



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Third Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, May 11, 2017

Day 32

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 29th Legislature

Third Session

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

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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)
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Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (ND)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (ND)
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Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (ND)
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Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (ND)
Gill, Prab, Calgary-Greenway (PC)
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Rosendahl, Eric, West Yellowhead (ND)
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Starke, Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC)
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (W)
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (W)
Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (ND)
Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)
Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (W)
Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (ND)
van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (W)
Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (ND),
Deputy Government Whip
Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (ND)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (W)

Party standings:

New Democrat: 55

Wildrose: 22

Progressive Conservative: 8

Alberta Liberal: 1

Alberta Party: 1

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Kazim	Woollard
Kleinsteuber	

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 11, 2017

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon. It's a beautiful day out there, folks. Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you this day the students of Lacombe Christian school from the beautiful and historic city of Lacombe. With them is their teacher, Mr. David Allers. As you will see by the names of the parent chaperones in a minute, most are from the hard-working Dutch community that live in and around Lacombe as well. I'll see how I get through the names: Mrs. Reanne Vanderscheer, Mrs. Judy Hazelhoff, Mrs. Candace Bajema, Mr. Keith Vaandrager, Mrs. Rachel Kraay, Don and Angie Scott, and Sherry TenHove. I'd ask that they all please stand and receive the warm welcome of the House.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Red Deer-South.

Ms Miller: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you 80 students from Westpark middle school in the amazing constituency of Red Deer-South. They are accompanied by teachers Mr. Adam Barthel, Mr. David Cozens, Ms Kim Toth, and Mrs. Cindy O'Connor. Would you all please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

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

Seeing and hearing none, the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Richard Hanson. Mr. Hanson was a correctional officer at the Edmonton Remand Centre for 33 years, retiring in 2013. This week he was awarded the corrections exemplary service medal for his 30-plus years of service in the corrections system. I think we all know how difficult and challenging this work is and that it keeps the rest of us safe. I'd like Mr. Hanson to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Labour and minister responsible for democratic renewal.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members some very special guests from the Edmonton Vaisakhi Nagar Kirtan Committee. These gentlemen have dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours planning and organizing the 19th annual Edmonton Nagar Kirtan parade, which draws upwards of 50,000 Albertans from all faiths. I ask them to stand. They are Gurcharan Singh Sangha, Pal Singh Purewal, Harpreet Singh Gill, Paramjeet Singh Dhindsa, Malkit Singh Panesar, Chanchal Singh Nyota, and Mohinder Singh Sagoo. This year's parade is on May 21 and touches the constituencies of

Edmonton-Mill Woods, Edmonton-Mill Creek, and Edmonton-Ellerslie. I encourage all members to attend. Thank you for being here, gentlemen. I would now like you to receive the traditional warm welcome of our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize National Nursing Week, and I have four guests in our gallery. They are Alberta nursing professionals, who always bring compassion and expertise to their roles, that are continuously evolving and changing: Joy Peacock from the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta as well as Barbara Lowe from the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta, Linda Stanger from the College of Licensed Practical Nurses, and Teddie Tanguay from the Nurse Practitioner Association of Alberta. They have all risen. Please join me in extending the warm welcome of our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to introduce to you and through you 18 students and their teachers from around the province. They came here today to present to me two papers on reconciliation in our schools. These 18 students represent more than 200 students who are working collaboratively to produce papers on how schools can become institutions of reconciliation and how we can work to ensure that First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures are recognized and supported throughout the K to 12 education system. I would ask them, their teachers, their chaperones, and the elders to please rise and receive the warm traditional welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Mrs. Littlewood: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege and pleasure to introduce to you and through you my parents-in-law, Dave and Donna Johnston. They are joined by my husband, Jeremy Johnston. They are my most lovely parents-in-law and are in Fort Saskatchewan. They have been making their lives there for decades upon decades and have raised four lovely children. My father-in-law was a long-time Unifor union member, so we have a lot to talk about on those files. I would encourage the entire House to please extend the warm welcome to them.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-South West.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly two guests that are from Saskatchewan. Austin MacNally is a student at the University of Saskatchewan with the hope of one day serving as an NDP MLA in the province of Saskatchewan. He's a proud member and vice-president of the Saskatchewan Young New Democrats. After attending the 2016 Western Canada Youth Parliament, he decided he wanted to see all Legislatures in person and not just on television. He is here today with his grandmother, Dianne Winters, who hails from Borden, Saskatchewan, and currently serves as an office manager at the Royal Canadian Legion branch 63 in Saskatoon. These two have joined us today to see firsthand the great work that our Alberta NDP government is able to

accomplish. Could they please receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Dr. Turner: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislature representatives of Hypertension Canada, who've been running a blood pressure monitoring clinic in the lower rotunda. In fact, it's still going on until 2:30 if anybody wants to get their blood pressure checked. Hypertension Canada is a volunteer-based, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to advance health through the prevention and control of blood pressure. Several representatives of Hypertension Canada are in the public gallery, including Angelique Berg, CEO; Dr. Nadia Khan, president and chair of the board; Dr. Ross Tsuyuki, professor of medicine and pharmacy at the University of Alberta; and Dr. Raj Padwal, professor of medicine at the University of Alberta. I ask for all to rise and receive the usual welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, I was encouraged by both sides of the House to go to that clinic before I came in here this afternoon.

The hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

Mrs. Aheer: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions if I may. The first one is on behalf of my colleague the MLA for Airdrie. I would like to welcome the beautiful and determined Abby Marr and her grandfather Gavin Clarke, who are strong conservatives from the wonderful city of Airdrie. If they could please stand and receive the traditional welcome of our House.

1:40

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce my next two guests. The first one is Lisa Friedt. She is a community creator, connector, and coach, and she shines light on women's strengths and accomplishments. I am so lucky to know her and to work with her.

The second is a very, very dear friend of mine. Her name is Kelly Falardeau. She is a survivor of burns on 75 per cent of her body since the age of two years and constantly struggled with her self-worth and confidence. She found a way, in her own words, to go from near death to success, from the ugly, scar-faced girl to the top 10 most powerful and influential speakers, fierce woman of the year, international best-seller author, four-time recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal, and the YWCA women of distinction award. She has also travelled to Africa twice to help burn survivors recover from their tragic injuries. Plus, she started the blankets for burn kids fund to help burn kids to feel more loved and needed and wanted at times when life is just too rough to move forward.

I would like you both to stand and please receive the absolute warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Dr. Starke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly someone who is a regular visitor to our Chamber but who comes to us today having just done some quality control on our health care system, and having accomplished that, he is now informing me that he is going to be a very strong advocate on behalf of increased resources for health care infrastructure and operations. Please welcome back once again Rory Koopmans.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Members' Statements

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

Climate Leadership Plan and Pipeline Construction

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard many members of the opposition ring alarm bells and shout insults across the aisle because of one news item or another about oil pipelines in Canada. The latest bit of nonsense came yesterday, when a member opposite used the occasion of the B.C. election to use highly inflammatory language about our government's stance on pipelines. I will not dignify the member's statement by responding to it directly except to say that he is absolutely wrong.

Instead of arguing at the level of insult, let's look at some facts. The first is the Prime Minister of Canada's announcement where he publicly stated that Kinder Morgan and line 3 could not have been approved without the leadership of Alberta's Premier and Alberta's climate leadership plan. If the opposition wants to claim that the Prime Minister is lying, that is their choice.

The second is Cenovus CEO Brian Ferguson, who spoke at a panel organized by the Calgary Chamber of commerce and said that Alberta had struck an appropriate balance with our climate change policy. If the opposition wants to claim the CEO of one of Alberta's largest energy companies is lying, that is their choice.

Support from powerful political and business leaders did not come about because we used childish insults. This support came about because we, working as a conscientious and informed government, recognized some fundamental realities. Albertans know that a strong economy and a clean environment go hand in hand. Opposition to pipelines is real. We must engage with those who oppose pipelines in order to achieve lasting results. The benefits of pipelines, both economically and environmentally, are substantial. We must educate and inform everyone of that reality.

Progress towards a stronger economy and a cleaner environment must not be taken for granted, and I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to working with the energy industry to get results and not part of the opposition whose risky and extreme actions put those results at risk.

Thank you.

Immigration and Economic Development

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, throughout the 1990s the Alberta advantage meant having the lowest taxes to attract entrepreneurs to create jobs. Migrants have long been associated with entrepreneurialism. According to the World Economic Forum 65 per cent of migrants between the ages of 15 and 35 are skilled, and India is the number one migrant-sending country in the world. Among the 15 million Indian immigrants globally, many hold prominent positions in management, technology, and science, bringing with them unique skills and diaspora networks. Some of the examples are the current CEOs of Microsoft, Google, and Pepsi.

President Trump's policy to overhaul the H-1B visa program will provide opportunities for Alberta as Indian computer programmers and coders will no longer be brought to Silicon Valley. This means creative, tech-savvy individuals can set up anywhere in the world equipped only with smart phones, database access, and desktop-publishing capability. They can create, market, and sell internationally. Their company's value will be based on the innovations, not assets. Calgary's fintech and Edmonton's computer gaming sectors

stand to benefit from these computer programmers and entrepreneurs leaving the U.S.A.

In today's society we are defined by our ability to reach every corner of the world in an instant. We can share ideas and move between continents like never before. Fibre optics to every community and direct international flights off-continent are essential. The opportunities abound, and I encourage the government to update the Alberta immigrant nominee program for strategic recruitment of computer programmers and high-tech entrepreneurs who want to move to Alberta and contribute to our communities.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Alberta Party Policies

Mr. Clark: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This weekend Alberta Party members will gather in Edmonton to bring the centre together. We'll meet to talk about the issues that matter to Albertans, focusing on jobs and the economy. We'll bring together people from around the province to share ideas, debate, and learn from one another. We will host two diverse panels to talk about how to create jobs for underrepresented groups and how government can create an environment where Albertans have stable employment and job growth no matter the price of oil. In other words, exactly the topics we should be focusing on in this Assembly.

Now, I've had the privilege of travelling all over Alberta, and I will let you in on a little secret. Albertans are not left-wing or right-wing. Albertans are humble. Albertans are remarkable. They are proud and smart and resourceful and compassionate. Albertans are thrifty, but we are not cheap. We are strong, but we're not bullies. We get things done, and working together, Albertans make tomorrow happen. Albertans: we admit our mistakes, and we move past them. We don't obsess about who's to blame. We put our energies into what's to come. Albertans time and time again prove that we have big hearts. Albertans believe that to be great, our province must be great for each and every citizen. At the same time, Albertans hate waste.

Our people want a government as smart as they are. They want common sense. Albertans know that we cannot have a discussion about the economy without having a discussion about the environment. Albertans want leaders who are proud of our energy industry as it is today and will fiercely defend our environmental and social track record to the world. Albertans want leaders who ensure our province succeeds in today's economy while also taking a step into tomorrow's economy, by allowing Alberta entrepreneurs to innovate in green technology, agrifood, IT, and so much more.

That is the sort of leadership Albertans are looking for, and in 2019 that's exactly what the Alberta Party will . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

Government and Opposition Policies

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta's New Democrats have a long history of standing up for the protection of universal, accessible public services like health care and education. We know that cuts in essential services lead to horrible consequences down the road. We also know that for years the previous government neglected necessary repairs in nearly all of our province's infrastructure in the name of a balanced budget. Even when oil prices were at record high, the previous government failed to invest sufficiently in our public systems. They did nothing to curtail the

skyrocketing school fees, they allowed tuition to rise over decades, and the Wildrose opposition called for even further cuts, which they continue to do to this day.

When our government expands on affordable child care and nutrition programs, reduces school fees, and freezes tuition, we hear crickets from that side of the House. When this government invests in new hospitals and needed infrastructure, more crickets.

Mr. Speaker, when the opposition talks about risky economic policies hurting families, perhaps they might look to their best friends to the east, the ones that made massive increases to their PST while cutting almost all of the services their citizens depend on. They removed \$67 million from the K to 12 system. They eliminated their provincially funded busing services, which are utilized by low-income seniors and rural communities. They reduced postsecondary funding by 5 per cent while raising the education tax by nearly 10 per cent. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. members.

Mr. Carson: Mr. Speaker, the opposition might try to deny that they support these measures, but up until a few weeks ago they were the Saskatchewan government's biggest cheerleaders. If they have a better plan, perhaps they might take a moment from tweeting memes to make a shadow budget longer than 140 characters.

Mr. Speaker, I support finding efficiencies and making smart, targeted investments to optimize outcomes, but what I do not support is pretending that a balanced budget is more important than protecting the services that the people in this province depend on. I will continue to be a tireless advocate for my community, as will the rest of my government.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

1:50

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition.

Serenity's Former Guardians

Mr. Jean: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Children's Services minister said that we had things wrong about Serenity. She said that she would explain everything in a press conference. And then nothing: no details, no explanation, and no answers. What we do know is that there are still children living with adults who allowed Serenity to be abused and starved. She was four years old and only weighed 19 pounds. Will the Premier tell Albertans right now which law allows you to abuse and starve one child but still allows you to keep the other children?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the members opposite should know, our government is committed to ensuring that vulnerable children in our province are kept safe. We are focused on doing that work. Is it perfect? No. Do we all have more work to do to make it better? Absolutely. Are we committed to doing that work in as transparent a process as possible? Absolutely. Is this process being led by an excellent minister who is absolutely focused on this issue, too? Yes. The answer to that is yes. I'm very proud of her work, and I'm happy to have her answer the additional questions around what she can and cannot . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Mr. Jean: Mr. Speaker, the state put Serenity in the home where she was starved and abused. The state gave the adults in that home

guardianship status over Serenity. The state stopped visiting her and looking out for her. It abandoned her. Now the state has left other children in that very same house. The adults in that house at minimum allowed a four-year-old to be abused and starved. The whole point of the panel was to make sure that what happened to Serenity never happens again. What laws, Premier, are we actually going to see changed to protect our children?

The Speaker: The hon. Children's Services minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been very clear with what I'm able to say at the moment. A criminal investigation is ongoing, so I'm unable to provide additional details at this time because to do so would put young people involved at risk. It would be so much easier for me to have these conversations if I disclosed very personal, intimate details about those youth. I won't apologize for protecting those kids because that's my job: to protect and keep kids safe. That's what I'm doing and I will continue to do, and we will continue to monitor and ensure the safety of those children.

Mr. Jean: Serenity was four years old and weighed only 19 pounds when she died, Mr. Speaker. Her siblings were also drastically underweight. They were beaten for stealing food. This type of abuse did not happen overnight. It took time for Serenity to get to that place. The minister says that the remaining children in that home are safe and that you can't remove a child until you can prove abuse of that specific child. But we cannot let history repeat itself in Alberta in this case. If there's no law in place to protect these children today, when will this NDP government bring forward a law to keep these children safe?

The Speaker: The hon. Children's Services minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I would say that the safety of children in this province is my absolute priority and that if any young person in this province was being abused, then we would apprehend them immediately. Clearly, there are challenges in the child intervention system. That's why we have a Minister of Children's Services. That's why we have the ministerial panel. This government has stood on the record strongly in support of our vulnerable children for a very long time, and we will take action to improve the system going forward.

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

Serenity and the Child Intervention System

Mr. Nixon: When we asked this government what action is being taken for Serenity, the minister brings up the panel. The panel might be doing good work, but it is not doing anything for Serenity; let's be clear. In fact, this government and this minister refuse to allow us to even speak about Serenity. The Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act has provisions to allow the minister to disclose to any person personal information that comes to the minister's attention. Minister, are you willing to explore a way to legally disclose the details of Serenity's case with the panel members in private so that we can work together on preventing another Serenity – yes or no? – or will your government and you . . .

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

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I would say that, yes, there are issues with the child intervention system, and, yes, all of us continue to be devastated by the story of Serenity, and

absolutely we need to make changes to do so. There is a process by which the panel members can work with the chair to get access to the information they need to make the decisions to improve the system. So I would continue to encourage the members of the panel to work through all of us to ensure they have access to the information.

Mr. Nixon: Point of order.

Albertans are rightly confused by what the minister is telling us about the children in Serenity's former home. Yesterday she said that there needs to be evidence of actual abuse to an individual before apprehension, but the minister and I both know, Mr. Speaker, that there are many examples of where that is not the case. The minister accuses us of being inaccurate when in actual fact she is being inaccurate. Minister, Albertans are outraged and have had enough of this government's incompetence when it comes to children in care. When will this minister and this government stop hiding behind ridiculous excuses, stop the secrecy, do something, and do your job?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to say that as a mom and as a nurse for almost 18 years taking care of Alberta's vulnerable children goes to the very heart of who I am, and I'm very proud to be in this chair and responsible for that. While I understand that it's frustrating to not have all the details, I can absolutely assure Albertans and all members of this House that the safety of those children is the priority of this government and that we will continue to do everything in our power to ensure their safety and the safety of all children in this province.

Mr. Nixon: Children absolutely need to be put first. A previous round-table with a cross-section of stakeholders resulted in the development of the Children First Act in 2013. Surprisingly, much of that legislation has not actually been put into force. We asked the minister about this, and she replied that it would not be timely to move forward. This law is from four years ago, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, the problem is not passing laws; the problem is getting this government to act on laws. Minister, even if new legislation is passed as a result of your panel, what guarantee can you give Albertans that your government will actually implement the laws?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I can say that, absolutely, this government is committed to putting vulnerable children first, and we will continue to do so in this situation and in terms of developing legislation going forward. I'm incredibly excited to see the results coming out of the ministerial panel as we go forward through phase 2. I'll be bringing forward legislation on phase 1 very shortly this spring, and I can't wait to take action on the recommendations going forward because the children of this province have deserved change for a long time, and we will make that change happen.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Airdrie.

Highway Speed Limits and Photoradar Use

Mrs. Pitt: Mr. Speaker, earlier this week Edmonton's chief of police stated that in his opinion there is no reason why the Anthony Henday ring road does not have a maximum speed limit of 110 kilometres during the summer driving season. The tens of thousands of drivers who have received a stealth photoradar ticket

on the Anthony Henday for going less than 10 kilometres over the limit were very happy to hear this news. Will the Premier commit to reviewing the speed limits on provincial highways, including the Henday, and ensure that they are properly and objectively set?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, I admire the hon. member for her commitment to some of the changes that she's talking about: photoradar, for example, and speed on the Henday. Unfortunately, she's a day late and a dollar short because I asked the department to look at speed limits on the Henday a couple of months ago. It's being reviewed. Safety is our top priority. I've also had the opportunity some time ago to discuss it with the chief of police and solicit his opinion. I appreciate her enthusiasm, but we're on it.

2:00

Mrs. Pitt: I love when the opposition makes changes with this government, Mr. Speaker.

Many Albertans are understandably frustrated that photoradar in our province feels like a cash grab. Only four Canadian provinces have photoradar programs in place, and Alberta is the Wild West, with uninhibited use that allows for mobile speed cameras outside of construction and school zones. Does the Premier believe that our current photoradar system is serving Albertans, or is it just a cash cow?

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, pretty much the same situation as the last question. We've been working on this for a number of months. I've been meeting with my colleague the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General on this matter. We're reviewing the policy around photoradar, how it's utilized. We're going to be talking to municipalities about how they implement the guidelines that have been in place for some time. We're reviewing the guidelines. We are going to conduct a review of photoradar to make sure that people are safe on our highways and that law enforcement is not used for revenue generation.

Mrs. Pitt: Always a good day when Wildrose member-passed policy is being followed by the government, Mr. Speaker.

We all care about safety on this side of this Assembly. We believe that photoradar can be used to prevent collisions and protect pedestrians, but we also think that a review would be common sense to ensure that photoradar is being used fairly. Will the Premier commit to producing a report on photoradar, due back no later than September 15 of this year, so that Albertans can be informed on photoradar before heading to the municipal elections this fall?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We are conducting a review of photoradar. This is something that's been on our radar for a number of months. We are scoping out the terms of reference of the review, and we are not going to be rushed by artificial deadlines. This opposition may want to use it as a club in the municipal elections, but we're more interested in safety and getting the policy right. [interjections]

The Speaker: I'd respectfully request again: keep the volume down.

The leader of the third party.

Serenity's Former Guardians

(continued)

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Children's Services accused both the media and the opposition of spreading misinformation about children that are still living in the home where Serenity suffered unspeakable abuse. Apparently, there was so much, quote, information that the minister needed to call a press conference, wherein she informed the media that their facts were wrong, but then she refused to provide the correct facts. To the Minister of Children's Services: since you failed to point out yesterday where the media and opposition were wrong, perhaps you'd like to clear that up now.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, there's a lot of emotion around this story. My heart continues to go out to the family of Serenity for the tragic loss that they endured. However, there is information that is quite dated that has been circulated and is being utilized in this House and throughout the media. Again, in the interest of protecting the youth who might be involved in this situation, I was unable to share particular details. I thought the media and the opposition would be interested in knowing that they should not be spreading . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. McIver: It just keeps getting worse, Mr. Speaker.

If the minister is going to accuse me, my colleagues, and the men and women of the press gallery of lying to Albertans about something as serious as vulnerable children in need of intervention, then she ought to be prepared to set the record straight. Minister, we're all ears. Strike one was yesterday. Strike two was on the first question. Before you have strike three, what were we incorrect about? Please correct the record.

Mr. Mason: Point of order.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because I respect my colleagues in this House, I certainly would never have used the word "lying" at all. In fact, what I said is that they should be careful in terms of the sources of information and be cautious about sharing information that they've not confirmed. Again, you know, it's important to protect the young people involved in a very complex situation, and sharing their personal details, in fact, could have quite unintended consequences for their lives. I will not apologize for protecting young people in this province. That's my job, given to me by the Premier, and I will continue to do so.

Mr. McIver: Mr. Speaker, the minister is putting children in danger because she will not use the authority she has to get them out of danger, and that is unacceptable. Now, the only thing the minister did say yesterday was that the number of kids was not six. She didn't say if it was two; she didn't say if it was 12; just not six. Apparently, that was her reason for calling a media conference. To the minister: your credibility is now at stake. Can you please point to the specific Alberta privacy laws that you are hiding behind in order to not talk? What are you hiding? What are you not telling the public? What you're telling sure isn't the story that Albertans deserve to hear, and it's not the truth.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been very clear about what information I'm able to share at this point in time. Once again, the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act: the entire intention and purpose behind that act is to protect Alberta's vulnerable children. I take the protection of those children very seriously. As much as it would be easy for me to be able to answer the questions in terms of that, you know who would pay for that? Not the members of this Legislature but those vulnerable youth, whom the sharing of that very protected information would put at risk. I will continue to protect the children because that is my job, and I take it very seriously.

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

Serenity and the Child Intervention System (continued)

Mr. Clark: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to children in care, there is a complex web of legislation, different accountabilities and funding from various levels of government, overlaid with privacy concerns. Now, all of this, I hope, is focused on the well-being of Alberta's children. Unfortunately, as questions about Serenity's former kinship care family have been debated this week, the minister hasn't helped the situation by her lack of disclosure. To the Minister of Children's Services. Now, I'm not asking you to break any privacy laws, but your responses have left too many unanswered questions. There's an unfortunate perception that you're using privacy as an excuse for inaction. What are you going to do to change that perception?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that this is a very complex situation and that there is some frustration at the lack of being able to access that information. Again, while I understand the frustration on behalf of members and other Albertans, I have to be incredibly careful and respectful of the young people who are involved in any complex and delicate and sensitive situation. My primary directive is to protect those youth, so while I understand the frustration of the member, absolutely I can say that I am ensuring the safety of those children.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
First supplemental.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, the first phase of the Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention resulted in seven recommendations, including to improve information sharing, which I believe would go a long way towards helping the minister provide timely information to Albertans and restoring public confidence in the system. The panel also recommended changes to streamline and speed up the child death review process and enhance supports for families. The panel chair confirmed on April 19 that there would be legislation brought forward this spring to implement the phase 1 recommendations. Again to the minister: will we see this legislation this spring? If so, will it enact all seven of the panel's recommendations?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Absolutely, the panel did fantastic work. I'm very thankful for the recommendations that came forward in terms of improving the child death review process. Absolutely, I took those

recommendations very seriously. I'm working very hard with my legislative team to look at legislation as well as potential changes to policies and procedures and regulations to enact those changes or the intent of those changes as we go forward because, clearly, there was change required. Again, there was excellent work done, and I look forward to making those changes in the very near future.

The Speaker: The second supplemental.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The panel was created to prevent tragedies like what happened to Serenity from ever happening again. The only way to restore Albertans' trust in the system is for this panel to be given the tools we need to do a comprehensive review. That means we need access to the information about what happened to Serenity. I think I speak for all panel members when I say that we would be willing to sign whatever agreements are necessary for us to see the specific files and to review those files in strictly closed sessions. Again to the minister: will you grant us access to the information we need to do our jobs so we can prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again?

2:10

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, I think it's very important that the panel have all the tools that they require in order to be able to make the recommendations to improve the child intervention system. So I will continue to support working with the panel to ensure they have access to the information that they require in order to do that.

Mr. Nixon: Point of order.

Ms Larivee: Mr. Speaker, clearly, we need to know how to improve the system, and clearly they need access to all the information that they require. Absolutely, I will continue to work with them to give them access to all the information I can to support their ability to do so.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River.

Air Ambulance Service in Northern Alberta

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituents in Peace River have approached me with concerns about the process used by Alberta Health Services to provide air ambulance services. Given that the fixed-wing air ambulance is a vital component of health care in the north and given that my constituents rely on this service to access the health care they need, particularly in emergencies, to the Minister of Health: can you clarify the status of the procurement process?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank the member for the question and acknowledge that several other members have approached my office with similar questions. The current contract will expire this summer. A competitive RFP process opened last July and closed this March. Two proponents were successful. AHS is in contract negotiations with them, but no contracts have been signed at this point.

The Speaker: The first supplemental.

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that my constituents remember that when the previous government brought these

contracts out to a bidding process, the intention was to relocate air ambulance bases out of several communities, including Peace River, and given that this would have a very serious impact on health care in these communities, can the Minister of Health assure this House that the air ambulance will continue to be based in Peace River?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member again for the question. She's right that that would have a detrimental effect. So, yes. What's more, I can assure all members that this procurement process will not lead to any base location changes. I want to be very clear on this point for my colleagues. This procurement process will not lead to any consolidation or relocation of air ambulance bases, period.

The Speaker: The second supplemental.

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that municipal leaders in the Peace River region have also raised concerns about the economic viability of the Peace River Airport if its scheduled passenger service provider is unable to continue that service, to the same minister: was this issue a factor in the Alberta Health Services procurement process?

Ms Hoffman: No, Mr. Speaker, it was not. This process is about getting the best air ambulance service for our health care dollars. I've met with municipal leaders in the area as well as the member. I've heard from the members for Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley, Lethbridge-East, Lethbridge-West, and yourself, Mr. Speaker, as a local MLA for Medicine Hat. I encouraged them to continue working with their local aviation companies. Certainly, we will recognize that Peace River Airport is an important economic portal for the region.

Oil Prices and the Provincial Fiscal Deficit

Mr. Barnes: Good news today for the market. Oil is up for a second day. Bad news today for Albertans. The rebounded price is nearly \$10 below the ND's budget projection, contrived to make things look a little less terrible. The NDP has no plan outside of gross hypocrisy. The economic development minister used to criticize the former government, saying that they "intentionally misled Albertans by using . . . overly optimistic projections." Minister, when can Albertans expect more details on your budget adjustment and a deficit update?

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much for the question. Mr. Speaker, we're about six, maybe five and a half weeks into the fiscal year, so that's not a great deal of time in terms of the whole 52 weeks to base this average on, the average for oil. We're not going to change it, necessarily, right now. It's about \$50. Albertans know that it's a fool's game to go up and down with the price of oil, so we've risk-adjusted our forecast, and that's to the benefit of Albertans.

Mr. Barnes: By now the NDP really should have figured out that the price of oil isn't responsive to the whimsical hopes of a misguided, ideological, socialist government. Given that every \$3 swing in the price of oil has a billion-dollar implication for the treasury and given that The Rapidan Group is predicting that by the middle of next year crude could revisit the low \$30 mark, to the Premier: when can Albertans expect you to stop buying off voters by indenturing our children with an ever-mounting, unsustainable debt level?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much. You know, Albertans deserve a government that makes life better for them and their families regardless of the price of oil. Mr. Speaker, we're going to assure Albertans that the size of the classrooms for their children and the care their parents receive in hospitals are not dependent on the price of oil. That's why we've risk-adjusted it. We will get through this. I just wish they would support Alberta and Albertans instead of calling our oil price and everything down.

Mr. Barnes: Obviously, poor budgeting is just one more thing that Albertans can add to the long list of reasons capital investment is skittish or fleeing.

Given that Alberta was referred to as the most – the most – geopolitically unstable jurisdiction in the world due to high royalties, high taxes, and high uncertainty and given that the rapidly increasing deficit and debt only serve to unnerve investors, who fear a pending drastic tax increase, and that we're two years into this, Premier, can Albertans expect you to get your spending in order without bankrupting the next . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Speaker's Ruling Preambles

The Speaker: Hon. members, I had a great meeting yesterday with the House leaders. One of the topics that came up, which was really a very engaging discussion, was with respect to the use of preambles in the House. I also had discussions with other members. I urge all of you again to go back to the standing orders and be conscious of the way you may or may not be applying the intent of that standing order.

The Minister of Finance.

Oil Prices and the Provincial Fiscal Deficit

(continued)

Mr. Ceci: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, we average our oil price from five private-sector companies. That is the same way we've been doing it in this province for years. We have the same oil forecast as Saskatchewan does. If you take a look at their oil forecast, it's the same as ours. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. member.

Mr. Ceci: Mr. Speaker, full-time employment in this province rose for the third straight month. Rigs, drilling are up in this province. There are good things happening across this province as opposed to what's being said over there.

Serenity's Former Guardians

(continued)

Mr. Fraser: As a paramedic I've attended motor vehicle accidents where one person in the vehicle has died and the other passengers seemed fine. Common sense would dictate that if one person is dead in the vehicle, the mechanism of injury is lethal and others may be hurt. In fact, it's a duty of care to do everything in my power to get those patients to a safe place, to ensure that they're not harmed beyond what I can see. Minister, as a nurse you understand duty of care and mechanism of injury, yet there are still children in the home were Serenity was raped and starved. Doesn't common sense

tell you that the other vulnerable children in that home should be removed based on what happened to Serenity?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Children's Services.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I absolutely understand the member's frustration. It is a very complex situation. What I can say is that we have been and we continue to monitor the situation, and if there were ever concerns about the safety of any young person, we would apprehend them immediately. The courts don't let us go in and apprehend children without evidence of abuse to that specific child. That is the law. I take the safety of those children very seriously and will absolutely say that we continue to monitor the situation to ensure the safety . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, the children at potential risk in this home deserve more than empty promises and key messages from the minister. Minister, given that as a nurse, if you came across a child that was being abused, you would have a duty of care to report it – having worked with nurses, there is no way a nurse would abandon children who lived in the same home where a child was raped. Given the fact that children are regularly removed from these circumstances until a full investigation has been conducted – Minister, you have the authority, the duty of care to get these children to safety today. Why are you choosing to leave them in potential harm?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say, absolutely, without doubt, that the safety of those children and all children in this province is my primary focus and that I'm doing everything in my power to ensure their safety. Again, I understand the frustration with the lack of information in a complex situation. However, I will say that the safety of the children is being monitored. If there were concerns about the safety of any young person, we would apprehend them immediately. Again, everything in our power is being done to ensure the safety . . .

2:20

The Speaker: Hon. member, I urge you with respect to the preamble as well. Please proceed with your second supplemental.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, given that this government claims to be champions for sexual assault survivors yet they're sitting on their hands while children may be in harm's way as we speak, Minister, respectfully, what are you thinking? Given that these children may have witnessed the sexual abuse, starvation, and murder of Serenity, do you honestly think that they even dare speak out about what's happening to them as they might receive the same fate as Serenity? They will never speak until they know that they will be safe. Minister, will you do your job, begin to advocate for these kids, and put them in a safe place?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would say to my fellow health care provider in the Legislature that oftentimes there are many details about situations that we cannot disclose which provide understanding of a complex situation. I would say that I understand the member's frustration. However, I absolutely would assure all members of this House and all Albertans that we are doing everything in our power to keep those children safe because keeping

vulnerable children safe is our key priority, and we will continue to ensure that we are doing everything to make that happen.

Supervised Drug Consumption Sites in Edmonton

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, this last weekend there was a large rally downtown protesting three proposed supervised injection sites in their neighbourhood, the Boyle Street-Chinatown area. The city of Edmonton claims they held consultations. However, the Chinese community says that they were never properly consulted, and they point out that the whole process had been rushed. To the Minister of Health: did your ministry ask the city of Edmonton to have this process expedited?

The Speaker: The Associate Minister of Health.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. We are very proud as a government to be supporting the application for supervised consumption services here in the city of Edmonton. We know that there's tremendous evidence that supervised consumption services save lives, and that's why the Calgary Police Service, the Edmonton Police Service, and the mayors of Edmonton and Calgary support these services. The community groups that put forward the applications have engaged in a fulsome process of consultation with the communities where they will be located, and we've supported them along the way.

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, consultations are critical. This is something that the Wildrose opposition has been trying to teach this NDP government for the last two years now. The Edmonton Chinese community has raised concerns regarding the lack of consultation by the municipal government, and the Senate has proposed . . .

The Speaker: Hon. member, could you get to the question? It seems to me that as I hear you speaking . . . [interjections] The preamble. The preamble.

Mr. Yao: The city of Edmonton says that they were directed by the Ministry of Health to expedite the process. To the Minister of Health: did you ask to have this process expedited? Why?

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. The process has undergone a five-year process to get to the point of the application of the supervised consumption services for the exemption under the federal law. I don't know that I would call five years an expedited process. Additionally, I would quote Reverend James Holland of the Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, located in the neighbourhood where some of those services will be located. He's in support of the supervised consumption services because within the month he's buried five community members. Quote: we've got to recognize that people are human beings no matter what situation they are in in life; if we bring them to a safe place, we have a chance . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister. [interjections]

Hon. members. Hon. members. Hon. members.

I do hope, hon. member, that you have a second supplemental. I do ask again that you be conscious of the rule that this House has agreed to with respect to preambles, discussed as lately as yesterday, so I would urge you to do that. Please proceed.

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, 2016 saw a 33 per cent increase in overdose deaths compared to 2015.

Mr. Mason: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Yao: The 343 people that died in Alberta due to overdoses last year alone: that's one a day. In the first six weeks of 2017 there were 51 opioid overdoses.

Speaker's Ruling Preambles

The Speaker: I'm sorry, hon. member, I must say. I'm not sure. We might need to have some more discussion on the matter, but as I hear it, you continue to use the preamble. That may not be your intent, but that's what I think I'm hearing. I therefore would say that your question is out of order because of the standing order.

Labour Relations Code Review

Mr. van Dijken: Mr. Speaker, Alberta has been a peaceful and prosperous province for decades. Our economy needs stability so we can get Albertans back to work. This government engaged in a very short consultation with Albertans on its workplace laws. It hosted a survey online with questions on employment standards but left out questions on labour relations. Albertans are worried that the fix is in. Minister of Labour, can we expect to see a report from Andrew Sims on the labour relations portion of this consultation before your government introduces any changes to the Labour Relations Code? Yes or no?

The Speaker: The Minister of Labour.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question about our consultation. We had heard from thousands of stakeholders about both our employment standards and our Labour Relations Code through the online surveys – over 1,000 employers responded – as well as through the round-tables and the discussions that have been taking place. With the guidance of Mr. Andrew Sims, a renowned labour lawyer, we are looking forward to reviewing all the feedback we've received and determining what the next steps may be after we've reviewed that.

Thank you.

Mr. van Dijken: Given that the NDP's constitution guarantees the Alberta Federation of Labour two seats on its provincial council and given that the constitution also guarantees seats for other AFL member unions like CUPE, UFCW, and United Steelworkers and given that the minister did not attend all of the by-invitation-only consultation meetings but the AFL president, Gil McGowan, did, Minister, who is making the decisions about card check certification, collective bargaining, and other labour relations issues? Is it you, or is it the AFL and your union bosses?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to be Alberta's Minister of Labour, and I'm very proud to be reviewing workplace legislation that had been neglected under the previous government, not updated since 1988. We currently have workplace legislation that allowed a mother to lose her job when her son needed treatment for cancer. We have legislation that allows employees to be fired if they take time off to be sick. I am very proud to be leading an initiative of this NDP government, who believes in fair and family-friendly workplace legislation.

Mr. van Dijken: Mr. Speaker, given that the AFL opposes secret ballots in favour of a card check system and given that secret ballots were implemented to allow people to express their true conscience without fear of reprisal from either an intimidating union or a

threatening employer and given that a vote to decide who will represent you is a basic principle of democracy, to the minister of democratic renewal: could you ever foresee yourself claiming that it's in the best interest of democracy to get rid of a secret ballot vote?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Through our consultation we heard from thousands of Albertans, thousands of businesses, all of which had a variety of opinions on employment standards and labour relations. I am reviewing the submissions that Albertans have put forward. I look forward to making sure that Alberta has fair, family-friendly, and balanced workplace legislation to support a strong economy and to make sure that workers can contribute to that economy and take care of their family responsibilities.

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

Serenity and the Child Intervention System (continued)

Mr. Ellis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I pointed out the difficulty in finding a phone number for your ministry. I then asked about implementing Serenity's law, and the reaction over there continues to be groaning, eye-rolling, and shaking of heads. My proposal to change legislation is not self-serving. It will save lives if the police are notified when a child is at risk. Again to the minister: since your government is dragging its heels on legislation anyway, will you please bring Serenity's law forward now?

2:30

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the story of Serenity devastated all of us in this Legislature and moved us all to recognize the importance of making real, meaningful change to our child intervention system. That's why we have the ministerial panel to take a serious look at the system and identify improvements. Phase 2 of the panel's work will focus on the system as a whole and explore ways to achieve the best possible outcomes, and I encourage members who have ideas and suggestions to continue to work with their caucus representative on the panel to ensure that together we make the best changes possible.

Mr. Ellis: Given that the minister has been admonishing the media and opposition members for disseminating inaccurate information and given that whistle-blowers are so desperate to get help for children that they are leaking information to the media, which the minister then criticizes, and given that Serenity's law addresses the need for public awareness and your concerns about whistle-blowing and misinformation, Minister, why, for the love of children, would you not do this right now?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, this government has taken a strong stand on improving the child intervention system for a tremendously long time. That's why, once again, in this province we have a Children's Services minister, a move that I'm incredibly proud of, so it finally has the focus that it deserves. Through the panel and through the work of the Children's Services ministry we will make changes and we will take action, action that should have been taken a long time ago on behalf of Alberta's vulnerable children.

Mr. Ellis: Not soon enough, Minister.

Given that multiple systems failed Serenity before and after her death and they continue to fail now and given that those failures include the child intervention system that left Serenity to languish and die, a botched autopsy that may have compromised the criminal investigation into determining her killer, and the failure of the minister's office to prioritize this disturbing case, Minister, since the ministerial panel is barred from reviewing Serenity's death, will your government call a public inquiry so that Albertans can get answers, and if not, why not?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I previously stated, there have been changes that have needed to happen for a long time, and I look forward to taking action as soon as possible to make those changes happen. Absolutely, I'm thankful for the partnership of Albertans who have concerns for children. If anyone knows of any child who is at risk of abuse or neglect, please call immediately to report that so we can follow it up and work together to keep Alberta's vulnerable children safe.

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

Government Information Technology Systems

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The May 2017 report of the Auditor General highlights that Service Alberta maintains duplicate computer systems across many different ministries. This is wasteful. Given that Albertans expect governments to spend their money wisely, to the Minister of Service Alberta: what action is your ministry taking to address this problematic duplication?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McLean: Thank you, Speaker and to the member for the important question. First and foremost, I take the stewardship of taxpayer dollars very seriously. Since taking government, we have already taken steps to find efficiencies and have realized significant cost savings by consolidating e-mail systems and helpdesks, and we are now doing the same with data centres. One example of the real action we've taken is implementing our information management and technology strategy to ensure that our systems meet the needs of government in the most efficient way possible.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy that the minister is taking actions to address this wasteful spending, but to the same minister: can you explain to Albertans why such an obviously wasteful system was even set up in the first place?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McLean: Thank you, Speaker. A very insightful question as it was, in fact, the Klein government who created these impractical systems of duplicate programs and disjointed data, which are very expensive and time consuming to maintain, at the expense of taxpayers. The recent report indicated that this has been a long-standing issue and has recommended improvements in his last three audits, dating back to almost 10 years ago, since 2008. Now we're left to clean up the PCs' mess, though I'm happy to say that since taking office, we've taken the necessary steps to begin fixing their costly and inefficient mistakes. We've embarked on a multiyear program to replace those applications, renew legacy technology, and deliver . . .

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

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Auditor General's report also makes two other recommendations in relation to our IT systems and given that Albertans expect our IT systems to be run efficiently, to the same minister: what actions is your ministry taking to address the Auditor General's concerns?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McLean: Thank you, Speaker. The government of Alberta's IMT strategy sets the vision, direction, and foundation for us to do just that. As I mentioned earlier, the actions we are taking to consolidate and standardize government systems demonstrate the action and commitment that I have to addressing the Auditor General's concerns as well as optimizing our government's efficiency while saving tax dollars. Another example of how we are working responsibly and effectively is working with ministry partners to reduce the number of data centres. We have already reduced the number by 54 per cent, and our goal is to further reduce by another 85 per cent by 2020. This is important work, which will further reduce duplication and allow us to . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

Services for Students with Special Needs

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans are confused about the regional collaborative service delivery funding. In response to a question yesterday from the MLA from Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre you spoke about a new regional model and an increase of \$8 million for the program, yet the budget shows a decrease, and we continue to hear from boards who say that they will be receiving fewer funds this year. To the minister: what's going on? What is this new regional model? How have you communicated the changes to boards and families who rely on the services, and what is your plan for RCSD funding for the 2018-19 school year?

Mr. Eggen: Thank you for the question. Mr. Speaker, certainly, we know that the regional service transition money has moved into the next phase. Having a regional model by which you can have physiotherapists and psychologists and speech pathologists and so forth working for more than one area I think is more economical, and it's probably better focused. The three-year transition finished this year. Now we have moved and we have put more money, more than an \$8 million increase in funding, into the regional service model.

Thank you.

Mrs. Aheer: Well, given that this transition is going to cause disruptions in service that are difficult for everyone and most especially for families who need programs for their children to help them succeed and given that some school boards are telling us that they're losing funds that support these students and given that the government states that they will save money by ending the, quote, three-year transition funding, end quote, to the Minister of Education: well, then are you cutting the full \$65.2 million at the end of 2017-18, and what exactly does that mean for public, independent, ECS, alternative, and home-schooling families who need these services?

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you for the question. It's important to have clarity. The transition funding that was given to a number of school boards – three years – was about three and some million dollars, but, no, the 60 some million dollars is not being cut at all. In fact, it is being strengthened over time, and I'm working with some of the school boards that might have lost some of their funding this time because of the transition to make sure that we have those services in place for them in coming years because it's important to make sure that we have special-needs services for all students regardless of where they live here in the province of Alberta.

Mrs. Aheer: I'm interested to find out what strengthening funding means.

Since Albertans and schools and authorities are very confused about your plans with this critical program and given that the website still says that in 2016 regions began to plan to engage with First Nations across Alberta as part of the MOU and that this should be functioning by next month, in June of 2017, Mr. Speaker, when the minister ends the RCSD funding, is he planning on transitioning out of funding for First Nations communities as well?

Mr. Eggen: Well, Mr. Speaker, no. In fact, the regional service model that we've moved to – that's what we transitioned into – is there. It's strengthened. In fact, it's up by \$8 million. Overall we're spending more than \$451 million this year on inclusive education in general. So we are working hard to fund education. That's the way we have operated since we started in government, and you can't do any of these things if you decide to make billions of dollars worth of cuts, as the opposition would do. You know, talking out of both sides of your mouth does not improve education.

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

Grizzly Bear Management

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A study on the status of the grizzly bear was last done in 2010. The status report on Alberta's grizzly bear population and habitat was the source for government policy in this area. A grizzly bear recovery plan was designed for 2008 to 2013 implementation. Since the report seven years ago much has changed about the grizzly situation in Alberta. To the minister of environment: what is the status of the grizzly in Alberta?

2:40

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

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is quite right, that at the last time of inventory in bear management area 2, which is the hon. member's riding, there were 388 grizzly bears. What we have found is that human-caused grizzly bear mortality rates in Alberta are low and within the ranges to allow for population growth. I can elaborate a little bit more in the supplementals.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the grizzly population in Alberta has recovered significantly since hunting of them was outlawed and given that an overgrown grizzly population can threaten human lives if left unchecked, to the same minister: what are you doing to control the grizzly situation?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a full inventory of bear management area 2 scheduled for the coming months. Most livestock-related issues happen in the white zone, but according to the figures there have been no increases over time in the 2009 to '13 analysis period. It is true that the province has invested in BearSmart programs, all of the information for which is available on the Environment and Parks website. There are a number of different programs in terms of grain bins and other investments that landowners can make and a number of other pieces of information there for landowners.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the predator kills of livestock due to grizzlies have increased and given that we're seeing increased interactions with humans and grizzlies, to the minister: what can you do to help farmers and ranchers with predation, and are you concerned about the increased interaction with humans?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are concerned about increased interactions with grizzlies, and that's why we've ensured that the BearSmart funding continues and that Environment and Parks' overall funding remains stable. Additionally, I have asked for more information around the wildlife predator compensation program. This program was enhanced in 2014, but it remains to be seen if there are more partnerships with the Growing Forward 3 program or other enhancements that we can make to that program. Right now it is jointly funded between the federal government's GF2 and proceeds from hunting licences, and I'm committed as minister to reviewing it.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Hon. members, in 30 seconds we will move to Members' Statements.

Members' Statements

(continued)

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

Mother's Day

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Sunday Albertans will celebrate Mother's Day. Mother's Day gives us all the opportunity to appreciate what our mothers or mother figures mean to us and for those lucky enough to be a mother, what being a mother brings to their lives. A quote from the late Princess Diana speaks volumes on what a mother means to many. She said, "A mother's arms are more comforting than anyone else's."

I know that, growing up, my mother would always make me feel better no matter what was happening. She was always there for me and would work to provide everything she could to ensure that I was as happy as could be. And while I know that some may want to debate me on this, she made the best apple pie in the world.

One day a year is just not enough to appreciate everything mothers do for us. They watch over us, as only a mother can, when we sleep for the first time. They are our first nurse, our first teacher, our first confidante, and so much more. They inspire us to be the best we can be, make us laugh, and try their hardest to make sure we survive.

On Sunday mothers will be visited in the morning with a breakfast that only a five-year-old would count as a breakfast. Mothers will be called for just a few minutes by their kids, who are across the country at university. Mothers will be visited by their children, who now have children of their own in tow. Sunday will be different for every mother, but one thing I hope is the same for all is that they all know that they are loved every day of the year. This Mother's Day do not forget to tell your mother how much she means to you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Dr. Brian Sproule and the 1950s Polio Epidemic Childhood Immunization

Dr. Turner: Mr. Speaker, I was absent from QP on Monday, May 8, to attend the celebration of life of Dr. Brian Jessup Sproule. Brian was a constituent who I had the pleasure to talk about at his residence in Lifestyle Options, near my constituency office in Riverbend Square, at the end of March.

Although he was 91 years old, Brian was physically sound and mentally active. He loved to swim, hike, golf, and was an avid concertgoer and continuous learner. To me, perhaps the most endearing part of the eulogy at the celebration was that Brian provided a left-wing voice in the frequent political discussions at Lifestyle Options.

Dr. Sproule received many honours, including an Order of Canada in 2002 for his contribution to pulmonary medicine in Canada and his ongoing commitment to world peace. He was a role model and mentor for hundreds of junior colleagues, including me.

Mr. Speaker, Brian Sproule was a hero of Alberta medicine. In the 1950s Alberta was ravaged by a polio epidemic, which resulted in a large number of young people afflicted by paralysis requiring treatment in an iron lung. He moved into the Aberhart hospital, where he provided 24-hour medical care as part of the Aberhart team. It took many years for technology to develop that allowed these young people to live fulfilling lives outside of that iron lung.

I emphasize this historical event because some parents are choosing not to protect their children from polio, diphtheria, tetanus, measles, and rubella, all of which are preventable and can be devastating to our whole community. I was vaccinated against polio in 1954, and I'm extremely grateful to the scientists who developed the vaccine such as Dr. Julius Youngner, who also recently died, as well as to the nurses and physicians at the Aberhart like Dr. Sproule, who selflessly saved hundreds of lives during the polio epidemic. For their memory, Mr. Speaker, we should all encourage fact-based and science-based policies such as universal vaccination.

Thank you very much.

Notices of Motions

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

Mr. Rodney: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise and present the requisite 95 copies of the letter I sent to you this morning, before 11 o'clock, which states in the first line, "In accordance with Standing Order 15(2), I am raising a question of Privilege regarding the conduct of the Honourable Minister of Children's Services during Oral Question Period on May 10, 2017," and it goes on. I look forward to the debate shortly.

Thank you.

Introduction of Bills

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

Bill 206

Child, Youth and Family Enhancement (Adoption Advertising) Amendment Act, 2017

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am so honoured today to rise and introduce Bill 206, the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement (Adoption Advertising) Amendment Act, 2017.

This is a piece of legislation that was inspired by my colleague from Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. As you know, he has spoken with tremendous passion as a father who has been given the gift of two of his beautiful children through adoption. His story is compelling, and one of the things that he found was that there is a necessity to update the legislation around adoption and accessing information of potential parents.

If this change is passed, it will offer more options for birth parents, who have decided to find forever homes for their children, to find parents that, for a myriad of reasons, will complete their families in this way. The loving and lasting commitment not only comes from the side of those adopting but from those who are looking to find homes to adopt these precious children.

Unlike in other provinces, Albertans who are looking to adopt cannot advertise their profiles online. Bill 206 amends the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act in section 85(2) and would allow the publication of an advertisement by a licensed adoption agency publicizing the profiles of prospective adoptive parents.

Again, I look so forward to hearing from all of the members of this House and hope to have your support in bringing this important legislation forward. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

[Motion carried; Bill 206 read a first time]

2:50 Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table a report from Robert McNally, founder and president of The Rapidan Group, which is entitled This Oil Rebound Is Just Another Fake-out: Here's Where Prices Are Really Headed. Unfortunately, Mr. McNally goes on to say that they're headed to \$30 a barrel. Fortunately, though, on this side of the House we're aware of the wildly optimistic prediction of the price of oil by the minister, and the high per capita spending is a recipe for disaster.

The Speaker: The Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Mr. MacIntyre: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a letter from Sherry Payne, who is a controller at O'Dell Electric Ltd. This is a copy of a letter sent to the Minister of Labour, wherein she says, "a 5 week window for input is neither fair nor reasonable, given the complexity of the Code."

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-Klein.

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table five copies of a CBC piece that I referenced in my member's statement in which Cenovus CEO Brian Ferguson stated that our climate plan has struck "an appropriate balance."

A point of interest, Mr. Speaker. My former boss Scott Thon, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Energy Canada, is also noted in this

article, and he said that the carbon tax hasn't diminished his company's bullishness on Alberta.

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table today in relation to questions that the Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo raised yesterday. The first is a long-term care accommodation standards document, and the second is a continuing care health service standards document. I want to remind all Albertans that if they have any concerns about the care that they or their loved ones are receiving, please ensure that those concerns are raised either with on-site administration from a facility or with protection for persons in care. We take these very seriously.

The Speaker: Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Mr. Nixon: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table the appropriate number of copies of a letter from the superintendent of the Wild Rose school division clearly outlining the Wild Rose school division's concerns with this government's cuts and the impact on front-line services and front-line jobs, I would add, as well as the consequences to the children that they educate in that jurisdiction as a result of this government's decisions.

Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

Tablings to the Clerk

The Clerk: I wish to advise the Assembly that the following document has been deposited with the office of the Clerk: on behalf of the hon. Mr. Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, responses to written questions WQ9 and WQ10.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I believe we have some points of order, the first being, I believe, from the hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Mr. Nixon: I withdrew.

The Speaker: Okay. Thank you.

The second is from the Government House Leader.

Point of Order

Allegations against a Member

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My point of order is in connection with Standing Order 23(h) and (i), that is to say, "makes allegations against another Member" and "imputes false or unwavering motives to another Member."

It was I believe the hon. PC caucus leader who alleged that the Minister of Children's Services had suggested that the opposition and the media had lied with respect to that information. What the minister clearly said was that there was some misinformation that was being disseminated which she wished to correct. You can find it in yesterday's *Hansard* at page 966. The minister says, "I want to remind members that when people make statements without all the facts, inaccurate information is given to the public."

Mr. Speaker, that's a far cry from suggesting that the opposition or the media had lied to the public. As such, I think it violates the two standing orders that I referenced.

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

Mr. Rodney: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in question period today the hon. Member for Calgary-Hays asked questions about vulnerable children in need of intervention. He did

not accuse the minister of lying. He simply stated, and I will quote for the record:

If the minister is going to accuse me, my colleagues, and the men and women of the press gallery of lying to Albertans about something as serious as vulnerable children in need of intervention, then she [better] be prepared to set the record straight.

Then he simply asked: "Minister, we're all ears . . . [Will you take this opportunity now to] correct the record?"

The record, of course, Mr. Speaker, is from yesterday's *Hansard*. Also from page 966: "When people make statements without all the facts, inaccurate information is given to the public." It goes on on the same page about: "spreading inaccurate information." And on the next page: "I want to remind the members opposite that making statements with inaccurate information to the public is a challenge when you don't have all the facts." Again on the same page: "Again, I want to say that when people make statements without all the facts." And, finally, on page 973: "I do want to continue to caution the members of this House about making statements without the facts . . . which, in fact, leads to inaccurate information being given to the public."

Now, Mr. Speaker, many would contend that these references equate to lying in the colloquial. But if this is deemed unparliamentary, I will be happy to apologize and retract on behalf of the hon. Member for Calgary-Hays, despite the level of accuracy and common understanding of the statement.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

I believe point of order 3 is withdrawn as well.

Point of order 4 is from the Government House Leader. Is that correct?

Mr. Mason: Sorry; were you going to rule on the other one?

The Speaker: The hon. member withdrew his. It's withdrawn. [interjections] What am I missing here, folks? It's withdrawn. [interjections]

Let me go to point of order 4.

Mr. Mason: I withdraw it.

The Speaker: Okay. I believe that now we would go to the hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed on a point of privilege that he communicated with my office today.

Privilege

Access to Information

Mr. Rodney: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Acknowledging the seriousness of raising a point of privilege, I rise today pursuant to Standing Order 15 on the grounds that the Minister of Children's Services breached the privilege of the members of this House by withholding information from members and intending to share that information with the media before members of this House. Standing Order 15(1) states: "A breach of the rights of the Assembly or of the parliamentary rights of any Member constitutes a question of privilege."

To cite *Erskine May*, 23rd edition, page 75:

Parliamentary privilege is the sum of the peculiar rights enjoyed by each House collectively . . . and by Members of each House individually, without which they could not discharge their functions, and which exceed those possessed by other bodies or individuals. Thus privilege, though part of the law of the land, is to a certain extent an exemption from the general law.

Further, from *Erskine May*, 24th edition, page 251:

Any act or omission which obstructs or impedes either House of Parliament in the performance of its functions, or which obstructs or impedes any Member or officer of such House in the discharge of his duty, or which has a tendency, directly or indirectly, to produce such results, may be treated as a contempt even though there is no precedent of the offence.

3:00

To cite *O'Brien and Bosc*, page 61:

The House has the authority to assert privilege where its ability has been obstructed in the execution of its functions or where Members have been obstructed in the performance of their duties. Members are not outside or above the law which governs all citizens of Canada.

And from *Erskine May*, page 251: "Any disorderly, contumacious or disrespectful conduct in the presence of either House or a committee will constitute a contempt, which may be committed by members of the public, parties, witnesses or by Members of either House." Mr. Speaker, the minister's repeated obstructive responses that answers would be forthcoming later, outside the House were clearly disrespectful to this Assembly.

Another clear reference in this regard, Mr. Speaker, comes from *O'Brien and Bosc*, pages 82 and 83. It reads: "The United Kingdom Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege attempted to provide a list of some types of contempt in its 1999 report," which included "assaulting, threatening, obstructing or intimidating a Member or officer of the House in the discharge of their duties."

Mr. Speaker, in this House yesterday we witnessed a very vigorous debate regarding vulnerable children residing in the same house where Serenity once lived. The minister repeatedly delayed answering questions until after question period had ended and chose instead to share the information with the media before giving it to members of this House.

Quoting from *Hansard*, page 966, the Minister of Children's Services said in response to questions from the Leader of the Official Opposition: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking further to Albertans on this matter later this afternoon, but I want to remind members that when people make statements without all the facts, inaccurate information is given to the public." Again on page 966, responding to the same member: "I will be sharing more information about this matter this afternoon." Despite the repeated urging of members of this House, the minister refused to share that information with the duly elected representatives of Alberta, instead choosing to accuse the opposition of spreading misinformation.

Now, further, in response to the Member for Calgary-West, on page 973 of *Hansard* the minister stated, "Mr. Speaker, again I will say that I am sharing more information for Albertans later this afternoon." That was the third time during question period yesterday alone that the minister stated her intention to share information with the media before sharing it with the members of this House. Clearly, this is not a slip of the tongue but a deliberate withholding of critical information in contempt of this House.

Now, in this regard *Erskine May*, page 261, clearly states, "The House will proceed against those who obstruct Members in the discharge of their responsibilities to the House or in their participation in its proceedings." Mr. Speaker, the minister refused on numerous occasions to provide adequate information to members of this House, which would have allowed them to better advocate and represent Albertans, including Serenity and other children in question, clearly a breach of member privilege.

Furthermore, the minister impugned the reputation of members of the opposition yesterday by claiming that information provided by opposition in their questions was inaccurate and that they were spreading misinformation. Mr. Speaker, I think we all know that the purpose of questions in this House is to provide Albertans with the

most fulsome information regarding issues of public interest. If the minister was interested in celebrating and combatting – sorry. I'm going to read that again. I want to be very accurate with my words. If the minister was interested in combatting misinformation, she had every opportunity to do so in this House yesterday.

Further, the minister was clearly obstructing the members of this House in the discharge of their duties. Every member of this House has a duty to speak out on issues of importance to Albertans, and for the minister to accuse the members of this House of trying to spread misinformation while deliberately withholding the relevant facts is an affront to the people who elect us to this House and clearly is a breach of privilege.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we ask that you rule this is a prima facie breach of privilege. Thank you.

The Speaker: I know I do not need to remind all of the members about the importance of points of privilege.

Are there any other members who would like to speak to the matter today, or would they choose it for a later time? The Acting Deputy Government House Leader.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think, certainly, that there are references we could make right now on this matter, but I think we will reserve till Monday to make sure that we can address all the many and varied allegations.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, all members of the House had appropriate notice at 11 a.m. I think it's only reasonable that if they would like to respond, we ought to be doing that today, which has been a fairly routine practice around the Chamber for responding when appropriate notice is given.

Mr. Mason: Well, Mr. Speaker, on that point, I don't think that the Official Opposition House Leader is on the mark. It is actually very common for people who have been accused of a breach of the privileges of the House to reserve in order to research it.

The notice that was given says simply, "I will address how the Minister of Children's Services breached the privilege of this assembly. I will provide relevant citations at that time." That is what the hon. member has now done. I think it's entirely reasonable for us to take some time.

If you rule, however, Mr. Speaker, that we need to proceed with our arguments now, we will comply, but they will be incomplete.

Mr. Cooper: If I may, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: If the Government House Leader has a concern with respect to the notice that was given, I think that's significantly different than his ability to respond. That is different. But if it's not that he doesn't have a challenge with it other than the challenge with his notice – and I know that we've done this in the past. When the Government House Leader has had some concerns that the points of privilege raised may have been different than the points in the notice, you have rightly allowed time to respond. That is different than just not being aware of the points that would be raised.

The Speaker: So do I understand, Opposition House Leader, that if he had used a different argument, you would have agreed to the principle? Is that correct?

Mr. Cooper: Yes. That's correct.

The Speaker: As a matter of background to the issue, hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed, did you, in fact, send a copy of your statement that you sent to my office – did you also provide the minister in question with a copy of the letter as well?

Mr. Rodney: I understand that it was sent not only to the minister but to all the other House leaders.

The Speaker: To the House leaders but not to the member herself?

Mr. Rodney: No. I understand that she received a copy through your office.

The Speaker: I'm sorry. I can't hear you. Just through my office?

Mr. Rodney: And it was sent also to her office.

Mr. McIver: To the minister. Say "to the minister," not "to her."

Mr. Rodney: Sorry. To the minister's office.

The Speaker: For the record it was my office that sent the letter to the – it's my understanding that the letter was sent to the House leaders. I'm just trying to determine if, in fact, a copy was sent by you or your caucus to the minister in question. Yes?

Mr. Rodney: We followed protocol. We sent it to your office, and it was in turn sent to all of the House leaders and the minister's office. Sorry. That's my understanding.

3:10

The Speaker: Okay. I think the point being made about, as you read it – the letter that came to my office was:

I am raising a question of Privilege regarding the conduct of the Honourable Minister of Children's Services during Oral Question Period on May 10, 2017.

At the appropriate time in the House today I will address how the Minister of Children's Services breached the privilege of [the] assembly. I will provide relevant citations at that time.

Thank you, hon. member. You did that.

There is under 15(3): "If the Speaker is of the opinion that the matter may not be fairly dealt with at that time, the Speaker may defer debate on the matter to a time when he or she determines it may be fairly dealt with." I think in this instance, as per the Opposition House Leader's agreement as well as the Government House Leader's, that those arguments that the Government House Leader and the Opposition House Leader may wish to make in this matter should be deferred to our next sitting day, which is Monday.

Mr. Cooper: Just to be clear, I would like to also provide comment on this then.

The Speaker: Yes. That's the intent.

Orders of the Day

Private Bills Second Reading

Bill Pr. 2 Paula Jean Anderson Adoption Termination Act

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

Mr. MacIntyre: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move second reading of Bill Pr. 2, Paula Jean Anderson Adoption Termination Act, in accordance with the recommendation of the committee.

The Speaker: Is there anyone who would like to speak to this bill? Seeing and hearing none, any closing comments on the bill?

[Motion carried; Bill Pr. 2 read a second time]

Private Bills Committee of the Whole

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

The Chair: I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order.

Bill Pr. 2 Paula Jean Anderson Adoption Termination Act

The Chair: Are there any questions, comments, or amendments with respect to this bill? Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Mr. MacIntyre: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of Paula I wish to thank the committee for the work that was done to have this come through. She is very grateful, cannot be with us today. I have nothing more to add.

I thank you, Madam Chair, and I would move that the question be put.

The Chair: Are there any other members wishing to speak to the matter in committee? Any questions, comments?

[The clauses of Bill Pr. 2 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? That's carried.

Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

Bill 13 Securities Amendment Act, 2017

The Chair: Are there any questions, comments, or amendments with respect to this bill? The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. With regard to Bill 13, Securities Amendment Act, 2017, our government is working to make life better for Albertans by helping to make sure their investments are safe. Alberta is the second-largest capital market in Canada, and our province's economic growth depends greatly on consumer and investor confidence in that market. Albertans deserve to know that the people to whom they entrust their money are honest, proficient, and represent their financial interests.

To keep pace with industry developments, government is supporting the ongoing reform of the Canadian regulatory system by reviewing and amending the Alberta Securities Act on an annual basis. I think the only time that it was not done was in 2012. Bill 13, the Securities Amendment Act, 2017, will further modernize, harmonize, and streamline Alberta's securities laws and assist Canada in meeting its international commitments to securities regulation. As I've mentioned, the Alberta Securities Act has been amended annually since 2003 with the exception, again, of 2012.

Changes in today's global financial markets make it more difficult to design and sustain quality capital markets on a timely basis. This requires regulation that promotes confidence in our capital markets, is responsive to changes in economic and business

environments, and reflects the reality of today's global, competitive capital markets. Alberta's challenge is to deliver the right regulation to support investor confidence and encourage investment, innovation, and economic growth in Alberta and across Canada, and our government is trying to do this in an environment that is more complex, more sophisticated, more international in scope and driven by technology than ever before. It is important to ensure that Alberta's securities framework reflects the realities of today's 21st-century markets and keeps in step with evolving international standards and global regulatory reform initiatives.

In 2004 Alberta made a commitment to an ongoing reform of the Canadian regulatory system under the 2004 provincial-territorial memorandum of understanding regarding securities regulation. Since that time provincial and territorial governments as well as securities regulators have worked to harmonize, modernize, and reform the Canadian securities regulatory system. Ensuring that we're able to do so has required the continuous review and updating of securities laws across Canada. Alberta continues to focus on making practical, functional, and timely improvements to its securities laws.

The amendments proposed in this bill will support the ongoing reform of the Canadian regulatory system while helping to meet the needs of Alberta and Albertans. Our government is absolutely committed to maintaining a well-regulated and efficient capital market in this province so that investors are protected and innovation is encouraged, and we are doing just that with these amendments.

If passed, these amendments will extend the industry regulatory organization the same enforcement powers as the Alberta Securities Commission when conducting investigations and hearings. Madam Chair, we're enhancing investor protection by providing stronger enforcement powers for regulatory organizations. These changes are also planned by other jurisdictions across Canada. These amendments will help ensure that Alberta has a fair and effective capital market by extending powers to recognized regulatory organizations to compel testimony and the production of evidence during an investigation.

Regulatory organizations like the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Mutual Fund Dealers Association are entrusted with the oversight of large segments of the national investment industry, including Alberta. The Securities Amendment Act, 2017, will provide these organizations with the same powers available to the Alberta Securities Commission during investigations and hearings so that they can better protect investors in our province. These regulatory organizations are key partners in protecting investors and making sure that we have a fair and efficient capital market. When these regulatory organizations suspect wrongdoing, Madam Chair, they will be able to go after the wrongdoers so that people have the confidence to invest in Alberta's vibrant capital markets.

3:20

Madam Chair, we are making sure these organizations have the right tools necessary to do their jobs, which includes making changes to the Securities Act to extend immunity to the directors, officers, employees, and agents of these important regulatory organizations from civil liability when conducting enforcement activities in good faith. This gives the people responsible for enforcing Alberta's securities laws immunity from civil liability so that they can do their jobs without fear of malicious lawsuits. The people responsible for enforcing securities rules must be able to do their jobs without fear of being held personally liable. Protecting them from liability for carrying out their duties in good faith makes it possible to enforce the rules more effectively.

We did not arbitrarily decide that these amendments were needed. Madam Chair, these changes came from broad public consultations with industry participants and investors. These changes are also under consideration by other jurisdictions across Canada. Quebec is committed to extending the same enforcement powers, and several other jurisdictions intend to adopt these enhanced enforcement powers and immunity provisions within the next year. These other provinces and territories include British Columbia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and the Yukon.

Madam Chair, these changes reflect our continued commitment to the reform of the securities regulatory framework across Canada. Today's legislative amendments are just the latest example of that commitment. If these amendments are not promptly passed, Alberta could jeopardize its leadership role in securities regulatory reform. Without continued modernization and harmonization of the Alberta Securities Act, it will be difficult to ensure a continued vibrant capital market in Alberta through enhanced market transparency and investor protection along with the detection and mitigation of possible risks and market abuse.

Now, Madam Chair, I'd like to take some time to provide some background on securities regulation and some of the industry players. Please allow me to begin by explaining what securities regulation is as well as its importance. Securities regulation is simply the regulation of the conduct of the securities market participants. These participants include issuers that raise capital through securities offerings as well as their directors and officers and promoters, securities dealers and advisers and their representatives, who are registered to advise and trade in securities.

Canada does not have federal securities regulation. The day-to-day regulation of securities falls within provincial jurisdiction under the Canadian Constitution. This has been confirmed repeatedly by Canada's courts and was reaffirmed again just yesterday by the Quebec Court of Appeal. The Alberta Securities Commission is most familiar with the unique aspects of our province's capital market and is best positioned as a regulator, and I'm pleased the courts continue to recognize this.

As I mentioned earlier, provinces and territories work together through Canadian Securities Administrators to co-ordinate securities regulation throughout the country. Securities regulation in Alberta is the responsibility of the Alberta Securities Commission. The commission is responsible for administering the Alberta Securities Act and its regulations and rules. The commission is an industry-funded provincial corporation responsible for ensuring a fair and efficient capital market exists in Alberta and the protection of Alberta investors.

The Alberta Securities Commission develops and enforces securities regulation and rules. Madam Chair, the Alberta Securities Commission offers information and resources to Albertans about investing and administers the province's Securities Act and regulations. Organizations such as the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada, commonly known as IIROC, and the Mutual Fund Dealers Association of Canada have authority delegated by the Alberta Securities Commission to make sure their member firms and their representatives comply with the standards set out in the province's securities laws.

Regulatory organizations are an important part of the enforcement mosaic in Canada. Certain securities violations proceed to prosecution either through an administrative tribunal or Provincial Court, depending on the type of violation and the jurisdiction where it occurred.

The Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada, or IIROC, is a national, self-regulatory organization which oversees all investment dealers and trading activity in debt and equity

marketplaces in Canada. IIROC was created in 2008 through the consolidation of the Investment Dealers Association of Canada and Market Regulation Services Inc. and sets high regulatory and investment industry standards, protects investors, and strengthens market integrity while maintaining efficient and competitive capital markets.

Madam Chair, the Mutual Fund Dealers Association is a national regulatory organization for the distribution side of the Canadian mutual fund industry. The association regulates the operations, standards, practices, and business conduct of its members and their representatives.

Finally, Madam Chair, I'd like to point out why it is necessary that these regulatory organizations have these new powers. Provincial regulators like the Alberta Securities Commission have delegated certain aspects of their duties and functions to regulatory organizations in order to provide more effective and efficient regulation of the market and market participants.

In summary, Madam Chair, the Alberta government is working to make life better for Albertans with practical changes that help make sure investments are safe. The proposed amendments were developed to support Alberta's commitment to ongoing reform by protecting investors and promoting a fair and efficient Alberta capital market. The changes will compel persons or companies that are under investigation to provide the necessary assistance to the Alberta Securities Commission as well as ensure that market participants under review are in compliance with Alberta securities laws. These amendments will also ensure that Alberta has a fair and effective capital market by extending powers to recognized regulatory organizations so that they can compel testimony and the production of evidence during an investigation or disciplinary hearing.

The people responsible for enforcing securities laws must be able to do their jobs without fear of being held personally liable. Protecting them from liability for carrying out their duties in good faith makes it possible to enforce the rules more effectively. In addition, these changes will extend immunity to their directors, officers, employees, and agents from civil liability and will also clarify the conditions under which that immunity is provided to such organizations.

Finally, amendments to Lieutenant Governor in Council regulations will ensure the act is consistent and applies to all parties as intended.

In closing, with these amendments we are ensuring that Alberta's securities regulatory system reflects the realities of today's market and evolves with international standards in regulatory reform. Albertans deserve to be confident that someone is looking out for them, and with the changes our government is making, they can have that confidence.

With that, Madam Chair, I'd ask all members of this House to support this bill. Thank you very much.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to speak to this bill? Any questions, comments? The hon. Member for Calgary- . . .

Mr. Malkinson: Currie. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I notice we're at the time of the day where we always, you know, forget who is in what riding.

I rise today to say a few words about the Securities Amendment Act, 2017. As members of this Chamber well know, this government has made a commitment to ensuring that our capital markets work well and for the benefit of all Albertans. As the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board just mentioned and has made very clear, this government has laid out three key principles when it comes to approaching Alberta's capital markets. The

minister said that the government is focused on, one, investor protection; two, ensuring market integrity; and three, ensuring that we have an efficient system for capital formation. I think we can all agree that these are laudable goals and serve as a useful guidepost when we consider changes to the Securities Act.

3:30

When we consider these amendments, let's ask ourselves: how does this legislation serve to enhance consumer protection? Does this legislation serve to further improve our integrity? I apologize, Madam Chair. There's a very cute baby that is here that's just bringing joy to my heart. Anyway, the final question we should ask ourselves: will these changes ensure that we have an efficient system for capital formation?

Ms Renaud: Just imagine them in bikinis.

Mr. Malkinson: Not helpful, hon. member.

Madam Chair, I think the answer to all three questions is a clear yes. But before I say these additional words about the Securities Amendment Act, I think it's useful to remind this Chamber of the steps we've taken together to further these three goals.

Back in 2015 the Securities Amendment Act – I'll come back to this, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Any other questions, comments, or amendments with respect to the bill? The hon. Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park.

Cortes-Vargas: I just thought that maybe the member needed a few minutes to compose himself.

As we talk to the Securities Amendment Act, I think it's important to discuss, you know, the communities which need to be protected by something put in place like this. Of course, when we put something like this in place, we're really talking about a few bad apples that could cause harm to people that have put away their life savings in investments and making sure that there's appropriate recourse. These situations need to be prevented, and these kinds of amendments really allow for that.

There's something really important in it in that we don't have a big history in financial liabilities in this way, but I know that the Securities Amendment Act provides securities – especially when we have an aging population and we have an increased number of people that are depending on their investments being protected. We need to make sure that these protections are put in place. They are very important.

I am very proud to be supporting this bill. Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Chair: The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I've had a chance to have a glass of water here, so I will continue my comments where I left off.

Back in 2015 the Securities Amendment Act, 2015, came before this Assembly. At that time the Minister of Finance asked this Chamber to approve a number of changes to the Securities Act. In particular, he asked this Chamber to approve changes related to enforcement: for example, to ensure that ASC had the capacity and authority over electronic record statements; point-of-sale changes specifically related to ETFs, one of the most popular financial products on the market today; as well as harmonizing derivatives regulations as part of our continued efforts to harmonize standards across the country.

Madam Chair, I believe these changes received the unanimous support of this House because they were reasonable and in line with the set and reasonable principles that guide decision-making progress when it comes to Alberta capital markets. Back in 2016 the Securities Amendment Act, 2016, came before this House. If I remember correctly, this bill brought forward an important set of amendments that were, once again, in line with the principles that this government set out regarding our capital markets. For example, the SAA, 2016, set our updated definitions of a derivative reporting issuer and a security. The SAA, 2016, went on to amend the wording related to the halt-trade provisions, to make changes that would allow the justice of the peace to issue warrants, and finally, updated provisions related to the regulation of exchanges, trade repositories, and clearing agencies.

Madam Chair, I could go on, but the point here is that on a yearly basis the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board and this government have long been doing a very good job of keeping our regulatory system up to date. We know how important well-functioning capital markets are to this economy and to our province, so I am pleased to see the action being taken to date.

That brings me, Madam Chair, to the Securities Amendment Act, 2017, that we're discussing here today, and the changes that are before the Assembly. Once again, just like in 2015 and 2016, we have a set of reasonable amendments before us that will improve investor protection, ensure market integrity, and ensure that we continue to have an efficient system of capital formation. Clearly, the major focus of the SAA, 2017, is investor protection, and with everything we hear about in the newspapers, on TV, and on social media, I am glad we are taking further steps to ensure investor protection.

Before us today in this bill there are proposed changes to the authorities and capacities of self-regulatory organizations, or, since we like to abbreviate things in this House, SROs. SROs like the Mutual Fund Dealers Association or the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada, also known as IIROC, play an important role in our capital markets. These SROs have devolved authority from the Alberta Securities Commission, so it's incumbent on us to make sure that they have the best tools at their disposal to do their job. The amendments of the SAA, 2017, will allow SROs to have the same statutory powers as the ASC, which will improve the enforcement capabilities of the SAA.

Madam Chair, ensuring that SROs can compel attendance and ensure the production of evidence is critically important. It is critically important because it empowers these organizations to fulfill their mandate, which is investor protection. When we create laws and rules which empower investors, it's good for our capital markets. When we create a disincentive for wrongdoers to operate in our capital markets, we improve the overall integrity of our capital markets for all, and as all members of this Chamber know well, market integrity is a precondition for firms to be able to go out and raise capital. Without market integrity, firms can't raise capital, and our entire economy is put in jeopardy.

Madam Chair, as we consider the bill before us, I think it's worth reflecting on the questions I first raised as we go about considering this legislation. Does the legislation serve to enhance consumer protection? Does the legislation serve to further improve market integrity? Finally, will these changes continue to ensure that we have an efficient system for capital formation? In my view, the answer to all three of these questions is yes.

This is good, smart, and important legislation, Madam Chair, and I hope, as happened with the securities amendment acts of 2015 and 2016, that all members of this Chamber will vote to support these critical amendments.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Any other questions, comments, or amendments? The hon. Member for Calgary-Bow.

3:40

Drever: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise today to say a few words about the Securities Amendment Act, 2017. I'd like to begin these brief remarks with a story which helps to underscore why the amendments before this House are so important for investor protection and for our capital markets more generally.

Back in 2016 an individual was working at a Calgary-based investment firm. The person in question failed to ensure that his financial recommendations were suitable for two clients, who lived in Saskatchewan, who were nearing retirement and depended on his advice because they did not know much about the stock market. This individual undertook an investment strategy not designed for clients entering into their retirement years such as engaging in numerous trades and penny stocks, day trading, and short sales, which was not consistent with the personal circumstances of these people from Saskatchewan, including their expressed intentions with respect to retirement. As a result of this individual's aggressive investment strategy, which involved the pursuit of many high-risk, speculative securities, his clients lost over \$125,000.

This individual failed to ensure that his recommendations were suitable for a third client in Calgary, who was seeking secure investments with respect to her eventual retirement. This individual pursued an aggressive investment strategy involving a high degree of risk to her account and which was too aggressive for her. This client nearly lost \$41,000.

This individual also on many occasions executed trades without prior information provided to or informed consent received from all three clients beforehand. This is contrary to the IIROC rules.

Madam Chair, I got this IIROC information, and this is one of the cases that they successfully prosecuted. The IIROC hearing panel ordered that this individual pay a fine of \$120,000 and be suspended from engaging in the securities industry for a period of two years, following which he would have to successfully complete a prescribed course and be subject to supervision if he re-enters the industry. It also ordered that he pay a cost of \$25,000 in payment of IIROC costs incurred in these proceedings.

Madam Chair, as we know, the amendments before this House will further empower organizations like IIROC and the MFDA to protect investors. While the powers currently provided to these organizations have been effective in some circumstances, we can do more to support and protect investors.

It is stories like the one I just told you that make me proud to stand up in the House and support the Securities Amendment Act, 2017. As has been said before in this House, the vast majority of market participants are honest, trustworthy, and play by the rules. What we need to do is protect against the actions of wrongdoers, the individuals who try to take advantage of others and make it harder for everyone else in the market to succeed. We want investors in our marketplace to be successful and get good returns. We want companies in our marketplace to be successful and be able to raise capital to grow and sustain their businesses. The amendments before us today help achieve those objectives.

When we have more good actors operating in our marketplace, when we have market integrity, when investors are protected, then firms can effectively raise capital. When capital markets are working effectively, our entire economy benefits, and that means good jobs for the people of Alberta.

On that note, Madam Chair, I hope that all members of this Assembly support this very important legislation. Thank you.

The Chair: Any other questions, comments, amendments? The hon. Member for Edmonton-South West.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's my pleasure today to rise and speak on Bill 13, the amendment act here, because I think that it's such an important piece of legislation. It's something that, as we've already heard about from other members in this Assembly, affects so many people in so many aspects of their lives and is something that Albertans deserve to feel comfortable and confident about when they make financial decisions with their investment dealers, their advisers, their representatives.

I'm so proud of the government for being a leader in this aspect. I'm so proud of the government for being a leader in ensuring that as we move forward with the Securities Amendment Act, which, of course, Madam Chair, you know, comes every year – but this one in particular, I believe, is one of the first jurisdictions in the country to provide the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada with the tool kit that they need to bring wrongdoers to justice and to fulfill their responsibilities as a public interest regulator.

The amendments proposed in this bill will provide the regulatory organizations with the same enforcement authorities as the Alberta Securities Commission. Madam Chair, that gives the regulatory organizations the ability to compel people's attendance and the production of evidence so that they are better able to do their jobs and protect Alberta investors. When we talk about work like that, when we talk about the tools that we're providing for these regulatory organizations, we're talking about making a difference for each and every family that trusts an adviser to make decisions with their money.

Madam Chair, in my constituency, for example, which is predominantly, of course, as I've spoken about before, young families, people who are starting their families, as we hear from some families here in the Legislature, are the types of families that are starting to make these types of investment decisions. These are the types of families that are starting to go out and say, "We need to put money away for my child," whether that's to go to college, university, or some sort of postsecondary education, or to make decisions that reflect their own retirement moving forward.

Seeing those types of decisions being made, these Albertans and my constituents expect there to be strong regulatory frameworks and strong enforcement frameworks to ensure that they're not taken advantage of. In fact, Madam Chair, if you go and speak to a lot of my constituents, you may indeed find that they thought that those protections were already in place. This is something that I think is going to be harmonized across Canada moving forward, and I'm very, very excited to see that a number of provinces have already committed to adopting provisions that are very similar to those we're seeing in this act.

When we see that the Canadian Association of Retired Persons and the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Alberta Securities Commission have all come onboard and said, "This is something that we absolutely need; this is something that we absolutely want to see moving forward," I think it's so self-evident that this bill and the amendments that it puts forward will protect Albertans. It's something that – when we talk about

consumer protection, we can bring bills and bill and bills about consumer protection, but at the end of the day, Madam Chair, these are people's lives. We're talking about the money that they're putting forward for their child's life or for their own retirement. Those types of investment decisions don't come lightly, and we do want to make sure that all of it's done in good faith and in the most thorough way possible.

Madam Chair, it's so encouraging to see that these amendments and this bill were consulted on very thoroughly with the investment industry. That's why we did see the quotes and validation from all of those validators that I did mention earlier. I believe that these are very common-sense amendments. I think that they're things that when we go out and we talk to the industry, they say, "Well, yes, we've been asking for this for a while," or "Absolutely, these are things that we want to see," because the industry does not wish to be seen as perhaps trying to swindle persons. The industry does not want to be seen as being malevolent in any way. They want to be working with the government to provide a very strong framework and a very strong industry that will allow Albertans to invest wisely, to be able to move forward wisely so that everybody is able to benefit from our strong Securities Act.

I think it's something that I'm very excited to see moving forward. I'm very encouraged to see the government moving forward to harmonize and modernize our legislation in this aspect. I think it's something that all members of this House are likely to be able to support, and I do encourage all members to support this bill as well.

Thank you.

3:50

Cortes-Vargas: Madam Chair, given that we were reminded earlier today about the upcoming special day this weekend to celebrate Mother's Day, I'd like to move that the committee rise and report Bill Pr. 2 and report progress on Bill 13.

[Motion carried]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Committee of the Whole has had under consideration certain bills. The committee reports the following bill: Bill Pr. 2. The committee reports progress on the following bill: Bill 13.

The Deputy Speaker: Does the Assembly concur in the report? Say aye.

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Deputy Speaker: Opposed? So ordered.

The hon. Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park.

Cortes-Vargas: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd just like to move to adjourn the House and come back on Monday at 1:30.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:52 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, May 11, 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*)

Committee of the Whole — 424-31 (*Mar. 21, 2017 aft.*), 556-58 (*Apr. 6, 2017 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 674-78 (*Apr. 19, 2017 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — 879 (*May 4, 2017 aft.*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2017 c6]

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*)

Committee of the Whole — 455-59 (*Mar. 22, 2017 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 678-79 (*Apr. 19, 2017 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — 879 (*May 4, 2017 aft.*) [Comes into force May 4, 2017; SA 2017 c7]

Bill 3* — Voluntary Blood Donations Act (Hoffman)

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

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

Committee of the Whole — 394-400 (*Mar. 21, 2017 morn.*), 421-24 (*Mar. 21, 2017 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 472-80 (*Mar. 23, 2017 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 30, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 30, 2017; SA 2017 cV-5]

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*)

Committee of the Whole — 389-93 (*Mar. 21, 2017 morn.*)

Third Reading — 449-52 (*Mar. 22, 2017 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 30, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 30, 2017; SA 2017 c2]

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*)

Committee of the Whole — 393-94 (*Mar. 21, 2017 morn.*)

Third Reading — 452-55 (*Mar. 22, 2017 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 30, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 30, 2017; SA 2017 c1]

Bill 6 — Northland School Division Act (Eggen)

First Reading — 524 (*Apr. 4, 2017 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 558-61 (*Apr. 6, 2017 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 671-74 (*Apr. 19, 2017 aft., passed*)
Third Reading — 755-59 (*May 2, 2017 morn., passed*)
Royal Assent — 879 (*May 4, 2017 aft.*) [Comes into force May 4, 2017; SA 2017 cN-5.1]

Bill 7 — An Act to Enhance Post-secondary Academic Bargaining (Schmidt)

First Reading — 552 (*Apr. 6, 2017 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 679-81 (*Apr. 19, 2017 aft.*)
Committee of the Whole — 810-15 (*May 3, 2017 morn.*), 828-38 (*May 3, 2017 aft., passed*)
Third Reading — 865-66 (*May 4, 2017 morn., passed*)
Royal Assent — 879 (*May 4, 2017 aft.*) [Comes into force May 4, 2017, with exception; SA 2017 c4]

Bill 8* — An Act to Strengthen Municipal Government (S. Anderson)

First Reading — 577 (*Apr. 10, 2017 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 691-700 (*Apr. 20, 2017 morn.*), 716-22 (*Apr. 20, 2017 aft.*), 780-84 (*May 2, 2017 aft., passed on division*)
Committee of the Whole — 784-95 (*May 2, 2017 aft.*), 838-45 (*May 3, 2017 aft.*), 855-65 (*May 4, 2017 morn., passed with amendments*)
Third Reading — 991-1004 (*May 11, 2017 morn., adjourned*)

Bill 9 — Marketing of Agricultural Products Amendment Act, 2017 (Carrier)

First Reading — 606 (*Apr. 11, 2017 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 683-87 (*Apr. 20, 2017 morn., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 687-90 (*Apr. 20, 2017 morn., passed*)
Third Reading — 759-62 (*May 2, 2017 morn., passed*)
Royal Assent — 880 (*May 4, 2017 aft.*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2017 c5]

Bill 10 — Appropriation Act, 2017 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading — 670-71 (*Apr. 19, 2017 aft., passed on division*)
Second Reading — 690-91 (*Apr. 20, 2017 morn.*), 700-02 (*Apr. 20, 2017 morn.*), 722-23 (*Apr. 20, 2017 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 762-67 (*May 2, 2017 morn.*), 795-97 (*May 2, 2017 aft., passed*)
Third Reading — 799-810 (*May 3, 2017 morn.*), 845-47 (*May 3, 2017 aft., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — 880 (*May 4, 2017 aft.*) [Comes into force May 4, 2017; SA 2017 c3]

Bill 11 — Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Amendment Act, 2017 (Gray)

First Reading — 771 (*May 2, 2017 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 849-55 (*May 4, 2017 morn.*), 924-39 (*May 9, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 12* — New Home Buyer Protection Amendment Act, 2017 (S. Anderson)

First Reading — 877 (*May 4, 2017 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 939-44 (*May 9, 2017 aft.*), 945-56 (*May 10, 2017 morn., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 956-62 (*May 10, 2017 morn.*), 1004-1008 (*May 11, 2017 morn.*), 1008-10 (*May 11, 2017 morn., adjourned, amendment agreed to*)

Bill 13 — Securities Amendment Act, 2017 (Ceci)

First Reading — 893 (*May 8, 2017 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 977-90 (*May 10, 2017 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 1027-31 (*May 11, 2017 aft., adjourned*)

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*)

Second Reading — 375-86 (*Mar. 20, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 578-86 (*Apr. 10, 2017 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 738-40 (*May 1, 2017 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — 880 (*May 4, 2017 aft.*) [Comes into force 3 months after date of Royal Assent; SA 2017 cP-26.9]

Bill 203 — Alberta Standard Time Act (Dang)

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

Second Reading — 496-503 (*Apr. 3, 2017 aft., referred to the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future*)

Bill 204 — Protection of Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2017 (Stier)

First Reading — 444 (*Mar. 22, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 503-07 (*Apr. 3, 2017 aft.*), 899-905 (*May 8, 2017 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 205 — Advocate for Persons with Disabilities Act (Jansen)

First Reading — 552 (*Apr. 6, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 206 — Child, Youth and Family Enhancement (Adoption Advertising) Amendment Act, 2017 (Aheer)

First Reading — 1024 (*May 11, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill Pr1 — Calgary Jewish Centre Amendment Act, 2017 (Kazim)

First Reading — 524 (*Apr. 4, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill Pr2 — Paula Jean Anderson Adoption Termination Act (MacIntyre)

First Reading — 524 (*Apr. 4, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1027 (*May 11, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1027 (*May 11, 2017 aft., passed*)

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