



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature  
Third Session

# Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, March 16, 2017

Day 9

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 29th Legislature

Third Session

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Jabbour, Deborah C., Peace River (ND), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees  
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (ND), Deputy Chair of Committees

Aheer, Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Rocky View (W)  
Anderson, Hon. Shaye, Leduc-Beaumont (ND)  
Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (W)  
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (ND)  
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (W)  
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Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (ND),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (ND)  
Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (ND)  
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP)  
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (ND)  
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Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (ND)  
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)  
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (ND)  
Gill, Prab, Calgary-Greenway (PC)  
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (ND)  
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Gray, Hon. Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (ND)  
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Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (ND),  
Deputy Government Whip  
Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (ND)  
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (W)

### Party standings:

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

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## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 16, 2017

[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 very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly His Excellency Mizanur Rahman, high commissioner for Bangladesh. Accompanying him is Mr. Dewan Mahmudul Haque, first secretary at the high commission. Alberta shares a historic national relationship with Bangladesh as members of the Commonwealth. This has helped spur important ties in areas such as trade. There is excellent potential to continue to build on our relationship as both of our economies grow and diversify. Two areas where Alberta and Bangladesh may find further opportunities to collaborate are in energy and agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta is the energy and environmental leader the world needs for the 21st century. Effective nutrition and a healthy population are also goals that we share. Beyond trade, Alberta and Bangladesh have an important social relationship. Numerous Bangladeshi undergraduate and graduate students have chosen our universities to pursue their education in professions like engineering, sciences, medicine, and law.

Mr. Speaker, with a distinguished career in the Bangladesh foreign service that has included work in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Netherlands, and Poland, the high commissioner brings a wealth of experience to his posting here in Canada. I now ask the high commissioner to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome, Your Excellency. Welcome.

### Introduction of Guests

**Ms McKittrick:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce to you and through you a wonderful school in my riding, Woodbridge Farms elementary school. The students are really keen on democracy and on us changing daylight saving time. The students are with their teachers: Mr. Garth Baker, Ms Antonia Triska, Ms Judy Andrekson, and Mrs. Sarita D'Lima. I would ask all the students to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Stony Plain.

**Ms Babcock:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of this House 22 students from Duffield school, one of the wonderful communities in the beautiful riding of Stony Plain. My guests will not be joining us at this moment; they'll be here a little bit later. So I would appreciate it if all members of this House would extend a warm traditional welcome to them now.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-St. Albert.

**Mr. Horne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to rise and introduce to you and through you 63 students from Woodhaven middle school. The students are accompanied by their teachers, Miss Jayna Butler and Mrs. Cleo Eddy, along with their chaperones: Mrs. Melissa MacDonald, Mr. Ray Mottershed-Yee, Mrs. Tammy Paulson, Mr. Verne Depeel, and Mrs. Jen Shymko. I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

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

Seeing and hearing none, the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

**Mr. Hanson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly some very special guests: Mr. Adam North Peigan and his wife, Lena Wildman, accompanied by 20 survivors of the '60s scoop. Mr. North Peigan has been tirelessly lobbying all levels of government, seeking an official apology for their part in this dark hour of our history. I would like to ask my special guests to please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a real privilege today to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Angel Sumka, Mark Dorsey, Nicole Kraft, and Tina Guillette. Together they are the Alberta Sex Positive Education & Community Centre, an organization that does important work on promoting sex-positive values but, more importantly, consent. They are currently working on getting some new, larger accommodations for their community centre in Edmonton. I would now like to invite them to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

**Mrs. Aheer:** Thank you and good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you Mr. Brett Bowers. Mr. Bowers is the principal at large at Morinville Christian School and oversees the home education of 1,000 home ed students and for their families across Alberta. May I please ask that Brett Bowers stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Hawkwood.

**Connolly:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you three amazing LGBTQ-plus advocates from Calgary. I ask them to rise as I say their names: Amelia Marie Newbert, Ace Peace, and his mother, Lindsay Peace. Ace, who is now 16 years old and one of the coolest teenagers I know, came out as trans in 2015 and was put on the wait-list for the Metta clinic soon after. The treatment that he received at the clinic saved his life. Amelia and Lindsay and Ace are advocating with the Skipping Stone Foundation for increased support to the Metta clinic as it currently only operates one half-day per month and has a wait-list of just under three years. I would like to thank Ace, Amelia, and Lindsay for their advocacy and contribution to Alberta and the LGBTQ-plus community. I would now ask that they receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

**Mr. van Dijken:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions today. First, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House the love of my life for over 30 years, the mother of our five children, my wife, Barb.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I introduce to you and through you to all members of the House two school friends from over 30 years ago that my wife and I were able to reconnect with today. One friend, Gloria Kapeller, is here as part of the thousands of children that were involved in the '60s scoop. Also, Connie Hilton is accompanying her on this day, and I'd like to give them the warm welcome of all.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly two friends of mine from my constituency, from the great town of Rimbey, the home of Martha and Henry, or our hon. Premier Ralph Klein's Martha and Henry, for sure. My good friend His Worship Rick Pankiw is the mayor of the town of Rimbey, and with him today is Lori Hillis. I would ask that they rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

1:40

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

**Mr. Barnes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and introduce, in your gallery today, to you and through you to all members of the House the love of my life for 29 years, the mother of our three boys, my wife, Frances. With Frances is our good friend, a hard, hard worker from Medicine Hat improving the culture of our community, one of our Speaker's good friends and my and my wife's good friend, Sandra Moore. Please rise and accept the warm traditional welcome of this Assembly.

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

**Ms Renaud:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Cathy Heron, who is currently a city councillor in St. Albert and also a board member of the AUMA. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of this House.

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

**Mrs. Littlewood:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I have the opportunity, I would like to introduce to the House someone who has already been here many, many times as part of the gallery, my husband, Jeremy Johnston. He does a lot of work for us and for me behind the scenes, and I just wanted to recognize him in the gallery today. If we could extend the traditional warm welcome.

Thank you.

## Members' Statements

### Employment Fair in Northeast Edmonton

**Ms Sweet:** Mr. Speaker, it is well known that the most important part of getting into the workforce is getting started, but there are many people that are uncertain of how to get started or, in many cases, how to get started again. That is why in March 2016 I organized the Working in Your Community Employment Information Fair for those residents of Edmonton-Manning and the

northeast of the city that are looking for their first job, whether they are about to enter the workforce as young adults or as new Canadians or looking to transfer into a new career.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that this event returned to the northeast for the second time this year. This year I had the good fortune of partnering with the city of Edmonton's 1,000 families initiative, Clareview Multicultural Centre, and BGS Career & Corporate Development to deliver programs and breakout sessions to job seekers from Edmonton-Manning and beyond. They were able to help them build their resumés, develop their interview skills, and inform businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs of grants and programs available from the government of Alberta to support and start their business.

I'm also proud to tell you that we had the participation of Women Building Futures and North West Refining, who partnered to encourage women to engage in the construction industry; Alberta forestry products, with the session about transferring skills from the oil and gas industry into the forestry industry; and EPCOR, who presented an overview of the services and programs they provide.

Mr. Speaker, the face of the northeast of Edmonton and of Alberta as a whole is changing, with many people from around the world now calling this home. Therefore, this year also included two sessions on cultural expectations, one for job seekers and one for employers.

Mr. Speaker, by coming together for this annual event, I hope to encourage a beginning in our community, I hope to encourage progress in our community by keeping together, and I hope to encourage and successfully develop a community of us working together.

Thank you.

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

### '60s Scoop in Alberta

**Mr. Hanson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. From the '60s through early '90s our country and provinces entered into a deplorable joint venture that, in hindsight, can only be seen as scandalous. Through a federal program implemented by the provinces through our child welfare systems, an estimated 20,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children were removed from their families and their communities against their will. At the time it was estimated that in Alberta 40 to 50 per cent of children in government care were aboriginal, and most were scooped without any parental consent, many to be adopted out across the continent and some even overseas. The policy has been referred to as the '60s scoop.

When I first heard about this, I thought it was something from our distant past, perhaps a part of our dark colonial history. Sadly, this was not the case. This went on until the early '90s. Many of the people responsible are now enjoying their retirement while the children who were scooped from their communities try to come to terms with what happened to them and their families. Sadly, many couldn't come to terms with the horrors they faced and have taken their own lives.

Joining me today are 22 people who were victims of the '60s scoop. They want an apology from this government for Alberta's role in this atrocity. They approached me knowing they would get results after numerous attempts at communication with this government over the last two years had failed them. Manitoba has issued an apology. The Saskatchewan government has committed to an apology. Why the hesitation here in Alberta?

The government has promised open consultation and increased respect for indigenous communities. Sadly, as we can see from this,

their lack of action on this request, and from their dismal response to the kinship care issue, these issues seem to get only lip service. This government is all smoke and no fire. The government needs to stand up and acknowledge the mistakes and offer an apology to the victims of the '60s scoop, both living and deceased.

Thank you.

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

### Parliamentary Debate and Public Discourse

**Dr. Starke:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have observed with growing dismay the deterioration of civility in our political debate both inside and outside of this august Chamber. We see it nearly every day in question period, which some will dismiss as the thrust and parry of political theatre, but this week, particularly on Monday afternoon and earlier this morning, it became even more pervasive during our regular debates.

It is not something we should be proud of. When we stop listening to each other, when we stop being honourable members, we all do Albertans a disservice. But just as the deliberate use of over-the-top rhetoric is a problem, an attempt to inflame those with whom we disagree instead of finding some common middle ground and then working from that point, we entrench ourselves in nonproductive hyperpartisanship.

There are, of course, rare occasions where we agree and put partisan politics aside. Recent examples include government Bill 2 or the Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake's Bill 202. These are good pieces of legislation. I applaud members on both sides of the Assembly for supporting them. These instances of collaboration instead of confrontation are refreshing, but sadly they are all too rare.

I know that it is popular or perhaps good politics to dredge up the past, but the reality is that we need to face today's problems today. Alberta has had no shortage of challenges that demand our energy and diligence, not acrimony and dissent. It's small wonder that people here in Alberta and around the world are becoming disenchanted and more disengaged in the political process.

Now, in a few hours this government will introduce its third budget. I will make a bold prediction that one side of the Assembly will see it as bold and brilliant and visionary, and the other side will see it as short-sighted and catastrophic. The reality is that both assessments are wrong. Just as our job as legislators is to go through this, we must go through this legislation, this budget, with the diligence that Albertans expect. Albertans expect and deserve nothing less.

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

### Rural Internet and Cellphone Coverage

**Mr. Rosendahl:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to an issue which has a great deal of significance for many rural parts of our province. As our government has made clear, our province suffers from a critical infrastructure deficit, but it's not only physical infrastructure which is lacking in many areas. We suffer from a lack of high-speed Internet, access to the SuperNet, and mobile reception. This causes a number of disadvantages economically and in our daily lives. Access to information and communications is particularly vital for Albertans living in rural areas because for many this is the best way to access services.

I have personally experienced these issues and have heard from many constituents with similar concerns. They have reported an inability to secure constant speeds, traffic filtering, and disconnections from many of the major service providers. There are numerous

large areas where it's nearly impossible to even secure mobile services.

Decisions by the previous government have left us with contracts that don't serve rural Albertans. We know that Albertans deserve better. It is important that Albertans have quality, affordable access to the Internet, and I am proud to stand with a government that is making life better and more affordable for Albertans. I'm happy to hear that our government is reviewing their vision for SuperNet and rural broadband to ensure that Albertans have quality, affordable access to the Internet.

I wish to advocate on behalf of my constituents to help facilitate improved access to the fibre grid, the information infrastructure, and wireless communications technology for all rural areas.

Thank you.

1:50

### Oral Question Period

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

### Student Assessment

**Mrs. Aheer:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerned teachers, parents, and students have been contacting me and raising concerns about a significant issue, grade inflation in Alberta's K to 12 schools. In 2016 96 per cent of students province-wide were given a passing grade in math 30-1 by their teachers, but only 71 per cent of students who took the math exam passed. That 25 per cent gap clearly shows that what's getting passing grade in the classroom and on standardized tests isn't adding up. To the minister: what exactly is your government doing to ensure that students don't fall behind?

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

**Mr. Eggen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much for the question. You know, our government has been investing in education to make life better for students and for families, particularly focusing on both curriculum and assessment, which I believe go hand in hand. For example, this spring, in June, for the grade 12 diplomas, I have added a written section to help buttress the assessment so that it is in line with the curriculum and what teachers are teaching in the classroom.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mrs. Aheer:** Thank you. Well, grade inflation can have serious effects on the outcomes of students. Large discrepancies between classroom marks and diploma exam marks may affect whether students are ready for and accepted into postsecondary studies. We want to prepare our students for success. But when you look at the numbers, the discrepancy for most grade 12 classes is growing when you measure it over the past eight years. To the minister: what are you doing to address the problem? What tools are you giving school boards, and how do you plan to reverse this trend?

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

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mean, this is a very good question. The very first thing that you must make sure is that you're investing in teachers in the classroom to make sure that there are adequate class sizes there. It's what we've done to fund for enrolment over the last couple of budgets. The next one is coming up very soon, and I can't wait to show you how we're going to do that again.

You know, it's important to note that the standards that we have in our classrooms are very high. The professionalism of our teachers

is very high as well. We seek to improve that every day. This is a worthwhile study, and we will go back always and continually reassess how we approach this.

**Mrs. Aheer:** Well, that's good to hear, but we've heard before that the head of the ATA feels that classroom marks alone should reflect students' abilities and that standardized testing is not necessary.

We've also seen a reduction in the weighting of diploma exam marks from 50 to 30 per cent in the final grade. There have been many serious and valid concerns raised that this may result in postsecondary institutions looking only at diploma exam grades. To the minister: have you consulted with students, parents, and teachers about the possibility of returning to the weighting of 50 per cent in diploma exams?

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

**Mr. Eggen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The choice to move from 50 to 30 per cent was to put us in line with the rest of the country. The standard that is used for diploma exams and the weighting that is used for diploma exams: certainly, we've used that information. It's a very good way by which we can see where our students are going. We analyze that information very closely.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you a little story. Last year we had a terrible fire in Fort McMurray. The kids had a choice of whether or not to write the diploma exams. Postsecondary institutions across the country and around the world accepted the classroom marks because they know that the standard of our teachers is that high.

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

### '60s Scoop in Alberta

**Mr. Hanson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. An estimated 20,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children were scooped from their families and communities against their will between the '60s and early '90s. The devastation to families and their communities is still felt today as the survivors struggle with what it meant to be part of the '60s scoop. Minister, Premier, put yourself in their place. How would you feel if the province came in and took your children?

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

**Ms Notley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let me just say that I agree completely with the member opposite. The '60s scoop is a tragedy. It's a tragedy that deprived indigenous children, particularly in Alberta, of the connection to their community and to their family, that would have made their lives so much better. We know that, so we will continue to work with survivors and a range of indigenous leaders to listen to their concerns. For some of the members who are here, we look forward to working with them as well as other indigenous leaders across the province on how we can move forward with respect to making an apology soon.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Hanson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Mr. North Peigan has been in contact with the minister and the Premier on numerous occasions over the last few years and given that he has come to me in pure frustration with the lack of response he has received from this government and since this government is so proud of its track record on repairing the relationships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities, why has the minister refused to give an apology to the victims of the '60s scoop?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

**Mr. Feehan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. This is, of course, a very serious issue, that we are deeply concerned about. As a social worker for 35 years in this province I've been aware of this issue and have advocated in a number of ways for us to move on this. We definitely feel that this is a serious mark against our province and our government over the last 40 years, and we are more than prepared to work with the communities. I have in fact met with Mr. North Peigan and will continue to try to find people to work with.

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

**Mr. Hanson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that other provinces have recognized the injustice done to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities through the '60s scoop and have offered formal apologies and considering that there were many young people that were not able to cope with these tragedies such as a young man from Fort Chip who had 28 placements over a 13-year period, starting at age four, before he committed suicide in 1984 at age 17, Mr. Minister, Madam Premier, when will you issue an official apology to the victims of the '60s scoop, both living and deceased?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

**Mr. Feehan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We feel that it's very important that we work with the community and elders and other members of the community who can help us design a process to move forward on that is really respectful and truly an apology and isn't just simply about checking off a box so that we can say that we have done it. An apology absolutely has to have depth to it, and we are working on creating that depth so that we can move forward on this much-deserved apology.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

### Energy Policies

**Mr. Barnes:** Mr. Speaker, the NDP government has implemented several harmful policies in our largest job-creation sector: higher business taxes, an ill-advised royalty review, a massive carbon tax, and a cap on our oil sands. Last summer the AER doubled the liability-management ratio, requiring companies to hold twice as many assets as liabilities, destroying transactional liquidity in our energy sector. One columnist wrote, and I quote: it's like the AER brought a gun to a knife fight. What has the minister done to help producers recover from this poor decision, that was only intended to be temporary?

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.  
The hon. Minister of Energy.

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We continue to work with our federal government on this. Our plan would create jobs and tackle a long-standing environmental issue that we've inherited. Previous governments sat back and admired the problems, and we're not going to.

**Mr. Barnes:** Mr. Speaker, again, in a time of economic uncertainty the last thing that any industry needs is risky new policies that damage their confidence in government. The NDP carbon tax asks 85 per cent of our energy producers to subsidize the largest players, who made backroom deals to exempt themselves from this same bad policy. This is unfair to small and mid-sized operators, who



have their own bills to pay. The backroom deals that this government signed are harming real families, who need to put food on their table. Why is this government making the same kind of harmful backroom deals . . .

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

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is again shocking to me that the members of the Wildrose would drag the reputation of our largest employers through the mud as they have, the largest employers in their own leader's riding. It is utterly shameful that the Wildrose would want to slam the door on a plan that brings the environment and the economy together, that results in two pipeline approvals, and that moves this province forward. We are creating jobs. We're taking care of the environment. We're working with industry, not against them, as the Wildrose would do.

**Mr. Barnes:** This government is no friend of oil and gas companies. That might be the worst-kept secret in the world. As I speak, we're watching a situation unfold where Lexon is closing up shop in part due to this government's policies. Recently we saw Shell shift \$8 billion of capital out of Alberta and into jurisdictions with more stability; namely, the United States, where there is no carbon tax at all. Even Venezuela is more attractive to Shell so long as the NDP are in charge here. This is a disaster. How many companies, how much investment, how many jobs have to go before this NDP government . . .

2:00

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

**Mr. Bilous:** Mr. Speaker, let me be clear. Alberta is the energy and environmental leader the world needs for the 21st century. Last week an Alberta homegrown company doubled its assets and production capacity. This side of the House cheered for CNRL. That side of the House criticized CNRL, dragged their name through the mud. What I want to know for the record is: when did you start to hate Alberta oil and gas companies? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** It's a beautiful day outside, folks.  
The hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed.

### Provincial Fiscal Policies

**Mr. Rodney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been a full year since the NDP government released their \$11 billion deficit budget, and since then the tax burden on Albertans has grown every day. The cost of living has actually gone up with the NDP while Albertans are unemployed in troubling economic times. To the Premier: as your government continues to set historic records on taxing and spending, will you admit what Albertans already know, that the jobs plan was a failure and has made the tax burden worse for Alberta families?

**Ms Notley:** Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, I do find it interesting that the member opposite, who comes from a caucus that could not balance the budget when oil was at \$90 a barrel, is now complaining about the size of deficits with this government. You know, it was interesting that they did at least, unlike their friends over there, introduce a shadow budget, which was lovely. The problem is that it took less time to debunk the PC budget than it did for their leader to file a suit with the Ethics Commissioner. That's because their budget has more holes in it than the Kananaskis golf course. [interjections] The reality is that we're standing up for Albertans in tough times . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Premier.  
First supplemental. [interjections]  
Order, please.

**Mr. Rodney:** Stop blaming, and start governing. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Rodney:** If budget town halls were open to all Albertans instead of just the NDP . . .

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, just wait a minute.  
Let's quiet down, folks.  
Stop the clock for just a moment.  
Start again, please.

**Mr. Rodney:** Stop blaming. Start governing.

If budget town halls were open to all Albertans instead of just NDP buddies, you would know exactly what Albertans think. Now, since the last budget, we've seen the NDP cause real pain with policies like the carbon tax and then demanding rebate cheques back from grieving families. It suggests the NDP wants to take credit for dishing out cash but ignores the fact that this money already belongs to the taxpayer. To the Premier: will you begin to actually help Alberta families by taking real action on lowering tax burdens instead of taking a lot of money out of one of their pockets and giving just a little bit back in the other?

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, you know, the member opposite is suggesting that we follow their lead, but the problem is that they're talking about taking over \$4 billion out of operating expenses in one year. They want to cut Culture and Tourism by \$50 million. They want to take – here's the best one – \$600 million out of Advanced Education. So when Albertans are looking for support during economic tough times, these guys want to close the doors of our universities to struggling families. We won't do that.

**Mr. Rodney:** Now back to reality. We don't need to wait until 3 o'clock to know that a typical NDP budget includes out-of-control spending, with credit downgrades to follow. To the Premier, who's currently reviewing collective bargaining in which the public-sector wage increases remain steady while the average wage of Albertans has decreased: will you further increase the tax burden on Albertans by handing over a better deal to union comrades while Albertans struggle? In other words, will you put union families above other Alberta families? Please say no.

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, as we've said many times before, our government respects the negotiated contracts, and we will negotiate with them with respect when those contracts come up. You know what we did do? We went into those insider deals for CEOs of agencies, boards, and commissions, and we passed legislation so that nobody could earn \$800,000 a year under their watch. We rolled those salaries back because that's what standing up for Albertans looks like.

### Gravel Road Upgrading

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents in Lethbridge-East travel west for some peaceful recreation. We are close to the Castle area, known for its biodiversity and cultural and historical significance for indigenous people. Given that 11 kilometres of highway 774 are unpaved and in poor condition, to the Minister of Transportation: what has this government done to improve this highway?

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. I think this government has done an amazing thing in making the Castle wilderness a provincial park. We know, having made it a provincial park and the wonderful job that's been done by the Minister of Environment and Parks on that file, that more people will be wanting to access that park, so we're going to be taking steps to make sure that they can.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this highway is heavily used by tourists and Albertans supporting our vibrant tourist and recreation economy, to the same minister: what are the government's plans for paving gravel roads in Alberta?

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

**Mr. Mason:** Well, thanks very much, Mr. Speaker and to the hon. member for the question. You know, the government has no specific policy about paving every bit of gravel road in this province. We already have far more paved roads per capita in Alberta than any other province in Canada. However, there are a number of places where it could definitely benefit Albertans to travel safely and to visit the wonderful spaces that we have in our province such as the provincial park in the Castle.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Alberta's tourism and camping season is fast approaching and that this would be the ideal time to pave highway 774, does the government have a timeline for when Albertans can expect to see this important road paved?

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the member for the question. Maintaining the safety of our highways is a critical priority. Making sure that people can travel safely and conveniently to important places like the Castle and many other points in our province is a critical priority. All I can say to the hon. member is that she needs to stay tuned. We want to support the wonderful development that the Minister of Environment and Parks has been working on to provide wonderful recreation activities and natural areas to the people of southern Alberta.

### Electric Power System

**Mr. MacIntyre:** Well, the NDP raised taxes on power companies and then claimed that they didn't read the contracts, so now Albertans are being dinged big time, paying for any financial losses associated with the Balancing Pool carrying PPAs and the wholesale power market. Well, the Balancing Pool is losing money, Mr. Speaker, every month, and it's only recovering its fuel costs and carbon costs from its offers into the power market, not its fixed costs. To the Minister of Energy: have estimates of those losses and taxpayer exposure, which are expected to continue for four more years, been included in your budget?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, it's been a tough economy, and we're standing up for Albertans. We've taken action to remove the volatility from a system that we inherited. We

are protecting Albertans from power prices that spike, which is how the system was built. The opposition would want us to have our families pay more and do nothing about that, but we are picking our side, and we are picking our side on the side of Albertans.

**2:10**

**The Speaker:** I hope you'll notice the lovely tie that the Government House Leader is wearing today.

**Mr. MacIntyre:** Given that we have about 1,400 megawatts of existing wind generation, whose owners are telling me that they're now at risk in a capacity market as these renewables traditionally are not considered to provide capacity, how will the Minister of Energy protect the legacy renewables built over the past several decades that now face a new market system prejudiced against them?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are protecting Albertans. We're offering stable and more affordable prices, we're moving from harmful coal to clean power, and we're moving to a capacity market because we heard from industry and we heard from experts that this was the way to go. Again, the opposition would have us continue to have high prices for Albertans and punish families, continue with coal, and ignore the advice that we've gotten from experts in the industry and in Alberta.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. MacIntyre:** Thank you. I don't believe the minister heard me the first time. Given that we have about 1,400 megawatts of existing wind generation, whose owners are telling me that it's now at risk in a capacity market as these renewables traditionally are not considered to provide capacity, how will the Minister of Energy protect the legacy renewables built over the past several decades that now face a new market system prejudiced against them?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we worked with the AESO, we worked with industry, we worked with experts in the industry to develop a capacity market because the system we inherited is broken. It relies on volatility, and it is harmful to Alberta families. We are siding with Alberta families; they are not. I do not need people from the other side mansplaining to me about electricity.

**An Hon. Member:** Point of order.

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

**Ms Phillips:** Such a snowflake.

**Mr. Nixon:** Point of order.

**The Speaker:** Two points of order. [interjections] Hon. members, please stop.

The Member for Calgary-West.

### Police Street Checks

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just before the House rose for Christmas, I asked the Justice minister for a second time about the police practice of randomly checking citizens and asking them for identification, a practice known as carding. Based on her response on December 7, I believe the minister and I may have a different interpretation about how the Charter applies to carding. To the Justice

minister, with all due respect: can you please advise this House and Albertans if you believe that police are allowed to detain and demand identification from citizens without reasonable suspicion?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we've been working very closely with communities on this particular file. It is absolutely not the case that people are required to provide information to the police. In fact, the thing we're consulting with communities and police about is whether police need to say in every instance: you are not required to provide this information. The police are permitted to have conversations with people. They are permitted to ask for information. People are permitted to volunteer that information if they want to, but they're also permitted to walk away.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that when I asked the Justice minister for her opinion on Ontario's new carding regulations, she referred to different policing concerns in Alberta and Ontario and given that community groups in Ontario and Alberta have expressed the same issues about carding being a form of racial and socioeconomic profiling, again to the minister: what are the different policing concerns in Ontario and Alberta, specifically in regard to carding?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, of course, we're aware of significant community concerns around this practice. That's why we've been working with the communities as well as working with the police. In Ontario, certainly, they took the path of just dropping something in. We think that there's a lot of common area. Ultimately, different community groups want to ensure that the police are there for them, that they feel safe and respected, and the police want to ensure that all communities feel that way about them. That's why everybody is willing to come together and willing to work together on moving this issue forward, and that's exactly what we're going to do.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Justice minister stated in December that we need a made-in-Alberta solution and given that the issue of carding relates specifically to the Charter and this government has a track record of failing to grasp the essence of the Charter and given that section 9 of the Charter and related Supreme Court rulings guard against arbitrary detention for all Canadians, to the same minister: why do we need a different model for Albertans when the Charter applies equally to all citizens of Canada, when all peace officers simply need to do is abide by the reasonable suspicion standard as set by the Supreme Court of Canada?

**Ms Ganley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not really sure where the member opposite got his law degree, but I might suggest he goes back to school. Certainly, it's the case that people are allowed to engage in conversations with the police if they're interested. As I've already stated, they absolutely have the right to walk away. We are working to ensure that there is a guideline around the practice of interacting with citizens in the community. When we take action on this issue, we will be only the second province in the country to do so. That's why we're moving forward. That's why we're working with communities, to put Alberta out front instead of behind, where those folks left it.

**Mr. Rodney:** Point of order.

**The Speaker:** Point of order noted. [interjections]  
Order, please.

### Health Care Wait Times

**Mr. Yao:** Mr. Speaker, I was approached by a young constituent who has experienced some very bad wait times, resulting in chronic pain. She's only 36 years old. From detection to surgery was 27 months, at which point, when she was in that surgery, they said that she was beyond repair and that she would need a hip replacement, but she's too young, she's too low priority, and she'll have to wait 10 years before they consider her for that. To the Minister of Health. The earlier you get a diagnosis, the better chance you have at a good outcome. Will the minister look at this issue and look at the full cost to Albertans for these long wait times?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. As I've said in this House before and to the member personally, I'm happy to take contact information to be able to follow up and to make sure that we can facilitate as much as we can within – obviously, I'm not in a position to make decisions about somebody's medical care, but I am here to make sure that we have improvements in the system so that those who are the physicians and who are the experts on the front lines can make those decisions. That's one of the reasons why we restored \$800 million to health care that was planned to be cut under former Conservative governments. We know that both parties who are here want to see deep cuts. That would only make wait times worse. We're here to make them better and to help Alberta families.

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

**Mr. Yao:** Mr. Speaker, this issue affects the lives of my friends, my family, my constituents, and all Albertans. The average wait time for a hip replacement in Calgary is 42 weeks, yet the wait time for the same surgery in Edmonton is 36 weeks. That's a six-week difference. To the Minister of Health: why are there such major discrepancies for wait times in regions and centres given that they're all managed under the same umbrella, with the same guidelines and protocols, with the same access to the same specialists and consultants?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question and for also acknowledging, as I share with him, concerns that in the past there have certainly been decisions that I don't believe created the best opportunities for all Albertans to have access. That's one of the reasons why we have as a government made it a priority to make sure that we protect health care, to make sure that we're moving forward in aligning resources, to make sure that Albertans do get the best possible care. Some say that during these tough times the answer is to cut, to privatize, and to make things more expensive. Our government looks at things differently. We look at things by wanting to stand up for Alberta families, make life more affordable, and make their lives better by addressing things like these wait times, that should improve.

2:20

**Mr. Yao:** Given that these unreasonably long wait times can lead to the deterioration of health that results in increased costs and strains on the health care system and given that we already spend

more per capita on health care than both Saskatchewan and B.C., who both have shorter wait times for surgeries, and given that more money isn't always the solution, to the Minister of Health: what actions has your department taken to address this critical issue? You can identify the issues, but how are you addressing it?

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you for the opportunity to do so, Mr. Speaker. For example, we're looking at ways to make sure that we triage the resources that we do have to find ways to make sure that they meet the needs of those who need them most. I have great news in terms of general surgery wait times. In the first year we were in government, the wait times for general surgery went down 20 per cent, a 21 per cent decrease for internal medicine, a 14 per cent decrease for specialists focusing on ears, noses, and throats. This is about making sure that we're aligning the resources. I have to tell you, that I get that they don't want to put more money into the system, but if you took billions of dollars – they're saying at least \$2.6 billion, a number that I heard most recently – out of the system, it would get a lot worse. You can't have it both ways.

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

#### Service Alberta Postage Use

**Mr. Cyr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This NDP government was proud of their feeble efforts to control costs by ending a long-standing reminder to vehicle owners that their registration and licences needed to be renewed. Last March this minister promised Albertans that she would save \$3 million in printing and postage. This month the minister said that it would only be \$300,000. To the minister: is it \$3 million, or is it \$300,000? Can you please clarify?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Service Alberta.

**Ms McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and for the question. I have, frankly, no idea where the member opposite is getting his numbers from. I have said time and time again that we found \$3 million per year in savings by moving to electronic renewal reminders. Registry agents, our partners in this effort, have taken an active and proactive role in reminding drivers when their licence and registration needs to be renewed. There are free services online. There are free services in the form of stickers on the back of your licence plate, that day by day Albertans can check.

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

**Mr. Cyr:** That's a shame. There's no answer. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Move along, folks.

**Mr. Cyr:** Given that I am being flooded with complaints from local business owners, citizens, and registries who are frustrated with this government's continued downloading of costs and the costs associated with producing licence renewal notices and given the lack of understanding Alberta Justice has had regarding fines for failure to renew licences and that it appears the justification for ending direct mail-out reminders has evaporated, to the minister. The NDP government was able to find \$10 million to advertise for its carbon tax, yet it couldn't take . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Ms McLean:** Again, Mr. Speaker, I don't know where the member opposite is getting his information from. It's certainly not me. It's certainly not the government services that are funding all of the registry services that Albertans access. On this particular file he

clearly doesn't have the facts. He is clearly really off base on this. Frankly, I don't even know how to address the question because he didn't ask anything very clearly at all and the entire basis of his question was completely off base. I'm happy to have a conversation with the member opposite and to educate him a little bit on the issue.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. minister. [interjections]  
Hon. members.  
Please proceed.

**Mr. Cyr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that you've spent \$870,000 in postage left over from the 2015-2016 budget and your full budget for 2016-2017 and now you're begging the House for a handout of \$900,000 to make it to the end of the month and that this questions the competency of your strategic planning from your financial services department and given that a few days ago during debate on supplementary supply the minister threatened that a lack of funds for postage would cause our most vulnerable Albertans to miss out on critical support payments, can the minister promise a full review of the postage use within Service Alberta to avoid this clear negligence happening within her ministry?

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

**Ms McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. Again, I would like to reiterate to the member opposite that that was a reprofiling of funds, not new funds for postage. Again, a deeper understanding of how the ministry works would edify the member across the way, letting him know that, in fact, Service Alberta charges other ministries back for postage used by them. The member opposite's proposal was to reduce our budget to \$1,000. Frankly, I don't know how he would expect us to mail out cheques to vulnerable Albertans with \$1,000 postage, but I'd really love to hear that proposal.

Thank you.

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

#### Parks Canada Film Permit Denial

**Dr. Starke:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently the studio behind the upcoming film *Hard Powder* sought to film in and around Banff and Jasper; however, Parks Canada denied them a permit largely because a character in the movie, a gang leader, is indigenous. Now, the actor involved, Canadian icon Tom Jackson, reviewed the script and wrote to Parks Canada indicating that he did not believe that the script was disrespectful. To the Culture and Tourism minister. Parks Canada has directly interfered with the film industry in Alberta. What assurances have you sought or received from the federal government that this will not happen again?

**The Speaker:** The minister of culture.

**Miranda:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. We know that the film industry does generate good jobs in our province and diversifies our economy. This project that the member is referring to is under federal jurisdiction, so they do have a process that they have to go through. We will continue supporting the industry in this province. I invite the member to also follow up with the federal contacts from within the federal parks who can actually provide the permits that are necessary for this project.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Dr. Starke:** With respect, Minister, that's your job.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this film would have added to a long list of movies that have been shot in Alberta, that make free-marketing opportunities for Alberta tourism, and given that the film's producer stated that the crew intended to spend some \$5 million in Banff and Jasper over the course of the shoot, boosting local industry, employing Alberta film crews, and showcasing Alberta to the world, again to this minister: were you aware of this issue, and if so, why have you allowed Parks Canada to take millions of dollars away from both our film industry and our tourism industry?

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

**Miranda:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Again, this particular project is not within the jurisdiction that I can do anything about. What we have done is that we continue to provide the support to an industry that we know provides good-paying jobs to our province, making lives better for Albertans. That's exactly what we'll continue to do.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Dr. Starke:** Well, Mr. Speaker, thank you. Given that rural municipal stakeholders would like to discuss this issue along with a litany of other concerns about supports for tourism and cultural industries in rural Alberta with the minister and given that the AAMD and C meeting is exactly the forum where this discussion should take place, again to the minister: will you commit to attending the ministerial forum at AAMD and C to hear this and other concerns from rural leaders, or will you be skipping it for the second time in a row?

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

**Miranda:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the former minister, who at the time, well, had not really provided the kind of leadership that we have seen these days in our province when it comes to culture and tourism, that every day I come to work, I come to make sure that we're supporting the people of this province with good-paying jobs, ensuring that we're supporting culture and tourism. It's something that this government has done, that I personally have done, and that I will continue to do going forward.

Thank you.

### Strathcona Community Hospital

**Ms McKittrick:** Mr. Speaker, the residents of Sherwood Park were curious about the services that would be offered in the newly built Strathcona county community hospital. The former government had promised a full-service hospital but had not delivered. Residents raised concerns about the potential lack of in-patient beds. However, I now hear only great things about the hospital, its staff, and emergency services. To the Minister of Health: what other services are now available at the hospital?

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you to the member for her important question. The services that are included at the facility are 24/7 emergency care, ambulatory care, CT scans as well as diagnostic lab and imaging, primary care, family medicine, and allied health supports, including a physical therapist, psychologist, speech language therapy, and rehabilitation services, Mr. Speaker. These are the kinds of front-line services that Albertans count on that certainly do make their lives better.

2:30

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Ms McKittrick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Minister of Health. Given that I have met with the leadership of the hospital and have been impressed with the forward-thinking ways that they provide follow-up care, could the minister please elaborate on those innovative services, that I don't think exist in any other hospitals?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for her question. I had the honour of touring this facility very early in my time as Health minister alongside both MLAs for the county, and I have to say that the work that's happening there is fantastic. One of the standout community partnerships that's at play there is the work with Castle foundation, which is for child and adolescent family mental health. It's connected to the hospital. The families and the facility are able to work in partnership to make sure that they have those supports that surround the students. I'm proud that our government has supported Castle with \$17 million to further complete a number of initiatives and this mental health unit as well and work in partnership to surround those families with the services that they rely on so desperately.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Ms McKittrick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hear stories all the time from constituents about how great the hospital is and especially how great it is to go to the emergency department and not have to wait for a very, very long time. I was wondering if I could ask the Minister of Health: how do the wait times at the Strathcona county community hospital emergency department compare to the other hospitals in the region?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Of course, emergency wait times are some of the times when we are most concerned about making sure that we get access to those front-line health care professionals, and we take these matters very seriously, not just at her community hospital but at all hospitals. That's one of the reasons why we've been tracking these, making sure that they're available to the public. You can call 811 or check the AHS website at any time to find the wait times. I have to say that the wait time news at Strathcona county hospital is very good. Often it's the shortest wait time in the Edmonton zone, about an hour shorter than the next closest wait time. I encourage members to choose an opportunity to explore their facility if it will meet their health needs.

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

The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

### Agricultural Insurance Payments

**Mr. Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last fall the county of Brazeau declared an agricultural disaster when 70 per cent of the crops were left unharvested in the field. Now I have local farmers coming to me concerned that they will not receive their AFSC insurance payout in time for them to plan for and physically get in a crop this spring. Many believe that they will need that payout by April 15 if they are to put in a crop. Will the minister ensure that

farmers across Alberta will receive their insurance payouts in time to put in a crop this spring?

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

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I understand the hardships that the farmers have gone through last year with the early snow. I live in a county just next door to Brazeau, and I understand absolutely what's going on there. I have good news there. The AFSC has already paid out the vast majority of payments that are needed. If the member has particular constituents that are still waiting and have some concerns, I encourage them to get hold of me.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Given that many farmers have purchased insurance through AFSC with the understanding that the insurance payouts would be made in time to cover losses and to continue to farm and given that so many are concerned they will not receive their insurance money in time to put in a crop and given that many believe that they are already battling the elements and they don't need to battle the government, too, why would a farmer in my riding continue to purchase crop insurance through AFSC when it does not work for them?

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

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. The fact is that the AFSC suite of programs is well subscribed to by producers right across the province. They recognize the value that those products have. This government will continue and I will continue to support those Alberta farmers, as AFSC does, and look forward to having the good work that they continue to do. It is also true, as I said earlier, that AFSC has paid out the vast majority of those claims. If a member has constituents that are concerned, I encourage them to get hold of me.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that farmers and ranchers whose cattle became infected by TB were compensated in a timely fashion and that they were able to continue their operations largely uninterrupted and given that other Albertans have suffered devastating losses from emergencies and received compensation without losing business or income and since farmers in the Brazeau county are facing a very real crisis if they do not receive their insurance monies in time to get a crop, will these hard-working Albertan farmers be able to access AgriRecovery and carry on their operations this spring?

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

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I already have said, the AFSC has done a great job. Inspectors were out. They were working extra hours to make sure that those counties that had the early snow last year, the high-moisture content, were getting their claims in. I understand that there are only two farmers that have yet to be assessed, and the vast majority of those payments are out. You know, we're still early in the year. There's still snow out there. If these producers are concerned about getting their payments before seeding is started, I encourage them to get hold of the AFSC office or my office.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

## Trampoline Safety

**Mr. Drysdale:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In January a young man from Spruce Grove sustained a very serious spinal cord injury while using equipment at a local trampoline park. The media attention that this incident attracted revealed that every day in Alberta an average of four children land in emergency rooms as a result of trampoline-related injuries. Anything that sends 1,400 Alberta children to hospital each year is surely worth our attention. To the Minister of Health: what action have you taken to address the growing issue of trampoline safety in Alberta?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Of course, any time the life of anyone is impacted through an accident that could have been prevented, I think we do owe it to look at ways that we might be able to support those families after the circumstance but also consider ways that we might be able to work to provide either education or opportunities for people to be informed about ways that they could change and reduce risk. I'd be happy to follow up with the member opposite if he would like to schedule a meeting to receive some more information from him and other organizations that he thinks might be worth pursuing further conversations with.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Drysdale:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the latest serious injury occurred at a specialized recreation facility and given that there's currently no legislation governing these facilities, nor are there any regulatory requirements for staff training, minimum supervision levels, or even basic safety protocols, to the minister: can you tell the House and all Albertans how your government plans to address these inadequacies?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The short answer is in partnership, in partnership with members from the other side who want to work with us as well as with members from the community. Once again, I'm very pleased to be able to find ways that we can improve lives for Alberta families, whether it's finding ways to increase safety for their children, for themselves, or for the workers, who I'm sure were also traumatized by the incident. I think this is something worth us having further conversations on.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Drysdale:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the majority of these injuries sustained by Alberta children do not happen in these facilities but, rather, on backyard trampolines and given that injuries include everything from sprains and broken bones to spinal cord and traumatic head injuries and even death, to the same minister: do you see any merit in developing provincial regulations to govern safety as it relates to backyard trampolines?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Certainly, I spent many a summer on trampolines, as a child mostly, and continue to watch children enjoy them throughout our communities. I think it's important that we do provide opportunities for them to engage in that activity, but I am open to recommendations and look forward to considering options in partnership with all members of this House if it comes to that

point. Obviously, education is one piece, and I think that it's important for us to have opportunities in public forums like this today to talk about some of the risks that are involved. So thank you to the member for the question.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-St. Albert.

#### **Drinking Water Quality in Indigenous Communities**

**Mr. Horne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that a disproportionate number of indigenous communities are currently under a boil-water advisory, to the Minister of Indigenous Relations: how is this government working to provide clean water to these communities regardless of the jurisdictional boundaries?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Indigenous Relations.

**Mr. Feehan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. I also want to acknowledge your ongoing support and work in the indigenous community and your advocacy. As we committed to in the throne speech, our government is working with First Nations and the federal government in a tripartite relationship to address this very critical need for access to clean drinking water and fulfilling our commitment to the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. We look forward to learning more about that later today.

Thank you.

2:40

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Horne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that First Nations across Alberta like the Alexander First Nation in the wonderful constituency of Spruce Grove-St. Albert deserve to have the same access to clean water as any other Canadian, to the same minister: has this government spoken to the federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs about this important issue?

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

**Mr. Feehan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate this question. I have indeed spent quite a bit of time with the federal minister, perhaps a dozen times over the last year, and most recently spoke with Minister Bennett at the fifth national indigenous summit, that was held in Toronto last week, and have obtained a commitment from her and she from me to work together to resolve this critical issue and to move forward in working with all of the First Nations in this province and to do what we all expect, and that is to provide clean drinking water for citizens of this province.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Horne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister. The problem of clean drinking water on reserves has gone on for far too long. When will indigenous communities finally see progress and drinkable water on their reserves?

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

**Mr. Feehan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have indicated before, we've been working with all of the parties involved in a tripartite relationship, which is, frankly, quite new for this province, to actually work with everyone together. We are very proud of the fact that we are moving forward on this, and I encourage everyone to pay special attention to the budget today so that we can speak about this more in the future.

## **Members' Statements**

*(continued)*

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

### **Buffalo Rubbing Stone School Opening**

**Mr. Kleinsteuber:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last May I dedicated a member's statement to the buffalo rubbing stone landmark in Calgary-Northern Hills and the school it inspired. Prior to the opening of Buffalo Rubbing Stone school students attended Panorama Hills school and Alex Munro school in Huntington Hills. Attendance at both schools exceeded capacity. Cathy Turner, future principal of Buffalo Rubbing Stone school, was already working in these schools to meet students and build relationships with teachers.

On September 26, 2016, Buffalo Rubbing Stone school opened for the first time to give families a sneak peek at their new school. Principal Turner said that her favourite moments were watching the parents and kids, because it was their school, and everyone was so excited. As Principal Turner pointed out, when cities sprawl, we need schools in the outskirt neighbourhoods. After Buffalo Rubbing Stone school opened, 11 bus routes were cancelled, with students now able to walk or bike to their own neighbourhood school. Class sizes at all three area schools were reduced to an average of 22 students per class.

Buffalo Rubbing Stone school officially opened February 9, 2017, and the opening ceremonies were attended by hundreds of children and their parents along with Calgary board of education superintendent of schools David Stevenson; Calgary board area director Darlene Unruh; two Calgary board trustees, Lynn Ferguson and Joy Bowen-Eyre; and Elder Randy Bottle, or Saa'kokoto in Blackfoot. During the ceremony Elder Bottle spoke of the importance of the buffalo rubbing stone and its location in the Blackfoot territory and the herd of majestic bison that once roamed the area. Elder Bottle described how the Blackfoot regarded the bison as the ruler of the plains and a source of food and life for Nitsitapi peoples.

After Elder Bottle's inspiring speech, the kindergarten students showed a video they had made about their expectations for the new school, but in a disappointed tone they said: there ain't no buffalo here. Although the herds of bison have vanished . . .

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

The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

### **Immigrants in Rural Alberta**

**Mr. Orr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important to tell and celebrate the rural Alberta immigrant story. It's a positive story for central and rural Alberta, that has brought economic vitality, rich cultural diversity, and remembrance of our own immigrant roots.

First, let me mention the many Dutch immigrants in Lacombe-Ponoka. They own the majority of the dairy and chicken farms as well as greenhouses and field farms. In my past work as a rural pastor I personally welcomed around 100 new immigrants into our small country community. Many of these were Filipinos who were asked by employers to come, and they came at a time when there were no available Canadians to fill the jobs. The majority of rural immigrant workers are skilled or semiskilled and so are not just temporary. They came, wrote trade certification exams, received permanent resident status, brought their families, and today are contributing members of Alberta society.

Rural employers sought families because they value family and sought long-term commitment from stable employees. Families were helped with housing, furniture, ESL, trade-ticket preparation,

immigration, and cultural adaptation. Learning the Canadian rules of driving was one of the challenges. In return, employers got committed, skilled workers with good work ethics and personal morality.

The locals in the peaceful countryside have welcomed their new inhabitants. They work hard. They bought homes, even started businesses, and are strong contributors to our local economy. Employers paid the cost for workers. Churches, through private sponsorship, have brought refugees, providing homes, cars, and community all by donation. Individuals, like a 23-year-old Lacombe resident, donated one year of a house rent-free to a Syrian family. I believe Lacombe will soon have five refugee families, four Syrian and one Eritrean. Most immigrants to rural areas have chosen to stay. They feel welcome, and affordability is better than in urban areas.

Our immigrants are first-class people making a first-class contribution. That is why I celebrate them.

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

### Tabling Returns and Reports

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

**Mr. Westhead:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table five copies of a document to which I referred during debate this morning titled Canadian Blood Services Says Paid Plasma Clinics Are Harming Voluntary Donations.

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

**Dr. Starke:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two tablings. First I table the requisite number of copies of the monograph from Health Canada entitled Round Table Discussion on Payment of Plasma Donors in Canada – Summary Report.

My second tabling is the requisite five copies of a document I referred to during debate on Bill 2, entitled The Cruelty Connection: The Relationships between Animal Cruelty, Child Abuse and Domestic Violence.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms McPherson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have five copies of an article I referred to yesterday when I was speaking in support of Bill 2. It is from the February 3 edition of the *Globe and Mail*, an article by Robyn Doolittle called Unfounded: Why Police Dismiss 1 in 5 Sexual Assault Claims as Baseless.

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table five copies of the spring 2017 budget main estimates schedule that was developed in consultation with House leaders as per Standing Order 59.01(3).

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

**Mr. Cyr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. The first one is regarding inventories for resale of postage. The Minister of Service Alberta can dispute my qualities as an accountant, but she can't actually dispute the facts.

The fact is that this next one I will be tabling is that Service Alberta had . . .

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, we talked about editorializing. Get to the point.

**Mr. Cyr:** I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. Service Alberta had proudly announced that they'd save 41,000 trees, and I guess they stayed the execution to 2016-2017.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

### Tablings to the Clerk

**The Clerk:** I wish to advise the Assembly that the following document was deposited with the office of the Clerk. On behalf of the hon. Ms Ganley, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, responses to questions raised by Mr. Cyr, hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake; Mr. Clark, hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow; Mr. Orr, hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka; Mr. Hinkley, hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose; and Mr. Eilis, hon. Member for Calgary-West, on the May 2, 2016, Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General main estimates debate.

### Point of Order Parliamentary Language

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, there was a point of order that was raised yesterday that I said I would review, and I'd like to address that item now.

**2:50**

A point of order was raised yesterday by the Official Opposition House Leader with respect to a statement that the Minister of Energy made during Oral Question Period. I've had the chance to now review *Alberta Hansard* to determine what the minister said. In the minister's response to a question posed by the Member for Calgary-Fish Creek she said, "The opposition continues to mislead this House and indeed Albertans for their own political gain." The minister's remarks can be found on page 303 of *Alberta Hansard* from March 15, 2017.

The Official Opposition House Leader in his arguments referenced a number of rulings made in this Assembly in which he argues that it was concluded that "mislead" and its various grammatical forms is unparliamentary. These arguments are found on pages 305 and 306 of yesterday's *Alberta Hansard*.

I would note for members that the entire phrase uttered by the Minister of Energy was: "The opposition continues to mislead this House." Hon. members, there are, in fact, a number of rulings on the terms "mislead," "misleading" and so on. Members may refer to Speaker Kowalski's rulings on April 12, 2011, found on pages 607 to 608 of the *Alberta Hansard* for that day, on June 4, 2008, on page 1212, and on April 26, 2005, on pages 1035 to 1036.

More relevant to the point of order before us now, on February 22, 1995, Speaker Schumacher encountered a very similar situation. In his ruling Speaker Schumacher indicated that the member against whom a point of order was raised did not use "mislead" in relation to an individual member of the Assembly. Instead, the member used the expression "in the corporate sense by accusing the government and not any particular member of the government of misleading the Assembly." Speaker Schumacher concluded that because of the context in which the word was used, he could not find the expression unparliamentary. This ruling is found on page 125 of the *Alberta Hansard* for that day.

On April 7, 2005, Speaker Kowalski ruled on the use of the term "misled." Quoting from the first edition of the *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* he stated: "Expressions which are considered unparliamentary when applied to an individual Member have not always been considered so when applied 'in a generic sense' or to



a party.” The entire ruling can be found on page 624 of the *Alberta Hansard* for that day.

In the instance before the Assembly now, the same observation made by my predecessors may also be made here. The Minister of Energy referenced the opposition and not a member in her response to the question. Therefore, in this particular case, as in the instances I have cited, I find no point of order.

I believe there were three other points of order today. The hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

#### **Point of Order Language Creating Disorder**

**Mrs. Aheer:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in reference to section 23(j), when a member “uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder.”

I don’t have the benefit of the Blues in front of me, Mr. Speaker, but I believe that the language that was used was something along the lines of: I don’t need a member from the opposition mansplaining the electric system to me. I would have to say that this clearly caused disorder and is insulting. When the Minister of Education speaks in a condescending tone to me, should I also call it mansplaining?

I do not believe in any way that this is helpful or constructive in this House. I would request that the Minister of Energy withdraw her comment and apologize to the member.

**The Speaker:** The Deputy Government House Leader.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is not a point of order. I can tell you a couple of different things. Number one, I will read the dictionary definition of mansplaining. “To comment on or explain something to a woman in a condescending, overconfident, and often inaccurate or oversimplified manner.” I’m doing this for the benefit of all the men in this room. The Energy minister felt that the Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake was talking to her in a very condescending manner, explaining things that in her role as the Minister of Energy she’s very well briefed on.

I do want to mention that mansplaining is not an unparliamentary word either here in Alberta or in Ottawa. I want to point out the fact that in the *Hansard* of the House of Commons, actually, the MP for Lakeland, Shannon Stubbs, used the term “mansplain,” for which there was no point of order in Ottawa.

Therefore, this is no point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Well, hon. members, I can tell you that I have certainly learned and heard a lot of words in this House that I’ve never heard before. I also relearned – I knew this, but it came back to me when I was dealing with the point of order that I dealt with just now – that, in fact, in 2012 this House agreed that the catalogue of words that were not acceptable in this Assembly would no longer be maintained. I heard a couple of questions and exchanges today about saving trees. I suspect that may have been one of the reasons why they determined that the list was not necessary, because many, many, many trees may have been destroyed as a result of the dialogue in this room. There seems to be a desire also to set down this list of words, and then they can be used to say: well, you can’t say that, you can’t say that. It’s almost an impossible task, it seems to me.

I can only judge in this particular instance on the basis that – and I do have the Blues – the statement was: “I do not need people from the other side mansplaining to me about electricity.” This may well not be a formal point of order, but I would say to the hon. minister that it did have a reaction on the opposite side. I would ask that in

the future you avoid this because it’s quite obvious that that particular matter caused considerable disruption in the House.

The second point of order, I think, was raised by the hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

#### **Point of Order Insulting Language**

**Mr. Cooper:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to the second point of order today, where at approximately 2:16, mere moments after my colleague from Chestermere-Rocky View raised a point of order, that you have so appropriately dealt with, the minister of the environment very clearly across the bow called my colleague a snowflake.

I would just like to provide some context around the word “snowflake.” While I recognize, Mr. Speaker, that there may have been people who have used this sort of language not fully understanding all of the context, I’d like to provide some for you today and then encourage all members of this Chamber – all members of this Chamber – to refrain from doing so in the future. In Missouri in the early 1860s a “snowflake” was a person who was opposed to the abolition of slavery, the implication of the name being that such people valued white people over black people. The “snowflake” hoped slavery would survive in the country’s civil war, and there were contrasts with two other groups. Now I recognize that this language, the word “snowflake,” has been used in various forms throughout time, but the origins of “snowflake” are certainly not positive.

3:00

What we’re seeing, Mr. Speaker, is that this cabinet is putting together a string of insults directed at the opposition. We saw one that was apologized for earlier this week. We’ve seen “Chicken Little,” we’ve seen “xenophobes,” and now today we see “snowflake.” I would hope that the minister would be pleased to withdraw and apologize for the comment. We can all move forward. I hope that in the future members of the government will refrain from hurling insults at the opposition, which sometimes can be viewed as hurling insults at Albertans.

**The Speaker:** Before I allow the Deputy Government House Leader to speak, I want to remind members that we have a very important event to deal with at 3:15, and we are now past 3 o’clock.

How long would your comments be, hon. member?

**Mr. Bilous:** Not too long, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** It might be really short. If you could make it, it might solve this matter.

**Mr. Bilous:** Yes. I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker. However, when I was still teaching and I said to my students “I’ll be brief,” they all knew that meant 10 to 15 minutes.

I just want to begin by saying, Mr. Speaker, that I do appreciate what the Opposition House Leader is saying. I want to begin by mentioning that I believe both sides of the House have had numerous incidents of saying things that maybe they want to take back, words that may have caused disorder in this House. I don’t think anyone believes that only one side is guilty of this, so I would like to remind the opposition that when they make similar types of comments that cause disorder on this side of the House, it is also equally applicable to causing disorder and causing Albertans to be unhappy.

Now, having said that, on behalf of the Minister of Environment and Parks I would like to apologize to the member and the opposition for that comment and would like it withdrawn.

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

Let me remind you yet again – you don't want to hear this – that the responsibility rests, yes, with this chair but also individually with each of you.

In order to allow adequate time to prepare for the Budget Address by the hon. President of Treasury Board – I'm sorry. I should have been more clear.

Go ahead.

### Point of Order Language Creating Disorder

**Mr. Rodney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I trust we can deal with this extremely expeditiously. I rise in reference to section 23.

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

- (j) uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder.

For the sake of time I will not quote from (h) and (i).

The hon. Member for Calgary-West, with extensive formal training and teaching experience in his previous profession, in which he's very respected, in addition to years of real-life experience and expertise, did extensive research with a lawyer who is an expert in constitutional law. He asked an extremely important question of the Justice minister. Instead of answering the question, the minister made a personal attack. First, she said that she didn't know where he got his law degree from, which begs the question: will the minister only answer to lawyers? Her job is to answer questions of duly elected MLAs, who ask questions on behalf of Albertans, and that's exactly what the hon. member was in the process of doing before this happened.

It got worse at that moment, Mr. Speaker. The minister went on to tell the hon. member: I think he needs to go back to school. Now, this is insulting not only to the member but to all members of this House and, by extension, all Albertans, especially those who deserve an answer to this question, including all those who are extremely concerned about racism. We've had comments from the government on how important that is this week alone.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time this type of insult has been hurled from the NDP benches to our side of the House. You can ask the hon. Member from Calgary-Greenway all about that if he chooses to rise. Other references this morning – we had a meeting on decorum in this House.

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, we're dealing with the specific point.

**Mr. Rodney:** Yes, I am.

This afternoon the member . . .

**The Speaker:** In light of the time, just get to this example because I think there might be . . .

**Mr. Rodney:** I am in the process, sir. I need . . .

**The Speaker:** Sir, wait. You must listen. I think there is an expeditious way of dealing with it if you could get to it. Please finish.

**Mr. Rodney:** Yes. That's what I'm doing, sir.

This afternoon the hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster made a member's statement calling for an increase in respect in this Chamber and beyond. Yesterday I tweeted the following: the minister was wrong in her comment . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Justice, could you speak to this and expedite this matter, please?

Please be seated, sir.

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, emotions are running somewhat high in the House at this time. As a lawyer I obviously have deep feelings about the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. I feel very strongly that it's a deep and important thing, and I felt that perhaps the member was incorrect in his statement. It was inappropriate to take that a step further, as I did do. Obviously, I am required to answer to everyone in this House. I have a great deal of respect for the Member for Calgary-West and his commitment to serving the people of Alberta. I apologize and withdraw the comment.

**The Speaker:** And thus, hon. member, because of the time factor, that's why I gave the minister the opportunity.

Accordingly, to prepare for the Budget Address by the hon. President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, let us recess until 3:15, and I trust that 3:15 will still accomplish the task.

[The Assembly adjourned from 3:06 p.m. to 3:18 p.m.]

**The Sergeant-at-Arms:** Order!

**The Speaker:** Please be seated.

## Orders of the Day Transmittal of Estimates

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

**The Speaker:** Please rise. The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required by the offices of the Legislative Assembly for the service of the province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required by the government for the service of the province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Please be seated.

**Mr. Ceci:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the 2017-18 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates as well as the 2017-18 government estimates. In addition, Mr. Speaker, I also wish to table the 2017-2020 government of Alberta strategic plan and the Budget 2017 ministry business plans.

## 3:20 Government Motions Budget Address

13. Mr. Ceci moved:  
Be it resolved that the Assembly approve in general the business plans and fiscal policies of the government.

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

**Mr. Ceci:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now wish to table the government's Budget 2017 fiscal plan and move Government Motion 13.

**The Speaker:** Please proceed.

**Mr. Ceci:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I want to acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 land.

I am pleased to present Budget 2017. Budget 2017 is about making life better for everyday Albertans. Jobs, affordability, protecting the services that families count on: these are Albertans' priorities. These are your government's priorities.

Let me begin by thanking Albertans for their input. I traveled from one end of this province to the other listening to their thoughts on this budget. So did my colleagues. Here's what we heard. Families want us to help create and protect jobs. Families want our government to keep investing in long overdue repairs and modernizations of our schools and hospitals, and they want us to keep improving our roads and highways. They want us to make things more affordable and bring the deficit down thoughtfully and prudently. Budget 2017 is aimed squarely at addressing those priorities. As a result, Alberta will recover from this downturn with a stronger, more resilient economy. Alberta will recover with good schools and hospitals because this time Alberta families have a government that is in their corner. On this side of the House we are going to stay in their corner.

Mr. Speaker, when the oil price shock hit our economy, Albertans were faced with a choice. Some said and still say that government should make deep cuts to public services such as health care and education. Some wanted to implement a health care tax that would have hurt families who could least afford it. Families would have been forced to pay more and get less with longer health care waitlists, overcrowded emergency rooms, much bigger class sizes, and lost jobs. That's why our government made a different choice. We stayed focused, and we are executing a plan to diversify our economy and help families through the downturn.

We're not out of the woods yet – far from it – but there are hopeful economic signs, what I refer to as green shoots. This year we expect our economy to grow by 2.6 per cent, the highest in Canada. That estimate is more conservative than some such as the Conference Board of Canada's, that predicts economic growth of 2.8 per cent. Either way, it's clear. Alberta's economy is set to grow. Our energy industry is on a more solid footing, drilling is increasing, with twice the number of rigs active compared to this time last year, and jobs are starting to come back: 19,000 since last July. Of course, the global economy remains volatile. Energy prices have stayed lower for longer. At the same time our population continues to grow. These factors have combined to put additional pressures on our social services.

Budget 2017 reflects that reality. Our commitment to have the backs of Albertans through these tough times remains unwavering, as is our commitment to continue to bring down the deficit thoughtfully and prudently. This year we are forecasting our deficit to decline to \$10.3 billion, half a billion dollars less than last year's budget deficit. Growth in government spending remains well below many of the increases of past governments. We are keeping spending growth lower than the combined rate of inflation and population growth. Our debt-to-GDP ratio is the lowest among provinces.

Bringing the deficit down requires us to consistently bring down the growth in government spending. We froze management salaries for agencies, boards, and commissions and launched a review of salary rates. A few weeks ago our government cut the salaries of some of the highest-paid CEOs at government agencies and got rid of golf club memberships and other perks that were accepted practice in the past. That one step will save nearly \$16 million a year.

We are also bringing down the rate of health spending growth while protecting patient care. We engaged Alberta's doctors in constructive discussions and signed a new agreement that saves up

to \$500 million over two years. We amalgamated or cut 26 agencies, boards, and commissions. We froze salaries for politicians, political staff, and management in the civil service. We reduced salaries and supplies last year to the tune of \$121 million. We streamlined programs such as Alberta Innovates and community partnership grants and suspended other nonessential programs. As a result, we found more than half a billion dollars of in-year savings and decreases in ministry expenses over the last two years, and we will continue to find more savings this year.

As important as it is to cut waste and reduce the growth of government spending, it is critical that through this downturn we remain focused on supporting families. That starts with creating and supporting good jobs. In last year's budget we launched the Alberta jobs plan, aimed at diversifying our economy and creating good jobs. The jobs plan is built on four key pillars: first, investing in infrastructure; next, supporting families and communities; then diversifying our energy industry; and last, diversifying our economy and supporting Alberta businesses. The jobs plan is doing its work. The economy is stabilizing, and jobs are beginning to return. Now is not the time to let our steady hand waiver.

As our economy recovers, we'll continue to bring down the deficit to balance, and we will do so without sacrificing the supports and services families need. We will remain focused on these fundamental priorities and help all Albertans weather this storm. That's our focus. That's our plan. This year we will continue to build on the jobs plan to make life better for everyday families.

Mr. Speaker, our kids deserve schools that are modern, safe, and equipped to prepare them for a great future. Right now we're dealing with issues of overcrowding and buildings that have been allowed to fall into disrepair. In some schools there's water damage and obsolete heating systems. In others roofs sag and the cold winter winds seep through aging window frames. That's not right. The decision to fix those issues for our kids shouldn't be dependent on oil price decisions made half a world away. Our kids deserve better, much better.

Mr. Speaker, Budget 2017 includes funding for 24 new and modernized schools. From Airdrie to Bonnyville, Banff to Drayton Valley, Lethbridge to Grande Prairie, and in many, many more communities across Alberta our government is building and modernizing schools, improving the things that make a real difference in the lives of Alberta families. Calgary will see five new schools approved, and Edmonton will see four, with design work to be done on a fifth. Not only will these new schools help our kids get a better education, but because of our government's reductions to a range of mandatory school fees, it will cost less for parents to send their kids to a great public school.

**3:30**

We will also invest in new health care facilities. When we took office, glaring infrastructure issues in health care needed fixing. Here's an example. There's a bus in Lac La Biche where people have been forced for years to get their dialysis treatment. The bus doesn't move, which is odd for a bus. The reason this dialysis bus doesn't move: the wheels have literally come off. It just sits there, in a parking lot, up on blocks. Sometimes the power in the bus goes because the electricity link between the bus and the hospital isn't all that great, and when it's really cold out, dialysis care gets cancelled altogether. Families in the area have said for years that this is no way to be treated. They shouldn't have to trudge out into the cold, then climb up on a bus with no wheels. Mr. Speaker, we agree with those families. It isn't right.

The fact that it remained this way through the last oil boom is an insult to rural Albertans. Patients deserve better, and that's why we are fixing this problem, with construction work on a proper new

dialysis unit beginning this month. When our loved ones are sick, they deserve to be treated as close to home as possible, and they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

Mr. Speaker, Budget 2017 moves forward on much-needed repairs, renovations, and modernizations of health facilities across the province and builds new hospitals that are long overdue.

In our first budget we ended all the dithering over the obvious need for a new cancer centre in Calgary. Families in Calgary and southern Alberta need that new facility, not a fresh round of excuses for why now is not the time. Construction continues this year on that crucial new facility.

In the same way that the cancer building in Calgary can't wait, this year we will move forward on necessary health infrastructure in Edmonton. Despite significant population growth in Alberta's capital a new hospital hasn't been built in Edmonton for more than a generation. Families can't wait any longer. The need is there, and it's growing. As a result of planning started last year, this year we are dedicating additional funds to get a new hospital built in Edmonton; \$400 million will be dedicated over the next four years to help turn those plans into reality.

While that new hospital is being built, we will invest in necessary upgrades and modernizations to the Misericordia community hospital to make sure it is able to handle more patients and care for them properly. This year new funding will be dedicated towards the Misericordia, including funds to build a modern new emergency department. Again, this work is long overdue and can't wait any longer.

While we tackle those urgent needs, we will continue to upgrade and increase public long-term care spaces, making further progress towards our commitment to build 2,000 long-term care beds across the province. In Calgary we will get to work on a new and much-needed long-term care facility. This facility will have 200 beds and will be designed to make sure people with complex care needs such as Alzheimer's and dementia get the safest, best care possible. At the Norwood Capital Care facility in Edmonton work will begin on new and renovated space to accommodate 350 enhanced long-term care beds, offering patients and families a broad range of support programs and services.

Necessary investments will also be made to better support child and adolescent mental health services at the Royal Alexandra hospital and the Glenrose rehabilitation hospital campus. These investments will create safer and healthier environments for patients, their families, and staff.

And after years of on-again, off-again funding promises, followed by the wildfire, work on the Willow Square long-term care facility in Fort McMurray is back on track and will continue this year.

In addition to these necessary investments in hospitals and long-term care homes, we are going to keep renovating and expanding hospitals, health centres, care homes, and health infrastructure across Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, just as our modern and highly industrialized province needs great schools and hospitals to help families thrive, so too does it need highways and bridges to get people and goods where they need to be efficiently and safely. Budget 2017 will put more Albertans to work through necessary investments in our highways, bridges, and public transit.

Families in Fort Saskatchewan have been clear that the current highways and bridges in the area don't have enough capacity. The area has grown substantially over the last couple of decades, and more needs to be done to ease traffic congestion and help get people where they need to be. For this reason, we are going to twin the highway 15 bridge, which is the only river crossing in the area. Planning and design work will begin this year. This investment will

reduce travel times in the area and improve routes between Fort Saskatchewan, Edmonton, and the Industrial Heartland.

As well, together with the federal government and the city of Edmonton we have committed to a historic agreement to transform the Yellowhead highway through Edmonton, making sure this essential route is faster, safer, and able to support future growth and increased industry traffic.

We are also partnering with the city of Calgary to make sure that Deerfoot Trail is able to accommodate new and growing communities in the south, with a new interchange to be built in the southeast at 212 Avenue.

We will continue to work to improve public transit across the province. Also, this year we look forward to working with both the cities of Calgary and Edmonton to further develop their LRT projects.

In Alberta's north we will continue to make sure families and industry have the infrastructure they need to get around as safely and efficiently as possible. Last year we funded a new bridge in Peace River, an essential project to connect residents to schools and hospitals and connect critical transportation routes for industry in the area. The tender for this new bridge work will be awarded this year. Also this year, to improve life for families and to make sure loggers, oil sands workers, and agricultural producers have safe and efficient routes, we are going to replace the highway 813 bridge near Athabasca.

To make life better for indigenous communities, this year we are partnering with the federal government to make sure every household on a First Nation in Alberta has access to a clean and reliable source of drinking water. For Alberta's part we will invest \$100 million to integrate existing drinking water systems with federally supported water systems. By building these links between communities, we can end the long-standing and shameful number of boil-water advisories on First Nations and make important progress towards fulfilling our commitment to the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

In Red Deer we will rectify the community's long-standing concerns regarding the lack of appropriate courtroom space. Court space is so tight in Red Deer that some proceedings have been forced to take place in a local hotel. Community leaders have been clear that building a proper new courthouse is a major priority for their area. The previous government failed to act on this urgent and well-known priority. We won't repeat that mistake. This year we are going to get to work on building a new courthouse in Red Deer.

**3:40**

Another long-standing issue that cannot wait any longer to be fixed is the need for a new Provincial Operations Centre, or POC. During the Wood Buffalo wildfires, flooding in southern Alberta, and wildfires in Slave Lake Albertans saw first-hand how critical the POC is. It's a 24/7 hub of life-saving emergency management and disaster response. The women and men who staff our POC have done an amazing job managing in the aging and confined space from which they currently operate, but they need a better-designed, modern new space to manage future incidents and disasters. This year we'll improve our ability to respond to major emergencies and disasters by getting to work on a new and badly needed Provincial Operations Centre.

Mr. Speaker, Budget 2017 also puts Albertans to work building and renovating affordable homes for seniors and families. All Albertans need this basic level of security in their lives, the security of knowing they have a roof over their heads, a warm place to sleep, study, and build a better life for themselves and the people they love. While some may use economic downturns as an excuse to gut public services and turn their backs on families who need help the

most, we won't. Budget 2017 builds badly needed affordable homes for Alberta seniors and families and continues to make long overdue repairs to existing housing.

Historically this is an area of the budget that has been starved for resources, which meant some units got really run down. There were units that were forced to close altogether because the foundations were so badly cracked. Others have leaky roofs, windows that won't open, and aging and unreliable heating systems. Families deserve better. Homes should be safe and comfortable. This year we will continue to build and modernize affordable homes and seniors' lodges in cities and towns across the province, from Clairmont to Fort Macleod, from Cold Lake to Canmore. Some of these communities will see new housing facilities built to replace old units while others will see expansions and renovations to make them better and safer for seniors and families.

Work that will get the green light this year includes at least 50 units of a seniors' lodge in Barrhead, 64 units of community housing in Leduc, 144 seniors' lodge units in Sherwood Park, and 132 affordable housing spaces in Banff. In the Londonderry community of Edmonton 220 affordable mixed-income units will be built while 24 units of supportive housing will be built in Calgary for people struggling with substance use. Affordable housing, help for families who need it most, and more good jobs: another key way Budget 2017 helps make life better.

Mr. Speaker, the approval of the Trans Mountain pipeline along with the approval of line 3 is helping to recharge investment in our oil and gas industry. The failures of previous governments to get new pipelines approved to Canada's coast set our province back. We lost revenue. We lost jobs. We lost investment. Investors the world over were starting to think Alberta and Canada couldn't get their act together. Working families shouldn't have to choose between making a good living and protecting the environment for our kids and future generations. Getting a Canadian pipeline built to a Canadian coast is the best way for our world-class energy producers to sell our resources at world-class prices. That's exactly what we want, a better deal for our industry and the stability of our economy.

As was said in the throne speech, we won't celebrate until the first drop of oil leaves the Canadian coast from a new pipeline. Our work is far from done. That's why our government will continue to work respectfully and collaboratively with indigenous communities, provinces, and the federal government to do what previous federal and provincial governments couldn't: get a new pipeline built to the coast and break the landlock that's held Alberta back.

Mr. Speaker, while we diversify our energy markets, we need to do more to diversify our entire economy. Last year we launched the petrochemical diversification program, which leverages \$500 million in royalty credits to support nearly \$6 billion in new private investment in Alberta.

We will take further steps to diversify and strengthen other parts of our economy. Business leaders and innovators have told us that access to capital is key. That's why we extended capital to Alberta companies through ATB Financial and AIMCo. Through AIMCo \$185 million in new investments in Alberta business have been made, and ATB Financial has provided more than \$795 million in loans to nearly 3,500 small and mid-sized Alberta businesses.

In addition to expanding access to capital, new tax credits are helping to drive new investments in Alberta. The capital investment tax credit and the Alberta investor tax credit are in full operation and helping Alberta businesses grow and create jobs. Our government also cut taxes on small businesses by a third. We now have the second-lowest small-business tax rate in Canada. This year we will continue to identify opportunities to help drive innovation

and create jobs, especially in the areas of clean technology, health innovation, and value-added agriculture.

The Alberta small-brewery grant program is creating jobs and driving new investments. This year we are going to build on the success of our craft brewing program and work to model a similar program for Alberta's craft distillers. We'll also make more money available through the aboriginal business investment fund to help indigenous businesses and job creators grow and thrive. Taken together, these grants, credits, and investments in Alberta businesses create good jobs, help to strengthen and diversify our economy, and set our province's future on a stronger, more stable footing.

Mr. Speaker, Budget 2017 maintains Alberta's huge tax advantage over all Canadian provinces. We have no sales tax, no payroll tax. The previous government wanted to saddle Albertans with an expensive health care tax. That would have meant thousands of dollars in new and unavoidable charges for families. We immediately scrapped that bad idea. Alberta has an \$8.7 billion tax advantage over British Columbia, a \$9 billion tax advantage over Saskatchewan, and a \$13.4 billion tax advantage over Ontario. Alberta is and always will be a great place to do business and raise a family.

But affordability doesn't begin and end with taxes. We have to do more by addressing the day-to-day costs that hit Albertans the hardest. Back home in Calgary, when I'm chatting with my neighbours and constituents, they tell me that school fees are way too high. For years families have said that enough is enough, yet school fees continued to grow. The previous government stood by and watched as costs for parents piled up every September. Mr. Speaker, that's just not right. By the start of the next school year school fees for families will be cut by 25 per cent. We will cover the cost of these reduced school fees entirely through efficiencies to be found from within the existing provincial budget.

Starting this fall, no Alberta family will be required to pay for textbooks, workbooks, printing, and paper costs incurred by their schools. We will also reduce fees charged to students who ride the bus more than 2.4 kilometres to their designated school. We believe families will save more than \$50 million. For a family in Calgary with three kids, this change could save them over \$1,000 every fall. Budget 2017 makes this possible. It will also make a university and college education more affordable for Alberta students. This year's budget increases support scholarships, provide more grants, expand funds for apprenticeship training, and make student loans more accessible.

**3:50**

Mr. Speaker, this year our government will help families improve the energy efficiency of their homes and save money. Earlier this month we invited Albertans to go online and sign up to have an energy efficiency technician come to their home and install a range of new energy efficient items from smart thermostats to high-efficiency lighting. The demand surpassed everyone's expectation. In the first 24 hours following the launch of Energy Efficiency Alberta's website, nearly 17,000 households signed up. That's grown to almost 70,000 households. We are now expecting that over 100,000 households will sign up this year. As a result, we will expand the availability of this hugely popular program to help meet this pent-up demand for energy efficiency in Alberta's households.

New programs, rebates, and incentives are on their way for homeowners, renters, municipalities, businesses, and nonprofits. Electricity rates will be capped this year to protect Albertans from the volatile price swings they saw under the previous government. We will expand our ban of door-to-door energy sales to better protect Albertans from scams, fraud, and bad deals.

Mr. Speaker, we are also helping families who need help the most. Every person in this House can agree that no child should go to school hungry or without the essentials, like a warm coat when it's cold outside. The Alberta child benefit program is one of the most significant antipoverty measures introduced by our government, perhaps one of the most significant in a generation. Budget 2017 continues this benefit, which provides support to Alberta's most vulnerable families and hundreds of thousands of Alberta's children.

Mr. Speaker, Budget 2017 also helps families by keeping our commitment to provide long-term, stable funding for health care. Our health care system must meet the needs of our changing population. This year new investments will be made to better provide health care options in the community, improve home care, and expand mental health services. One in five Albertans is affected by mental health issues, and it is estimated that over 10 per cent of Albertans will need substance use treatment at some point in their lives. Mental health and substance use is the first key area we are focusing on to make community-based health care better for Alberta's families. This includes better co-ordination of services among hospitals, treatment facilities, and the community and ensuring Albertans can get the services they need as close to home as possible.

The same goes for home care. New funding this year will focus on making it safer and more sustainable for seniors to live healthy, independent lives. This will reduce pressures on our hospitals and long-term care facilities while making sure that we are doing everything we can to help seniors remain exactly where they want to be: in their homes.

Just as we are providing stable funding for health care, we are doing the same for education. Mr. Speaker, education is one of the most important investments we can make in our future. In a fast-changing world we owe it to every young Albertan to give them the tools they need to realize their dreams. We are fulfilling our commitment to fund enrolment growth, maintain a stable teacher workforce, and cut fees to make life more affordable. Alberta's kids deserve no less.

Once they graduate from high school, we are making sure that there is a place for them in Alberta's colleges, institutes, and universities. These institutions of learning provide our province with extraordinary economic advantages. They are turning research into new companies and new jobs. They are attracting some of the best talent from around the world, and they contribute to our rich cultural fabric. Most of all, they provide Albertans an opportunity to get a world-class postsecondary education right here at home. Budget 2017 provides for a base operating grant increase to institutions of 2 per cent per year. Providing stable postsecondary funding allows us to increase student loans and freeze tuitions.

Mr. Speaker, we said that we were going to do more to help Alberta's youngest and most vulnerable kids, and that's exactly what Budget 2017 does. This year we'll continue to address long-standing problems in the child intervention system, and we will increase support for front-line workers.

This budget will also take steps to address the historical underfunding of our justice system. Albertans deserve a strong and effective justice system, one they can be confident is keeping their families and communities safe. Building on our over 25 per cent increase in legal aid funding, this year we're addressing long-standing backlogs and staffing pressures by investing new money in Crown prosecution and other areas of our justice system, helping to fulfill the Supreme Court's Jordan decision.

Mr. Speaker, whether it's protecting public services, creating and supporting good jobs, making life more affordable, or bringing down the deficit, Budget 2017 is about staying in the corner of

everyday families and making sure we all emerge from this downturn stronger.

The other evening I took a walk through my neighbourhood in Calgary. It's a good neighbourhood: good schools, hockey rinks lit up in the winter, soccer fields bustling in the summer. When there's a big snowstorm, it's the kind of neighbourhood where you can always count on someone coming out of their warm house to help someone whose car got stuck, and in exchange for the help, the only thing anyone ever asks is for that good deed to be paid forward to someone else who needs a hand.

Mr. Speaker, we're all here to do good by our neighbours, our constituents, and each and every one of our fellow Albertans. When someone is out of work or wants to improve their skills, we want to help them by making sure training for a new job is available and affordable.

When a parent flicks that light on beside their child's bed and opens up their favourite bedtime book, we want to help them by making their electricity more affordable. And when that same parent sends their kids off to school, we want to help them by reducing the hundreds and hundreds of dollars in school fees they're forced to pay.

If one of our kids gets hurt on one of those hockey rinks or soccer fields, we want to make sure there's a hospital close by that's well staffed and gets their kids fixed up fast. If a loved one develops Alzheimer's, we want to do everything in our power to make sure they get care that's specialized, highly professional, and that treats them each and every moment with dignity and respect.

While some believe an economic downturn means government should cut and run from things like that, we don't. An economic downturn does not mean that our aging grandparents should get second-class health care. An economic downturn does not mean that people who already make the least should make even less. An economic downturn is not a reason to cram as many kids as possible into a classroom.

As our government has from the beginning, we will maintain our focus on making life better. Budget 2017 builds on that commitment, creating and supporting new jobs, making life more affordable, and protecting the public services Alberta families need. In focusing on making life better for families, it secures a better future for our province.

This budget helps patients get better care. This budget helps parents who want to know their kids are getting the best education possible. This budget makes sure every child, no matter the struggles they face, can have a good meal before school and a warm coat on a cold day.

This budget builds hospitals, schools, affordable homes, and better highways. This budget keeps taxes on families the lowest in Canada, and it makes life more affordable for families across Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, Budget 2017 helps people, and in doing so, it makes life better for Alberta families.

Thank you.

4:00

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

The hon. House Leader of the Official Opposition.

**Mr. Cooper:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While there will be much debate about the budget, today is not that day, so I would like to move to adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. Finance minister and President of Treasury Board for his Budget Address.

I will now move that we adjourn the Assembly until 1:30 p.m. on Monday.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:01 p.m.]





## **Bill Status Report for the 29th Legislature - 3rd Session (2017)**

**Activity to Thursday, March 16, 2017**

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 — An Act to Reduce School Fees (Eggen)**

First Reading — 6 (*Mar. 2, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 105-10 (*Mar. 8, 2017 morn.*), 192-96 (*Mar. 9, 2017 aft.*), 235-42 (*Mar. 14, 2017 morn.*), 269-71 (*Mar. 14, 2017 aft.*), 273-74 (*Mar. 15, 2017 morn., adjourned*), 282-91 (*Mar. 15, 2017 morn., passed*)

### **Bill 2 — An Act to Remove Barriers for Survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence (Ganley)**

First Reading — 67-68 (*Mar. 7, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 110-11 (*Mar. 8, 2017 morn.*), 192 (*Mar. 9, 2017 aft.*), 314-22 (*Mar. 15, 2017 aft.*), 336-39 (*Mar. 16, 2017 morn., passed*)

### **Bill 3 — Voluntary Blood Donations Act (Hoffman)**

First Reading — 208 (*Mar. 13, 2017 aft., passed.*)

Second Reading — 323-36 (*Mar. 16, 2017 morn., passed*)

### **Bill 4 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2017 (\$)**

First Reading — 191 (*Mar. 9, 2017 aft, passed*)

Second Reading — 306-07 (*Mar. 15, 2017 aft., adjourned*), 322 (*Mar. 15, 2017 aft., passed*)

### **Bill 5 — Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2017 (\$) (Ceci)**

First Reading — 266 (*Mar. 14, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 310-14 (*Mar. 15, 2017 aft., passed*)

### **Bill 201 — Justice System Accountability Act (Jean)**

First Reading — 127 (*Mar. 8, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 208-20 (*Mar. 13, 2017 aft, defeated on division*)

### **Bill 202 — Protecting Victims of Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images Act (Cyr)**

First Reading — 245 (*Mar. 14, 2017 aft, passed*)

### **Bill 203 — Alberta Standard Time Act (Dang)**

First Reading — 253 (*Mar. 14, 2017 aft, passed*)



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