



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Third Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, November 2, 2017

Day 48

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

Third Session

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

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Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (UCP)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (NDP)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)
Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (NDP)
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (NDP)
Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (NDP)
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP)
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (NDP)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (NDP)
Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP)
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Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (NDP)
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Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (NDP)
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (UCP)
Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP),
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Fildebrandt, Derek Gerhard, Strathmore-Brooks (Ind)
Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (NDP)
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (Ind)
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Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)
Gray, Hon. Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)
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Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (NDP)
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Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)
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New Democratic: 54 United Conservative: 26 Alberta Party: 2 Alberta Liberal: 1 Progressive Conservative: 1 Independent: 2 Vacant: 1

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 2, 2017

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly Calmar elementary school. They are a class that gave me a lot of high fives and a lot of fist pumps and a class that I had a lot of fun with when we had our pictures taken. I have met the teacher, Jeanette Wilson, before, and we have a teacher here that does an amazing job with their kids. If I could have all the kids rise and if we could give them a warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise this afternoon to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly 40 students and 17 chaperones from the Centre for Learning@Home, which is located in the wonderful community of Edmonton-Meadowlark. I'm so happy that they could join us today for question period and to learn more about democracy in our province. I would now ask that they rise to receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm actually standing today on behalf of my associate from Battle River-Wainwright, who, of course, is not able to be here because of his heart surgery. I would like to introduce Irma school with teacher Mrs. Tara Gwinn and Mr. Darren Grosky, principal, and also some chaperones: Mrs. Jackie MacKay, Mrs. Tausha Erickson – I hope I said that right; it looks right – and Mrs. Diane Prior. If they would please stand and receive the warm welcome of the House. There they are.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Are there any other school groups, hon. members?

Seeing and hearing none, the Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two sets of introductions. The first is the team I have in my Edmonton-Glenora constituency office. The first is Marcela Lillo, who joined our team in May with a wealth of experience. If she can rise. She's pregnant with a little Dipper and will be a first-time mom in the new year. Next we have Michael MacLean, who helps connect me and my constituents to programs and resources that will help make their lives better. Please rise, Michael. And Hussein Shire, who started in my office as a volunteer. He is always smiling and willing to go that extra mile. Thank you, Hussein. And the newest member is Alex Paikada. He's a social work student, and he's engaged in youth outreach. I ask them all to receive the traditional warm welcome of our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. minister, you had a second group.

Ms Hoffman: Oh, yes. Thank you for that reminder, Mr. Speaker. I have the great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to

fellow members of our Assembly eight dedicated, community-minded volunteers. They are among the 7,500 volunteers at over 100 chapters across Canada for Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Their efforts at public education and advocacy have saved lives and reduced injuries from impaired driving. Today these women are here to mark the 30th anniversary of Project Red Ribbon, in which millions of Canadians every year show their personal commitment to drive safe and sober. These guests are – and please rise as I say your names – Brenda Johnson, Gillian Phillips, Amanda Sawatzky, Rhonda Paterson, Jean Poole, Emily Poole, Lynda McCullough, and Darlene Urquhart. Thank you very much for being here today, ladies, for your ongoing advocacy, and the lives that you are saving every day. Please join me, colleagues, in extending a warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Nielsen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a real pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly the Alberta Sex Positive Education & Community Centre, also known as ASPECC. Here today are Angel Sumka, Mark Dorsey, Nicole Kraft, Eleanor Hamilton, Christine Panther, and Shannon Cavener. ASPECC provides sex-positive educational programs on sexual health, practising safe sex, and the importance of consent with zero tolerance for nonconsensual and discriminatory behaviours. Their services are invaluable in combatting misinformation and damaging views. I would ask that my guests please rise today and receive the traditional warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly members from the Battle River Watershed Alliance Society, and thank you very much for the saskatoon pies that they had in the rotunda this afternoon. The alliance monitors the water quality and quantity of the Battle River, which flows through the Wetaskiwin-Camrose constituency. They measure the overall health of the watershed, and they do outreach, field trips, tours, educational training. As we all know, water is life. If they would please rise as I introduce their names: Sarah Skinner, who is the watershed planning co-ordinator; David Samm, general manager; Susanna Bruneau, research and stewardship co-ordinator; Barb Bosh, board chair; Nathalie Olson, education and outreach co-ordinator; and Nathalie's parents, who are visiting us from Ontario, Rose Marie and Terry Stanley. Welcome to the House, and if everybody would give them a traditional warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, are there any other guests today?

The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise and to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly quite a number of guests, actually. I have, first of all: Ace Peace. Ace is a grade 12 honours student, the first openly trans student in his middle school and high school. I have his mom here as well, Lindsay Peace, who is a passionate and active advocate for queer youth and one of the co-founders of Skipping Stone Foundation.

I also have here this afternoon Dr. Kris Wells, an assistant professor and faculty director of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta. I also have Bryan Mortensen, who is the executive director of the altView

Foundation. I also have Michael Green, who is the deputy director, again, with altView. I also have Jen Alabiso, and she is the manager of programs and services for the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta.

They're here to see the introduction of Bill 24. If everyone could please give them a warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ministerial Statements

The Speaker: The Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

Project Red Ribbon

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my great honour to rise and to speak to an issue on which I think all of us in this House can agree, and that is to declare November 2 as Project Red Ribbon Day. Project Red Ribbon is a commitment to every Canadian to drive safe and sober. It's a highly visible community public awareness campaign which depends on volunteer participation to promote the message that death and injuries resulting from impaired driving are needless tragedies that are one hundred per cent preventable.

Mr. Speaker, each year from November 1 to the first Monday after January 1 volunteers across the country with Mothers Against Drunk Driving will distribute red ribbons, asking Canadians to display that ribbon on their vehicle, key chain, or personal item such as a purse, briefcase, or a backpack. The MADD Canada red ribbon is a powerful symbol. Displaying this ribbon is a personal commitment to drive sober and to pay tribute to the thousands of Canadians who have lost their lives or been injured as a result of impaired driving.

Mr. Speaker, I declare this as Project Red Ribbon day and offer my own full support as well as that of our entire government and thereby urge all members to show their support by displaying red ribbons as well from now through the new year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-West.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thirty years ago MADD Canada recognized that impaired driving incidents spiked during the holiday season. In its typically proactive manner it responded by launching Project Red Ribbon. But, in truth, through the long-time efforts of MADD Canada, our society knows that vigilance against impaired driving must occur year-round. This organization, which was born from the unspeakable pain of losing a child, has saved countless lives with public awareness campaigns like Project Red Ribbon, which we are honouring here today.

1:40

We know they work because there has been a significant decrease in impaired driving in Canada. MADD Canada, however, continually reminds us that every citizen has to remain vigilant if we are to maintain control over this deadly societal hazard. It is especially top of mind for legislators today as our nation prepares to deal with the legalization of marijuana. We must work with MADD and our police services to ensure our citizens are aware that impaired driving by drugs is as dangerous as drinking and driving, and mixing the two only amplifies the hazards.

This reality has made MADD and Project Red Ribbon just as critical today as ever. In my time as a Calgary police officer I not only dealt with impaired drivers; I saw first-hand the carnage their actions wreak on our streets. Attending these horrific scenes has a

long-term emotional impact on everyone involved. As a police officer I can assure you that you never ever forget them, nor do other first responders who also attended these scenes. And the impact is compounded in unimaginable ways for family and friends.

So, personally, on behalf of all Albertans today I thank MADD Canada for the incredible work they perform educating the public in preventing unnecessary deaths and injuries. The value of MADD in today's society, especially with Canada on the cusp of a societal change, cannot be overestimated.

Thank you to MADD for Project Red Ribbon, and thank you for all you have done in the past decades and will continue to perform as our future unfolds.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Acting Deputy Government House Leader.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent of the House for a member of the Alberta Party to respond to the ministerial statement.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to rise to mark Project Red Ribbon day. Driving impaired is never okay. Injuries and deaths from impaired driving aren't accidents; they are totally avoidable tragedies.

Once again this year Mothers Against Drunk Driving will distribute red ribbons and ask Canadians to wear them, display them prominently on their vehicle or anywhere else they can help spread this message. Like my colleagues in the House, I offer my thanks to MADD Canada for your important work on behalf of Albertans and on behalf of those who have been lost to impaired driving.

I encourage all Albertans to wear their red ribbon proudly in memory of those who have lost their lives or have been injured by impaired drivers and as a reminder that as far as we've come, we still have work to do to end impaired driving in our society once and for all.

Thank you.

Members' Statements

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

Persons with Disabilities' Workforce Participation

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In October we recognize Disability Employment Awareness Month. As an employer I had the privilege to employ thousands of people. They, in return, rewarded me and enhanced my professional and personal development. While I had many positive moments and learned a tremendous amount from my employees, it was those I hired with disabilities that gave me the greatest reward in return.

Early in my career I had the opportunity to work with Red Lobster through its Cops and Lobster fundraiser, which raised money for the Special Olympics. During this fundraiser event we had a volunteer athlete named Nelson, who was full of energy and diligently busing our tables. Seeing how hard he was working, my GM, Jason Lane, offered him a job.

I was taken aback when I saw his mom in tears because this was the first job offer he had ever received. The encouragement he gave my staff, his sense of pride, and his great attitude toward teamwork helped with my bottom line by creating a bond within my team.

Mr. Speaker, as an employer I had the opportunity to hire many people with disabilities. While some may see their disabilities as a challenge, the abilities they had for hard work and the pride they carried for a job well done paid off in dividends.

Programs like the transitional vocational program at Mount Royal University provide supports for both employers and employees to ensure they are a perfect match. They also provide ongoing supports, and they even helped me as an employer to recruit and retain several successful employees.

When I go back to my old restaurant and I visit the individuals we hired from the vocational program, it gives me a sense of pride and encouragement. It is amazing to see them thrive in the ongoing success of the business while allowing them to have independence and pride in themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I trust and hope that everyone in this Chamber feels the same way, and I encourage my fellow members to spread the word to businesses in their constituencies. Hiring people for their abilities will pay off in dividends and interest.

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

Tow Truck Operator Safety

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you've ever had a vehicle break down and needed assistance, you understand the vital role tow truck operators play when it comes to public safety. These unsung heroes are oftentimes perilously close to traffic and in very vulnerable positions while aiding stranded motorists. More often than not this is done in adverse weather conditions. In the diverse constituency of Drumheller-Stettler, where we have expansive areas, the remoteness and nature of many of these situations add another element of danger while they carry out this vital function of highway safety.

Every day in Alberta selfless tow truck operators and other first responders are called upon to help keep us safe, sometimes under very trying and dangerous conditions. The safety of the people that provide this critical service is something we as legislators should always consider to help keep them safe. The designation of emergency vehicles at times is not comprehensive enough to cover all vehicles used on our roadways in emergency situations.

On October 17 we were reminded of the dangers all of our emergency services face when one of these emergency responders lost his life fighting a fire in Hilda, Alberta. Volunteer firefighter 34-year-old James Hargrave, a husband and father of four young children, all under the age of seven, was killed when the water truck he was driving rolled while carrying out his duties.

Everyone who works in dangerous situations should have our full support. With this in mind, during consultations with members of the tow truck industry they told us that they should be designated as emergency vehicles to help keep them safe. In the 2016 spring session, while debating the Traffic Safety Amendment Act, the Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock expressed everyone's disappointment after being unable to table the necessary amendment to change the status of tow trucks to emergency vehicles. We owe it to those who help selflessly to protect them as much as we can.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The Member for Edmonton-Manning.

Guru Nanak Gurburab

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the MLA for Edmonton-Manning I am fortunate to represent a diverse community, which includes a substantial number of Albertans of the Sikh faith. Sikhs

have been making Alberta their home since the early 1900s. Many arrived in Alberta and worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway, in sawmills, and on farms. Today Alberta is home to over 50,000 Sikhs, representing a vibrant and dynamic population of Alberta.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji is the founder of Sikhism and is the first of the 10 Sikh gurus. Today is celebrated world-wide as the Nanak Gurburab. He travelled widely, teaching people the message of human rights and justice. His life and teachings are of profound significance to all Albertans. In fact, his message of community, equality, and love provides inspiration for all humanity. Let us be inspired by his teachings of equality, unity, selflessness, and social justice.

Our government recognized April 2017 as Sikh Heritage Month to celebrate the contributions of Alberta's Sikh community to Alberta's cultural diversity. At a time when people are using cultural and religious differences to divide us, we are using them to make us stronger. That is why we are celebrating the birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji alongside Sikh Albertans.

Sikh Albertans have contributed to Alberta's academics, health care, skilled trades, science, business, and politics but, more importantly, the values and principles of community, in giving, equality, hard work, and wishing wellness and happiness for all people. These are the core Sikh values, and they are also the core Albertan values.

On behalf of my colleagues I wish all those celebrating a joyous day. Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. Clerk, if you'd hold the clock for a moment.

Statement by the Speaker

Rotation of Questions and Members' Statements

The Speaker: Hon. members, before we proceed to the next item of business in the daily Routine, I'd like to make some remarks on the rotation of oral questions and members' statements. As members may recall, I asked on Monday of this week that House leaders endeavour to come to a new agreement with respect to the rotation of questions and possibly the Members' Statements rotation to reflect the current composition of this Assembly. To date I have not yet received the new agreement, but I remain hopeful that one will be forthcoming and would encourage House leaders to work with members affected by any such agreement.

I'm available tomorrow and indeed over the weekend if necessary to discuss this with House leaders in an attempt to reach an agreement that is fair to all members. I will advise members on Monday about the question period and Members' Statements rotations, which will take effect on Tuesday. For today we will continue with the question period and Members' Statements rotations based on the current House leaders' agreements.

1:50

Oral Question Period

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

Government Policies

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on Monday the former Member for Calgary-Lougheed raised the issue of Burnaby illegally obstructing the Trans Mountain pipeline by refusing to issue municipal permits. The member asked the Premier whether the government would join Kinder Morgan in demanding that the NEB intervene. The Premier at the time did not appear to appreciate the suggestion, but today we were glad to read that the government took the former member's

suggestion. Will the Premier also take our common-sense suggestion to request that her good friend Justin Trudeau remove downstream and upstream emissions from the pipeline assessment process?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the question. The member well knows that we think it's important that upstream emissions be taken into consideration because we are proud of the made-in-Alberta climate leadership plan that was developed that is ensuring that we are being effective climate leaders moving forward. We think that that should be taken into consideration, and it was. That's exactly why this government very successfully, less than a year after they were in, got approvals on two new pipelines, one to tidewater, which the members opposite had failed to do for 44 years.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, it's shocking to watch this government over and over throw Albertans under the bus. Let's talk about what the NDP desperately don't want to talk about: 194,000. That's the number of Albertans currently unemployed, and countless more have completely given up looking for work. The NDP have made a bad situation much, much worse through their numerous tax hikes, increased regulation, and general hostility to job creators. To the Premier: when will you recognize the failure of your plans and finally focus on job creation?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, we are so proud to stand up for Albertans, and we do that every day on this side of this House. We will not back down. We will work to ensure that we're getting shovels in the ground to get to that tidewater, and that's exactly what the Premier said yesterday. We're not going to stop there. We took our made-in-Alberta solution around a climate leadership plan, and we're taking that investment to build things like the green line in Calgary, the river valley line in Edmonton, things that we know the Official Opposition wants to cancel. They don't believe in moving forward with climate leadership. They want to throw it out. With that, they would throw out all these important infrastructure projects and our tidewater access. That's shameful.

Mr. Nixon: Well, let's talk about another number the NDP don't want to talk about: 67,000. That's the number of private-sector jobs destroyed under this NDP regime. Yes, the NDP like to tout all the jobs supposedly created under their watch, but where are those jobs created? The public sector, of course, Mr. Speaker, 21,000 of them. Now, we know on this side of the House that the public sector is important, but we can't have a strong public sector without a vibrant private sector. That's just common sense. When will the NDP focus on the economy and stop their senseless attack on the private sector and the job creators in Alberta?

Ms Hoffman: I really wish, Mr. Speaker, that the Official Opposition would stop cheering for Alberta to lose. Now, let's put facts on the table. Jobs are up in Alberta: 49,000 jobs. And the, you know, alternate facts that the member opposite wants to speak about are completely alternate and untrue. I'd be happy to see him table 21,000 public-sector jobs, but you know what? I'm proud to stand up for nurses and teachers and people who are working to make this province better . . .

Mr. Cooper: Point of order.

Ms Hoffman: . . . instead of laying them off, as members opposite, we know, want to do. I want to see them actually table their

alternate facts because I'm proud to stand on ours, which is standing up for Albertans.

The Speaker: Second main question.

Unemployment

Mr. Nixon: While the NDP desperately want to avoid talking about their economic record, we on this side of the House are happy to do it all day: 36 per cent is the increase in unemployment rate since the NDP came into power, and 8.5 per cent is the unemployment rate in Edmonton and Calgary. Today Alberta's unemployment rate is higher than all provinces but Nova Scotia, P.E.I., and Newfoundland. Who would have thought the day would come when we would see that in this great province? When will the NDP stop focusing on their divisive, ideological battles and instead focus on what Albertans are worried about, jobs and the economy? When will you start standing up for Albertans?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud of the work we've done to stand up for Albertans and the results that that is paying. For example, wages in Alberta are up. Albertans are about 2 per cent higher than they were this time last year in terms of their wages. Growth is up. RBC is forecasting the economy will grow by 4.2 per cent this year, faster than any other province in Canada, including those that you're so inspired by that are cutting public-sector jobs like nurses and teachers. Manufacturing is up. Sales have increased by almost 10 per cent over this time last year according to ATB Financial. The future is positive, it's bright, and the only ones cheering for our doomsday are the members opposite.

Mr. Nixon: The only people standing up for Albertans in this House is this side of the House. Forty-seven thousand: that's the number of Albertans that have been unemployed for six months or more. Alberta used to be the land of opportunity, but today dreams are dying. Jobs are coming back to other oil-dependent economies, places like Texas and North Dakota, places that are showing common sense, Mr. Speaker. But here in Alberta the NDP's policies are deterring growth. I ask again: when will the NDP stop playing cynical politics on ideological issues and instead focus on jobs and the economy and bringing investments back to our province?

Ms Hoffman: We have been, and it's working, Mr. Speaker. Retail sales are up. Housing starts are up. Exports are up. Alberta is a caring and compassionate province, and I'm so pleased to see so many Albertans reaching out to Jason Kenney during his time of need, when he's struggling financially. I also want to reach out and say that I have a few suggestions on how he can save more pennies. Maybe he can ask his friend to give him a discount on his Airbnb. Maybe he can take k.d. lang up on her offer for those free concert tickets and sell them, just like we know he'll sell off Alberta's public services. On this side of the House we're here to help. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. members, I urge you yet again to be cautious about the words that are said and anticipate, please, what constructive consequences may or may not come from them.

Mr. Nixon: Here are some more interesting numbers: 13,000 is the number of jobs lost in mining and oil and gas, 19,000 lost in manufacturing, 18,000 lost in construction, 11,000 lost in agriculture. Shattered lives and dreams under this NDP government's rule, yet the NDP don't want to talk about jobs. They don't want to talk about the economy. In fact, yesterday the NDP laughed in this very House when we brought up people who have lost their jobs in this

province. When will the NDP stop pushing their ideological agenda, start focusing on getting people back to work, and stop laughing at unemployed Albertans?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, as I said before – and I'll say it again – things are looking up. The Royal Bank of Canada has declared that Alberta is back in the saddle. The team at RBC has raised Alberta's growth forecast from 2.9 to 4.2 per cent, upgraded that forecast. At the same time, RBC revised its forecast down for Saskatchewan, from 1.8 to 1.4 per cent. We know that that's the playbook you guys are playing from, but on this side of the House we're standing up for all Albertans. Our plan is working. And we're not even going to let Jason Kenney cancel the health care projects that he will rely on one day because we think they're important for all Albertans. It's time you guys did the same.

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

Government Spending

Mr. McIver: Thank you. Well, the anger machine over there is cranked right up.

Ninety-four billion dollars: that's how big Alberta's debt will be by the end of 2020 according to Standard & Poor's. We've gone from debt free not long ago to drowning in NDP debt today. And what's the NDP solution? Keep digging. Nobody believes that the NDP has a plan to get back to balance. No wonder the NDP does not want to talk about the fiscal train wreck they have created. Premier, when will the NDP stop pushing divisive distractions, use some common sense, focus on the economy, and help Albertans get back to work? It's your job.

2:00

Ms Hoffman: I'm absolutely proud of the job we're doing on this side of the House because – guess what, Mr. Speaker? – our plan is working. Under Jason Kenney his plan is extreme and risky, and we know that he'd make life harder for Albertans. We are protecting publicly funded services that Albertans rely on. They would fire thousands of teachers and nurses to pay for the \$680 million in tax breaks that they want to give to the top 1 per cent. The Conference Board of Canada is saying that things are so good in Alberta, that Alberta's economy is recovering so much faster. It's the fastest growing province economically this year. I don't know why the opposition are so opposed to reading all the facts from all these economic experts who say that we're on the right track.

Mr. McIver: Only this government would call almost 200,000 people out of work a plan working.

Mr. Speaker, 7.4 per cent: that's how much the NDP increased spending by in the last budget. Our economy is hurting, but they spend like there's no tomorrow. Despite NDP claims, nobody wants to see massive cuts on any side, so why the rapidly increasing spending and crippling the province's ability to carry on with services? We know that they're desperate to change the channel from financial issues. Premier, when will you admit that you have no plan to get this province back on track, and when will you start caring about Albertans?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our plan is working because we are building those new schools and hospitals and seniors' lodges that Albertans need in the future. Instead, the Official Opposition would put all of these projects on hold. They would cut \$9 billion in infrastructure spending. That's shameful.

We're not going to let Jason Kenney and his conservative colleagues cut the very services that one day all of us will need and rely on, so we are carefully adjusting spending to make sure we hit a balanced budget. They would make reckless cuts, extreme cuts, and prolong the recession. That is definitely the wrong path.

Mr. McIver: Well, they've sunk to anger and exaggeration over there.

Mr. Speaker, \$2.3 billion: that's another number the NDP doesn't want to talk about. That's how much Alberta will spend in just a few short years for interest payments on all the debt they've piled up. That's \$2.3 billion that could be spent on social services, health care, or education here instead of foreign bankers' vacation homes. How is it that common sense says to give billions of dollars to foreign bankers? It's time for the government to stop distracting from the real issues and jobs in Alberta and help Alberta get back on track. Premier, when will you finally listen to the cries of Albertans who are . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the progress that we are making while protecting nurses and teachers. Our economic diversification strategy is working as well as supporting the oil and gas industry, which we know has been a backbone in this province and will continue to be. I understand that things aren't looking up for everybody. While not everyone is feeling the effects of the economic recovery, especially Jason Kenney – we know his struggle is real – we want to help. We're going to stop Jason Kenney from cutting his own health care, we're going to stop Jason Kenney from cutting the future seniors' benefits that he requires, and we're going to stop Jason Kenney from cutting the green line, that he could use to get around Calgary. We are here to help and stand up for all Albertans, including Jason Kenney. [interjections]

The Speaker: Keep it cool, folks. Keep it cool.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

Tobacco and Cannabis Reduction Strategies

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Alberta Liberals recently met with Les Hagen of Action on Smoking and Health to discuss the NDP's inaction on tobacco reduction. This may blow over into another area, cannabis legislation. I want to thank the government for the menthol ban, but the government said at the time: we're just getting started. It seems like the motor has choked. To the minister: will you commit to fully implementing all provisions of the Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act before July of next year?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud of the work that we've been able to do with Smoke-free Alberta and others and the great progress we've taken in moving forward on a number of initiatives, including the menthol ban, that we know the Official Opposition were opposed to. As a result, the organization in question did recognize this government's efforts and presented me with an award last year that I'm very proud of.

There are a number of other pieces that have changed since that legislation was originally passed, including the legalization of cannabis as well as vaping and e-cigarettes, which are what I hear about most when I talk to parents. We want to make sure that when we move forward, we're doing it in consideration of all of today's challenges, Mr. Speaker, and making sure we get it right.

Dr. Swann: Well, precisely, Mr. Speaker, because cannabis will be a similar air emissions problem.

One of the exemptions that government has allowed is shisha smoking in hookah bars, which do not have any age restrictions. If cannabis is allowed here, children's health will be further jeopardized. Tobacco smoking is banned in restaurants, workplaces, and public spaces, so will cannabis smoking be subject to similar prohibitions?

The Speaker: The Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the member knows, we've recently gone out for a second round of consultation about a number of issues on cannabis. Our proposed plan, moving forward, is something like what we would call the tobacco-plus model. Cannabis smoking will be restricted everywhere that tobacco is restricted. In addition, there will be restrictions on smoking in vehicles and smoking within five metres of structures frequented by children like play structures and splash parks. In addition, as is the case with most tobacco, it will be banned in hospitals and in schoolyards.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Dr. Swann: Well, that's precisely why I'm asking the question. If we move forward on tobacco, then obviously cannabis will be included. If we don't move forward on tobacco, then it's in limbo whether cannabis restrictions will be in place.

With the NDP facing massive structural deficits, there's also a great temptation for you to dump the large amount of funds that's coming from cannabis revenue into general revenue. Will the government pledge today that revenue from cannabis sales will go to our mental health and addictions prevention and treatment?

The Speaker: The Minister of Justice.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to inform the House that, as I've said, we're still sort of moving forward on our plan around cannabis. Finance ministers from the provinces and territories are presently in discussion across the country as well as the federal Finance minister. In terms of what will happen to the excise tax that is proposed to be on cannabis, those decisions are obviously still being finalized, but at this time the projections in terms of what's necessary in terms of health care and public education and enforcement are quite high, so it doesn't look like there will be a huge excess.

Thank you very much.

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

Gay-straight Alliances in Schools

Connolly: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every student in Alberta deserves a school that is welcoming, caring, and safe. We know that LGBTQ2S-plus students face discrimination and stigma both inside and outside of school, discrimination which can lead to self-harm and even suicide, so I'm deeply concerned when I hear people, even some public officials, advocating that schools be allowed to out students without their permission. I have visited many GSAs across this province, as has the Minister of Education, so can he please provide more information for the benefit of some members of the House about the nature of GSAs in schools?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, yes, we've had a long journey looking at GSAs across the province, and we've certainly seen a demonstrable decrease in incidents that could be causing problems for kids for learning. We've seen better attendance. We've seen better graduation rates. GSAs in schools are not just beneficial to those who participate in the GSA; they're good for the whole school atmosphere, period. When you start to look after people who are vulnerable, we all benefit from that. I'm very proud to strengthen that with legislation today.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Connolly: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given our government's commitment to support Albertans' mental health and help them combat discrimination, can the minister provide any information about the positive impacts that GSAs and QSAs have on our students?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Yes. Thank you very much. You know, part of the reason that we are strengthening GSA legislation here today – we'll introduce that; hopefully, we'll get support from the House – is because people were talking about outing students. The GSA, by nature, is a place for vulnerable students to feel safe, so that talk about outing students was simply compromising that circumstance. If we pass the bill – and I urge everyone to agree – then we will build a safe space, we will make it illegal to out students, and we will all benefit as a result.

2:10

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Connolly: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that when crafting policy affecting LGBTQ2S-plus students, it would seem far more important to listen to those students than a career politician who has a history of repeatedly voting against their rights, can the minister tell us what he's heard on this issue from LGBTQ students or members of the Minister's Youth Council?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, as I said before, I had an opportunity to visit many GSAs around the province. I've heard it time and time again. I remember a student from Red Deer that said that the GSA literally saved his life by having that place to be. It's very important that we recognize the value of peer support in our schools generally and the peer support that can happen in a GSA specifically. We're very proud to bring this forward. It's going to be a discussion that I think will help to restore the confidence that students need, to know that they are respected. Once you are respected, you are confident, and once you are confident, you can learn and succeed.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Calgary LRT Green Line

Mr. van Dijken: Mr. Speaker, residents of northern and southern Calgary are upset that the promised green line to their communities is not coming any time soon. Many of these residents moved to these communities and paid their taxes in good faith on the promise that the green line was coming sooner rather than later. For communities not getting green line service as promised, has the Minister of Transportation offered any short-term fixes such as a Vancouver-style B-Line service?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to answer this question. We're happy to say that the green line is on track. We are hitting the milestones that have been set out for us, and we are working very closely with all of the community members involved. We look forward to the opposition supporting us as we help to improve the environment in this province and make life better for all Calgarians.

Mr. van Dijken: Mr. Speaker, given that the Minister of Transportation waxed lyrically during the recent municipal election campaign that the province might revoke green line funding if the city of Calgary tinkers with the current arrangements and given that many voters perceive this as the minister interfering in the municipal election campaign, to the Minister of Transportation: did you forget and think you were running for city council again, or was this an attempt to prop up your favoured mayoral candidate?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're very proud of the fact that we are working with all of Calgary to create over 12,000 direct jobs and over 8,000 supporting jobs on this green line while we take care of this environment. What we want to do is we want to make life better for everybody, not only in Calgary but throughout the whole province, by taking care of our environment. What they want to do is \$9 billion worth of cuts on our schools, on our roads, and on our infrastructure. They really don't care about the future. We do, and we're standing up for it. We're putting our money where our mouth is. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. minister, you have an amazing influence.

Mr. van Dijken: Mr. Speaker, given that Jason Kenney ensured the federal funding was in place for the green line as federal political minister for southern Alberta and given that the city of Calgary has changed the scope of the project by cutting the length of the line and the number of people served, does the Minister of Transportation fear federal Minister Sohi will pull the federal funding because Calgary has changed the scope of this incredible shrinking LRT?

Ms Phillips: What Jason Kenney has said, Mr. Speaker, is that he will cancel the carbon levy and therefore distribute 20,000 pink slips as a result. [interjections]

The Speaker: In 10 seconds or less can you answer that question?

Ms Phillips: What Jason Kenney has said is that he will cancel the carbon levy, Mr. Speaker, put 20,000 Calgarians out of work, and therefore cancel the green line. This green line will be cancelled if Jason Kenney has his way. This government is committed to getting Calgarians to work, to school, and to where they need to be on time and growing the economy . . .

Mr. McIver: Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order noted.

Ms Phillips: . . . and putting 20,000 people to work.

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

Minimum Wage Increase and Disability Services

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has mandated a minimum wage increase that has put at risk the delivery of

services for persons with developmental disabilities and the viability of the agencies that deliver those services. We begged the government to do an economic impact study before going ahead with this risky ideological plan and off-loading responsibility to these agencies. Now we are hearing that some agencies may actually be forced to close their doors. Government policy is effectively dismantling the service agencies. What is the government going to do to ensure their survival?

The Speaker: The Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have done is that we have maintained and improved the supports for persons with developmental disabilities, and we have worked with them on all issues that matter to them. Minimum wage was no exception. Last summer my office and my department worked with the agencies, and we are providing them the supports they need to deliver the service in an efficient manner.

Mr. Orr: The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that many agencies have been forced into crisis mode due to the minimum wage increase and its devastating effects on wage compression and to the reductions in staffing levels that have accompanied it. Given that most agencies have projected the impact of the minimum wage over the next three years, why has this government not listened to their concerns and at least utilized their spreadsheets, that demonstrate the hard numbers of a crisis?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have met with many agencies personally, and this summer my staff have worked with the agencies impacted by minimum wage. We are providing them with the resources to deliver the supports in the most efficient way possible. We are working with them on all issues that matter to persons with disabilities.

Mr. Orr: That is not what the agencies themselves are saying.

Given that people with disabilities have experienced a decrease in the care and the services that they need because of minimum wage encroachment and given that those in need of assistance are suffering alienation – they are at increased risk, and they don't understand why this government is marginalizing and abandoning them – is this how an Alberta government takes care of its people, or only an NDP government?

Mr. Sabir: Mr. Speaker, we have improved the supports for persons with disabilities. It's only folks over there who think that supports for disabilities are giveaways and think that the ministry working with persons with disabilities, 70,000 Albertans, is just half a ministry. What they are concerned about: if a 20 per cent cut is made to the disability budget, \$162 million, 2,000 people will be out of the supports who are getting supports today, let alone any new individuals with disabilities.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Value-added Energy Industries

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, the price of oil has fallen dramatically, and though we hope that it continues to recover, we must acknowledge that there's a chance that it will never rise again to \$100 a barrel. One way we can adjust to the new reality for oil prices is to focus on getting the most value out of our resources through upgrading such as with the North West upgrader and supporting more petrochemical manufacturing like this government did with

its petrochemicals diversification program. To the Minister of Energy. I've spoken with these companies that were supportive of the program but are concerned that it is too limited in scope, making it hard to compete. Are there any plans to expand or begin a second round of funding for this program?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. I had the honour of meeting with a number of people from the manufacturing sector last night, and they definitely expressed their excitement that we are indeed bringing forward a petrochemicals diversification program. The details are forthcoming around the rollout. They are excited, we are excited, and moving forward is very good news for Albertans, for Alberta jobs, and for Alberta employers.

Thank you.

Mr. Fraser: Given that energy companies in Alberta have many advantages such as a low tax environment and a highly skilled local workforce but also have to compete globally with companies that enjoy generous subsidies from their local governments and given that trying to outspend these governments on subsidies and tax breaks could do more harm than good to our provincial treasury, to the same minister: will you commit to identifying the competitive disadvantages that Alberta energy companies face, and will you bring forward policies that help level the playing field without driving the province further into debt?

2:20

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and again to the member for the important question. Many of these stakeholders last night when we were meeting were talking about how excited they are that we're moving forward in an environmentally responsible way and that, of course, they want an even playing field, which means an even playing field here in Alberta so that they are willing to be environmental leaders. Of course, with there being a national price, it will ensure that that is comparable across Canada as well. So they're proud of the work that they are doing to diversify. They're trying to get as many good consumable products out of waste products right now as possible, and they're making very significant progress in that area. I'm proud of our economic innovation that is in the area of industry and manufacturing and energy as well.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Fraser: Given that the Minister of Energy appointed an advisory committee that had the mandate to look at upgrading and petrochemical manufacturing and given that this committee was given a year to deliver its report and that a year later still hasn't produced anything and given that energy companies in Alberta would benefit from knowing where this government is intending to focus its energy diversification efforts, to the same minister: why hasn't the diversification committee delivered their report yet, and when can we expect it to be delivered?

The Speaker: The Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased that we were able to get a group, EDAC, to get out and consult with many Albertans – industry, environment groups, manufacturers – and they've done thorough consultation. The report will be coming shortly. But I'm pleased to say that they looked at things to move

forward like: should we be partially upgrading? Should we do more petrochemical diversification? As the Deputy Premier said, we've had a lot of interest in this area, and it's really going to be good for Alberta to use our resources here in manufacturing in Alberta.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Flat Top Complex Wildfire Review Recommendations

Mr. Schneider: Mr. Speaker, in the 2017 annual report the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry states, "As of 2017, all 21 recommendations from the Flat Top Complex Wildfire Review Committee have either been completed or fully incorporated within Agriculture and Forestry's day-to-day wildfire management program." If that is accurate as outlined in recommendation 6 of the Flat Top recommendations, can the minister please tell me where our B.C.- and U.S.A.-style initial attack hotshot crew is based out of, would he please table what their annual budget is, and were they deployed in the Waterton and Crownsnest Pass fires?

The Speaker: The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the somewhat detailed question that he proposed. I'm very proud of our wildland firefighters right across the province. There are a couple of facts I think we all need to know. Ninety-seven per cent of all wildfires are contained within the next day. Our wildfire fighters are able to support any wildfire-fighting crews, whether it was the Waterton national park this year or in B.C. or in Montana as well. Our wildfire fighters are able, capable, and more than willing to do the job to help our neighbours out as they have helped ours. I'm very proud of our wildfire-fighting crews. I would shudder to think what this crew over here would do with their budget that would jeopardize the health and safety of Albertans.

Mr. Schneider: Recommendation 6, Mr. Minister.

Given that recommendation 8 of the Flat Top Complex deals with preparedness and that the ministry has stated that they place water bombers according to the head fire intensity maps and given that prior to the Horse River fire of May 1 maps showed an extreme head fire intensity in the Fort Mac area since April 15 yet no bombers were staged there, Minister, in the future will your department base plans upon historical fire data or head fire intensity mapping as criteria for how you base water bomber groups prior to fire season?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member again for the question. I feel that he is implying that somehow our wildfire-fighting crews, including our air tanker crews, are not capable of the work they do. They most certainly are capable. Our staff is capable, more than capable, some of the best. I would stand up and defend them any day of the week, that they're some of the best wildfire-fighting crews in the world. They know what they're doing. In no shape or form are any communities, including Fort McMurray, including Waterton park, in any danger at any time. They know what they're doing. I'm proud of the work they do.

Mr. Schneider: Mr. Speaker, I'm implying that the minister may not know how to do his job.

Given that the opposition has learned that in the early stages of the Horse River fire the emergency preparedness control centre had locked themselves out of computers and were unable to retrieve emergency codes from the computer files until the passwords were

able to be reset by someone returning to their office in Edmonton, Minister, have you, as outlined in recommendation 10 of the Flat Top Complex, enhanced “standards and training for employees involved in liaison and wildfire management information”?”

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. The government of Alberta, you know, through this government and through even past governments – some are sitting over there – has had the opportunity to review wildland fires to be able to see what we can learn from those wildfires. The report of the Horse River fire showed that anything we could have done there couldn't have prevented that tragedy that we've seen. We continue to do what improvements we can do. Whether it's recommendation 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 15, or whatever he was quoting over there, all recommendations have been approved. We're working forward to make sure that those improvements are implemented.

Amazon Second Headquarters Request for a Proposal

Mrs. Aheer: Mr. Speaker, big cities across North America are going gaga over the prospect of having Amazon.com's second headquarters. With Alberta having two cities in the race, the government of Alberta has seen fit to establish a team of investment attraction experts to help the cities to champion Alberta as the best place in North America to set up shop. Amazon or not, my question for the Minister of Economic Development and Trade is simple. Shouldn't we have already had this team in place as per Bill 1? What was the holdup?

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much for the question and the opportunity to talk about this very promising economic development. Our plan is working, Mr. Speaker. We're making life better for Albertans. That includes having very specific, tailored plans for very massive organizations like this. I'll tell you that one of the things that they're looking at with great interest is the fact that we have a strong public health care system here in the province of Alberta, that as employers they'll be able to have healthy workers, and that they won't have to worry about the impacts of having privatized health care. We know that Jason Kenney and the conservatives that are aligned with him want to make sure that they make that harder, and that would threaten the very types of things that will help companies come here.

The Speaker: Thank you.
First supplemental.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, given that the minister's job description in Bill 1 allows the minister to establish programs to attract investment and diversify Alberta's economy and given that the minister may already make regulations to implement such programs, will the minister now shower Amazon with Alberta's hard-earned taxpayer dollars to make up for the fact that this government has in fact not made life better for Albertans and has actually harmed Alberta's economy?

Ms Hoffman: I know that's what Jason Kenney and the members opposite want to believe, but the truth is that our plan is working. Because we have thousands of teachers working in schools providing good public education, Amazon is interested in coming here, Mr. Speaker. They know that families are going to be well supported, workers are going to be well supported, and they're excited at the opportunities that are presented. I am proud that we are putting the right team together to make sure that this is the most

attractive place for Amazon to bring thousands of jobs. Nobody should be laughing or cheering for that to fail.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you. The failure is actually on the part of the government for not getting this started faster.

Mr. Speaker, given that Calgary's downtown office vacancy rate is around 30 per cent and that the city is an important supply chain and logistics hub within reach of over 50 million people by road in about 24 hours and given the high cost of operating aircraft out of the Calgary International Airport due to high fees charged by Ottawa milking airports like cash cows while American airports get federal subsidies, is the minister going to combat Ottawa's economy-damaging air transport policies and advocate for lower airport rents so Calgary actually stands a chance against a subsidized American competitor?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we're making great opportunities to make investment opportunities for major corporations from around the world. And it's working. That's why we've got major interest from organizations like Amazon. I know that the member opposite is continually cheering for Alberta to fail, for our pipelines to fail, for our industry to fail, but you know what? Jobs are up. Investment is up. We are growing faster than any other jurisdiction in this country, and that's because of the efforts of this government. We're going to keep working to make sure that Amazon comes here.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Stony Plain.

2:30 Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In April of this year the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry appointed a new board of directors to AFSC. This new board replaced the interim board of directors, and they were tasked with strengthening controls over expenses, travel, and procurement. To the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry: given that the AFSC board experienced significant issues under the previous government, what is being done to enhance the services that AFSC offers and improve the fiscal responsibility of this important organization?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. The first step I took to address the culture of entitlement, that same entitlement that these folks want to return to, was to fire the old board and appoint a new one. It is the responsibility of the board to oversee executive expenses with producers in mind, and now that is happening under this government. The current board is very skilled and has worked very hard to clean up the agency and find ways where services can be enhanced. For example, we have recently been discussing business risk management programs with the federal government and have begun a review of those services.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: given that AFSC plays an important role in assisting agricultural communities to access insurance and risk management tools, how is the new board of directors working to expand and improve on all of these programs?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the member. As mentioned, we're undergoing the BRM review right now, and the new board is helping to oversee this. We'll be having ongoing conversations with members of the ag industry and the AFSC as this work continues. BRM programs such as crop and livestock insurance we'll have a close look at. An important component of this discussion will be ensuring that it remains within current budgetary considerations.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: how are farmers, ranchers, and other stakeholders, who are so important in these processes, being included in the review of AFSC's programs and internal processes?

Mr. Carlier: Mr. Speaker, as part of this we have been in touch with stakeholders from all levels of the industry through one-on-one meetings, industry round-tables, community hall meetings, correspondence, and an online survey. The review will continue beyond 2018, and to complete the review, an external panel will be formed comprised of producers, academia, and global risk management experts. Consultation will be ongoing, and we welcome feedback.

Southeastern Alberta Concerns

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, over the last few months Cypress-Medicine Hat has been devastated by wildfires in Cypress county in the Bindloss area. It serves as a reminder of more than just financial pains but of the personal risk that these people take. For over 100 years rural Albertans have borne the responsibility of feeding the province and the entire world. The community is strong, and – make no mistake – we will recover better and stronger than before. To the minister: what are you doing to ensure that the communities and individuals affected by the wildfire are supported and restored?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Without a doubt, the wildfires that swept through the grasslands and the southeast corner of the province have been devastating. We fully support those communities and the ranchers and producers there that have lost cattle, have lost crops, have lost fence lines. We're having an opportunity now to look at existing programs to see where we can perhaps expedite the process to be able to give the support to those producers as soon as we can.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, given that the population of 200 elk introduced to CFB Suffield in 1997 quickly ballooned to well over 10,000 despite the government's guarantee that it would not exceed 800 and given that the Bindloss fire in particular saw 100,000 acres of grassland destroyed, putting even more pressure on the existing grasslands to handle grazing for so many elk, the status quo is not an option. To the minister: what is the government doing to bring the elk herd to a sustainable size of 800 head as soon as possible?

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

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, Environment and Parks is working with the Department of National Defence so that we can manage this elk population responsibly. The member is quite right that over a number of years the population did increase,

but since 2014 it's dropped from 7,000 to 3,300. The hunts for '17-18 begin in November. They continue into February 2018.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, given that the horrific wildfire imposes significant financial losses layered on top of huge financial losses caused by a federal government-imposed protection order for sage grouse and given that the Alberta government dropped the ball in developing their own made-in-Alberta response to protect the sage grouse, will the minister commit to establishing a provincially led response which emphasizes local decision-making, best practices, protects our oil and gas, ranching, and farming livelihoods and better protects the sage grouse?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the member is quite right that the previous government absolutely did drop the ball on the sage grouse, and that is why that emergency protection order was imposed upon southeast Alberta ranchers and oil and gas operators and others. It was not a great situation. It was a situation where the government failed to protect the environment, and there were consequences that came through the courts. That's why we're investing in MULTISTAR. That's why we're working with ranchers. That's why we're working with the Calgary Zoo on recovery. We've got a sage grouse recovery system in place. You know, what wouldn't help is a whole bunch of cuts to the Environment and Parks budget. That would not help those ranchers at all.

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

Cold Lake Seniors' Lodge Construction Issues

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my constituency we are watching the construction of a Cold Lake seniors' lodge and waiting patiently for its opening. However, I have heard concerns from a former worker on the site who has noted serious OH and S violations of sections 4, 9, 14, and 29 regarding work he was expected to complete. This worker called OH and S, warned the government of violations on July 15, and has yet to receive any response. That's nearly four months ago, and that is unacceptable. To the Minister of Labour: why has your department ignored the concerns of this worker and not had the decency to follow up with him?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Occupational health and safety is incredibly important to this government and to our province as it is responsible for making sure that our workers are safe, following codes and guidelines, for making sure that every worker can come home at the end of the day. I would be happy to follow up on this specific inquiry. We always strive to respond to people quickly. We have OH and S officers on call to be able to respond to dangerous situations immediately when that call comes in. I would be happy to receive more information on this specific situation.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that we have unanswered concerns regarding work-site safety and given that I have just received pictures showing a further work-site hazard from a second Albertan who was alarmed by the potential long-term health implications of a mould infiltration on the work site dating back to June, to the Minister of Infrastructure: how much longer must Cold Lake wait for your department to address the work-site hazards that

could prove harmful to current workers and future residents of this facility?

The Speaker: The Minister of Seniors and Housing.

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the safety of residents of provincially owned buildings is always our top priority. The housing management body did inform me and my office of this issue immediately, and we're working closely with the contractor to make sure that the workplace is safe. Of course, there are no seniors in the facility now. We're certainly, you know, working hard with the contractor to make sure that everything is safe for the workers, too.

Mr. Cyr: Mr. Speaker, given that the city of Cold Lake needs additional seniors' housing and given that the Cold Lake seniors' lodge broke ground months behind schedule, therefore pushing back the estimated completion date, and given the concerns I've heard on work-site safety, to the Minister of Seniors and Housing: when can the citizens of Cold Lake expect this facility to be completed and opened, and will the dates be on schedule?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Sigurdson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we're working very closely with the housing management body in Cold Lake to make sure that things continue. We're looking at next year for occupancy for seniors in the Cold Lake area. Certainly, our investment of \$1.2 billion in affordable housing across the province is making a big difference for seniors so they can age in their communities. We know that the opposition would be cutting billions from the budget and nothing would be done, but we're investing and supporting Albertans.

Thank you.

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

2:40 Farm and Ranch Worker Safety Regulations

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the fall of 2015 the NDP government blindsided farmers with Bill 6. The NDP claimed that the bill was so important that it used its majority to shut down debate and push it through the Legislature. The next step requires the government to draft enabling regulations. To the minister of agriculture: can you please explain the importance of these regulations?

The Speaker: The hon. minister of agriculture.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. It's important for workers in every industry, including farm workers, to have basic human rights. As a government we're very proud that we were able to do that, to implement these basic human rights for these workers, human rights such as having the ability to have the same safety regulations as other industries. I'm extremely concerned that Jason Kenney and folks on the other side would repeal that legislation, take away those basic rights from those workers.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that last week the minister announced that the working group provided its final report seven months ago – and now we learn that this was just the first stage in developing the regulations – and given that it's almost two

years since the act was passed, when are you planning to bring in the regulations?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. These are recommendations that were made by the occupational health and safety technical working groups. I'm very proud of the work they have done and the work producers, processors, and import-exporters across the province have done getting those recommendations to us. We've opened it up to all Albertans to have a say on it till January 15, 2018. After that we'll have the opportunity to implement these changes to make lives better for those farm workers.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Premier made strong comments in the House about how critically important Bill 6 was for farm and ranch workers and given that it's hard to understand why the government would spend two years dragging its feet to create the required enabling regulations, to the minister of agriculture: has the urgency vanished, or was it simply false in the first place?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I and others in this government have made a commitment to fully consult with producers across the province, with Albertans across the province. We have done that. We're continuing, fulfilling that promise for full consultation. The member, I think, is fully aware of that. As the consultation process will wrap up, I'm more than happy to be able to stand in this House, more than happy to be extremely proud of the work we've done to protect these workers, to protect the farms and ranches across the province.

The Speaker: Hon. members, in 30 seconds we will continue with Members' Statements.

Members' Statements (continued)

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

Political Action Committees

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for your grace today. Unregulated third-party fundraising and spending are corrupting Alberta's democracy, as they have south of the border. Big and dark money is getting funnelled into leadership contests, municipal and provincial elections, and overtly partisan advertising campaigns, so much so that political action committees, or PACs, now rival mainstream political parties' ability to raise funds, support candidates, and get their message out. Rules governing them are inconsistent with how other political entities are treated. In fact, Elections Alberta has raised serious concerns that PACs are now being used as a way to get around campaign finance laws.

This government has appropriately banned corporate and union donations, but it permits a parallel unregulated system, which the NDP may be benefitting from already themselves and is making a mockery of the new rules the government recently put into place. If there is one system that limits contributions and requires disclosure and another that is largely free of oversight, where do we think the money is going to go? Integrity of our democratic processes,

fairness demand that PACs come under more scrutiny and regulation.

That's why the Alberta Liberals are bringing this issue to the forefront and calling on the government to close the loopholes by supporting Bill 214. Alberta has the opportunity to be a national leader in democratic accountability and electoral finance reform by doing something no other jurisdiction has yet done: actually defining what a PAC is and expanding the scope of restrictions to go beyond just political advertising.

Both the NDP and the Conservatives say that clamping down on PACs could violate the Charter right of free speech, but this has nothing to do with limiting speech or preventing third parties from participating legitimately in the democratic process. It's about making sure that the same rules apply equally to all political players and getting money further out of politics.

Allowing this free-for-all to continue means our democracy stays on sale to the highest bidder. Bold, all-party action is needed to get dark money out of Alberta politics. That's exactly what the Liberals . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.
The Member for Red Deer-North.

Family Violence Prevention Month in Red Deer

Mrs. Schreiner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since being elected as the Member for Red Deer-North, I've had the pleasure many times to speak about the outstanding organizations, businesses, and people that live in my riding. When things are at their toughest, that's when people demonstrate their true nature, and the people of Red Deer have demonstrated time and again that compassion and community are the true foundations of our province.

November is Family Violence Prevention Month. Families of all kinds are the core of our communities, and they must be supported, protected, and kept safe. If family is the bedrock of our society, family violence shakes that foundation and hurts everyone it touches.

I am very proud that Red Deer was the first city in Alberta to recognize this important month by lighting the city with purple lights. Many groups are involved, including our Red Deer chapter of Soroptimist International, a volunteer group dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls. In conjunction with our domestic and relationship violence initiative committee this group works to make everyone aware of this month and its meaning. Purple lights symbolize the fact that everyone is affected by family violence. It is a dark part of our society that must have light shed on it, and it must be eradicated.

I wear the purple ribbon to remind myself of this and to remind everyone that true compassion shows itself in action, not in words. When the drive to prosperity takes precedence over caring for each other, we fail ourselves and we fail our province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

United Conservative Party Leader's Personal Income

Connolly: Mr. Speaker, the new leader of the UCP seems to be worried about his own finances lately. He says that he has less net worth than the average Albertan even though he's been collecting a generous six-figure salary as an MP for 19 years. At last count that was three times higher than the average Albertan's paycheque. While he kept that salary for months after launching his leadership campaign, he says that he hasn't had any income since last September. Since then, he says that he's been living off his savings without any paycheques from his leadership campaign or PACs.

Mr. Speaker, Albertans are compassionate, caring people. They don't hesitate to help someone out in a time of need, and that's exactly what Albertans have been doing, offering helpful advice to Jason Kenney on how to make ends meet when finances are tight. Albertans had such generous suggestions that #kenneypennies was trending across Alberta all night. I'll read for members of the Assembly some of the wisdom Albertans have given.

"Stop buying avocado toast." "Save money on policy experts by recycling social policies from the 50's." "Take k.d. lang up on her offer of the free coffee." "Part-time job. I understand we finally pay a decent minimum wage." "Clean out your closet and have a garage sale!" "Recycle your cans and bottles." "Kill two birds with one stone; heat your home by burning books you feel are 'ideologically extreme.'" "Try making coffee at home instead of buying at cafés." "Invite friends over instead of going out." And a final money-making tip: "Rent out your apartment on Airbnb."

Mr. Speaker, I thank all Albertans for their helpful suggestions to Jason Kenney on how he, too, can find ways to make the most of his finances.

2:50

Notices of Motions

The Speaker: The Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Government House Leader and pursuant to Standing Order 34(3) I am rising to advise the House that on the next available Monday Written Question 17 will be accepted.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Bill 24

An Act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with great privilege and humility to introduce for first reading Bill 24, An Act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances.

This legislation, if passed, will make life better for all Alberta students. Our government is strengthening legislation that supports students who wish to create or join a gay-straight alliance or a queer-straight alliance, GSAs and QSAs. This legislation will ensure that every school in Alberta that receives public dollars has a policy that clearly allows students to form a gay-straight alliance, and these policies would be made publicly available. School principals would also be expected to help students who wish to create a GSA or a QSA at their school in a timely manner. We will also provide clarity on parental notification for student clubs, including GSAs and QSAs, and how this differs from notification around other programs of study.

In short, Mr. Speaker, no students will be outed if they choose to join a GSA or a QSA. Ensuring safe and caring schools for students is a top priority for our government, and we are continuing to ensure that all students feel welcome in school regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. We are following through on that commitment. If passed, this legislation will ensure that students across Alberta will belong, no matter what school they attend.

I'm proud of the work that our government has done to strengthen supports for LGBTQ students, and I'm proud of Albertans for engaging in thoughtful dialogue with me and with each other on how we can move Alberta forward.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am very truly honoured to move first reading of Bill 24. Thank you very much.

[Motion carried; Bill 24 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to table a quotation on the cost of a pack of cigarettes relative to other provinces in the country. Alberta has among the most affordable cigarettes, and there's lots of evidence that the cost of cigarettes has a direct bearing on the uptake of cigarettes among youth. I'll table the appropriate number of copies.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of tablings. One is a letter from the constituent that I had referred to who was concerned about job-site safety. The gentleman was very clear on all of the infractions that he had witnessed on this site, and this is the letter that had been sent to OH and S and the Ministry of Labour.

In my second question I referenced some pictures that came into my office. They are clearly pictures of mould that is within the facility. This is a new facility, and it is unbelievable that we are dealing with mould in a new facility.

Thank you, sir.

Tablings to the Clerk

The Clerk: I wish to advise the Assembly that the following documents were deposited with the office of the Clerk. On behalf of the hon. Ms Gray, Minister of Labour and minister responsible for democratic renewal, pursuant to the Chartered Professional Accountants Act the Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta annual report 2017.

On behalf of the hon. Mr. Feehan, Minister of Indigenous Relations, responses to written questions WQ 1 and WQ 2, both asked for by Mr. Hanson on April 10, 2017.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I believe we had two points of order today. The hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Point of Order Insulting Language

Mr. Nixon: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I rise again – and I can't believe we have to keep doing this every day – under 23(j) on the use of abusive or insulting language. You know, we have talked a lot over the first few days back here this sitting about the government continuing to try to find loopholes and unique ways to call people liars in this Assembly, when they can talk about people outside of the Assembly and call them liars and when they can't talk about people outside of the Assembly and call them liars.

What I do know, though, Mr. Speaker, is that we do have a tradition in this Assembly not to call other members liars, and that is not in dispute. At the time that the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills rose to raise this point of order, it was in reference to the Minister of Health, the Deputy Premier of Alberta, responding to a question from myself in which she said that what I was saying was untrue.

Now, I don't want to have to keep rising to do this over and over as this government continues to try to find new ways to call people liars. Our job, Mr. Speaker, is to come here and ask the government questions. Their job is to answer questions about their agenda, not to call people liars. I would suggest to you that if the government, while they're blinded by their fear of the Hon. Jason Kenney, continues to do this, it's going to continue to cause disorder throughout this sitting on this process.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you would caution and ask all members of this Assembly but particularly the government, who has this new-found love of trying to call people liars with every question, to stop this behaviour and let us get on with the business of the people of Alberta.

The Speaker: The Acting Deputy Government House Leader.

Ms Ganley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do apologize; I missed when this was originally raised. The member is saying that the word "liar" was used. I don't recall that occurring, but it's possible. But then when speaking about the incident, he said that it was a reference to a fact which was untrue.

So I would say that if it was a reference to a fact being untrue, that's a disagreement as to the facts and that's perfectly reasonable. But he's free to raise it. If the word in question was actually used, we're happy to apologize.

The Speaker: Well, if it's of any value, what was said, which I believe was the intended point of order, was: "Jobs are up in Alberta: 49,000 jobs. And the, you know, alternate facts that the member opposite wants to speak about are completely alternate and untrue."

So in this particular instance it was the facts that were being referred to, and I don't think there's a point of order here.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Hays.

Point of Order Timing in Question Period

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to rise. During question period today you made a point of awarding somebody an extra 10 seconds. I'm not certain where in the orders you have the authority to do that. But since the person was allowed to go on for much longer than 10 seconds, I was just curious whether you were going to strike everything in *Hansard* that was after the 35 seconds that the rules allow or give the Official Opposition another question in the next question period.

Fairness is important. You are at a higher level, but I think it's not uncomplimentary to you to say that you are the referee here. I don't mean it in an uncomplimentary way. I think you would even agree that you're the referee here, although I hold you in higher esteem than just a referee. I think it would be a good time for you to strike that fairness that was passed by today during question period.

3:00

The Speaker: Do you have a comment, Acting Deputy Government House Leader?

Ms Ganley: Yes, Mr. Speaker, just that I'm not aware necessarily that it is in the rules, but it is my understanding that generally it is your function to maintain order in this House. You know, in this case you were unable to hear the answer because of the cacophony of noise coming from the other side, so I think that it was perfectly reasonable for you to allow additional time in this case.

The Speaker: Thank you.

I, too, have respect for you, hon. member, and all the members in this House. I do in fact have the authority, I believe. As we've talked about many times in this House, it is a freedom of free speech. It's our collective responsibility to defend it, and I intend to continue to do that.

You will also note, hon. member, that there have been very, very few times, in spite of the noise, that I have stopped the clock. In this particular instance I happened to have a minister answering a question who normally, sitting where she is, I would have been able to hear. I could not hear the question in place, and I therefore allocated additional time for the purposes of understanding what the question was. I will continue to be conscious of the treatment, of fairness, and you can count on me to in fact do that.

Orders of the Day Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Bill 20 Beaver River Basin Water Authorization Act

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. Today I am very pleased to move third reading of Bill 20, the Beaver River Basin Water Authorization Act.

This is a special act of the Legislature to approve two interbasin transfers from the North Saskatchewan River basin to the Beaver River basin to address drinking water challenges in Mallaig, which is in the county of St. Paul, and the Whitefish Lake First Nation. The act will allow for an extension of existing regional waterlines, which will ensure that these communities have access to a safe, secure supply of drinking water, and that safe, secure supply of drinking water is coming through the investments that the province is making through our capital plan.

The plans to connect the Whitefish Lake First Nation and Mallaig to regional waterlines leverage federal funds and ensure that our capital plan is meeting the needs of both rural Albertans and indigenous Albertans and making good on our commitments, Madam Speaker, under the UN declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples to ensure drinking water is brought up to our reserves that still so desperately do not have access to that constituent part of life. These projects will make life better for the residents of Mallaig in the county of St. Paul and for the members of the Whitefish Lake First Nation.

I'd like to thank everyone for their comments and support for this bill, and with that, I'd like to move third reading of Bill 20.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other members wishing to speak in third reading? The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise this afternoon to speak in favour of Bill 20, the Beaver River Basin Water Authorization Act. Our UCP caucus has shown strong support for Bill 20 because it truly will enhance the quality of life for the residents of the hamlet of Mallaig and Whitefish Lake First Nation by providing them with a sustainable source of potable water. The decision to transfer water between river basins, which is specifically the purpose of this legislation, is not made lightly, which is why it's before this House.

The North Saskatchewan River, however, is a reliable source of water, and the amount of water that will be channelled to these communities is a small drop in the river's flow. To be specific, according to Alberta WaterPortal annual discharge of the North Saskatchewan River is 7.3 million cubic decametres, and the total amount of water approved to transfer is 605 cubic decametres.

During the last few days of debate on this bill we also heard that the municipalities in the area support the transfer and the proposed pipelines using existing rights-of-way to reduce the effects on the land it will cross.

It is also good to know that Whitefish Lake First Nation will no longer be drawing their water from the lake. Goodfish Lake's water levels are expected to recover.

My colleague the Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills spoke passionately about the importance of ensuring our northern communities are not living in substandard conditions. He talked of the Whitefish Lake First Nation and the work the community is doing to encourage its viability into the future. He also spoke of Mallaig and the special attributes of the hamlet and its thriving community. Permitting this water basin transfer and the resulting pipeline will bring fresh, clean drinking water to the residents of both communities. For most of us who take good quality drinking water for granted, it is hard to understand how this project will improve the quality of life for these Albertans.

I would like to note that the government of Alberta introduced its water for life strategy in 2003. This long-term strategy allowed communities to share water treatment, pipeline, and waste-water disposal infrastructure. This project fits nicely into the strategy and displays great value. The pipeline projects that will result from passing Bill 20 will see both the federal and provincial governments invest more than \$30 million into infrastructure, with the province picking up the lion's share.

Because Bill 20 is such a vitally important project, it is nice to see all members of the House make a positive effort to approve this legislation as rapidly as possible. In just a few short days and at the very early stage of this fall session we'll have accomplished that goal. I encourage all of my colleagues to support Bill 20.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm very happy to rise and speak on third reading of Bill 20. I'm very thankful that we could get through to third reading here on the fourth day of session in the fall.

I'd like to thank the Minister of Environment and Parks as well as the Government House Leader for addressing this so quickly when I brought it forward this spring, when the county realized that they had to get this passed through before they could take advantage of the federal funding that was available. We tried to get it through in the spring session, but it was just a little bit too late, so I was very happy to see that it was the first order of business when we got back this fall.

I'd also like to thank my fellow members for all the input here in the Chamber. I didn't hear very much negative about this transfer of water from one water basin to another. I did hear some concerns about transferring water from basins. I do understand that it's something that we can't take lightly, but in this case I think it's very important that we get good-quality water to these two communities. I really look forward to seeing these projects completed as soon as possible. I again thank the Chamber for getting this through in a matter of four days.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a) comes into effect if there are any questions or comments.

Seeing none, any other speakers to the bill in third reading? The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

Mr. Rosendahl: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a special act of the Legislature to approve two interbasin transfers from the North Saskatchewan River basin to the Beaver River basin to address drinking water challenges of Mallaig and, of course, the Whitefish Lake First Nation. The act will allow for the extension of existing regional waterlines, which will ensure these communities have access to a safe, secure supply of drinking water. Plans to connect Whitefish Lake First Nation and Mallaig to the regional waterline leverage federal funds, are environmentally sustainable, and enjoy strong support among stakeholders in the area. These projects are very important for those communities.

I'd like to thank everyone for their comments on this bill during the debate. We'll certainly take those comments into consideration as these projects move forward.

With that, I'd like to close debate on third reading of Bill 20. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

3:10

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, you can't close debate.

Standing Order 29(2)(a) comes into effect. Are there any questions or comments?

Are there any other members who wish to speak to the bill?

Seeing none, are you ready for the question?

[Motion carried; Bill 20 read a third time]

Bill 19 **An Act to Protect Gas and** **Convenience Store Workers**

The Deputy Speaker: I'm looking for someone to move third reading on behalf of the minister. The hon. Member for Calgary-Klein.

Mr. Coolahan: Pardon me, Madam Speaker. My apologies there.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to speak and close debate on third reading of Bill 19, An Act to Protect Gas and Convenience Store Workers.

I wish to thank and acknowledge my fellow members on both sides of the House for their positive co-operation during the debate on this important bill. Many members shared personal experiences related to this issue of violence in the fuel and convenience store sector, and that tells me the issue touches a lot of people and underscores the importance of Bill 19. Our debate on this bill has been cordial, positive, and there had been near-unanimous agreement on the need to pass this bill. It is a wonderful experience to see this type of unanimity – unanimity – in this place. It's a tough word. I again thank all my fellow members for their support of this bill. I believe we all share a desire to make fuel and convenience stores as safe a place to work as possible.

Madam Speaker, Bill 19 is excellent legislation because it was developed in a thoughtful and effective way. The ministry worked hard to engage with the industry, police, labour groups, worker advocates, and other stakeholders. That engagement helped the ministry craft the thoughtful, effective bill we are debating today. I wish to thank our industry partners for participating in the creation of Bill 19 and for the commitment to worker health and safety. I wish to acknowledge leaders such as Husky and 7-Eleven for being proactive and moving voluntarily to prepayment for fuel ahead of this legislation. I wish to acknowledge labour groups and worker

advocates who helped us craft this important bill. Their input and experiences were invaluable in this process. I also thank our law enforcement partners for their contributions to this bill and for being unwavering in their support of mandatory prepayment for fuel and violence prevention plans.

Madam Speaker, I am sure my fellow members are also heartbroken when they see workers injured or killed during a gas-and-dash incident. I'm sure we were all equally saddened and outraged by what happened to Ki Yun Jo last month. He was the hard-working owner of a Thorsby gas station who was taken away from his family and community by a brazen gas-and-dash incident. This is just one of many such incidents during the past three years, incidents that have resulted in five workers' deaths and serious injuries to three others. Bill 19 is a positive step to help ensure that these types of incidents do not happen again. Every worker has a right to come home safely at the end of their workday, from the first shift right through to retirement.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my fellow members to continue the positive, co-operative tone in the House by supporting the final reading of this bill. Together we can help ensure that those who work in gas stations and convenience stores can return safely to their families at the end of the day.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I cannot adjourn debate, right? Okay.

The Deputy Speaker: Can I clarify, hon. member, that you are moving third reading of Bill 19 on behalf of the Minister of Labour?

Mr. Coolahan: That is correct.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Any other members wishing to speak to third reading? I will recognize first the hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner, followed by Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Mr. Hunter: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to speak to Bill 19, an Act to Protect Gas and Convenience Store Workers. As you know, I am a big supporter of making sure that we have less red tape in government. Even though this bill does add red tape to our society, I'm also a big proponent of making sure that we have best practices applied to our society, and I believe that this strikes the right balance in order to be able to provide that safety that Albertans can return home from work, whether they're workers or whether they're employers, to their families and have a safe society.

In my private member's Bill 207, talking about red tape reduction, I want to be clear – and there were some comments made in days past by the Deputy Premier that I was advocating for unsafe conditions. That is never the case. With Bill 207 I am certainly advocating to make sure that we don't have any redundancies in bills and making sure that the government is as efficient and effective as it can be.

Now, back to Bill 19. I think that it's important to say that it's tragic when we see any deaths happen in any sector of our province. It was terrible to hear of so many deaths in, especially, gas-and-dash incidents. So we are supportive of the action of this government, but we're waiting to see what the government is going to do in terms of the implementation of this. That's where the devil can be, in the details. I'm optimistic that this bill will hopefully be reasonable in its measures and also the regulations that it applies. Having a workplace violence prevention plan is sensible, in my opinion. I don't have any concerns about the sensibleness of this bill, but I hope that this does not add any more paperwork or a lot of paperwork onto already taxed business owners.

I heard from stakeholders that were concerned about the potentially debilitating cost of mandatory bulletproof glass or a

prohibition on working alone. I'm glad to see that we don't see that in this bill, especially if the worker that is alone is also the owner of the gas station. I think that they need to be able to make that decision for themselves.

From what I see, there is some flexibility for employers made within this bill, which I think was very important, and obviously that would come out during the consultation process. I'm optimistic and hopeful that this bill will not be so stringent in its application, that it will be able to take into consideration small, medium, and large companies. As OH and S will be involved, I hope that this law is – because it is very vague, I am a little nervous about inspectors and bureaucrats being able to rule inconsistently, Madam Speaker, when it comes to the compliance of this law, so I hope that when the regulations are done, we don't have that vagueness still in the law.

3:20

I have heard in some cases that employers want a law requiring prepay because then customers are less likely to get irate with the clerks when they're slightly inconvenienced.

We've been hearing many concerns from Albertans lately about an increase in property crimes, and it has been often talked about in this House, so I'm not surprised when this government says that on average there are 12 fuel thefts in Alberta every day. I hope this bill will help deter crime as a best practice that we see in other areas and other jurisdictions. Given the mandatory video surveillance and emergency transmitters that would be asked to be implemented and put into these gas stations, I think that's a very good idea. However, if a gas station or convenience store is already having problems and they could afford it, I would wonder why they are not already taking these measures.

I am very interested and actually very supportive of making sure that this bill is passed, and I will be supporting it in this reading. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's with pleasure that I rise this afternoon to speak in favour of Bill 19, An Act to Protect Gas and Convenience Store Workers. This is a crucial piece of legislation, and I'm reminded of a story a colleague of mine told me probably about 10 years ago. He was a young man and working at a gas station to put himself through university. It was a night shift. It was late at night, and he was the unfortunate recipient of a shotgun shoved in his face. Someone robbed him at gunpoint in a gas station. I just remember feeling so afraid while he was telling me the story. It really shook me. It sticks with me today, as I imagine it does him.

Sadly, over two years ago I attended the funeral of Maryam Rashidi, who died after being hit by a vehicle driven by a man who stole around \$100 worth of gas from the gas station where she was an employee. Gas and convenience store workers are vulnerable and a part of Alberta's workforce that need and deserve legislated protections.

I've had the chance to take a look at the bill as it stands before the House, and I'm happy to support it in its current form. As my colleagues and fellow members of the House know, Bill 19 proposes a number of amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, particularly to part 27 of the safety code. This bill would not only mandate prepaying for fuel but will also enact a number of violence prevention plans, including time-lock safes that cannot be opened between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., which would have prevented

the shotgun being presented to my colleague. The bill also requires gas stations and convenience stores to employ video monitoring technology to keep employees safe and ensure that limited quantities of cash, lottery tickets, and tobacco are available during these hours.

In my view and in the view of the Alberta Party this is a sound piece of legislation that has been carefully crafted, and it is timely. As the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police estimates, several thousand incidents of fuel theft occurred in Alberta in 2015, and last month the Alberta Federation of Labour reported that there were between 80 and 100 incidents of gas and dash per week. While these incidents of theft are unsettling, they are nothing compared to the assaults and other acts of violence suffered by gas station and convenience store workers. Sadly, Ki Yun Jo of Thorsby recently died trying to prevent a gas-and-dash robbery.

Madam Speaker, as far as the Alberta Party is concerned, this bill is a no-brainer, and I encourage my colleagues to support it. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Any questions or comments under Standing Order 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, any other speakers to the bill? The hon. Minister of Justice.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to take the opportunity to make a couple of comments on this bill. It's certainly the case that this is a very exciting move forward. I think in a lot of ways a society can be judged on how it treats those among us who don't have a strong position in society, and often the individuals working at convenience stores and gas stations find themselves in just such a position, so I'm very proud that we're able to move forward and to take these steps to protect those individuals.

I'm also pleased by the very collaborative relationship we've had with respect to this bill with the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police. I know that I had heard from a number of chiefs about this very early on. I think we all have an interest in any crime that can be prevented, especially crimes like this, that have such a senseless and violent outcome at the end of the day.

In addition, this is a method by which we can give police more time back to pursue other avenues of crime. Certainly, these incidents can have incredibly serious and tragic outcomes, and we're very glad to prevent those. We're also very glad to prevent some of the regular, day-to-day instances of theft that we have from convenience stores, from gas stations and things like that and to be able to refocus those officers on the more serious and violent crimes.

As a person who used to work in the area of labour and employment, I'm incredibly glad to see these regulations and protections for workers being put in place. I think that I'm incredibly excited to see that we have support on all sides of the House for moving forward with this.

With that, I will say just thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: Any questions or comments under Standing Order 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, any further speakers to the bill?

Seeing none, the hon. Member for Calgary-Klein on behalf of the Minister of Labour to close debate.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to, first of all, just say thank you again to all my colleagues for all the collaborative work on this bill. I really appreciate what's happened over the last few days in the different readings of this bill and for all the positive comments that said that people recognize that this

bill is absolutely needed, a hundred per cent, and that we are making a difference here and saving lives with this bill.

With that said, Madam Speaker, I would like to move to adjourn debate on third reading of this bill. Sorry. Close debate. I would like to close debate on behalf of the minister on third reading of Bill 19. We got there.

The Deputy Speaker: Got to get those words right.

[Motion carried; Bill 19 read a third time]

Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

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

Bill 22 Resident and Family Councils Act

The Chair: Are there any questions, comments, or amendments with respect to this bill? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

Dr. Turner: Thank you, and it is a pleasure to rise to speak to the Committee of the Whole on Bill 22, Resident and Family Councils Act. I am particularly pleased to speak to this as this act is something that many of the residents of Edmonton-Whitemud have actually asked me for. I have six seniors' lodges, including one life lease operation, in Edmonton-Whitemud.

The concept of a governance system – I think one of my colleagues referred to it earlier as a way for the individual resident of the facility to basically participate in the management and to have their concerns heard.

3:30

I have had a deputation from one of the seniors' facilities in my riding where there is not a resident council, and there were many concerns that were raised. Indeed, on one occasion I had to intervene and actually contact the city of Edmonton. I'm forgetting the department, but this was a repair that had not been done for several months, and it actually resulted in an unsafe condition of the actual unit because of water leakage. The resident had tried to work with the management of the facility, and that had not been very productive. After I contacted the city of Edmonton, the management actually was apprised of that call, and it was not surprising that the repairs were done within a short period of time.

I don't think we need to have the MLAs doing sort of maintenance calls for residents of our seniors' facilities, and I think this act will give the residents some more leverage with the operation of the units. I think that this also applies to the lodges and to some of the other privately run operations.

In any case, I did want to rise because I know that this is something that's very important to the residents of my constituency, and I'm pleased to support this.

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

Dr. Swann: Thanks very much, Madam Chair. I just wanted to get on the record on this bill because I, too, have had quite a bit of contact with seniors in my community. I probably have over a dozen seniors' residences and long-term care settings in my riding of Calgary-Mountain View, and one of the common themes is concerns about various issues, decisions, management approaches,

food, processes of decision-making, lack of accountability – you name it – and when I ask if they have formed an organization, in many cases they're hesitant. They are feeling somewhat intimidated. They don't realize their own capacity to form voluntary committees if they choose, and this will go some distance in that 20 per cent or so that have not received or felt they had permission to go ahead and develop one of these advisory councils.

So there's no question in my mind that this is a good public policy. It's in some ways surprising that we have to legislate something like this, but in a case of, especially, people who don't feel empowered to create these kinds of bodies that hold management accountable, that ensure that there is some kind of dialogue that'll ensure that quality standards are maintained, that they feel they have a voice and can influence processes and decisions, it's important for us to move ahead with this. I fully support it.

I think part of what needs to happen also, quite beyond this – because it is limited power that these folks have. At the end of the day the management still decides what they're going to do, and there is concern that if they push too hard, they may be looking for another place to live or they may have conditions worsen for them in the setting. So beyond this, there certainly needs to be a requirement for all public and private institutions to have independent certification, evaluation that includes consultation with these committees. The certification needs to include some kind of interaction with a representative body of the residents to say that they are listening, they are trying to be responsive to clear needs, whether it's around food quality or maintenance of their residence or attitudes, bullying. We're hearing a lot about bullying in the workplace these days.

Whatever it is, there has to be accountability. That's the part that is a little harder to get to, and this certainly won't necessarily provide that, but it's a step in the right direction. I hope that we can also see the day where we require all centres for seniors and for those with disabilities, whether mental or physical or both, to be certified and that they're required in those certifications to consult with the representative group in that institution.

Thanks, Madam Chair. I'll be fully supportive.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to speak to Bill 22?
Seeing none, are you ready for the question?

[The remaining clauses of Bill 22 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? That's carried.

The hon. Acting Deputy Government House Leader.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I would now move that the committee rise and report.

[Motion carried]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Ms Sweet: Madam Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has had under consideration a certain bill. The committee reports the following bill: Bill 22.

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

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Deputy Speaker: Opposed? So ordered.
The hon. Acting Deputy Government House Leader.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Seeing the hour and the fact that the roads are a little bit miserable and many

of us have to travel this evening, I'm going to move that we adjourn until 1:30 p.m. on Monday and wish everyone safe travels.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:38 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, November 2, 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 (\$) (Ceci)

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.*), 1101-06 (*May 16, 2017 aft.*), 1107-10 (*May 17, 2017 morn., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Jun. 7, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2017 c13]

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

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*)
Committee of the Whole — 1072-77 (*May 16, 2017 morn.*), 1092-1101 (*May 16, 2017 aft.*), 1168-69 (*May 18, 2017 morn., passed with amendments*)
Third Reading — 1199-1202 (*May 23, 2017 morn., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*Jun. 7, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2017 c11]

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.*), 1111-20 (*May 17, 2017 morn., passed with amendments*)
Third Reading — 1169-71 (*May 18, 2017 morn., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*Jun. 7, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2017 c10]

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.*), 1065-72 (*May 16, 2017 morn., passed*)
Third Reading — 1137-44 (*May 17, 2017 aft., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*Jun. 7, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 7, 2017; SA 2017 c12]

Bill 14 — An Act to Support Orphan Well Rehabilitation (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 1090 (*May 16, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1144-52 (*May 17, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1225-30 (*May 23, 2017 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1244-46 (*May 24, 2017 morn., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 7, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 7, 2017; SA 2017 c14]

Bill 15 — Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2017 (Ceci)

First Reading — 1137 (*May 17, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1184-89 (*May 18, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1215-25 (*May 23, 2017 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1246-48 (*May 24, 2017 morn., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 7, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2017 c15]

Bill 16 — An Act to Cap Regulated Electricity Rates (\$) (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 1214 (*May 23, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1262-78 (*May 24, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1279-91 (*May 25, 2017 morn.*), 1291-97 (*May 25, 2017 morn.*), 1351-58 (*May 29, 2017 eve.*), 1389-1406 (*May 30, 2017 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1514-17 (*Jun. 1, 2017 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 7, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 7, 2017, with exceptions; SA 2017 cC-2.3]

Bill 17* — Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act (Gray)

First Reading — 1260 (*May 24, 2017 aft., passed on division*)

Second Reading — 1311-22 (*May 25, 2017 aft.*), 1359-61 (*May 29, 2017 eve.*), 1363-76 (*May 30, 2017 morn.*), 1407-20 (*May 30, 2017 eve.*), 1421-32 (*May 31, 2017 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1432-36 (*May 31, 2017 morn.*), 1449-66 (*May 31, 2017 aft.*), 1467-79 (*May 31, 2017 eve.*), 1490-99 (*Jun. 1, 2017 morn.*), 1517-20 (*Jun. 1, 2017 aft.*), 1534-51 (*Jun. 5, 2017 aft.*), 1553-67 (*Jun. 5, 2017 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1589-93 (*Jun. 5, 2017 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 7, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2017 c9]

Bill 18* — Child Protection and Accountability Act (Larivee)

First Reading — 1388 (*May 30, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1481-90 (*Jun. 1, 2017 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1567-79 (*Jun. 5, 2017 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1587-89 (*Jun. 5, 2017 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 7, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2017; c8]

Bill 19 — An Act to Protect Gas and Convenience Store Workers (Gray)

First Reading — 1610 (*Oct. 30, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1648-53 (*Oct. 31, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1695-98 (*Nov. 1, 2017 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1729-31 (*Nov. 2, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 20 — Beaver River Basin Water Authorization Act (Phillips)

First Reading — 1610 (*Oct. 30, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1627-35 (*Oct. 31, 2017 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1655-64 (*Nov. 1, 2017 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1728-29 (*Nov. 2, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 21 — Agencies, Boards and Commissions Review Statutes Amendment Act, 2017 (Ceci)

First Reading — 1648 (*Oct. 31, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1664-72 (*Nov. 1, 2017 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1699-1706 (*Nov. 2, 2017 morn., passed*)

Bill 22 — Resident and Family Councils Act (Hoffman)

First Reading — 1648 (*Oct. 31, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1687-94 (*Nov. 1, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1706-14 (*Nov. 2, 2017 morn., adjourned*), 1731-32 (*Nov. 2, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 23 — Alberta Human Rights Amendment Act, 2017 (Ganley)

First Reading — 1685-86 (*Nov. 1, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 24 — An Act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances (Eggen)

First Reading — 1726-27 (*Nov. 2, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 201 — Justice System Accountability Act (Jean)

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

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

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

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

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.*), 1614-20 (*Oct. 30, 2017 aft., reported to Assembly, not proceeded with*)

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.*), 1046-50 (*May 15, 2017 aft., reasoned amendment agreed to on division (not proceeded with)*)

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

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

Second Reading — 1050-57 (*May 15, 2017 aft.*), 1120-25 (*May 17, 2017 morn., moved to Government Bills and Orders*), 1153-63 (*May 18, 2017 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1163-68 (*May 18, 2017 morn.*), 1191-99 (*May 23, 2017 morn., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1231-43 (*May 24, 2017 morn., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 7, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2017 cA-5.5]

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

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

Second Reading — 1334-45 (*May 29, 2017 aft., passed on division*)

Bill 207 — Regulatory Burden Reduction Act (Hunter)

First Reading — 1310 (*May 25, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 208 — Government Organization (Utilities Consumer Advocate) Amendment Act, 2017 (Hinkley)

First Reading — 1512 (*Jun. 1, 2017 aft., passed*)

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

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

Second Reading — 1110 (*May 17, 2017 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1110-11 (*May 17, 2017 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1261-62 (*May 24, 2017 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 7, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 7, 2017]

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*)

Third Reading — 1110 (*May 17, 2017 morn., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 7, 2017 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 7, 2017]

Table of Contents

Introduction of Guests	1715
Ministerial Statements	
Project Red Ribbon.....	1716
Members' Statements	
Persons with Disabilities' Workforce Participation.....	1716
Tow Truck Operator Safety.....	1717
Guru Nanak Gurpurab	1717
Political Action Committees.....	1725
Family Violence Prevention Month in Red Deer.....	1726
United Conservative Party Leader's Personal Income.....	1726
Statement by the Speaker	
Rotation of Questions and Members' Statements.....	1717
Oral Question Period	
Government Policies	1717
Unemployment	1718
Government Spending.....	1719
Tobacco and Cannabis Reduction Strategies.....	1719
Gay-straight Alliances in Schools.....	1720
Calgary LRT Green Line.....	1720
Minimum Wage Increase and Disability Services.....	1721
Value-added Energy Industries.....	1721
Flat Top Complex Wildfire Review Recommendations.....	1722
Amazon Second Headquarters Request for a Proposal.....	1723
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation	1723
Southeastern Alberta Concerns.....	1724
Cold Lake Seniors' Lodge Construction Issues.....	1724
Farm and Ranch Worker Safety Regulations.....	1725
Notices of Motions	1726
Introduction of Bills	
Bill 24 An Act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances	1726
Tabling Returns and Reports	1727
Tablings to the Clerk	1727
Orders of the Day	1728
Government Bills and Orders	
Third Reading.....	1728
Bill 20 Beaver River Basin Water Authorization Act	1728
Bill 19 An Act to Protect Gas and Convenience Store Workers.....	1729
Committee of the Whole.....	1731
Bill 22 Resident and Family Councils Act	1731

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