasad, Calgary-Foothills (W)
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Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)	Sabir, Hon. Irfan, Calgary-McCall (ND)
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Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (ND)	Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (ND)
Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (PC)	Shepherd, David, Edmonton-Centre (ND)
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Jansen, Sandra, Calgary-North West (ND)	Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)
Jean, Brian Michael, QC, Fort McMurray-Conklin (W), Leader of the Official Opposition	Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (W)
Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (ND)	Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (ND)
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Larivee, Hon. Danielle, Lesser Slave Lake (ND)	Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (ND), Deputy Government Whip
Littlewood, Jessica, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (ND)	Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (ND)
Loewen, Todd, Grande Prairie-Smoky (W)	Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (W)

Party standings:

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

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Shannon Phillips	Minister of Environment and Parks, Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office
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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 8, 2016

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

Introduction of Visitors

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

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a distinguished guest representing the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Pascal Borno, consul general of Switzerland in Vancouver. The consul general brings a wealth of experience and perspective to Canada from postings in places as diverse as Santiago, Bangkok, and Riyadh.

Mr. Speaker, Swiss people are counted among the earliest of European newcomers to the treaty lands of Alberta. In fact, two of the earliest Alberta communities, Stettler and Blumenau, were founded by the Swiss pioneer Carl Stettler. Also, the famous Swiss mountain guides were instrumental in growing the tourism market in our world-renowned mountain parks. Their legendary climbing and guiding skills opened up the Rocky Mountains for thousands of Albertans and tourists from around the globe. I'm happy to say that we continue to advance our relationship with Switzerland through educational exchange programs, tourism, and trade. We welcome every opportunity to build our relationships with valuable international partners like Switzerland.

I'll now ask Consul General Borno to rise and receive the warm traditional welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. Minister of Labour, you have a guest?

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Mr. Ryan MacIsaac. Mr. MacIsaac is a litigation lawyer practising in the Calgary and Toronto offices of McCarthy Tétrault. He is visiting Edmonton for a hearing regarding the importation of gypsum drywall from the United States into western Canada, a matter of great importance for this province, particularly as the rebuild continues in Fort McMurray. I would now like to ask Mr. MacIsaac to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Introduction of Guests

Ms Sweet: Mr. Speaker, on your behalf I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislature Mr. Adam Fuñe. Adam is a constituent of yours, Mr. Speaker. He graduated from Monsignor McCoy high school in 2016 and was a recipient of the prestigious Governor General's award. He is now attending the University of Alberta, pursuing a bachelor of science with a biochemistry specialization. I would ask that Adam rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Infrastructure and of Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour to introduce to you and through you someone that I've worked with

since I've been a minister in the government of Alberta, David Breakwell, who is the assistant deputy minister of the corporate strategies and services division in the Infrastructure department. After an accomplished public service career and having made many important contributions in the departments of Energy, Health, and Infrastructure, he has decided to retire from his role in leading strategic corporate services in Alberta Infrastructure. His willingness to help others, his competence, and his kind-natured personality will be truly missed by me and by his colleagues across the government. Public servants like David are a vital part of our society and help us deliver the services that Albertans need. David is joined today by his wife, Debbie, his daughter Jodie Dearden, his son Landon Breakwell, and his daughter-in-law Lauren Breakwell. I would ask David, Debbie, Jodie, Landon, and Lauren to now rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce to you and through you our newest member to the Alberta Health Services Board. I'm excited to say that I recently appointed Heather Hirsch, who is a 19-year veteran front-line health care worker. I know that her experiences as an indigenous woman and a mom will serve us very well as we think about the families of the citizens that we have so much work to do for to continue to provide the very best health care for. I ask that Heather along with her daughter Amelia Crowshoe, who are both present here today, please rise and receive the warmest of welcomes from our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A real pleasure for me to introduce to you and through you to the House Harpreet Gill, another stalwart Liberal from Edmonton, also a Sikh community organizer and co-organizer of the Sikh parade and a progressive activist. He's also co-organizing a seminar on opiates and fentanyl at the Sikh temple in Mill Woods this coming Sunday at 11:30 with Councillor Moe Banga, with the help of the gurdwara executive committee. With him are his mother and sister, Chhinderpal Kaur Gill and Jaspreet Kaur Gill. I'll ask them to stand and receive the warm welcome of the Legislature.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Dr. Swann: Thank you for accommodating a second introduction. My pleasure to introduce to you and through you two courageous and historic individuals, Darlene Dunlop and Eric Musekamp. Please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Eric and Darlene have been here many, many times in their long 15-year fight for the fundamental rights of farm workers. Today they're in Edmonton to attend the launch of a book, *Farm Workers in Western Canada*, a collection of essays about the farm worker experience, to which Darlene is a major contributor. The launch will be at 3 o'clock at the Common, and I invite all in the Legislature to join us, especially the Member for Drumheller-Stettler, who's still puzzled as to why Bill 6 is a legal necessity. Let's give Darlene and Eric a warm welcome to the Legislature.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for St. Albert.

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly two very special people.

The first is Dr. Audrey Reid, who is originally from Vermont and is now a lecturer at the University of Alberta in the department of biological sciences. Next is Dr. Aaron LeBlanc, who is a Killam postdoctoral fellow at the University of Alberta and just happens to be my son. I knew that he was going to be a scientist when he decided at age five to glue himself and his friend to the carpet face down to test the strength of white glue. If they would please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three distinct introductions today. I am pleased to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Diane Walton, Ann Marston, and T.K. Boomer. Diane is a writer and the managing editor of *On Spec* magazine, which is an award-winning magazine and was founded in Edmonton. *On Spec* is probably English Canada's longest running print journal of science fiction, fantasy, and other speculative literature. Ann Marston has had a very eclectic career. She's been a bush pilot, a flight instructor, a literacy co-ordinator, a college instructor, and is now a published fantasy writer. T.K. Boomer, or, as he's also known, Greg McKittrick, is a science fiction writer, with his first book of a trilogy, *Planet Song*, just published. He is also the reason I am sitting here as an MLA as he has been a wonderful support to my activism in our 33 years of marriage. I would like to ask Diane, Ann, and T.K. Boomer to please rise to receive the traditional warm welcome from the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore.

Ms Kazim: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly a constituent of mine, Tracee Collins. Tracee spends her time helping children, families, seniors, and vulnerable populations in Calgary. She served for six years in the Palliser-Bayview-Pumphill Community Association, most recently as the president, and she currently serves as board director for the Calgary Homeless Foundation. I would request Tracee to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

1:40

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly quite a large group of folks who work in my Ministry of Advanced Education. They work in various departments, including the apprenticeship and student aid division, advanced learning and community partnerships, and the strategic and corporate services division. Their roles vary, of course, but one thing they all have in common is that their work ensures the success of our higher education system for the students of this province. They take tremendous pride in their work on behalf of Albertans, and I take tremendous pride in working with them and representing them as the Minister of Advanced Education.

I'd ask them all to rise as I read their names: Guy Germain, Ailish Goldie, Matthew Cox, Robert Rock – please stay standing as I read your names – Maria Morgadinho, Mavin Kaur, Michelle Hutchinson, Bose Lampejo, Laryssa Talanchuk, Katrina Sholdice, Debra Tworek, Sarrie Ling, Charlotte Balding, Kayla Olyan, Nicole Sawatzky, Joana Apreku, Aimee Galick, Mira Quintin, Terri Curtis, Lindsay Salloum, Alfred Appiah, Razvan Catrinescu, Megan van

der Linden, Erin Reynar, Kerri Hill. If there's anybody else that I missed, please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly five individuals dedicated to building Edmonton's brand by telling our authentic story: Todd Babiak, director of Story Engine and one of the earliest supporters of Make Something Edmonton; Carmen Douville, programming/community manager; Shayne Woodsmith, digital storyteller with Make Something Edmonton; Cheryl Watson, VP; and Joseph Pedrola, activation manager with the Urban Economy team at the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation. I'd like to ask that all my guests rise as I thank them for their hard work on behalf of our city and as I ask that we all provide them with the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Foothills.

Mr. Panda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly my guest, an outstanding Calgarian and Albertan, Jeff Callaway. I've known Jeff for many years. We lived in the same neighbourhood, and we worked in adjoining buildings in downtown Calgary. Jeff is the president of Wildrose, working hard every day to bring Alberta back on track and bring all conservatives together. In his spare time Jeff works for Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management. I ask my guest to rise, and I ask all of you to give him a warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome to you and through you Cynthia Watson, the chief evolution officer of Vivo, a sustainable charity on a mission to raise healthier generations, which is located in Calgary-Northern Hills. The organization is committed to creating evidence-based solutions to get Alberta moving more and sitting less, something we can all attest to in this House.

Also, I'd like to introduce David Watson. He just received from the Governor General this morning the sovereign's medal for volunteers for his work with veterans. In the last 16 years he's created 1,000-plus unique memorial prints as an act of remembrance, and they are displayed in over 48 countries around the world.

I'd ask my two guests to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Environment and Parks and minister responsible for the climate change office.

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to the House Elizabeth Roberts. Liz has been a practicum student at the Lethbridge-West constituency office since September and is completing her social work degree at the Lethbridge campus of the University of Calgary. Liz has been very helpful these past four months to my two constituency assistants, who join her here today, Lisa Lambert and Natasha Fairweather. I ask them now all to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Are there any other guests for introductions today, hon. members? The Minister of Service Alberta and Minister of Status of Women.

Ms McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great pleasure to introduce to you and through you today staff from Service Alberta who represent the residential tenancy dispute resolution service, better known as the RTDRS. This October the RTDRS office in Edmonton reached the milestone of 50,000 applications for tribunals. I know that not everyone could attend today, but I'll mention everyone who we know was able to attend, and I'll ask those in attendance to please stand as I mention their names so we can celebrate them and their important work: Martin Roy, Shelley Johnson, Narinder Sidhu, Colleen Wing, Reyila Dilixiati, Beth McKinley, Angela Wesley, Brendon Hewitt, Andrew Herriot, James Lambert, Michael Baron, Jim Young, and Meghan Woo. I'll ask that this House please join me in providing my guests with the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Members' Statements

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

Make Something Edmonton

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of my city. Edmonton is a city of innovators. Edmontonians created Canada's first mosque, opened the first food bank, and started the North American fringe theatre movement. They founded successful national and international companies and gained international recognition for their art, music, literature, and film, and like the First Nations who once met here on the Rossdale Flats, they are open, welcoming, and collaborative.

That's the story that Make Something Edmonton has been dedicated to telling since 2013, and that's the story that propelled them to win the City Nation Place award for best expression of place brand identity in London last month, beating out campaigns from Sweden, Costa Rica, and Russia. Make Something Edmonton is an initiative supported by the city of Edmonton and the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation, an agency tasked with cultivating the energy, innovation, and investment needed to build a prosperous and resilient Edmonton economy.

Together with a number of community stakeholders they developed a unique idea to tell our story in an authentic way, not with logos and slogans but by inspiring Edmontonians to pursue their passions and ideas to make their city even better. Edmontonians responded, launching 1,500 individual community-driven projects and making Make Something Edmonton the platform of choice for city builders and city shapers. Edmonton Economic Development Corporation continues to build on this success, leveraging our identity and branding to lay a solid foundation to market and promote investment in trade, attract new tourism, conferences, conventions, and major events.

I personally have a page on Make Something Edmonton, and I've had the privilege of seeing many of its projects come to life. I'm a firm believer in the power of citizens collaborating and contributing to build a better city, and I encourage everyone in the Edmonton region to explore Make Something Edmonton's site and take part as a city builder or as a supporter in making a new idea real, in making something Edmonton, and in making our city a better place.

Government Policies

Mr. Nixon: I've never seen a government so removed and out of touch with the people they're supposed to govern. They've shown gross incompetence and failed to be honest about the death of children in care. After emergency debate in this House about the life of little Serenity, they continue to make a mess of the file. It took the Human Services minister weeks to pull Serenity's file and give it to the RCMP. The minister should resign, but the Premier owns this. She told Albertans that she was serious about fixing this but dropped the file completely. But that's just where it starts.

The NDP has the nerve to stand here and tell everyone that their carbon tax is good for families. They are indifferent about the pain it will cause families. They stand up and are completely indifferent that the carbon tax will pillage charities across the province. They are shutting down coal, literally destroying whole communities, and they brag about it. But they refuse to look those people whose livelihoods they are destroying in the eyes or even bother to meet with them. They are smug, they are arrogant, and they are condescending. They look down on farmers, they're embarrassed of our industries, and they call small-business owners selfish as they are forced to close their doors because of NDP policies.

Worst of all, the Premier now has the nerve to call Albertans worried about her agenda Chicken Little. Tell that to over 100,000 people who've lost their jobs under the NDP. Tell that to Albertans who are dealing with the worst unemployment in two decades. Go into my riding and look at the climbing rates of crime and suicide and tell them that they're just being Chicken Little. This is not a joke, Mr. Speaker. This government's policies are hurting people's lives. Albertans are sick and tired of it.

The next election is just two years away, and it cannot come fast enough for the majority of Albertans. Albertans are ready to wipe this NDP government from the map.

1:50

Oral Question Period

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

Investigation of Death of Child in Kinship Care

Mr. Jean: I know that we all want better for kids who go through government care, but the level of incompetence from this NDP government on this file is breathtaking. In September 2014 Serenity died while in kinship care. She was beaten, malnourished, and sexually assaulted. No one deserves justice more than this little girl, whose life was cut cruelly short and who lived in unimaginable and unacceptable pain. We were told that there was an active RCMP investigation, but the RCMP said: this investigation is on hold, awaiting more reports. It turns out that they were waiting on this NDP government. How can the Premier possibly justify these delays?

The Speaker: The Minister of Human Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. First, I would like to clarify some dates. On September 15 the OCME sent the final file to the RCMP, and they were investigating at that time with the RCMP. They are mixing two investigations. On October 24 the RCMP asked the DFNA in question for the case file. On October 27 the DFNA reached out and started discussing the release. On November 18 Human Services got the written request, and on November 22 Human Services provided the file.

Thank you.

Mr. Jean: In mid-November we held an emergency debate in this House. It was an opportunity for the government to stand and justify and explain what they were doing to help Serenity's case, but they failed. For weeks we've asked dozens of questions into her death, with no real answers and zero accountability from this minister. It wasn't until late last night that it was discovered that the Human Services minister delayed giving an important report on Serenity's case to the RCMP for weeks. Why did the Premier and multiple ministers keep Albertans in the dark in relation to Serenity and her death?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The death of Serenity or any kid in the child intervention system is a deeply concerning issue, and we do care about that. On November 18, 2016, Human Services got a written request for the case file. Two working days later, on November 22, the case file was transferred to the RCMP. These are the facts. They can have their opinion but not their own facts.

Mr. Jean: There is only one set of facts. This government failed Serenity and many children in care. At every corner of this story there's gross negligence from all levels of government, and it failed a little girl. Without substantial changes nothing will improve. The Premier, the Justice minister, the Deputy Premier, and the Human Services minister all said that they could not comment on an ongoing, active investigation, but it turns out that the investigation had stalled, and the only thing stalling it was this NDP government. Why did all departments of this government mislead Albertans about the state of this investigation, and when will it stop?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me begin by saying that there's nothing more concerning than death of children in our care. The RCMP was working with the office of the Chief Medical Examiner. There was an investigation. We received the request on November 18. Two working days later I provided the file. That's what we are doing. I also today announced a panel to look into these issues. We have been failing these kids for the last decade. Serenity was not the first case. We have an obligation to fix . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
Second main question, hon. members.

Mr. Jean: Secrecy continues to shroud our entire children in care system, and it's simply a disaster. In the final 11 months of Serenity's life no care workers checked in on her despite numerous complaints and warnings. The Child and Youth Advocate's office had been investigating this case for over two years, but at every turn he was blocked from further information. How is it that during these two years and this past month no one in the NDP pushed and asked the RCMP simply what more they needed to complete their investigation?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member. We have failed our children, Serenity for decades, and now it's time for action. That's why the Premier committed to considering making a panel, and today we released the terms of reference for that panel. That panel, which will include . . . [interjections] If they care about these issues, which I believe they do, they will work with me to find solutions to all these issues going forward. Those terms of reference are broad enough to fix . . . [interjections]

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Hon. members, this is a very sensitive topic. I want you all to remember that we're going to have a lot of travel ahead of us tonight, and I hope we can calm down the mood.

Yes, I will give five extra seconds to the clock for that.

I think that we are at first supplemental.

Mr. Jean: The best action this minister could do right now is to resign. That would help Albertans. The minister has called this – I quote – an unfortunate error. Most Albertans, I believe, would call it gross incompetence and totally unacceptable not just by the minister but by the cabinet and by the Premier. This case wasn't a secret. The Child and Youth Advocate had been investigating. We were all here during the emergency debate, but nothing was done for weeks and months. If the Premier or anyone in this government were serious about doing all they could to get Serenity justice, why didn't they just simply pick up the phone and call the RCMP?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this case we have done everything and we will do everything that's needed to be done. We will work with the RCMP. At the same time we will make sure that their investigation remains independent. There were Human Services ministers before me. There will be after me, but changing faces doesn't change anything. Changing policies changes things. Changing practices changes things. That's what I am inviting everybody to join me in.

Mr. Jean: I asked this question on November 21, and I'm going to ask it again. The only reason we know what we do today is because a reporter dug and asked the tough questions. She found answers while the Child and Youth Advocate got requests for information blocked at every single turn. A system that operates in secrecy, like this NDP government is doing, will fail Albertans. Premier: where was the report from the medical examiner's office? Where was the report from the Justice department? Where was the report from Human Services? And why did it take so long to complete an autopsy on this little girl?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reporter certainly is very passionate. I respect that, but she didn't have all the facts. Let me clarify. On September 15 the OCME sends the final file to the RCMP. On October 24 the RCMP asks the DFNA for the case file. On October 27 the DFNA reaches out to Human Services. On November 22 Human Services receives the formal written request. Two working days later we provided the answer. Those are the facts.

The Speaker: Third main question.

Mr. Jean: Quote: it is an issue still under active investigation, so we will work with the RCMP and all involved to make sure we get this right. End quote. That was the Human Services minister on November 22. Turns out that was completely false. The investigation was on hold. The RCMP wasn't being worked with. They were waiting to get the documents from the ministry that they needed to do their investigation. The minister failed to hand over that report until Tuesday or Wednesday of this week. This minister's best before date is long overdue. He needs to go. Why hasn't the Premier demanded his resignation?

Mr. Nixon: Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order noted.
The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have to echo the comments that have been raised by members on both sides of this House that this is a very tragic situation. What kids deserve is somebody who's got their back, and I have to say, with all confidence, that the minister has their back. I don't think that anybody in this House campaigned on defending the system. The system needs to be fixed, and today the minister brought forward a recommendation for a panel to do just that.

We take the opposition at their word that they want to help us fix this. Please do roll up your sleeves and help us. All of our children deserve an opportunity to have the very best life, and I challenge everyone to help us do that.

2:00

Mr. Jean: That minister has had 19 months on this file to fix it and get it right. "We are committed to working with [the RCMP] in ensuring that they have the tools that they need to continue their investigation." That was the Justice minister on November 24. Clearly, the Justice department never took that direction seriously because it took weeks for the government to hand over a critical report to the RCMP. The Justice minister failed to do her job, and what she told this Assembly wasn't right. She can't be trusted on this file anymore either. Will the Premier demand her resignation, and if not, why not?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, I have full confidence in every person sitting on this front bench, and I think that all of us in this House should know that we all step forward to try to make the system better, not defend the system. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. member, I can't hear the speaker.
Please proceed.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Official Opposition brought forward a recommendation. We've taken their recommendations very seriously, and we do want to work with them. [interjections]

The Speaker: Keep going.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you. We want to work with all members of this House, and that's why the announcement was made this morning. Our children deserve better, Mr. Speaker, and we're committed to that.

Mr. Jean: The announcement does not include transparency or whistle-blower protection. It's a sham.

If the Premier won't hold any of her ministers accountable for this mess, she needs to start giving Albertans some real answers. The fact is that Albertans expected better from the NDP on this file, but they failed and failed miserably. They failed to do their homework, they failed to do their due diligence, and it's meant the delay of justice for an innocent young girl. Will she tell Albertans on what date she knew this RCMP investigation was put on hold and why she didn't take any actions whatsoever to ensure the police got every single document they needed to investigate and solve this issue?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to reinforce that the timeline that was outlined is, in fact, the true timeline. On November 18 the written request was received. On

November 22 a secure link was provided to the files that were requested. It's my understanding that there were some issues on the side of those who were trying to access the report. Those issues in terms of the file format were remedied, and they have their report now. I have to say that the timeline is the fact. The other fact is that we want to work with every member of this House to make life better. Children deserve somebody who's got their back. They don't deserve a minister who throws up his hands and not . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Deputy Premier.
The leader of the third party.

Child Death Review Ministerial Panel

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government promised to establish an all-party committee to examine Alberta's child intervention system in public. The Human Services minister today announced something far from that, a ministerial panel that will hide behind closed doors, chaired by the minister responsible. It's like asking a turkey to vote for Thanksgiving. To the Premier: since for Serenity there is no justice if there is no blame, will you now keep your promise of a public all-party committee?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. We did take the recommendations that were brought forward and have agreed to have all parties in this House represented in helping us move forward in solving these challenges. There is some very specific information that must remain in confidence, and we will make sure that we protect children's and families' rights to privacy. But there will be a public-facing piece of this. The committee will report publicly, and the committee will be involved in developing next steps to make sure that the public can be involved and have full protections.

Mr. McIver: Mr. Speaker, they lost me when they went behind closed doors.

Multiple systems failed Serenity before and after her death, including the child intervention system, the RCMP, the medical examiner's office, and the minister's office. Cracks in these vital systems are evident, and Albertans have a right to know precisely what happened in Serenity's tragic case. Since the ministerial panel won't be conducting its business in public, will the minister call a public inquiry into what happened to Serenity so that we can place blame and get some justice?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, we all want justice. We want justice for Serenity and all of the other children in the system. Again, I'm not here to defend the system; I'm here to fix the system. This is why we have moved forward with creating a committee. I want to clarify that the minister is not chairing the committee. This is going to be a committee that has participation from all parties within this House, and the committee will have the opportunity to engage with the public. I want to warn everyone that some of this information is very difficult, and we need to all be prepared and respect the privacy and integrity of these children. They deserve that, and they deserve a better system.

Mr. McIver: No blame, no justice.

I've been a minister. I know that you can't keep track of all your files all the time, but I know when a terrible case like Serenity's comes to light, you have to make it a priority. I always understood then that I was renting my seat as a minister by the day. When you're a minister and you let a crisis languish for three weeks, you

have failed to pay the rent. So both the Human Services minister and the Justice minister haven't paid the rent, Mr. Speaker. To the Premier: how soon will you replace these two ineffective ministers?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to confirm that two days after the request was received, a file was uploaded. I understand they had difficulty accessing that file, and that has been corrected.

I have to say that children don't deserve a minister who flips up his desk and walks out; they deserve a minister who is going to stand beside them and fix the system, Mr. Speaker. We want every person in this House to stand up and help this minister and make the system better. That's exactly why we've moved forward with creating this panel and look forward to seeing everybody – I believe it when they say that they want to make the system better, so please do work to help make that happen.

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

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to go on record calling for a legislative committee on this issue as well.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Dr. Swann: I'm shifting topics to the Alberta prion institute, that just received \$11 million from Genome Canada to trace chronic wasting disease in deer, elk, and moose in Alberta. We need to act now to prevent a catastrophe not only in wildlife but in our agriculture community. CWD is a fatal brain disease like mad cow disease. It's spreading across western Canada since its introduction in game farms, and 15 years ago, the experts said that BSE, mad cow disease, would never cross species. Now, several hundred people have died from BSE.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member. [interjection] Your time is allocated, hon. member.

Is there a minister who would like to announce . . . [interjection] Hon. member, your time is up.

Please proceed, hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the very important question. You know, as a government we absolutely recognize the importance of keeping our livestock – our tame livestock, our domestic livestock, wild livestock – safe from any form of disease. It's important for biosecurity reasons, for our markets, for everything. We're continuing to work with the industry – the farming industry, the wildland farming industry, other livestock industries right across the province – on all our biosecurity issues and continue to be working with the member with the question as well on making sure we can do all we can.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. Swann: It's been a decade since I started raising these issues. When will you ban the movement of all potentially wasting-disease-infected carcasses, live animals, products, equipment, or other sources of infectious materials across this province?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the member for the question. The odd time that, you know, those biosecurity issues do come up in the province, the department takes it very seriously and reacts very quickly. Those operations do happen not that often, but we do take action on it. Continuing to work with the member, we

welcome the member's input in going forward to do much more if we could.

Dr. Swann: No action. No action in 10 years.

Given there's now evidence that thousands of citizens are unknowingly consuming infected animals, including First Nations, will the minister mandate and implement now convenient, cost-free testing of all animals harvested in the CWD-affected areas?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. The member I think does realize that there is testing going on. It is true that we have over the past few years, you know, picked up a couple of incidents when this has happened. It isn't the doomsday scenario that he's trying to make us believe. Incidents do happen. We have control of it. We continue with those controls. I have all the confidence in our public servants to do what they do best, and that is to make sure that we're all safe.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

2:10 Investigation of Death of Child in Kinship Care (continued)

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a former worker with children's services, as a mother, and as an Albertan, I, too, am heartbroken when any child dies. Minister, did the department of Human Services fail to give the report of Serenity to the RCMP?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. The reporter is certainly very passionate and vocal on these issues, but she didn't get all the facts right. So I will clarify that Human Services received a written request on November 18. A few days later, on November 22, we provided the file, the password, a secure file. There were some issues. As of yesterday the RCMP has confirmed that they have received the needed material. We are doing everything that needs to be done.

Ms Goehring: For two years the office of the Child and Youth Advocate asked the office of the Chief Medical Examiner for their report. They never heard back. What happened?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Member, for the question. The OCME is changing its practice as to how it communicates with the OCYA. Until now standard practice had been that when the office of the Child and Youth Advocate contacts the OCME about a specific case, a note is added to the file to indicate that request. Going forward, a reply will be sent to the OCYA to ensure they are aware of any current investigations.

Ms Goehring: Most autopsies take a few days. This one took two years. Why?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined the cause of death within a few days and notified the RCMP immediately. The autopsy report took additional time to complete due to its complexity and as a result of the ongoing investigation. The medical examiner has remained in contact with the RCMP as the investigation has continued. The

RCMP requested that the OCME not release its findings as publication of the details of the death could be detrimental to the ongoing police investigation. That's what we confirmed from the OCME.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Child Death Review System

Mrs. Pitt: Mr. Speaker, two years ago the government formed an expert panel to provide recommendations on reforming and streamlining Alberta's child death review system. The panel provided a number of common-sense recommendations, including providing the office of the Chief Medical Examiner direct access to the government's intervention services information system and investigating the deaths of all children in care in Alberta. There have been 71 children die while receiving protective services. Minister, how many of these deaths have been reviewed and by whom?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two death review processes: one is internal; one is external, the office Child and Youth Advocate if he chooses to do so. It's at his discretion. That is the reason that we have brought forward this proposal of a panel so that all deaths of children can be investigated. If they are serious about it, which I believe they are, they need to work with us to get this right, to fix the system, to have a system in place that we can look at all deaths and learn from those deaths and avoid . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mrs. Pitt: Mr. Speaker, given that this government has had 19 months to take action on this important recommendation and given another recommendation of an expert panel, that has been endorsed by the chief medical officer, was the creation of a multidisciplinary child death review committee and given that Alberta's chief medical officer of health stated, and I quote, that the current review processes do not meet the standards recommended by the Canadian Paediatric Society and that the chair of the panel has stated, and I quote again, that there was no evidence of change; nothing happened, end quote, to the minister: what are you waiting for, and how long do the people have to wait for you to do your job?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Again, I just want to reinforce that nobody is here to defend the system. I believe we're all here to fix the system, and we want you as colleagues of ours in this Legislature to help us do that. So I want to say thank you for bringing forward a recommendation around a committee moving forward.

I have to say that in terms of what's moving forward, all parties will be included. The outside experts will be consulted and invited to present to the public. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order, please. [interjections] Excuse me, maybe you didn't hear me. Order, please.

Please proceed, Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased that we can move forward on the following pieces, including that all parties will be included, outside experts will be consulted. There will be assurances.

The Speaker: Thank you, Deputy Premier.

Mrs. Pitt: Mr. Speaker, I know that this minister and this party want to distract from the fact that this file has been grossly mismanaged and our children in care are suffering. This new panel does little to address any of our concerns. Given that the government has failed to even meet several of its past recommendations and given that the minister has stated that he will absolutely not resign because, I quote, "we have work to do," why doesn't the minister just do what Albertans want, what Albertans expect, and hand in his resignation?

Ms Hoffman: Albertans expect every one of us to step up and do what's right for children, Mr. Speaker. That's why we invite the members opposite to participate with us in receiving presentations from the public – from the public – and in ensuring that information about children is protected. The publication will be made public. There will be pieces involved throughout that are very traumatizing, and the members deserve to have the opportunity to be able to process that information in a way that's safe. But the committee will have an opportunity to engage with the public, relevant stakeholders and will have a public-facing manner while protecting the privacy of children and their families.

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

Investigation of Death of Child in Kinship Care (continued)

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday our PC caucus, like many other Albertans, was devastated to learn that this NDP government failed to hand over a critical report to the RCMP regarding child intervention. It is clear that this government has trouble understanding when a crisis is affecting Alberta families, even when it's right in front of their faces. We're seeing this same thing with fentanyl, and we're seeing it again with the child intervention system. Premier, why do you continue to double down and not address crises that are hurting and impacting Albertans today?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question. That's one of the reasons why we have moved forward on having two pieces to the panel. One is very short-term, action-focused, immediate actions. The panel itself will be involved in determining next steps because the panel, all of us in this Chamber owe it to roll up our sleeves and make sure that we're doing everything we can to fix this.

Then afterwards there will be a longer piece that involves, Mr. Speaker – the panel members themselves will be involved in developing the outward-facing pieces of that to ensure the safety and protection of the children and that public accountability is provided.

Mr. Gill: Given that we know the Human Services minister and the Justice minister fall back on empty key message promises of looking into certain issues and that the Justice minister's response was that the matter was being investigated by the RCMP and she cannot share the important progress, we aren't buying it anymore. The Minister of Human Services was not actively following up on this heartbreaking case, and the Minister of Justice was not ensuring her department was working collaboratively with the RCMP. Premier, do you have confidence in the ability of both of these ministers to ensure that we don't lose any more children?

Ms Hoffman: The Justice minister and the Human Services minister absolutely have my confidence and the confidence of our entire caucus, Mr. Speaker. We are working with them to provide supports and opportunities to help them improve the system. Everyone knows the system needs to be fixed, and it is our responsibility to step up and do that. You have two options: you defend the system and ask for an individual to take responsibility; you fix the system and have an individual taking responsibility. Our minister is doing just that, and he's stepping up to fix the system, and I hope that all members opposite do just that as well.

The Speaker: The second supplemental.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Premier, you're out of touch with Albertans because they have lost confidence in your cabinet. Given that the Minister of Human Services and the Minister of Justice have not done their job and are holding up an RCMP investigation into the death of four-year-old Serenity, to the Premier. My question is very simple. Will you do the right thing today and replace these two ministers so we can move forward with an all-party committee to address this issue in this child intervention system and start saving lives?

2:20

Ms Hoffman: We are moving forward with an all-party committee, Mr. Speaker, and we want the committee itself to be involved in just that. That's why we're moving forward with making sure that we have opportunities to fix the system, and we are committed to doing just that. The two individuals that are being called upon are standing right there. They're working to make the system better. Instead of flipping over a table and calling for everyone to start from scratch, I encourage everyone to come to the table, sit down, work on the system, and make it better because every child deserves that.

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

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In November several ministers in this NDP government, including the Justice minister, stood up and told the House that there was an ongoing investigation into the death of Serenity. The RCMP just received the files that they need to continue a full investigation this Tuesday. To the Minister of Justice: can you explain to Albertans what happened, and do you agree with the Minister of Human Services that nobody will be held to account for this tragic death of children in our care?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. My understanding is that the RCMP are actively investigating this case. The RCMP have the relevant documents that they require. The office of the Chief Medical Examiner notified the RCMP of the cause of death as soon as it was determined, which was within a few days of the death. The RCMP requested that the OCME not release the findings as publications of the details of the tragic death could be extremely detrimental to the ongoing investigation. Absolutely, the RCMP are moving forward with their investigation, and we are supporting them in that, and if they require additional information, we'll be happy to comply.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is saddening to hear that this government isn't taking our children in care seriously.

Given that we've learned from the RCMP officials this morning that this government waited until Tuesday to submit Serenity's report despite weeks of pressure from the opposition, why didn't

the Justice minister take action when the office of the Child and Youth Advocate, the media, and the opposition raised the issue?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. That timeline is troubling, and this started far before the questions that were raised in this House, but the timeline is the truth: September 2016, the office of the Chief Medical Examiner completed the report; October 24, the RCMP asked for the report; October 27, DFNA reached out to Human Services. It goes on: November 22, the report was uploaded. I understand now that there were some challenges that the receiving party had with downloading that file. Those have been fixed, and the file is in the hands of those who require it.

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

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government looks like it's over its head. We've seen this issue with FOIP obstruction persisting at the Ministry of Justice, and considering that the Serenity case raises new issues around secrecy within this government, will the Premier admit that the minister is incapable of managing her department and restore the trust that has been broken under this government's watch and actually hold somebody responsible for the tragic death of Serenity?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll say again that we are absolutely committed to fixing the system, not one system but many systems. We are inviting members from the government caucus as well as each other party that's in this House to step up and help us in doing that work. We have a table that we are asking you to come join us at, and our children certainly deserve to have the opportunities that will be presented in that committee, both the shorter term piece as well as the longer term piece, to make sure that the system does improve. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. members.

To the two House leaders, government and opposition: try and manage the communications with each of yourselves through me, please. Yes. Thank you.

Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Protection of Indigenous Children in Care

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This government has made commitments to indigenous Albertans yet has failed to come through on those promises. Children are dying while this government does nothing to stand up for them and advocate for their health and safety. Maybe Serenity is only one horrible example of the lack of oversight that this minister is providing in the care of our most vulnerable citizens. This government needs to start doing something substantial for indigenous Albertans instead of making empty promises. To the minister. This case is clearly criminal. What has your ministry done to work with the Minister of Human Services? Why hasn't someone been held responsible?

The Speaker: The Minister of Human Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. Certainly, the circumstances in which Serenity died break my heart. There is still an investigation going on, and criminal investigations are done by the RCMP and police. We will co-

operate with that investigation and make sure they have all the needed and necessary information.

Mr. Hanson: Given that the Child Intervention Implementation Oversight Committee presented their final report to the Minister of Human Services in February 2015, nearly 22 months ago, and since this report strongly recommended that the minister support the creation of a multidisciplinary child death review committee within the office of the Chief Medical Examiner and that this would be part of the Fatality Inquiries Act review, to the minister. You have shown zero leadership to protect indigenous children in care under your watch. How have you participated in the Fatality Inquiries Act review, and what steps have you taken to protect innocent indigenous children?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. This is one of the reasons why, with a panel, there is a two-part piece. The first part is very short term, and it's focused around making sure that all parties in this House have an opportunity to bring forward specific action items and make sure that they've been implemented properly. That's the short-term piece.

The longer term piece will be many other pieces around the public-facing component, working with front-line service providers. I think that that's an excellent recommendation, that is exactly one of the pieces that the panel will be reviewing.

Mr. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, there are children in care that do not have another 22 months.

Given that the AG report states that Human Services "does not have clear, coordinated processes for providing early support services to Indigenous children and families" and given that the Indigenous Relations minister is supposed to be supporting other ministries in fulfilling their duty to protect vulnerable indigenous Albertans yet obviously both ministries failed Serenity and her family horribly, what has the minister done to support Human Services in developing processes that will meet the needs of babies such as Serenity before more children are killed while in care?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Forming that panel is just one thing. Since becoming the government, we have accepted and acted on the Child and Youth Advocate office's recommendations. We have increased intervention funding by \$37 million, which was voted against by all that side. We strengthened additional support for child care such as increasing the advancing futures bursary. We have developed assessment tools for kinship caregivers. We have dealt with front-line staff caseloads with . . .

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

Investigation of Death of Child in Kinship Care *(continued)*

Mr. Ellis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have had enough. We have a little girl who has died, and there are numerous questions surrounding her death that need to be answered and need to be answered now. The terrible case of Serenity's abuse and subsequent death is indicative of a problematic investigation involving the RCMP. To the Solicitor General. Everyone is accountable here. Will you ask the RCMP on behalf of the people of Alberta to perform an inquiry

into the perceived botched investigation into Serenity's death, and if not, why not?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I'm aware that the member has been a member of the armed forces as well, and the RCMP certainly do have an important . . . [interjections] Sorry. City police and the RCMP in partnership with other law enforcement agencies have a very important role to play in this. My understanding is that the RCMP is investigating this case, and the questions that have been raised are the questions that are being raised by the public as well as by the minister to make sure that Serenity, her family, and all children in the system have justice.

2:30

Mr. Ellis: Everything needs to be public in this situation, Mr. Speaker.

The medical examiner's office also falls under the authority of the Solicitor General. There are lots of perceived concerns with the procedures of that office. I believe the Solicitor General should be asking: where did the autopsy report go off the rails? Again to the minister: will you launch a public inquiry into the procedures of the medical examiner's office to determine where it failed Serenity so that it does not fail other children, and if not, why not?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Just to reiterate, the RCMP requested that the OCME not release its findings as publication of the tragic death materials could have a detrimental impact on the ongoing investigation. That investigation is still ongoing. The medical examiner has remained in constant contact with the RCMP as the investigation has continued.

We do absolutely want to ensure and now all parties in this House can work to ensure that we absolutely make sure that everyone gets justice in this case. This is something that rests on all of our shoulders, and we all feel . . .

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

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, thank you. The entire system failed Serenity and her mother possibly due to their lower socioeconomic status, and this is unacceptable. It is wrong to treat people differently because of their perceived status. This is what I have been fighting against for years. To the minister: will you and your government initiate a public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Serenity's death, and if you don't, will you resign so that Alberta can have somebody who cares take that necessary action?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The poverty of children is something that we've been working to address every day in this House. That's why we moved forward on bringing forward the Alberta child benefit as well as working with the federal child benefit, to make sure that families get the supports that they need to be able to stay strong and resilient and together whenever it's safe for children. That, of course, is our ultimate goal. And that's why we are working on both sides, around addressing the system changes once children are in the system but also keeping families strong and resilient and together.

I'm proud to be part of a government that's standing up for families, Mr. Speaker.

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

Child Death Review Ministerial Panel
(continued)

Loyola: Thank you. I believe that I speak for all the members of this caucus when I say that we take this issue very, very seriously, and that is the issue of children in care. I'm hoping that we can get a little bit more clarity on the ministerial panel. Mr. Speaker, through you to the minister on the ministerial panel: can you please let us know if that will be a public or private committee? [interjection]

The Speaker: Hon. member. [interjections] Hon. members.
The Minister of Human Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the important question. The chair and the committee members will have the discussion, and they will decide their work plan. As was suggested, I'm not the chair, but I will certainly consider the Wildrose proposal for the chair. This is no different than other panels that have preceded this: the royalty review 2014 panel, the mental health review panel. There is absolutely good reason for the panel to have public meetings, to hear from the front lines and hear from the public. And if they choose to have . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Loyola: Again, Mr. Speaker, through you to the minister. I know that it's important for us to collaborate with all parties in the House. Did you consider any of the opposition's terms of reference when coming up with the terms of reference for the panel?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member. I absolutely did. The public will be invited to make presentations, the front line will be able to participate, and families will be engaged. When we write the terms of reference, they will look at the review process, they will look at root causes, they will look at resources, staffing, training. We have framed those terms of reference in the broadest possible sense to get this right.
Thank you.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, what do you hope that the panel will accomplish?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two things that are expected of the panel. In six to eight weeks it is expected that the panel will come with concrete recommendations around our death review process. In the next six months it is expected that the panel will come up with concrete recommendations to address root causes of these issues, to address resources and staffing needs, to suggest what changes can be made to avoid similar incidents from happening again, and to strengthen support for families and communities across this province.
Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

Protection of Children in Care

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you. This NDP government failed to protect Serenity, and it breaks my heart to know that there are other little

ones out there right now being sexually abused, beaten, and starved. Today the Human Services minister admitted that the NDP government has failed children in kinship care and announced a government panel that will deliver predetermined outcomes, no powers to subpoena, no public record, and a minister who himself should be investigated is sitting on this panel. How ridiculous is this NDP panel, and how is it a better solution than an all-party legislative committee that this Wildrose has been asking for for three weeks?

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

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. We have been moving with the information that we received and the recommendation from the Official Opposition around their terms of reference . . .

Mr. Nixon: Point of order.

Ms Hoffman: . . . with the recommendation that came forward from the leader of the third party around creating this in the very first place. We do believe that every single person in this House wants to make life better for children, especially children in care who are suffering. That's why we are wanting to work with all parties in this House to make sure that we can move forward with the best interests of children always as the guiding lens. We want to solve this together, Mr. Speaker, because we know that for more than a hundred years we certainly haven't solved . . .

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

Mrs. Aheer: Again, Serenity was sexually abused, starved, and beaten. It is unimaginable what that child went through. And she represents systemic issues in kinship care. Given that the office of the Child and Youth Advocate has repeatedly detailed that there is insufficient training practices for kinship care providers but, much worse, Mr. Speaker, that there is inadequate training for case-workers and given that these recommendations for improvements are years old, how is it acceptable to this minister that his staff are inadequately trained?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. We certainly have taken steps to strengthen the kinship model by coming up with assessment tools. We are also helping staff to deal with caseload issues. There are 27 pilot projects going across the province to ensure that kinship caregivers have the right support, to ensure families have the right support. We have added \$37 million into the system. Across Alberta there are 1,700 kinship homes providing services to children across this province, and one incident doesn't reflect . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mrs. Aheer: Mr. Speaker, we keep hearing: "Supports. Supports. Supports. We're doing this. We're doing that." Well, the friends and family of Serenity are devastated, and they deserve justice. Given that this family has suffered, they've been betrayed by the government, they've been betrayed by the system, Serenity's mother is finding out about this case in the news, and this minister keeps saying that they have support, I would like to hear from this minister: what supports are they offering Serenity's family, the siblings, and everybody else that has been involved in this case?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A week ago there was a vigil on the Legislature's doorstep. I along with my colleague the Minister of Indigenous Relations participated in that. I have spoken directly to Serenity's family. I have provided them with my information and offered every support whatsoever they need to deal with this. That is what I have done specifically for this case. Going forward, I have established this panel to look into these systemic issues to make sure that we can avoid similar incidents.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member . . . [interjections] Order, please.

The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

2:40 Forest Industries and the Environment

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They call us the do-nothing government, yet mitigating climate change has been a significant priority for the forest sector for many years alongside the former PC government. The forest industry has reduced their carbon footprint and produced green electricity from biomass. To the minister: since 1990 Canadian pulp and paper companies have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 66 per cent. How much is your carbon tax going to reduce emissions in your term in government?

The Speaker: The minister of agriculture.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. The truth is that we can act now or be left behind. This government took the position that we're going to act now. The member is absolutely right. The forestry sector has taken this seriously. They will continue taking it seriously. From the Forest Products Association of Canada: Canada's Forest Products Industry Is Part of the Solution to the Climate Change Challenge. From the Alberta Forest Products Association: "Mitigating climate change has been a significant priority for the forest sector for many years." They are doing their part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, and we're going to continue working with them to find those solutions.

The Speaker: Thank you.

First supplemental.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that forest companies have invested in renewable and sustainable electricity and have been successfully generating green energy from biomass since long before the government's climate leadership plan and given that this government is incenting new green energy production, to the minister: what is your government doing to recognize the green energy production that's already been built because of the forest industry?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. We're reviewing the bioenergy credit program. It was a program that was started by the previous government, had sunsetted. We're reviewing that program, looking to incent the forest industry yet further. It's important to note that the Canadian corporate executives who urged the federal government and this province to take action on climate change included the Forest Products Association of Canada. We're taking their advice along with that of executives from across Canada, continuing with the climate leadership plan because that's the right thing to do.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this government's climate leadership plan looks at how much carbon is produced in Alberta, but there are two sides of the equation, and given that a healthy forest is a carbon sink and that investing in the health of forests is the best defence against climate change, to the minister: why doesn't your climate change leadership plan recognize the carbon sequestering that is amplified by healthy forest practices by our forest industry?

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

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. Of course, this matter of offset protocols is ongoing. We need to make sure that our offset protocols are verifiable, measurable, and reportable and that they conform to what is happening in other jurisdictions, which is exactly why we are doing that. I had the opportunity to meet with the International Emissions Trading Association at the United Nations' meetings on climate change when this matter of forestry, agriculture, and waste offset protocols was raised. We'll have more to say about that in 2017.

Thanks to the hon. member for the question.

Members' Statements

(continued)

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

Calgary Rotary Challenger Park

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the far southeast corner of the incredibly diverse riding of Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill, past the longest runway in Canada, is Calgary Rotary Challenger park. The barrier-free park was established in 2003 with a mission to provide accessible sport and recreation facilities where everyone can play.

I recently had the chance to tour the park with executive director Jim Zackowski, and he explained the unique partnership between the rotary clubs of Calgary and Airdrie, the Calgary Airport Authority, and the Calgary Parks Foundation that helped the park become home to baseball fields, tennis and basketball courts, picnic areas, football and soccer fields, and a 400-metre synthetic surface track.

Tenants of the main building include Renfrew Educational Services, BAPS temple, and the park's administration team, which is currently evaluating expansion plans for the park.

The organization has just signed a long-term lease with the Calgary Airport Authority for just over five acres of land adjacent to the park's west boundary, where the CRCP is hoping to expand its operations to include a new barrier-free, environmentally friendly 110,000-square-foot centre for all abilities. The centre is intended to be a co-location facility that would house a number of not-for-profit organizations. Focusing on integration, inclusion, and collaboration, the centre will be a hub that provides a multitude of community services to our youth, seniors, and other more vulnerable populations in our communities.

I encourage everyone who hasn't had the opportunity to see the park to attend the family fun day next June 24 and see what a remarkable facility it is. Thank you.

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

Culture Days

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2008 Alberta Culture Days began as a one-day event celebrating our province's

arts and cultural communities. From September 30 to October 2 of this year Alberta Culture Days covered three days of festivities in over 70 communities across the province, cultivating a sense of belonging and pride through celebration of our vibrant culture and diverse heritage.

Calgary-Northern Hills served as a 2016 host site, with Vivo for Healthier Generations, north-central Calgary's recreational hub, holding its sixth annual cultural expo. Vivo's cultural expo featured traditional songs by Chantal Stormsong Chagnon and Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeyes of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation 8; martial arts demonstrations by the Mo Fan Taichi & Wushu Academy; a tribute to carnival by the Brazilian Community Association and Quilla dance; the *Afghan Jalebi*, performed by Nazma Nanji; performances by groups such as the Young Bhangra, Angela's hip hop dancers, the Mexican dance and art association, the Métis Nation of Alberta region 3; as well as a visit and opening remarks from our Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Displays at Vivo's cultural expo featured explanations of various cultural practices, information for new residents, and local newspapers in languages other than English. Free food samples were provided by EthniCity Catering, a local company employing new Canadians.

I'd like to congratulate Vivo for Healthier Generations for bringing together performers, artists, and delicious foods from our diverse community to celebrate, through arts and culture, who we are as Albertans.

As a resident of the Calgary-Northern Hills community I am proud of our province's commitment to Alberta Culture Days. Through participation in cultural activities we honour our past, understand one another in the present, and undertake building our shared future together.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Serenity

Mr. Barnes: In this House we speak a great deal about policy, about administration, about systems, but there are times when such cold, dispassionate terms fail us. There are stories that brutally remind us that every single thing we do here is about people. We represent people. We serve people, not systems. Four-year-old Serenity's life and death is that story.

It's been said many times that there is nothing more tragic than the death of a child, but what about when that death becomes another distant and impersonal statistic? What about when the story behind the death is forgotten and the same mistakes are made again and again and again? Serenity was a person, a child with dreams and desires, a child who could feel joy and sorrow, a child who laughed, played, and cried. She wasn't a number. She wasn't a failing of a process. She wasn't a blip in the system. She was a human.

From the beginning of this horrendous story the entire government system has failed by forgetting that humanity is at the centre of everything it does. The system ignored a mother's anguish and a child's torment. The Human Services minister, having failed to do his part to get justice for Serenity and pass along information to the RCMP, now calls it an unfortunate error.

No, Mr. Speaker. I absolutely reject this cold, uncaring, sanitized language. I'm sick and tired of hearing about processes and bureaucracies and unfortunate errors. We can no longer hide behind reviews and reports and panels and recommendations. For too long nobody has cared enough at a human level to do anything about it. A child died, starving, neglected, abused physically and sexually. We demand justice for this poor girl, peace for her family, respect

for every other life in the hands of a sprawling government apparatus that protects itself before our children.

2:50

Notices of Motions

The Speaker: The Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice of the following. Under Standing Order 15 of the Legislative Assembly I am providing you with written notice of my intention to raise a point of privilege at the appropriate time. It concerns misleading statements that were made in the Assembly by the Premier, the Minister of Human Services, the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, and the Minister of Infrastructure and of Transportation.

Also, Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I intend to give notice under Standing Order 42 that I propose the following motion.

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly:

1. Appoint a select special child intervention review committee to review the safety and security of children in government care by examining Alberta's child intervention system and related systems, including but not limited to the Department of Human Services and the Department of Indigenous Relations, and the committee will further review the recommendations for the child intervention system made over the past five years and may for the purpose of systematic improvement inquire into specific cases;
2. The committee shall be chaired by the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, or Deputy Chair of Committees and consist of seven members from the government members' caucus, three members from the Official Opposition, two members from the third party, the Member for Calgary-Elbow, and the Member for Calgary-Mountain View, with the names of all members to be submitted to the Clerk no later than December 15, 2016;
3. In carrying out its duties, the committee may travel throughout Alberta and undertake a process of consultation with all interested Albertans;
4. In carrying out its duties, the committee may solicit written submissions from experts in the field and may compel the appearance of witnesses with specific and relevant knowledge on matters being investigated;
5. The committee is deemed to continue beyond prorogation and may meet during a period when the Assembly is adjourned or prorogued;
6. Reasonable disbursements by the committee for advertising, staff assistance, equipment and supplies, rent, travel, and other expenditures necessary for the effective conduct of its responsibilities shall be paid, subject to the approval of the chair;
7. In carrying out its responsibilities, the committee may, with the concurrence of the head of the department, utilize the services of the public service employed in that department or the staff employed by the Legislative Assembly Office and the officers of the Legislature;
8. The committee must ensure that any and all front-line workers and managers in children services and any delegates or contractors for children services that wish to speak to the all-party committee are given full whistleblower protections;
9. The committee must submit its report within six months after commencing its review;
10. When its work has been completed, the committee must report to the Assembly if it is sitting, or if the Assembly is adjourned, the committee may release its report by depositing a copy with the Clerk and forwarding a copy to each member of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to give oral notice of a motion for the next Order Paper, the motion being as follows:

Be it resolved that the following changes to

- (a) the Standing Committee on Families and Communities be approved: that MLA Miller replace MLA McPherson
- (b) the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future be approved: that MLA Drysdale replace MLA Jansen
- (c) the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices be approved: that MLA Drever replace MLA Jabbour.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Mr. McIver: Mr. Speaker, I have five copies of the ministerial panel on child intervention handout that the Minister of Human Services distributed at his media conference ever so recently.

The Speaker: I believe we have three points of order.

The Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. Excuse me. The Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Point of Order

Language Creating Disorder

Mr. Nixon: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I think the Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills has got lots of stuff to say this afternoon, so I will rise on his behalf for this point of order. I rise on 23(j), "uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder." A member that I have tremendous amount of respect for, the Government House Leader, during, you know, what was an emotional question period, I do recognize, did tell this side of the House to shut up. I think you would find that that is certainly abusive language and definitely language that would create disorder.

With that said, I do recognize that sometimes during question period things can get a little bit heated, and I'm sure the hon. member recognizes that. I would just ask that he rise and do the right thing, withdraw and apologize.

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, during the discussion, which was very heated and very emotional, which I recognize, I became increasingly concerned that opposition members were calling on the Minister of Human Services to be accountable but were not listening and were shouting at him to resign instead of listening to the answer. At one point I called to the other side and called for order – in no way did I mean to usurp your position – to ask them to try and pay attention. The hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre yelled across to me: you're not the Speaker. I, unfortunately, used the words that he said. I met rudeness with rudeness – I should have taken the high road – for which I apologize and withdraw my comments. It was unworthy of me.

The Speaker: The second point of order.

Point of Order

Language Creating Disorder

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on 23(h), (i), and (j). During question period on numerous occasions the Minister of Health, the Deputy Premier, made a number of statements that were likely to create disorder, particularly when she continually and regularly referred to a committee which is not a committee. It's a panel. There's a very big difference in the facts between a panel and

a committee, and on numerous occasions the Deputy Premier said that that's why they were taking action with this committee. That's not a fact. The fact is that it is a panel. The Deputy Premier also made numerous – numerous – statements about how they took into consideration all of the recommendations that the Official Opposition had made, and that also is not a fact.

When ministers of the Crown make statements in question period that are clearly devoid of the facts, that will create disorder every time. I ask not only that she withdraw and apologize but that the government refrain from spreading misinformation in the future.

3:00

Mr. Mason: Well, Mr. Speaker, I've been in this place a long time. Sometimes it feels maybe too long. I'm sure that hon. members opposite might agree with that.

Let's look at 23(h), (i), and (j).

- (h) makes allegations against another Member;
- (i) imputes false or unavowed motives to another Member; [and]
- (j) uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder.

Now, the hon. Opposition House Leader cited all three, but he basically directed his arguments to (j), "uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder."

Mr. Speaker, what we have here is a difference between a panel and a committee, a semantical difference. Well, I mean, here's the *Oxford* dictionary. A committee is "a group of people appointed for a specific function by a larger group and typically consisting of members of that group." A panel is "a small group of people brought together to investigate or decide on a particular matter." Now, there are some slight differences in those definitions, but I have never heard of a semantical difference creating disorder.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the Official Opposition and most of the opposition were very, in my view, disorderly in the conduct of this question period. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order, please. Hon. member, I'm trying to listen to the House leader's arguments.

Mr. Nixon: Well, let's hear the arguments.

The Speaker: Hon. member, you don't get to talk back to me.

The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Amazing, Mr. Speaker. It's amazing.

So we have a semantical difference. It's a matter of semantics, which the Opposition House Leader claims creates disorder on their side. Well, Mr. Speaker, if they're going to be so disordered when you have a semantical difference, then what happens if you have a real difference of opinion on something substantive instead of something trivial like the definition of a panel or a committee, which apparently causes the members opposite to jump up and call points of order?

Mr. Speaker, if you read (j) carefully, it's not just: creating disorder. The opposition is fully capable of being disorderly without our help; there's no question about it. But (j) requires the use of abusive or insulting language to create disorder, and the hon. Deputy Premier and Health minister did not insult them by calling it a committee.

I have never seen a more frivolous or trivial or contrived point of order in all the years that I've been in this House, Mr. Speaker. I have been on both sides of points of order many times, but frankly I think this is beneath the Opposition House Leader.

The Speaker: Hon. Government House Leader, I think I've heard enough.

Mr. Mason: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Let me remind all of you again that we've all been working very hard in this House, long hours, on some very sensitive and important topics that I know all of you care about. I do sense the emotion at a particular time like this.

With respect to the Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, in this particular instance I don't believe that was a point of order.

Oh, I missed Calgary-Hays. My apologies. I didn't see you.

Mr. McIver: Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Speaker. I will try to be brief. Let me say that I heard the recitations made, and I'll try not to repeat them. The Government House Leader's whole argument is whether it's a trivial difference or not. The disruption that you saw in the House today was entirely based on that difference, which was in no way small. While the *Oxford* dictionary may cover the basic meaning of the words, in this House the meaning of those words is quite a bit bigger.

For example, Mr. Speaker – and this is what this is all about today – the government promised us a committee which has members from all sides of the House and does their business in public, reported in *Hansard*, so that there is no doubt about what happens and the public can see what happened and decide whether they like it or not without having to get a second opinion on exactly what was said.

A panel: no small difference, I think you'll agree, Mr. Speaker. Completely different. The panel has five NDP members, gets to decide what's in the report with their majority, and can hide anything that's said. So it's not a trivial difference. It's a massive difference and the whole source of the outrage today in the House. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. member, please.

Thank you for your additional information. In this particular instance I don't see a point of order.

There's another point of order, number 3. The Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Cooper: We combined them.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Point of Order Oral Questions

The Speaker: I want to deal with a point of order from yesterday, which was concerning the Member for Calgary-Elbow's point of order. The arguments for the point of order are found on pages 2411 and 2412 of December 7, 2016. It has to do with the question that was asked by the Member for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, which is on page 2404. In his arguments the Member for Calgary-Elbow reinforced *Beauchesne*, paragraph 408. That paragraph indicates amongst other things that oral questions should – two things:

- (a) be asked only in respect of matters of sufficient urgency and importance as to require an immediate answer;
- (b) not inquire whether statements made in a newspaper are correct.

I would note for all members that the provision in *Beauchesne's* is no longer applicable.

Specifically, paragraph 410(2) states:

While some previous guidelines remain valid others have fallen into disuse, e.g. that it is out of order to ask about matters reported in the media or statements by Ministers outside the House or "certain questions [concerning] government policy".

I would note that only a few days ago I ruled on a very similar point of order raised by the same member. On Monday I admonished the private members from the government caucus to be careful, use questions of substance, but I ruled that there was no point of order. You can find my remarks on page 2281.

I note to all members that the ability for private members of the government caucus to ask questions of the government is a long-standing practice and tradition in this House, and it certainly has been in the period of time that I have been in this chair. In other words, all private members have the opportunity to hold the government to account. All private members have the opportunity to seek information. I would conclude by saying that all private members should continue to do exactly that. I find that there was no point of order.

3:10

There is a question of privilege. I would call upon the Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

Privilege Misleading the House

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to a point of privilege. As you know, points of privilege should not be taken or entered into lightly. Points of privilege are a serious matter. You'll know that throughout today there was a lot of very serious discussion. We've had a lot of very serious discussion in the House over a number of weeks. I want to make a number of references and then point to a number of facts that will lead to my belief that a number of members on the government side provided answers to questions in this House that misled the House and, in fact, made misleading statements.

With respect to privileges and issues of contempt you can find in *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, second edition, 2009, chapter 3, page 83, where it speaks of breaches of privilege, a list of a number of those breaches, one of which, the third bullet point – and I'll spare the House from reading all of the bullet points today – is: "Deliberately attempting to mislead the House or a committee (by way of statement, evidence, or petition)."

You'll also find in Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice*, 24th edition, page 254, section 15, under Misconduct of Members or Officers, Members Deliberately Misleading the House: "The Commons may treat the making of a deliberately misleading statement as a contempt."

Mr. Speaker, as was indicated in my notice of the breach of privilege, which, I might add, met the requirements of providing the appropriate written notice as laid out in Standing Order 15(2):

A Member wishing to raise a point of privilege shall give written notice containing a brief statement . . .

as I did,

. . . to the Speaker and, if practicable, to any person whose conduct may be called into question, at least 2 hours before the opening of the afternoon sitting.

You'll notice that the written notice that I provided was stamped by your office at 11:15, providing more than the additional two hours' notice.

Mr. Speaker, on November 22, page 1930 of *Hansard*, the Premier made the following statement. I'll read the whole answer for you.

Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite is correct in that the final report was not completed until much later because of the complexities that he alludes to. But he should also know that the medical examiner was in touch with the RCMP with respect to preliminary findings within days of receiving the information and [that he] has been in touch with them throughout.

In terms of the progress of the investigation, that is a matter for the police to deal with independently from those of us in this House.

The Premier clearly identified that this was a matter for the police to deal with independently of the House, but last night we found out that the police had been hindered from that independent investigation because the Ministry of Human Services had not provided the information to the RCMP.

Now, subsequently, I have heard in question period today that the government attempted to provide that information but that what they did not do was ensure that that information had been received.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Human Services, the Premier, and others had a responsibility to provide information to the RCMP for them to independently investigate this horrific tragedy. That is exactly what the Premier said that they did, but the facts are contrary to that.

On November 24, page 2029, the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General said the following:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the very important question. There is nothing more heartbreaking in the world than the death of a child. In this particular case the autopsy report wasn't forwarded because the RCMP still has an ongoing investigation, and they've asked us not to release this information at this time.

This is the important part.

So we are committed to working with them in ensuring that they have the tools that they need to continue their investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that the information that the Department of Human Services had was a very important tool for the RCMP to continue their investigation, yet they did not provide that information. As such, the statement she made in the House is clearly in contempt of this House because it seems they were not committed to working with them, particularly with getting them the most important information with respect to this horrific tragedy. Let me be clear. This government and the Minister of Justice showed contempt for the Assembly with how they chose to answer the question, just as is highlighted in *Erskine May*.

On November 30 the Minister of Justice, page 2183 of *Hansard*:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. Nothing could be more tragic than the death of any child, particularly in [these] circumstances . . . That is why we thought it was so important to ensure that the RCMP were able to complete their investigation in the way that they saw fit and to protect the information in the report from the Chief Medical Examiner in order to ensure that they could complete that investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that providing the information that is paramount and critical to the investigation was probably job one. The government led this House to believe that that had been completed. That was not completed for whatever reason, whatever circumstances, be it an unfortunate error or otherwise, until December 6, which was confirmed by the RCMP today in a 12 o'clock press conference at K Division.

On November 30, page 2183, the Minister of Human Services:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the important question. It's a deeply concerning issue, and I share in the devastation that members of this House and all Albertans are feeling. As the Minister of Justice indicated, it's an issue . . . under active investigation, so we will work with the RCMP and all involved to make sure that we get this right. At the same time, we are absolutely committed to making improvements to avoid similar incidents from happening in the future.

3:20

Mr. Speaker, they said that they would work with the RCMP to make sure all involved get this right. That wasn't true. They didn't

ensure that the RCMP had the information until seven days later, on December 6. On December 6, page 2332 of *Hansard*, my colleague the Government House Leader said the following:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, the Premier has been clear in this House that because of an ongoing RCMP investigation not all the information was released when it might otherwise have been released. That's a very important thing, that we get to the bottom of this and we not interfere or in any way disrupt this critical police investigation.

With respect to the work of this committee in due course the government will be showing just how this committee will work and how we can get to the bottom of this issue.

Now, I will reserve my comments around the committee and how it's not going to work or how it's certainly different than what they proposed in this House prior to the Standing Order 42 that will follow. But let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. The Government House Leader said that "that's a very important thing, that we get to the bottom of this and we not interfere or in any way disrupt this critical . . . investigation." I can assure you that not providing the information to the RCMP has created disruption. It has created a significant delay. The RCMP asked for the information, and they did not receive it. They did not receive it in a form that could be utilized by the RCMP until the 6th of December.

Mr. Speaker, it is very clear to me and I hope that it is very clear to you that the government and ministers of the Crown have misled this Assembly. They have misled Albertans and, as such, it's my hope that you, too, will find this government, as you have before, in contempt of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Hon. Government House Leader, are you prepared to make arguments today, or do you wish to defer?

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, I did not have the advantage of the arguments by the Official Opposition House Leader. I am prepared to proceed, however. We may wish, if that is agreeable to you, to supplement this information. I don't know if that's acceptable or not acceptable. There are some additional points that I don't think we have prepared for. That's all.

The Speaker: We'll take a moment, please.

Hon. member, if I understood your point correctly, you indicated that you would be making some arguments today and possibly additional arguments on the next day of the sitting. If, in fact, that's correct, I just want to make it clear to you that you're going to get one opportunity to make the case. If you do not have the information for the points you've raised earlier, then I would suggest that you defer. You're not going to get a second shot at it.

Mr. Mason: That's clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm prepared to proceed.

The Speaker: Okay.

Mr. Mason: Thank you. Now, Mr. Speaker, allegations of misleading the House are very serious. A point of privilege and a contempt of the House is one of the most serious allegations that can be raised in this place, and it needs to be dealt with with the utmost seriousness, and I think all of the authorities are clear on that fact. I believe I've heard every Speaker since I've been in this place reiterate that point. So they ought not to be entered into for anything but the most serious reasons and certainly not to try and make political points.

Mr. Speaker, it is my contention that this does not meet the test of privilege in the procedural manuals or the test that has been applied in this House over the years.

On page 86 of the *House of Commons Procedures and Practice*, second edition, it's stated:

The following elements have to be established when it is alleged that a Member is in contempt for deliberately misleading the House: one, it must be proven that the statement was misleading; two, it must be established that the Member making the statement knew at the time that the statement was incorrect; and three, that in making the statement, the Member intended to mislead the House.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are three very, very significant thresholds that have to be reached before it can be established that a point of privilege has taken place.

In this Chamber on a number of occasions we've had allegations of misleading the House. On March 12, 2014, a similar matter was brought forward, and Speaker Zwodzesky made a ruling that can be found on page 215 of Hansard for that day, in which he stated:

Now, if the member who raised the point of privilege is alleging that the minister deliberately misled the Assembly, then that indeed is a very, very high bar and is almost never made out according to the many rulings that you will have researched as part of your preparation for this point of privilege. In order to constitute a contempt and to conclude that a member deliberately misled the Assembly, three elements must be met, and members have referred to this in their own words. First, the statement must in fact have been misleading; secondly, it must be established that the member making the statement knew at the time the statement was made that it was incorrect; and three, in making such a statement, the member must have intended to mislead the House. . . . We must accept that the members who spoke, spoke, I hope, with honour and with their own conviction and their own belief.

In this case I do not find there to be a prima facie case that would constitute a point of privilege. So that will conclude this matter today.

Mr. Speaker, very similar rulings were previously made on February 19, 2003, and on December 3, 2012, which I will not repeat here.

To the matter specifically at hand earlier today, the Minister of Human Services outlined a detailed action plan on how he proposes to move forward, working with members of the Opposition as well as experts. He has also provided information, including a timeline, regarding the case in question.

He has indicated that on September 15, 2016, the office of the Chief Medical Examiner completed its report, which was then provided to the RCMP. On October 24 the RCMP asked the delegated First Nations agencies for the child and family services case file. On October 27 the DFNA reached out to Human Services and started discussing co-ordination of the file. On November 18 the DFNA provided a written request to Human Services for the case file. On November 22, two working days later, Human Services provided access to a secure link to download the file.

3:30

Mr. Speaker, we have since understood that the documents were retrieved, due to some problems reading the files, on December 6, in which case the minister has provided that information. We've confirmed with the RCMP again today that it is an ongoing and open, active investigation, so that particular allegation is incorrect.

I just want to go back a little bit. It's not enough even if the Official Opposition House Leader was correct in his assertion that there was not an active investigation going on. Members on this side would have to meet the second and third tests as well. They would have to have known that in the first place, and secondly, we would have had to intentionally be misleading the other side. Mr. Speaker, with respect to that particular allegation none of the three tests are passed. First of all, it was a true statement. Secondly, we

didn't know that it was false. It was true, and we knew it was true. Finally, we were not attempting to mislead the House. On that particular piece I think the Official Opposition's case falls apart.

The office of the medical examiner notified the RCMP of the cause of death as soon as it was determined, which was in a few days of the death, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP requested that the office of the Chief Medical Examiner not release its findings as publication details of the death could be extremely detrimental to the ongoing police investigation, and the medical examiner has remained in constant contact with the RCMP as the investigation has continued.

Mr. Speaker, the House has not been misled. Members on the other side may well believe that errors were made. They may be dissatisfied with the structure of the panel that we have put forward. These have been put forward by the Opposition House Leader as reasons to support his point of privilege. None of that is material to this point of privilege. The question needs to be resolved as to: what particular pieces of information did ministers provide that are named in this point of privilege that were incorrect? Then they would need to establish that the ministers knew they were incorrect. Thirdly, they would need to be able to show that the ministers intended to mislead the House.

Mr. Speaker, there's nothing but differences of opinion on how this case should have been handled, and that's fair, and that's legitimate, and it's the obligation of the opposition to bring those forward and to demand accountability from the government and from the ministers on that side. That is fair game as far as we're concerned. But the point that needs to be satisfied that they have not satisfied is whether any of the statements made by ministers in this House were untrue. That's the very first test, and I don't believe that they have shown that anything was untrue. They certainly haven't shown that the ministers knew them to be untrue, and they certainly haven't shown that the ministers intended to mislead the House.

So, Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect, I would ask and argue that there is no point of privilege here, in fact far from it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief. I rise because this point of privilege addresses and touches on the privilege of all members, not just the members of the opposition party or any party who may have asked the questions that are up for discussion here today. I do want an opportunity as well – and thank you for that opportunity – to address some of the points made by the hon. Government House Leader.

I believe the Opposition House Leader has made a very clear case in quoting from the direct words used by the ministers in question in this House: "We are committed to working with them in ensuring that they have the tools that they need," "they" being the RCMP in this case. That is a direct quote.

Today RCMP Inspector Gibson Glavin said, quote: we did ask for the information, but we did not receive it in a format we could access until December 6. That is, I believe, clearly different than what the minister had said on I believe it was November 22 or 24, and I believe that it was the Minister of Human Services that was quoted as saying, "We are working with them in ensuring that they have the tools they need" in addition to the words of the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General on November 30. I believe that that is, in fact, misleading. So that satisfies the first test.

Whether the minister knew it was incorrect or not, he should have known. He either knew or ought to have known, and I believe that is a fair and well-established test. That is his job, to know or ought

to know what is happening within his ministry, especially when something is as urgent and as public as this case. Whether it's intentional, Mr. Speaker, as difficult as it may be for the government to hear, you know, on a day when we've had some very high emotion in this House – the question of intent concerns me greatly. When a party is concerned, when government members are concerned about their reputation in the eyes of Albertans, it certainly gives them a lot of motive to intentionally hide information from the House and therefore from Albertans.

So I believe that you should find that the information that was presented in this House was in fact misleading, that the minister either knew or ought to have known that it was incorrect, and that they had sufficient motive for them to do so intentionally. That is not, as the hon. Government House Leader has said, something to be taken lightly. But it certainly seems to me that that is exactly what we are dealing with here, Mr. Speaker, and I would hope that you would consider those points as you make your ruling.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to speak to the matter?

Thank you. When I received the letter, I already started the research. I will be dealing with the matter, and I will be coming back to the House with a ruling next week.

Motions under Standing Order 42

The Speaker: Under Standing Order 42 I want to remind you that in making arguments, only one member is allowed to speak and that that is the member who has given notice of the motion, the Official Opposition House Leader. The House leader having provided oral notice of his motion pursuant to Standing Order 42 earlier this afternoon, I would now recognize him.

Select Special Child Intervention Review Committee Appointment

Mr. Cooper:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly:

1. Appoint a select special child intervention review committee to review the safety and security of children in government care by examining Alberta's child intervention system and related systems, including but not limited to the Department of Human Services and the Department of Indigenous Relations, and the committee will further review the recommendations for the child intervention system made over the past five years and may for the purpose of systemic improvement inquire into specific cases;
2. The committee shall be chaired by the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, or Deputy Chair of Committees and consist of seven members from the government members' caucus, three members from the Official Opposition, two members from the third party, the Member for Calgary-Elbow, and the Member for Calgary-Mountain View, with the names of all members to be submitted to the Clerk no later than December 15, 2016;
3. In carrying out its duties, the committee may travel throughout Alberta and undertake a process of consultation with all interested Albertans;
4. In carrying out its duties, the committee may solicit written submissions from experts in the field and may compel the appearance of witnesses with specific and relevant knowledge on matters being investigated;
5. The committee is deemed to continue beyond prorogation and may meet during a period when the Assembly is adjourned or prorogued;

6. Reasonable disbursements by the committee for advertising, staff assistance, equipment and supplies, rent, travel, and other expenditures necessary for the effective conduct of its responsibilities shall be paid, subject to the approval of the chair;
7. In carrying out its responsibilities, the committee may, with the concurrence of the head of the department, utilize the services of the public service employed in that department or the staff employed by the Legislative Assembly Office and the officers of the Legislature;
8. The committee must ensure that any and all front-line workers and managers in children services and any delegates or contractors for children services that wish to speak to the all-party committee are given full whistle-blower protections;
9. The committee must submit its report within six months after commencing its review;
10. When its work has been completed, the committee must report to the Assembly if it is sitting, or if the Assembly is adjourned, the committee may release its report by depositing a copy with the Clerk and forwarding a copy to each member of the Assembly.

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today and speak to Standing Order 42, the waiving of notice.

42(1) A motion may, in case of urgent and pressing necessity previously explained by the mover, be made by unanimous consent of the Assembly without notice having been given under Standing Order 39.

(2) If the Assembly grants unanimous consent to proceed with the motion, each Member who wishes to speak in the debate shall be limited to 20 minutes, and the debate shall conclude

- (a) when all Members who wish to take part have spoken . . . or
- (b) at the normal hour of adjournment in the afternoon on that day, at which time the Speaker shall put every question necessary to dispose of the matter.

Mr. Speaker, as we established just a couple of days ago, what we are currently asking for is unanimous consent, unanimous consent to debate the motion that I provided oral notice of during the Routine. For the benefit of the House and the time this afternoon, I will not repeat the full context of the motion. What I will do is make note that there were some small changes from earlier in the week to this week that make a significant impact, particularly in the timeline of reporting. As we indicated earlier this week, the timeline was recommended as one year, and in this motion it is recommended as six months.

3:40

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of my remarks is to express the urgency of why this matter should proceed, and while there are many similar reasons to earlier this week, significant things have changed since then, the urgency of which we now are faced with. While some similarities remain in terms of the government being able to conclude the business of the House as early as this afternoon and as late as the passage of the rest of the bills on the Order Paper, one could presume, although I would never presuppose a decision of the Assembly, that that would be some day next week.

The urgency before us is that the government has made some significant remarks, both in the press and here in the House today, that they intend to work with the opposition on a panel even though the government had agreed to an all-party committee that would be on the public record, that all parties would be involved. It had been recommended by the Official Opposition that that would include whistle-blower protection, that it would include all of the things that were laid out in the motion. Now, unfortunately, earlier in the week

the Government House Leader chose not to provide unanimous consent, which was more than a bit disappointing. What we could have done is worked together then to come to an agreement on the terms of reference of the committee, which is exactly why, in the most nonpartisan way possible, two days ago that's exactly what we did.

Now, today we saw the government introduce a panel of their own, making claims that they took into consideration all of our recommendations, which is devoid of the facts. They claim that they've accepted our recommendations, yet there is virtually nothing inside the panel that was included in our document. So all that I would like to do this afternoon and the reason why it's so urgent, because clearly the government is taking steps on some form of panel, is have a discussion here in the Chamber about how we can come to an agreement that works much better for all parties in the House.

Mr. Speaker, their panel includes a government member chairing it. It includes five members. It includes one member from the Official Opposition, one member from the Alberta Party, one member from the Alberta Liberals, and one member from – this does not reflect the face of this place. It does not reflect the face of this and presents significant challenges on a go-forward basis for the panel.

Mr. Speaker, what I'm providing the government an opportunity to do – and as I mentioned two days ago, I'm willing to discuss this. It's why I provided it to the government in advance two days ago. I'm willing to discuss it. I'm willing to accept amendments to the terms of reference that are provided here. I think that a lot of good could be done this afternoon by the government choosing to provide unanimous consent to work out the terms of reference for the betterment of members in this House, for the betterment of our members of the media, who I know are interested in what may or may not be happening at these meetings, and for members of the public.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Standing Order 42 states:

- (1) A motion may, in case of urgent and pressing necessity previously explained by the mover, be made by unanimous consent of the Assembly without notice having been given under Standing Order 39.

So, hon. members, I will now ask whether the Assembly grants unanimous consent to allow debate to proceed.

[Unanimous consent denied]

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

Bill 37

Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2016 (No. 2)

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

The Acting Speaker: The hon. President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's my privilege to rise today and move third reading of Bill 37, the Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2016 (No. 2).

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Any members wishing to speak to the bill?

Seeing none, the hon. President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance to close debate.

Mr. Ceci: Close.

[Motion carried; Bill 37 read a third time]

Government Motions

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Statutes Repeal

29. Mr. Mason moved:

Be it resolved that pursuant to section 3 of the Statutes Repeal Act, SA 2013, cS-19.3, the Legislative Assembly resolves that the following statutes, appearing on the list of statutes to be repealed which was tabled in the Assembly by the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General on April 13, 2016, sessional paper 82/2016, not be repealed:

1. Black Creek Heritage Rangeland Trails Act (2004 cB-2.5);
2. Energy Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (2009 c20) ss9(2)(b), (d), (15), (18);
3. Forest Reserves Amendment Act, 2004 (2004 c9) s8;
4. Health Professions Act (RSA 2000 cH-7) ss155(1)(c), 156(n), 156(u) and 156(aa) and scheds. 1 and 13;
5. Health Professions Amendment Act, 2008 (2008 c34) ss12, 13, 15;
6. Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act (RSA 2000 c24(Supp));
7. Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Amendment Act (RSA 2000 c34(Supp)) s8 "8.1(3)".

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. These statutes will be extended by one year. During that time, if it hasn't already begun, each of these will undergo further review, with more work being done in a variety of areas and with ministers and their offices engaging and consulting with stakeholders regarding the relevant statutes.

Thank you very much for your indulgence, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any other members wishing to speak to the motion?

Seeing none, the hon. Government House Leader to close debate.

Mr. Mason: Yes. Close.

[Government Motion 29 carried]

3:50 Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

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

Bill 27 Renewable Electricity Act

The Deputy Chair: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to this bill? The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Mr. MacIntyre: You're surprised, I know. Would you mind letting the House know where we are on this bill, please?

The Deputy Chair: We are on the main bill. There are no amendments currently.

Mr. MacIntyre: Wonderful. Well, Madam Chair, there are a number of issues surrounding renewables development. This government has chosen to focus in on wind turbines and solar power. Of course, there are many, many other forms of renewable and alternative energy forms. I'm not entirely certain why the government wanted to focus in on two of the renewables with the worst dispatchability of any of them, frankly. Both of them require backup.

We have other forms of renewable and alternative technologies that are stand alone, geothermal being one of them. We even have technology today, Madam Chair, where there are these mini units, geothermal units, that can actually use the heat from a flowing well, and we have literally hundreds of thousands of such flowing wells in this province, and a number of these flowing wells – it depends on the organization you're talking to, but anywhere from 20,000 to 40,000 of our flowing wells actually have enough heat energy and pressure and rate of flow to generate electricity.

Of course, these flowing wells have been flowing for some time. The heat energy contained in the products flowing from that well can be used to generate electricity. Energy is energy, you know. We measure energy in many different forms of measurement, whether it be British thermal units or kilowatts or whatever, but energy is energy. We can always transform energy from one form to another. Now, we do have some efficiency loss. It's just a reality of changing the form of an energy from heat energy to electrical energy. Nevertheless, we have a number of wells right across this province that would qualify for that kind of a thing.

Some of the other issues that we have here regarding this particular bill, of course, are not only the two kinds of renewables that the government seems to be focusing on but just that, in addition, Madam Chair, those two particular renewable technologies, photovoltaics and wind power, also require massive amounts of surface land, surface area.

Of course, when we're talking about wind turbines and converting the force of the wind into electrical energy, the higher we put a wind turbine, the more efficient that turbine will be. But, of course, we have roads that need to get there. We have subsurface infrastructure that needs to be put in place to support it. Massive amounts of concrete there. We also have utility corridors to reach those turbines just literally, you know, to run the wires from the turbine to our main trunk. Things like this. Massive amounts of land that are used there.

When we're talking about photovoltaics, again, when we're talking utility-scale photovoltaics, large amounts of land are needed. Again, we need roads. Again, we need infrastructure for supporting the racking and, you know, many hundreds of thousands of tonnes of concrete in footings. We also are going to need rights-of-way, easements, and corridors for wire to carry the electricity from the utility-scale solar farm, we'll call it, to our main trunks again.

All of this infrastructure, the roads and the equipment itself, is going to be parked on someone's land. As a result, when it comes to the consultation process, when it comes to the decision-making by this government for the siting of these particular renewables – specifically, I'm talking about wind and solar now because, as I said, that is the focus of the government – landowner consultation is going to become paramount.

Now, as you probably know, Madam Chair, the Wildrose does have some history with property rights. I believe that if you go back to the very foundation of the Wildrose movement, it was property rights that kicked it off, and property rights are today still a platform in the base of our party, in our movement. Property rights are a big thing to rural Albertans, and property rights are going to be a big thing when it comes to reaching 30 per cent renewables by 2030.

So I would respectfully like to propose an amendment.

The Deputy Chair: Please go ahead, hon. member. The amendment will be referred to as A7.

Mr. MacIntyre: Thank you. I move that Bill 27, the Renewable Electricity Act, be amended by adding the following section after section 5:

Landowner Consultation

5.1 A proposal under section 5 shall not be approved by the Minister unless the Minister is satisfied that reasonable consultation in respect of the proposal has taken place with any affected municipalities and landowners.

Now, there is a reason why we've included municipalities in this, and hopefully it's an obvious reason. We have a number of rural municipalities around this province who could very much benefit from the use of renewable technologies on certain plots of land that are within the municipality, owned and controlled by the municipality. I am speaking, of course, of things like brownfields. Brownfields in our province – and we do have a few – pose a significant problem for a county or a small town in that this is land that the town can do nothing with. That land is next to useless as any form of revenue for the town. The town cannot grant a development permit on that brownfield because it is contaminated in some manner, so there it sits.

In a number of our communities around this province they have been struggling of late to realize significant commercial and industrial tax revenue. For those communities that have brownfields, I believe it makes an enormous amount of sense for them to take those brownfields and put them to good use in generating some form of revenue. Because of the limitations that a brownfield presents in what kind of commerce or industry you could put on something that is classified technically as a brownfield, renewable projects – and let's use solar as an example – are excellent projects to park on a brownfield. And, as I said, we have quite a few of them. I would hope that the government would take the time to actually do a full-on inventory of brownfields across Alberta, locate them, add them up, and use that information, arm our municipalities with that.

4:00

Now, one of the things about this particular amendment – you know, Madam Chair, it's rather easy for a government in Edmonton to just sit there and insist that all of this renewable infrastructure be built. It's relatively easy to sit there with a map of Alberta and draw circles on it and say, "Well, we're going to do it here, and we're going to do it over there, and we're going to locate it in this municipality," and away we go.

Realistically, though, Madam Chair, because of the enormity of this – I don't know if members can even wrap their minds around the size, the scope of the massive amount of infrastructure we're talking about in building 5,000 megawatts of renewables. I think that I may have to produce some sort of a graphic on a map of Alberta just to show you how big a chunk of ground this is going to take to do. It would be helpful, I think. I see the Government House Leader agreeing with me. That would be a good thing to do, to give us a visual as to just the sheer scope of this, an enormous amount, and I will say that thousands of property owners across the province are going to be impacted by that scale, thousands of them. We're going to have a massive amount of people to deal with in this.

As I said, it's relatively easy for some people up in Edmonton to sit down with a map of Alberta and start plunking down renewable projects. We really need to have a fulsome consultation with the owners of land out in rural Alberta where these things are going to go. This is not something to take lightly. Far be it from me to point out that some of those rural landowners are still a little bit hot about Bill 6. They may not be in exactly the most co-operative frame of

mind right now, so I would really strongly recommend that the government join with me in approving this particular amendment to save them some grief later. There is a significant amount of consultation with landowners out in rural Alberta that this government is going to have to do before we dare go down a road of putting 5,000 megawatts of renewables out there.

Now, smaller communities around Alberta are actually going to have to live with this. Some of the members from southern Alberta where we have massive wind farms already in existence have made it very clear to me that NIMBYism is a significant, growing phenomenon in southern Alberta. There are whole communities of people down there that are just fed up to here with wind turbines. I believe that as the government attempts to build more or approve projects for more, that NIMBYism isn't just going to go away. I am fully anticipating that it is going to grow, that it's going to be organized, and there's a significant amount of consultation that this government is going to need to do.

From our perspective, the Wildrose is on the side of Alberta's families. Those families out there in rural Alberta where all this infrastructure is going to get built deserve to be listened to, not just heard, and there is a difference. We have had a lot of rallies and petitions and phone calls into MLA offices. We've had letters to the editor all across this province regarding the carbon tax, how Albertans are so adamantly opposed to more taxation and specifically this carbon tax. Now, the government says that they're hearing, but giving heed is a different thing. What I'm recommending is that we need to have this amendment in place with this bill so that this government will not only hear what Albertan landowners have to say but heed it.

The wording proposed is that the minister will not approve a project "unless the Minister is satisfied that reasonable consultation... has [in fact] taken place with any affected municipalities and landowners." So both. It's important that it be both. The reason why both is also because we have some municipal governments that really want to have commercial development taking place in their municipalities for the purposes of revenue generation, tax revenue generation, but that doesn't mean that the people within the municipality are all onside with this. So it's important that consultation take place with not only the municipalities but the landowners, too. It's just basic common sense.

Now, it is true that the former government failed to address the concerns of Albertans by improving property rights in Alberta, but I will remind the NDP that this was also something the NDP campaigned on during the election, and right now you could probably use something that you did campaign on. There are an awful lot of bills before this House and bills that have been passed that you did not campaign on, so here's one you did campaign on. You did campaign on improving property rights. Many of us here in the Wildrose were hoping to see dramatic improvements made for landowners, to return to a very fair compensation process for landowners, and there's still a significant amount of legislation that remains that is an irritant to landowners; for example, Bill 2, the Responsible Energy Development Act; Bill 24, the Carbon Capture and Storage Statutes Amendment Act, 2010; most importantly, Bill 36, the Alberta Land Stewardship Act.

Just to remind hon. members of what some of these acts mean, Bill 2 from 2012 takes away some of the important notification and appeal rights that landowners previously had. Just think about that for a moment, Madam Chair. Bill 2 actually removed important notification and appeal rights for landowners. What kind of a democracy is this where landowners are neither notified nor do they have recourse to the courts? If you will remember, the NDP fought against that. So here we have an amendment before the House that

is starting to go down the path of remedying this. We are still waiting for this government to really get onto the property rights issues that the NDP campaigned for. We're being patient, kind of.

In Bill 24 we had the government ignore the common law ownership of pore spaces and simply declare that the government owns it all and has access to it to pump carbon dioxide, just an arbitrary ownership swap here. Bill 24 is another one of those bills that I am confident the NDP are well aware of and, hopefully, will take to task and repair.

4:10

Then we come to Bill 36, the Alberta Land Stewardship Act. It is still a gigantic concern because under this particular act it grants cabinet significant power for vast central planning with no adequate checks or balances. It gives cabinet the power to do so much without proper consultation with the people of Alberta. It comes back to that business I started with, of some folks sitting down in Edmonton with a map of Alberta and just drawing things out. Under Bill 36 the government has an enormous amount of power to do just that, Madam Chair, to sit down with a map and draw things out and let 'er rip.

This is wrong. This has to be remedied. Part of the remedy process, I believe, is this little friendly amendment right here. The minister has got to be satisfied at least that some reasonable consultation has taken place rather than just arbitrary decision-making being done. Then, frankly, the government has got to acknowledge...

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

Any members wishing to speak to amendment A7? The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

Mr. Loewen: Thank you, Madam Chair. I do want to take a moment to support the Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake on his amendment here, asking for reasonable consultation with respect to the proposals that take place, and this reasonable consultation would be with municipalities and landowners. Now, I really believe that today we will have an opportunity – it doesn't happen that often – where the government and the opposition will be able to see eye to eye on something.

One of the reasons why is because I have several quotes from the Government House Leader in the past where he is so strongly in support of property rights. I'll read this for you here.

I want to assure the hon. member opposite that our party has always believed in due process, in proper notification, rights of appeal. All of the fundamental rights of property owners are things that we support, and we're going to make sure that in the fullness of time those continue to be protected.

Right now I believe we're in the fullness of time. It's taken, I guess, 18 months to get to the fullness of time, but here we are. We have this glorious opportunity here today.

He goes on to say:

We led the fight on behalf of the rights of property owners in this province against the draconian legislation of the previous government.

So here we are. We're looking at the draconian legislation of the previous government. He admits fully that some of these bills that were passed back then were draconian.

He goes on to say:

It was the NDP opposition that led the fight for a balanced and fair approach to property. What that means to me is that people have the right of appeal, they have the right of due process.

Here we are with an amendment that's talking all about due process, so I believe that we have an opportunity here, Madam Chair.

He goes on to say:

We do insist on making sure that people's rights to their property are protected so that fair compensation is provided and there is a due process for people, including a right of appeal. Those will be things that we will be considering in the future.

And here we are in the future considering them.

He goes on to say:

We're especially disappointed that the Electric Statutes Amendment Act, amended by a controversial Bill 50 in 2009, has not been addressed. By failing to address that bill, the government continues to prioritize the interests of industry, in this example electricity, over landowners and Alberta families.

It's very interesting that we're sitting here talking about that very thing, electricity, and we're talking about this controversial Bill 50, that had not been addressed and still hasn't been addressed. I would think that this is the perfect opportunity for the Government House Leader to jump up and support this amendment wholeheartedly.

He goes on to say:

With respect to the help that the opposition is offering in this particular regard, I think that it is not necessary, but we will make sure property rights are protected.

Well, unfortunately, I guess our help is necessary because this government has done nothing in its 18 months for property rights. In fact, they left it out of this bill, and we're helping by putting them in there.

Now, we could go on to one of these campaign brochures from the NDP.

Alberta's NDP stands for . . .

- Due process with respect to rights of landowners.

That's what we're here talking about, the amendment, due process.

- Power customers must not be required to pay for utility projects of for-profit companies.

I think that's probably what's happening here, that power customers are going to have to pay for utility projects of for-profit companies. That's a little unusual, but I guess things change when you become government.

NDP in opposition submitted two private members' motions to the Legislature, demanding action. One of them said,

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to introduce legislation to protect the rights of landowners, ensuring property rights cannot be arbitrarily violated or extinguished without consultation and fair compensation.

Without consultation. All we're asking for in this amendment is consultation. It's the stuff that Alberta's NDP at one time at least believed in.

Now, it goes on to talk about three bad Tory bills. It talks about that the Government House Leader

has been a leading voice opposing three laws that look after government friends instead of Albertans. "Bills 19, 36, and 50 are clear proof this is the most secretive government in Canada, a government that can't be trusted to look out for the rights of ordinary families and property owners."

Bills 19, 36, and 50. The most secretive government in Canada.

When we look at his comments on Bill 19, it says that this is one of the most ill-advised pieces of legislation this government has brought forward.

That's Bill 19. Well, I guess, with all due respect, the previous government actually rescinded that one.

He goes on to talk about Bill 36:

This is yet another example of the government's own trend toward centralizing power in the political leadership of the province.

What has the government done about Bill 36 since it's been in power?

An Hon. Member: Nothing.

Mr. Loewen: Yup, exactly that. Nothing.

It goes on to talk about Bill 50:

Landowners know this law is a disgrace, and they're furious. Government interference with property rights shows a lack of respect.

We agree.

So that's why I believe that we will be agreeing on this amendment. I would think that the Government House Leader would have to support this and encourage all the members of his caucus to support this. It only makes sense after all these comments.

I could read more, but I think I've read enough to make the point that this government has had a year and a half to do something about these draconian laws – their words – and have done nothing. They said that they didn't need the help of the opposition, but obviously they do need some help because they've done nothing yet and keep bringing forward legislation that doesn't respect property rights.

It's a simple amendment. It's incredibly simple. Let me just read it here:

A proposal under section 5 shall not be approved by the Minister unless the Minister is satisfied . . .

I mean, that's being pretty generous. The minister is satisfied. There's nothing wrong with that.

. . . that reasonable consultation in respect of the proposal has taken place with any affected municipalities and landowners.

Reasonable consultation and that the minister is satisfied with that. I think that's pretty simple stuff, pretty straightforward.

I would expect that the Government House Leader would be encouraging all the NDP caucus to support this amendment, a very good amendment. There's nothing wrong with supporting reasonable consultation with municipalities and landowners, but we will see. We will see. We've been disappointed before.

Hopefully, this is one of those opportunities when we will join together in this House across the aisle and support property rights. I think it would be a pretty good gift here on the last day of this week that we sit here in this House to join together, support this amendment, and help in protecting landowners' rights and respecting municipalities. Very simple, straightforward.

I would encourage everybody in this House to support this amendment. Thank you very much.

4:20

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

I will now recognize the Member for West Yellowhead.

Mr. Rosendahl: Thank you. I'd like to rise to speak in opposition to this amendment. This amendment demonstrates a remarkable failure to understand the full scheme of the regulatory and approvals process applicable to renewable energy projects and, also, how renewable energy projects are developed in co-operation with landowners who receive revenues from the projects.

Now, let's review a few of those. In the municipal district of Pincher Creek, for example, the Summerview wind farm phase 1 and 2 highlights – and these are the highlights. There's \$12 million into the local economy during the construction – that's pretty good – plus \$5.8 million annually. TransAlta's Summerview phase 1 and 2 wind projects, which have a combined capacity of 136.2 megawatts, provide enough electrical energy to power 55,000 Alberta homes and to offset more than 257,000 tonnes of CO₂ a year. Isn't that remarkable? They also provide the municipal district of Pincher Creek with \$1.2 million in annual tax revenue. That says a lot. And it helps fund new community services and infrastructure and local landowners with over \$500,000 a year in royalty payments. That's pretty good, I'd say.

They argue that there are issues with landowners and stuff. Let's look at what's already in place to protect landowners. Processes are

already in place to ensure that renewable energy projects are also subject to public scrutiny under the Alberta Utilities Commission's strict regulatory processes and reviews of new generation projects. It does that. The AUC's processes include reviews with local communities, in consultation. Okay. This also . . . [interjections] A lot of arguing over there.

The Deputy Chair: I know we're in Committee of the Whole, but let's bring the tone down a little bit, please.

Mr. Rosendahl: This can include full hearing processes, where the AUC deems it necessary, to decide on the best public interest. As a result, the AUC can put conditions on the project to require certain mitigations of various concerns. So there is consultation. You can't say that it doesn't occur.

This is no different from the processes applicable to other forms of generation. In fact, recently approved wind farms have gone through full public hearings which resulted in certain conditions on the projects. Well, we have a process in place to consider and review these concerns.

An Hon. Member: Read the act.

Mr. Rosendahl: They're there.

An Hon. Member: Read the bill.

Mr. Rosendahl: We are reading the bill. Okay?

Let's look at the process a little bit. Prior to making an application, the proponent would be required to consult with landowners, municipalities, and other stakeholders to identify

potential adverse impacts and work to mitigate them. There is consultation. Applications to the Alberta Utilities Commission have very detailed requirements. As set out in their rule 007, applications for power plants, substations . . .

The Deputy Chair: Hon. member, I hesitate to interrupt; however, given the time we will now rise and report progress on Bill 27, Renewable Electricity Act.

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Shaw.

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Committee of the Whole has under consideration a certain bill. The committee reports progress on the following bill: Bill 27. I wish to table copies of all amendments considered by Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Does the Assembly concur with the report? Please say aye.

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Acting Speaker: Opposed, please say no. So ordered.

The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Well, Madam Speaker, I'm sure we can find something very productive to do in the last four minutes, so I suggest that we adjourn as quickly as possible and return next week.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:27 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, December 8, 2016

The Bill sponsor's name is in brackets following the Bill title. If it is a money Bill, (\$) will appear between the title and the sponsor's name. Numbers following each Reading refer to Hansard pages where the text of debates is found; dates for each Reading are in brackets following the page numbers. Bills numbered 1 to 200 are Government Bills. Bills numbered 201 or higher are Private Members' Public Bills. Bills numbered with a "Pr" prefix are Private Bills.

* An asterisk beside a Bill number indicates an amendment was passed to that Bill; the Committee line shows the precise date of the amendment.

The date a Bill comes into force is indicated in square brackets after the date of Royal Assent. If a Bill comes into force "on proclamation," "with exceptions," or "on various dates," please contact Legislative Counsel, Alberta Justice, for details at 780.427.2217. The chapter number assigned to the Bill is entered immediately following the date the Bill comes into force. SA indicates Statutes of Alberta; this is followed by the year in which it is included in the statutes, and its chapter number. Please note, Private Bills are not assigned chapter number until the conclusion of the Fall Sittings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bill 6 — Securities Amendment Act, 2016 (Ceci)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bill 8 — Fair Trading Amendment Act, 2016 (McLean)

First Reading — 568 (*Apr. 13, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 669-71 (*Apr. 19, 2016 aft.*), 684 (*Apr. 19, 2016 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 824-25 (*May 5, 2016 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 903-904 (*May 12, 2016 aft., passed*)

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

Bill 9 — An Act to Modernize Enforcement of Provincial Offences (Ganley)

First Reading — 568 (*Apr. 13, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 640-49 (*Apr. 19, 2016 morn.*), 728-30 (*Apr. 20, 2016 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 979-81 (*May 17, 2016 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1180-81 (*May 25, 2016 eve., passed*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bill 11 — Alberta Research and Innovation Amendment Act, 2016 (Bilous)

First Reading — 773 (*May 2, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 907-908 (*May 12, 2016 aft.*), 971-79 (*May 17, 2016 aft, passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1012-18 (*May 18, 2016 aft.*), 1024 (*May 18, 2016 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1068-69 (*May 19, 2016 aft., passed*)

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

Bill 12 — Aboriginal Consultation Levy Repeal Act (Feehan)

First Reading — 802 (*May 3, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 904-907 (*May 12, 2016 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 985-87 (*May 18, 2016 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1069 (*May 19, 2016 aft., passed*)

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

Bill 13 — Veterinary Profession Amendment Act, 2016 (Gray)

First Reading — 872 (*May 10, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 965-71 (*May 17, 2016 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1024-25 (*May 18, 2016 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1069 (*May 19, 2016 aft., passed*)

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

Bill 14 — Health Professions Amendment Act, 2016 (Hoffman)

First Reading — 872 (*May 10, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 983-85 (*May 18, 2016 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1076-77 (*May 24, 2016 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1077 (*May 24, 2016 morn., passed*)

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

Bill 15 — An Act to End Predatory Lending (McLean)

First Reading — 901 (*May 12, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1062-67 (*May 19, 2016 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1153-57 (*May 25, 2016 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1172 (*May 25, 2016 eve., passed*)

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

Bill 16* — Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016 (Mason)

First Reading — 921 (*May 16, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1067-68 (*May 19, 2016 aft.*), 1071-75 (*May 24, 2016 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1157-63 (*May 25, 2016 aft.*), 1197 (*May 26, 2016 morn., adjourned*), 1219-23 (*May 26, 2016 aft., passed with amendments*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bill 18 — An Act to Ensure Independent Environmental Monitoring (Phillips)

First Reading — 964-65 (*May 17, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1125-35 (*May 25, 2016 morn., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1191-97 (*May 26, 2016 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1199-1205 (*May 26, 2016 morn., passed on division*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bill 20* — Climate Leadership Implementation Act (\$) (Phillips)

First Reading — 1095 (*May 24, 2016 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1163-70 (*May 25, 2016 aft.*), 1173-74 (*May 25, 2016 eve.*), 1181-90 (*May 25, 2016 eve.*), 1288-98 (*May 31, 2016 morn.*),

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

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

1493-1541 (*Jun. 6, 2016 eve., passed with amendments*)

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

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

Bill 21* — Modernized Municipal Government Act (Larivee)

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

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

Committee of the Whole — 1939-41 (*Nov. 22, 2016 aft.*), 2009-24 (*Nov. 24, 2016 morn.*), 2091-2100 (*Nov. 29, 2016 morn.*), 2192-2202 (*Nov. 30, 2016 aft.*), 2218-24 (*Nov. 30, 2016 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2317-20 (*Dec. 6, 2016 morn., passed*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Third Reading — 1849-54 (*Nov. 10, 2016 morn.*), 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.*), 2320-27 (*Dec. 6, 2016 morn.*), 2383-98 (*Dec. 7, 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.*), 2313-16 (*Dec. 5, 2016 eve.*), 2378-82 (*Dec. 6, 2016 eve.*), 2470-72 (*Dec. 8, 2016 morn.*), 2490-94 (*Dec. 8, 2016 aft., 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)

Committee of the Whole — 2295-98 (Dec. 5, 2016 eve., passed with amendment)

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)

Third Reading — 2344 (Dec. 6, 2016 aft., passed)

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

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

Second Reading — 2302-13 (Dec. 5, 2016 eve.), 2373-78 (Dec. 6, 2016 eve.), 2431-40 (Dec. 7, 2016 eve., passed)

Bill 35* — Fair Elections Financing Act (Gray)

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

Second Reading — 2351-62 (Dec. 6, 2016 aft.), 2363-73 (Dec. 6, 2016 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 2412-30 (Dec. 7, 2016 aft.), 2440-53 (Dec. 7, 2016 eve.), 2455-70 (Dec. 8, 2016 morn., adjourned, amendment agreed to)

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)

Committee of the Whole — 2298-2301 (Dec. 5, 2016 eve.), 2343-44 (Dec. 6, 2016 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 2344-51 (Dec. 6, 2016 aft., passed)

Bill 37 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2016 (No. 2) (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading — 2295 (Dec. 5, 2016 eve., passed)

Second Reading — 2363 (Dec. 6, 2016 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 2431 (Dec. 7, 2016 eve., passed)

Third Reading — (Dec. 8, 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]

Table of Contents

Introduction of Visitors	2473
Introduction of Guests	2473
Members' Statements	
Make Something Edmonton	2475
Government Policies	2475
Calgary Rotary Challenger Park.....	2483
Culture Days.....	2483
Serenity.....	2484
Oral Question Period	
Investigation of Death of Child in Kinship Care	2475, 2478, 2479, 2481
Child Death Review Ministerial Panel	2477, 2482
Chronic Wasting Disease.....	2478
Child Death Review System.....	2479
Protection of Indigenous Children in Care	2480
Protection of Children in Care.....	2482
Forest Industries and the Environment	2483
Notices of Motions	2484
Tabling Returns and Reports	2485
Motions under Standing Order 42	
Select Special Child Intervention Review Committee Appointment.....	2489
Orders of the Day	2490
Government Bills and Orders	
Committee of the Whole.....	2490
Bill 27 Renewable Electricity Act.....	2490
Third Reading	
Bill 37 Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2016 (No. 2).....	2490
Government Motions	
Statutes Repeal	2490

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