



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Third Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, December 7, 2017

Day 63

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

Aheer, Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Rocky View (UCP),
Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition
Anderson, Hon. Shaye, Leduc-Beaumont (NDP)
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-Hawthood (NDP)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (NDP)
Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP)
Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (NDP),
Government Whip
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake (UCP)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (NDP)
Drever, Deborah, Calgary-Bow (NDP)
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UCP)
Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (NDP)
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (UCP)
Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP),
Deputy Government House Leader
Fildebrandt, Derek Gerhard, Strathmore-Brooks (Ind)
Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (NDP)
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (Ind)
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (NDP),
Deputy Government House Leader
Gill, Prab, Calgary-Greenway (UCP),
Official Opposition Deputy Whip
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)
Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)
Gray, Hon. Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)
Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (UCP)
Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (NDP)
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)
Horne, Trevor A.R., Spruce Grove-St. Albert (NDP)
Hunter, Grant R., Cardston-Taber-Warner (UCP)
Jansen, Hon. Sandra, Calgary-North West (NDP)
Jean, Brian Michael, QC, Fort McMurray-Conklin (UCP)
Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (NDP)
Kleinstauber, Jamie, Calgary-Northern Hills (NDP)
Larivee, Hon. Danielle, Lesser Slave Lake (NDP),
Deputy Government House Leader
Littlewood, Jessica, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (NDP)
Loewen, Todd, Grande Prairie-Smoky (UCP)
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (NDP)

Luff, Robyn, Calgary-East (NDP)
MacIntyre, Donald, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UCP)
Malkinson, Brian, Calgary-Currie (NDP)
Mason, Hon. Brian, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP),
Government House Leader
McCuaig-Boyd, Hon. Margaret,
Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley (NDP)
McIver, Ric, Calgary-Hays (UCP),
Official Opposition Whip
McKittrick, Annie, Sherwood Park (NDP)
McLean, Hon. Stephanie V., Calgary-Varsity (NDP)
McPherson, Karen M., Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill (AP)
Miller, Barb, Red Deer-South (NDP)
Miranda, Hon. Ricardo, Calgary-Cross (NDP)
Nielsen, Christian E., Edmonton-Decore (NDP)
Nixon, Jason, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre (UCP),
Leader of the Official Opposition,
Official Opposition House Leader
Notley, Hon. Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP),
Premier
Orr, Ronald, Lacombe-Ponoka (UCP)
Panda, Prasad, Calgary-Foothills (UCP)
Payne, Hon. Brandy, Calgary-Acadia (NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Shannon, Lethbridge-West (NDP)
Piquette, Colin, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater (NDP)
Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie (UCP),
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)
Rosendahl, Eric, West Yellowhead (NDP)
Sabir, Hon. Irfan, Calgary-McCall (NDP)
Schmidt, Hon. Marlin, Edmonton-Gold Bar (NDP)
Schneider, David A., Little Bow (UCP)
Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (NDP)
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-Centre (NDP)
Sigurdson, Hon. Lori, Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)
Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (UCP)
Starke, Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC)
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (UCP)
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)
Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (NDP)
Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)
Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (UCP)
Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)
van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (UCP)
Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (NDP),
Deputy Government Whip
Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (NDP)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)
Vacant, Calgary-Lougheed

Party standings:

New Democratic: 54 United Conservative: 26 Alberta Party: 2 Alberta Liberal: 1 Progressive Conservative: 1 Independent: 2 Vacant: 1

Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

Robert H. Reynolds, QC, Clerk
Shannon Dean, Law Clerk and Director of
House Services
Trafton Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel
Stephanie LeBlanc, Parliamentary Counsel

Philip Massolin, Manager of Research and
Committee Services
Nancy Robert, Research Officer
Janet Schwegel, Managing Editor of
Alberta Hansard

Brian G. Hodgson, Sergeant-at-Arms
Chris Caughell, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms
Paul Link, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Gareth Scott, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

Executive Council

Rachel Notley	Premier, President of Executive Council
Sarah Hoffman	Deputy Premier, Minister of Health
Shaye Anderson	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Deron Bilous	Minister of Economic Development and Trade
Oneil Carlier	Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Joe Ceci	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
David Eggen	Minister of Education
Richard Feehan	Minister of Indigenous Relations
Kathleen T. Ganley	Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Christina Gray	Minister of Labour, Minister Responsible for Democratic Renewal
Sandra Jansen	Minister of Infrastructure
Danielle Larivee	Minister of Children's Services
Brian Mason	Minister of Transportation
Margaret McCuaig-Boyd	Minister of Energy
Stephanie V. McLean	Minister of Service Alberta, Minister of Status of Women
Ricardo Miranda	Minister of Culture and Tourism
Brandy Payne	Associate Minister of Health
Shannon Phillips	Minister of Environment and Parks, Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office
Irfan Sabir	Minister of Community and Social Services
Marlin Schmidt	Minister of Advanced Education
Lori Sigurdson	Minister of Seniors and Housing

Parliamentary Secretaries

Jessica Littlewood	Economic Development and Trade for Small Business
Annie McKittrick	Education

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Coolahan
Deputy Chair: Mrs. Schreiner

Cyr	McKitrick
Dang	Taylor
Ellis	Turner
Horne	

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Chair: Mr. Sucha
Deputy Chair: Mr. van Dijken

Carson	McPherson
Connolly	Panda
Coolahan	Piquette
Dach	Schneider
Fitzpatrick	Schreiner
Gill	Taylor
Gotfried	

Select Special Auditor General Search Committee

Chair: Mr. Shepherd
Deputy Chair: Mr. Malkinson

Cyr	Littlewood
Gill	van Dijken
Horne	Woollard
Kleinsteinuber	

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Ms Goehring
Deputy Chair: Mr. Smith

Aheer	Miller
Drever	Orr
Hinkley	Shepherd
Horne	Swann
Jansen	Vacant
Luff	Yao
McKitrick	

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Shepherd
Deputy Chair: Mr. Malkinson

Drever	Nixon
Gill	Pitt
Horne	van Dijken
Kleinsteinuber	Woollard
Littlewood	

Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

Chair: Mr. Wanner
Deputy Chair: Cortes-Vargas

Cooper	Nixon
Dang	Orr
Jabbour	Piquette
Luff	Schreiner
McIver	

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Chair: Ms McPherson
Deputy Chair: Connolly

Anderson, W.	Kleinsteinuber
Babcock	McKitrick
Drever	Rosendahl
Drysdale	Stier
Fraser	Strankman
Hinkley	Sucha
Kazim	

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Ms Fitzpatrick
Deputy Chair: Ms Babcock

Carson	Loyola
Coolahan	McPherson
Cooper	Nielsen
Ellis	Schneider
Goehring	Starke
Hanson	van Dijken
Kazim	

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Mr. Cyr
Deputy Chair: Mr. Dach

Barnes	Malkinson
Fildebrandt	Miller
Fraser	Panda
Goehring	Renaud
Gotfried	Turner
Littlewood	Westhead
Luff	

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Chair: Loyola
Deputy Chair: Mr. Hunter

Babcock	Loewen
Clark	MacIntyre
Dang	Malkinson
Drysdale	Nielsen
Hanson	Rosendahl
Kazim	Woollard
Kleinsteinuber	

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 7, 2017

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon.
Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River.

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on your behalf to introduce to all members of the Assembly our constituency staff. Your constituency staff and their families: Laura Deschamps, Denis Deschamps, Danielle Deschamps, Della Kirkham, Stephen Bjarnason, Sam Bjarnason, and Jack Bjarnason, who are visiting us from Medicine Hat.

Laura Deschamps works in the Medicine Hat constituency office. She recently received her bachelor of social work through the University of Calgary and enjoys curling in her spare time. Denis Deschamps has been a district manager in the oil and gas industry for the past 35 years and enjoys hockey, fishing, and riding his motorcycle. Danielle Deschamps is in her third year of studying education at the University of Alberta. She is an avid Edmonton Oilers fan and enjoys recreational hockey, travelling, and participating in volunteer work. Della Kirkham recently joined the Medicine Hat constituency office but has had the privilege of knowing the Speaker for almost 15 years. Stephen Bjarnason is a career research scientist for the federal government and is acting centre director for Defence Research and Development Canada at CFB Suffield. Jack Bjarnason is 16 and, when not studying or video gaming, practises trumpet and is preparing for the spring track and field. Sam Bjarnason is 13, and he plays the trombone and is on the football team and wrestling team. The constituency staff and their families are all standing up. I would like them to receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

In addition, I would also like to welcome my constituency staff, Evan Gardner; a constituency staff member for the Deputy Chair of Committees who is up there as well, Page Moniz; and Kevin. My apologies, Kevin. We really rely on all of you, and it's a particularly difficult balance because you have to work so closely with the Speaker's staff as well and support us in our multiple roles. Thank you so much. We really appreciate you being here.

The Speaker: Welcome and thank you.
The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you a young, inspiring Albertan, avid volunteer, and community and, perhaps, political leader of the future, Ms Kinga Nolan. Kinga is a graduate from Dr. E.P. Scarlett high school in the wonderful constituency of Calgary-Fish Creek who's been politically active since she was four years old, from volunteering on political campaigns to, more recently, promoting youth political engagement. In high school alone she volunteered nearly 20 hours a week for various causes and was awarded the Premier's citizenship award as a result. Kinga's hard work also led to her being one of the winners of 50 national Schulich leadership scholarships, valued at \$80,000, to study science in university. However, Kinga's success hasn't been without challenges. Several years ago she suffered a severe head injury and has since become an advocate for increased safety and resources surrounding these types of injuries.

She would like to see a form of Rowan's law, a bill addressing head injury safety originally passed unanimously in Ontario, adopted in Alberta. As well, she hopes that Alberta Health Services will dedicate support to the 10,000 Albertans diagnosed with head injuries annually as well as those who continue to suffer symptoms. I would ask Kinga to rise and remain standing to receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Dr. Starke: Well, thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure for me today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the three ladies who have the hardest job in the world, and that is trying to make me look good. They're, of course... [interjections] Yes. I can already hear the Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills starting to hum *The Impossible Dream* from *Man of La Mancha*. Now, these three ladies staff the constituency offices in both Vermilion and Lloydminster. They provide outstanding service to the constituents of Vermilion-Lloydminster, but I can say that while they do bring me coffee, they've given up trying to write speeches for me, and they have never brought me lipstick. It's my pleasure to introduce – and I'll ask them to stand – from my Vermilion office, Susan Hodges Marlowe and Emily Dye and, from the Lloydminster office, Kathy Bootsman. I'd ask my colleagues to give them the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome. You would have to have been in this House at 2 o'clock in the morning to pick up on the intent of his comment about lipstick.

The hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Mr. Hunter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my profound pleasure to be able to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Angela Strojwas. Angela is my constituency assistant in Taber and has tirelessly worked with me for the past two and a half years. As members come and go in this government, great staff that can withstand the test of time and change are hard to come by. Angela has done just that, serving diligently with a smile in the constituency office for the last 20 years. We know in this House that our jobs are made tremendously easier when we have excellent staff working tirelessly behind the scenes. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to Angela for her decades of dedication to the residents of southern Alberta. I ask Angela to stand, as she has, and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for St. Albert.

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise and introduce to you and through you some very special guests. Inspector Pam Robinson assumed command of the St. Albert RCMP detachment this summer. She's an 18-year member who's been a member of Project Kare and has been the acting officer in charge of ALERT. With her are Corporal Laurel Kading, a 33-year member of the RCMP who's done everything from guarding foreign embassies to investigating crime; Constable Patrick Lambert, a 9-year member of the RCMP who is an investigator with the St. Albert community policing section; and Auxiliary Constable Shelly Ullery, a retired member of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry whose current work as a volunteer auxiliary constable is an integral part of community policing in St. Albert. I'd ask my very special guests to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

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

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Derrick Schulte from the Alberta Regional Council of Carpenters and Allied Workers. The council represents more than 12,000 carpenters, scaffolders, millwrights, roofers, ISM mechanics, drywallers, and floor layers in our province. Derrick is a 30-year journeyman carpenter and scaffolder who has helped build and maintain Alberta's refineries and plants across the province. He has recently been made executive secretary treasurer of the Alberta Regional Council of Carpenters and Allied Workers. I'd like to express my congratulations to him. He's especially proud of the new members who voted in a secret ballot this week for union representation, seeking better wages, benefits, and working conditions. I'd like to ask the Assembly to give him the traditional warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you today to all members of the Assembly the seva community, formerly known as the seva food truck, which operates in Edmonton and Calgary. Seva is a charitable community initiative spearheaded by the Sikh community. Their programs look to build a greater good for all. They work with schools to provide children with a free-of-charge extracurricular meal and workshop program, and they reach out to vulnerable inner-city residents in my constituency with a free weekly meal program. Here today are Manjit Nerval, Zora Jhaggi, Kulmit Sangha, Bean Gill, Nasra Adem, Gagan Hoonjan, Parminder Nerval, Jessy Nerval, Rick Gill, and Sheena Gill. I ask them all to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Shaw.

Mr. Sucha: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. This introduction was actually a little bit of an argument in the Leg. cafeteria between the Member for Calgary-Bow and the Member for Calgary-East, but I won this one. My CA Katie Snut would be very excited to see this gentleman who's in the gallery today. I'd like to introduce Mr. Mark Laycock, who's the director of Métis Calgary Family Services, which provides human services for persons requiring indigenous-specific services. He also does a lot of work with urban indigenous populations within Calgary. I'd ask that he please rise and receive the warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. It's my absolute privilege to introduce to you and through you to all my colleagues two visitors who are in the members' gallery. I invite them to rise as I introduce them. They are Joshua Perez and his mother, Myla Perez. Joshua is a grade 6 student at Our Lady of Peace school in my constituency of Edmonton-Glenora. He has a knack for drawing and submitted a most beautiful image, that I am proud to put on my Christmas card this year to send to many constituents and others from around Edmonton-Glenora. His art is featured in this card. I'm so proud of him and his artistic skills, and so is his mother. It's an honour to be able to share it with the constituents. I want to wish

Joshua, his mother, and all residents of Edmonton-Glenora a very Merry Christmas. Please join me in extending our welcome.

1:40

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Mrs. Littlewood: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly Mr. Frank Garritsen. He is a tremendous advocate for the community of Fort Saskatchewan. Frank was basically born in Fort Saskatchewan before we had a hospital out there, so in Edmonton. He was raised his whole life in Fort Saskatchewan and spent 27 years as a corrections officer and also served two years on city council. Frank incurred PTSD and attempted suicide as a result of working in corrections. That has led Frank to be a brave voice advocating on behalf of himself and fellow corrections officers working to get presumptive PTSD legislation coverage for corrections officers. Back in 2012 it was introduced by our Premier to try and amend the legislation at the time to include them as first responders because they see murder, assault, suicide, and all manner of other things that the rest of us can never really fully appreciate. I thank him for his service. It's my honour to be able to call him one of my most valued and best friends, and I hope to see Bill 30 fully clarified before we pass it because corrections officers are first responders.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Chamber, in the government gallery, I believe, Mr. Greg Herzog, a farmer from Delia, and Ms Rhea Brady from the wonderful town of Drumheller. Would they please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my supreme privilege today to introduce to you maybe the best constituency office manager in the province. [interjection] Yeah. Absolutely. Anyways, Cheryl Christie, thank you for being here, and please stand and receive the warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you two very special guests. Alberta has tremendous, great constituency assistants who do many, many things for us. Three of them are helping constituents that have a need or an idea, helping a constituent that has fallen through the cracks, or helping a constituent that just needs somebody to listen. Cypress-Medicine Hat is very, very fortunate to have two of the best. I would like to introduce to you, first of all, Shelley Beck, that has worked very, very hard for me for over five years, and, secondly, Michaela Glasgo, who for two years has worked very hard and is a great fiscal conservative although she still owes me two deer steaks. I would like to ask both ladies to please rise and accept the traditional warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

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

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to stand and introduce to you and through you and to correct some

of the members, because I actually have the best office staff in Alberta, Sharon Christensen and Nancy Pratch. My office staff are very good at their job and are very consistent in helping our constituents navigate the infuriating waters, sometimes, of our provincial ministries. As well, I'd like to take this moment to introduce my wife, who is, in my humble opinion, the hottest grandma in Alberta, Donna Hanson. If you'd all please rise.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Bow.

Drever: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How can I top that?

I would like to introduce to you and through you a special guest of mine, the president of my EDA, Lizette Tejada. She's a wonderful advocate for the community of Bowness, and I'm so happy she's here to watch question period. I ask her to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Hon. Member for St. Albert, I understand you have another guest.

Ms Renaud: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you Mr. Tom Genore, who is a constituent and the president of our constituency association. I'll ask him to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River.

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you a very important group of individuals in the galleries today who play a key role in the democratic process in the province of Alberta. Our constituency assistants are often the first point of contact for people in the communities we serve. Their jobs can be rewarding, but they're very demanding and very difficult, and I have to say that at this time of the year, when their MLAs are getting tired and we've been sitting for a while, I'm sure that they're extremely difficult. Thank you so much. We know how hard you work on our behalf.

They are all here today participating in the winter constituency employee learning and development seminar, which is developed each year with their unique roles and requirements in mind. The seminar provides them with an opportunity to network with each other and obtain an overview of numerous programs and services that are available through the Legislative Assembly Office.

Each year the service and contributions of these individuals are celebrated with an employee recognition dinner, which you will be hosting, Mr. Speaker, later on this evening. There are over 85 constituency office employees here with us from all corners of the province. I'd ask that they all please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: It doesn't happen very often in here that we can get all of you folks to agree on one thing, that being that you may think you have the power, but the power really is up there.

Hon. members, are there any other introductions? The Minister of Children's Services.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three sets of introductions today. Firstly, I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly a group of fantastic partners in serving children and families in southern Alberta. Zakk Morrison is the director of the Barons-Eureka-Warner FCSS and parent link centres, serving 13 southern Alberta communities. Zakk has with him two parent coaches from the Taber, Barnwell,

Vauxhall parent link centre sites, Jackie Fiorino and Kim Forchuk. I ask that my guests receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

For my second introduction I'm so pleased to have with us today representatives from the Intercultural Child and Family Centre here in Edmonton, one of Alberta's early learning and child care centres, where, thanks to our government's support, they offer affordable, accessible, high-quality child care for only \$25 a day. I ask my guests to rise as I call their names and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly: Jasvinder Heran, Mary Lynne Matheson, Kate Kidd, Ellen Genchez, and Ernie Yamniuk.

Lastly, my third introduction is an individual I met while meeting with residents of Sherwood Park interested in child care and early learning. Paola Ruiz talked to me about the need for more affordability, something I've heard from parents, providers, and experts across the province. Paola, please stand and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition.

Energy Policies

Mr. Nixon: Lucky for us that this government is so incompetent that it leaves its own internal analysis on the impact of disastrous oil and gas regulations lying around for anyone to find, and every so often the NDP also shows their true colours. While responding to a question yesterday, the Minister of Economic Development and Trade justified the government's heavy-handed rules by saying that they were moving in a direction of more ethical oil. To the Premier: is it really your government's policy or your government's thoughts that Alberta does not have ethical oil, or will you apologize for your minister's comments?

1:50

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

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bilous: Our energy industry is the most ethical and responsible in the world. Our partners in oil and gas deserve enormous credit, and they have unwavering support from their government. We've introduced new carbon competitiveness incentives that will spur a race to the top. They'll allow us to reduce emissions, spur new investment, and get a pipeline to tidewater, something that that side could never do. I am proud to stand in this House, Mr. Speaker, every day in support of our industry.

Mr. Nixon: Well, Mr. Speaker, it would be nice if the minister would apologize.

Let me be very clear about the record of the government that is across from us right now. They have two cancelled pipelines, another one that is on the ropes, and over and over and over they show their true colours. They try to mislead Albertans or hide it from them, but then it slips out like it did in question period. Instead of the minister standing up and reading his talking points, he should stand up and apologize for his comments to the people that work hard in Alberta's oil and gas industry. The question to the minister is: will you stand up and apologize for your ridiculous comments yesterday? [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. members.

The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I've answered the question, but it's not surprising that the member keeps asking. After all, the mind of a UCP member is a scary place. In recent days we've learned that they think socialists eat dogs, that marijuana leads directly to communism, and that Pinochet's reign of terror was "a success story." You can't make this stuff up, but if the UCP wants to keep talking, be my guest.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, they actually did make that stuff up.

Here is what has happened here today. We brought up a clear example of what the minister said that is in *Hansard*. The minister said that about our oil and gas industry, and instead of acknowledging that what he said was wrong and apologizing for it, he deflected and tried to avoid the issue. Again, Mr. Speaker, through you to the minister: will you stand up and apologize for your ridiculous comments about our oil and gas industry and the people that work in it?

Mr. Bilous: Mr. Speaker, the members opposite may talk about supporting Alberta jobs, but their own leader, Jason Kenney, takes money from a PAC that is openly supporting Saskatchewan, which is cutting off access for Alberta construction workers. If Kenney won't stand up for Alberta now, when will he? Perhaps he should be running in Saskatchewan. We will stand up in support of our workers. We will take the government of Saskatchewan to court if we have to. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. members, I know you have a lot of fans in the gallery, but I can sense that today will be one of those robust events that we share with each other, so I would ask that all of you continue to practise that respect across and minimize the verbiage from one side of the House to the other.

I think we're on the second main question.

Provincial Response to Pipeline Opposition

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, let's be very clear. Jason Kenney and this side of the House think what has happened in Saskatchewan with the licence plate issue is ridiculous. The question that comes from that is that this minister came out within five minutes to stand up against that issue, but five months ago an NDP antipipeline government was elected in B.C., and still this government has had nothing but words and has not threatened any consequences for what's happening. So put your money where your mouth is, Minister. Are you going to do that or not?

Ms Hoffman: I am so proud to have a Premier who has gone to the Members of the House of Commons in Ottawa and told the NDP: "You need to smarten up. You need to have a plan that keeps workers top of mind." She told the Conservatives: "You guys need to listen up. You need to stop acting like you're living on an island and work with our neighbouring provinces." And she told the Liberal government, "You need to make sure that you're working with us, that you're stepping up," and that's exactly what they've done. They're standing with us to make sure we get access to tidewater, they've joined our call, and we will get that pipeline built. You can mark my words. [interjection]

The Speaker: Hon. member. Just stop. That's all you have to do, stop.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, talk is cheap. The Premier can stand up in this House and the NDP can stand up over and over and say

things, but they are not doing the same thing in B.C. They are not bringing forward serious consequences as a result of the action in the B.C. government that's taking place. The B.C. Premier confirmed that when he met with Alberta's Premier, she did not even try to persuade him on pipelines. How is that for standing up for this serious project? Are the minister's words yesterday against our oil and gas industry actually how this government feels?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, the members on the other side are trying to spin. They're trying to create tantrums. You know what? If you want to behave like grown-ups, you have to sit at the table and act like grown-ups, and that's exactly what our government is doing. This week we worked with industry to make sure that we're working with Kinder Morgan, with the NEB to work to resolve the dispute in Burnaby. And you know who joined us there? The federal government, because we're acting like grown-ups. We're treating them with respect, and we're working to protect our industry and our workers. It's about time the members opposite stopped playing politics and making stuff up and started standing up for Albertans and Alberta jobs.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, to question the B.C. Premier's direct quote to a newspaper – I will take him at his word. I disagree with his position, but I take him at his word and would not deny it in this House. Again, you watch the anger machine across as they completely try to avoid the issue. What, if anything, has this government actually done, concrete, with the B.C. government and when was the last time that they did it to get this pipeline built?

Ms Hoffman: Well, exactly one week ago today the Premier was in British Columbia, and she was making that very case. We continue to have diplomatic, respectful relationships to make sure we get our products to tidewater. Guess what? On that side of the House their leader treaded water in Ottawa for 20 years, and guess what? It got him nowhere. It got Alberta nowhere. Instead, we take calm, measured actions to support Kinder Morgan and our partners while that side wants to yell, whine, complain, light their hair on fire. Frankly, they sound like Donald Trump. They're building walls. We're building a pipeline. [interjection]

The Speaker: I would encourage you to contain your comments, hon. member.

I think we're at the third main question. Please proceed.

Mr. Nixon: Well, let's talk about walls, Mr. Speaker. The government across from me has allowed a complete attack on us by letting the Liberals block and use upstream and downstream emissions to stop our projects and our pipelines. That's building a wall around our largest industry.

The question, though, that I ask, the last question, Mr. Speaker, is: why did the Premier not try to persuade B.C.'s Premier on pipelines? Why did the Premier not even raise this important issue with the B.C. government the last time that she was in Vancouver? Why? That is a simple question. Don't stand up and call people names. Stand up and answer the question. We're asking about your government and what they are doing to get this pipeline built. It's nothing so far.

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, on this side we are not afraid of anything, and on this side we will stand up for the people of Alberta. Every time we have an opportunity to talk to our partners from across this country, we make a good case for Alberta, and we make a good case for Canada because it's in the national interest to make sure we get our product to tidewater, to make sure we get a fair price for the owners of that resource, Albertans, and to make sure that

employers, industry, and the people of Alberta have good access to markets, a good environment. On this side of the House we're getting results. That's why we got two pipeline approvals when you guys failed to get any. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. members.

Mr. Nixon: This government has two pipelines that are cancelled. That's all they have under their record. They have another one that's on the ropes. When something goes wrong between Saskatchewan and Alberta, they come out in five minutes and start to rightly defend our province on that issue. But when something is going wrong with the B.C. government and they're blocking a major construction project to get our product to market, this government will do nothing except for saying one thing in Alberta and saying another thing when they meet with the B.C. government. When will you start saying the same thing to the B.C. Premier as you are saying in this House? When, Premier? [interjection]

The Speaker: Hon. member.
The Deputy Premier.

2:00

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this side of the House we stand with working people, we stand with the environment, we stand with our industry to make sure we get results so that we can all stand and be proud. On that side of the House they're sitting at the kids' table, throwing tantrums, and wanting to behave in a petulant way. You know what that gets you? Zero. We saw it after 20 years of their leader being in Ottawa. On this side of the House: two pipeline approvals, and we're proud of that.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, again, this government has two cancelled pipelines under their watch. My leader, when he was in Ottawa, had many pipelines built, which I have listed before in this House. But we see the Deputy Premier trying to dodge the question yet again.

The fact is this. When the Premier went to B.C. and met with the leader of the NDP Party in B.C., she did not even try to persuade him about this pipeline project. My question is: why not, has she since then, and if not, when is she going to start working with the B.C. government and put serious consequences down if they keep blocking our pipelines?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, we've made it very clear time and time again that we will stand up for the people of Alberta. We will stand with the town of Beaumont, not the mayor of Burnaby. I know that the members on the other side are cheering for failure. They're cheering. They can't wait. They really want Alberta's economy to tank. But on this side of the House we're working. We've gotten approvals, and things are looking up. Drilling is up, housing starts are up, and car sales are up. You know what? Up, up, up. I feel like Shania.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow. [interjections]
Order, please. Order.

Valuing Mental Health Report Recommendations

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nearly two years ago the Valuing Mental Health report made 32 recommendations to improve Albertans' access to mental health services. In June of this year we received an update on the government's progress in implementing those recommendations. Unfortunately, although the government says that it's a work-in-progress, there have been very few concrete outcomes. To the Minister of Health. One of the most straightforward recommendations was to create a performance-

monitoring framework, but those measures are nowhere to be found on the Alberta Health website. What is the status of that framework, and when will Albertans see results?

The Speaker: The Associate Minister of Health.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Our government has made mental health and addictions treatment a priority, not just for Health but across ministries. Community leaders and service agencies are key partners in this work and were central to creating the Valuing Mental Health: Next Steps action plan, which includes the evaluation framework the member opposite referred to. We've invested over \$80 million for mental health and substance use supports this year, including \$15 million specifically dedicated to implementing Valuing Mental Health: Next Steps.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, Albertans are incredibly frustrated by this government's slow pace of implementation. Albertans are waiting and in some cases dying from the lack of an integrated mental health care system. Here's another straightforward recommendation that should have been easily implemented. The report calls on government to create a comprehensive list of mental health services available in this province. Again to the Minister of Health: in the nearly two years since the report was released, have you created this listing, and if so, where can Albertans find it?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Better, faster access to mental health services and supports for those using substances, like new detox beds, treatment spaces, and supervised consumption sites, is important work, as is early intervention for children and youth. To that end, we've created connections with primary care networks as part of whole-person and team-based care. [interjections] Mental health should not be stigmatized and treated as something separate. If any Albertans have any questions about mental health supports in their community, I encourage them to contact 211 or Health Link through 811 and ask to be connected to the mental health support line. [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. members.
Second supplemental.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, they have the Internet on computers now, and it's possible to create these things and put them online, so I'd expect to see a list.

Mr. Speaker, the most recent Health business plan contains only a single measurable goal when it comes to mental health. While outpatient addiction treatment is certainly an important aspect of mental health, it is only one narrow part of a much larger problem. Again to the Minister of Health: why have you included only one of 32 recommendations from the Valuing Mental Health report in your 2017-20 business plan, and what does this say about your government's commitment to mental health?

The Speaker: The associate minister.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaking of the Internet, I would also like to highlight a website that's been launched by our government called help4me.ca – that's the number "4" – which specifically lists resources for young people and children and their families. Our government has, with Valuing Mental Health: Next Steps, implemented a majority of the recommendations from the Valuing Mental Health report, working with community partners to make sure that we're able to target investments that will make the

most impact for Albertans and their families, which is a far cry from what members opposite would do when they call for deep cuts to undermine . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Saskatchewan's Construction Site Ban on Alberta Licence Plates

Mrs. Schreiner: Mr. Speaker, given that the province of Saskatchewan said that they were banning Alberta plates on government road projects and given that the government of Saskatchewan made unsubstantiated allegations that Saskatchewan workers in Alberta feel pressured to switch over to Alberta plates when working on construction projects here, can the Minister of Economic Development and Trade clarify for this House and for the province of Saskatchewan: what is the requirement here?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no requirement for Saskatchewan workers on government construction sites to switch plates. Now, unlike those who want to build walls, we want to work together with other provinces to increase trade. I understand why workers from Saskatchewan would want to come to Alberta to look for work, with our economic growth that's leading the country. The fact is that a worker from Saskatchewan can drive across the border today, work on the southwest Calgary ring road, and not have to get Alberta plates.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mrs. Schreiner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: beyond the unsubstantiated allegations, why do you think the government of Saskatchewan imposed such a ban on Alberta plates?

Mr. Bilous: Mr. Speaker, the Premier of Saskatchewan is trying to distract from the fact that their economy is lagging behind. You see, Brad Wall, during a downturn, chose to make reckless and extreme cuts, the same cuts that Jason Kenney is calling for. Saskatchewan's GDP growth was revised downward, small-business confidence is down, and full-time jobs are down. Now, let's compare that to here in Alberta, where we chose to invest in infrastructure and protect public services Albertans rely on. Our GDP growth is the fastest in the country. Jobs are up, wages are up, and manufacturing is up. Our plan is working; their plan is not.

The Speaker: Second supplemental. [interjections] Order, please.

Mrs. Schreiner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that there are trade agreements between provinces that govern the mobility of labour and given that Saskatchewan's move appears to have contravened the trade agreement, to the same minister: what is our government doing to fight back against Saskatchewan's protectionist move and stand up for Alberta workers?

Mr. Bilous: Mr. Speaker, we made it clear that Premier Wall needs to smarten up, kill this restriction, or we'll take them to court. We told them that they have one week to do so yesterday, so the clock is ticking. [interjection]

The Speaker: Hon. member.
Please continue.

Mr. Bilous: We told them that they have one week to do so yesterday, so the clock is ticking. They have six days to comply.

Mr. Speaker, we have the backs of Alberta workers, but the opposition and Jason Kenney have been buddy-buddy with Premier Wall for some time, so I want to ask them: when will you stand up for . . .

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

Mr. Nixon: Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order noted.

The hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Dr. Starke: Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to represent Canada's border city, Lloydminster. With our biprovincial status, it is critical that the governments in Regina and Edmonton be on good working terms. That's why the current brouhaha over licence plates is of such concern. When the provinces aren't getting along and are feuding like schoolboys, it's the people of Lloydminster that suffer. To the minister of economic development and tirade . . .

Mr. Bilous: Point of order.

Dr. Starke: . . . yesterday you told the Premier of Saskatchewan to smarten up. I'm sure that if one of their ministers said the same thing to our Premier, Albertans would be outraged, so will you withdraw your intemperate remark and apologize to Premier Wall and the people of Saskatchewan?

2:10

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder when the hon. member who posed that question will apologize to Alberta workers and businesses for an unfair, non trade compliant restriction that the government of Saskatchewan has brought in. They're attacking Alberta businesses. Our government has the backs of Alberta businesses and Alberta workers, and we're going to fight back. Their ridiculous restriction is non trade compliant. They know that. We know that. They've got six days to do the right thing.

Dr. Starke: Well, Mr. Speaker, an NDP minister trying to out-Trump Trump and out-Kenney Kenney.

Mr. Speaker, given that the people of Lloydminster rely on collaboration between the provinces for the seamless delivery of health care, education, social services, policing – and the list goes on – and given that every time there is a spat between the two governments, that should be allies, it's the people of Lloydminster who suffer, to the minister of economic development and blockade: when you made your little outburst yesterday, did you even give a moment's thought about the negative effects it would have on the people of Lloydminster?

The Speaker: Hon. member, I cannot cite the exact standing order, but in the many orders that I've read, I believe that there is a practice in the House that you use the specific title of the minister when you are addressing them. I would appreciate that. [interjections]

Hon. members. [interjection] Hon. member.

I would ask that all of you practise that in the future.

The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, I do understand the premise of the member's question and his concern as far as Lloydminster being a border town and how important trade is. I can tell you that trade is extremely important. My hope is to work collaboratively with Saskatchewan and British Columbia to enhance trade and our trade corridors. But when the government of

Saskatchewan makes allegations with no merit behind them and tries to build walls around their province and hurt Alberta businesses and Alberta companies, I will not apologize for standing up for the people of this province.

Dr. Starke: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that any ongoing disagreement between our provincial governments hurts the people of Lloydminster and given that name-calling and threats of legal action do nothing to solve those issues and given that the real solution is an open and constructive dialogue between the provinces, something that we're pretty good at in Lloydminster, to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade. I understand that you've called Saskatchewan – so you can call the 306 area code on your phone – and received no answer. Minister, I see Saskatchewan from my front door, and they do answer my calls. Do you want me to call and have a chat with them for you?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder which side of the border the hon. member lives on. He's clearly cheering for Saskatchewan.

I can tell you that we will continue to argue and fight and stand up for Alberta workers. Now, what I can say is that we've seen this story before, and we know how it ends. Earlier this year Premier Wall was trying to use Saskatchewan tax dollars to offer incentives to lure Alberta businesses there. He had to walk back from it because it was non trade compliant. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that their actions are not trade compliant. We will continue to stand up for Alberta workers and Alberta businesses, and I will not apologize.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Greenhouse Gas Large Emitter Regulations

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the government announced changes to the specified gas emitters regulation, and unfortunately it's just more bad news for our oil and gas sector. Given that the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers estimated that the changes will cause a fivefold increase in costs to our industry, it is no wonder that investors' confidence in Alberta is in free fall. To the minister: will you please explain how increasing industry's costs five times will lead to increased investment and more jobs?

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

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll encourage the member to take a look at his notes because I think they're a little outdated. I can tell you this much. The world is changing, and members of Alberta's oil and gas industry understand that better than anyone, and they want to be a part of that change. Cenovus Energy said that our plan is, quote: an important step forward in addressing climate change as it will incent those facilities with the lowest emissions intensity. End quote. Our stakeholders are calling our approach thoughtful, fair, and smart, and I can tell you that by investing \$1.4 billion in innovation, we will continue to be the world leader.

Mr. Barnes: Given that the Premier is raising corporate, personal, carbon, and producers' tax rates, capping oil sands development, introducing onerous new regulations, and generally driving this province's economy into the ground and that our neighbour and largest competitor is implementing broad reforms, including cutting

taxes and repealing burdensome regulations, to the Premier: how does creating jobs in Texas and Oklahoma help the tens of thousands of unemployed Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it interesting that the members opposite want to continue to take advice from a Premier and a government that are seeing their economy in free fall. Their economy is shrinking. Job losses are up. You know, what their Premier did do was increase their PST to 6 per cent. That's not something that we're doing. We're not bringing that in. We stand with industry. Let me tell you what Jonathan Moser, who is the head of environment and public affairs at Lafarge Canada, said of our plan, quote: it will allow us to still be competitive to make the cement that we make every day to support the infrastructure we enjoy in Alberta, where we work, play, and live. End quote. Our made-in-Alberta solution . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I, too, was deeply disappointed to hear the Minister of Economic Development and Trade imply that our province's oil and gas industry is operating unethically. It was a slap in the face to tens of thousands of Albertans working in the safest and the most environmentally sensitive resource industry in the entire world, a record all Albertans can be very, very proud of. Will the minister do the right thing, withdraw the offensive comments, and actually apologize to all Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know what? We are proud of our energy industry. We know that our industry is top of class. We are the most sustainable oil and gas producing jurisdiction in the world, and we are very proud of our industry. You know what we're doing? We're investing \$1.4 billion in innovation so we can bump that bar even higher. We know that we come up with solutions here in Alberta. Our oil and gas sector is cutting-edge. We're proud of the work they do, and we're going to support them to continue to be the world leader.

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

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Energy stated over a year ago that "shovels will be in the ground within the year" with respect to the Kinder Morgan pipeline. A year later still no shovels, and Kinder Morgan will be spending 2018 getting local permits and losing \$75 million a month for the delays. To the Minister of Energy. The energy industry does not need any more challenges at this time. Why do you plan to take \$1.3 billion annually from the energy sector with your so-called carbon competitiveness incentives plan?

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

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I'll encourage the members opposite to maybe have a conversation with industry from time to time because what they will hear is that industry recognizes that we need to invest in innovation to ensure that they're doing two things. One, we are reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, and we are shrinking our environmental footprint while at the same time they're reducing their costs and making them more competitive. We are proud of our energy industry. We're proud to work with them.

We've been working with them for over two years on this plan. We have their backs, unlike the members opposite, who want to stick their heads in the ground.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

2:20

Mr. van Dijken: Mr. Speaker, given that the carbon competitiveness incentives plan for Alberta was estimated by the government to have more job losses than the coal phase-out and given that Tim McMillan, head of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, said that it looks like the carbon tax is going up fivefold on the industry and that capital is fleeing to the U.S.A. and other places, to the Minister of Energy: if this was one of the most incredible, engaging rounds of consultation ever conducted, why are CAPP and so many others unhappy with the results? [interjections]

The Speaker: Hon. Member for Calgary-Hays, can it.
The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new carbon competitiveness incentives will support large industrial emitters to be more competitive while reducing their emissions and encouraging investment in renewables. Rather than pay lip service to reducing emissions, something members opposite in their former time in government often did, our approach rewards the best in class for large emitters. This is going to encourage a race to the top through new investment in new facilities, improvements to existing facilities. Now, we know that this is going to take time. That's why we listened to industry and are phasing in improved rules over three years.

Mr. van Dijken: Mr. Speaker, CNRL, Imperial, and the electricity industry are not pleased with the government's carbon competitiveness incentive plan. Given that the Premier stated to the Vancouver board of trade that there is not a school, hospital, bus, road, bike lane, or port that doesn't owe something to a strong energy industry – and now this minister is calling our industry unethical – can the minister explain why this government is perpetuating this sustained attack on our energy industry, the industry that provides a high quality of life and transfer payments to the rest of Canada?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know what? Our made-in-Alberta solution rewards the kind of new construction investments that are going to keep Alberta competitive in a global market. Doing nothing is no longer an option. We are an export economy. We must adapt to the changing global landscape. But don't take my word for it. This is Dawn Farrell, the CEO of TransAlta.

TransAlta is pleased that the Alberta government is recognizing the value of existing and new renewable energy, including hydro. Hydro has been an integral part of the Alberta power system for decades and will continue to be a critical component as we reduce emissions and transition to clean power generation.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Energy Policies (continued)

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Economic Development and Trade accused the opposition of being offensive because we questioned his policies, but what's really offensive is

that the same minister suggested that Fort McMurray's oil industry is unethical. This government likes to say that all of its anti oil sands opinions have been reformed to pro-oil stances, but clearly that isn't true, not to mention that it's not NDP policy. To the Premier: is this message of unethical Alberta oil one that you're promoting on your taxpayer-funded business trips, and what is the minister of environment saying in Minnesota right now?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just because the opposition says it three times – Beetlejuice, Beetlejuice, Beetlejuice – doesn't make it true. Just because you say and assert that things happened on this side of the House, it means, actually, just that you're saying and asserting things. The truth is that on this side of the House we stand with industry, we stand with employers, and we stand with workers. That's why Cenovus, Lafarge, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, TransAlta – we've had Shell and others onside – are supporting things like our climate leadership plan, the OBAs. On this side of the House we get results for Albertans. That side of the House wants to pretend Ottawa will take care of it. Well, you know what? Their leader was in Ottawa . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, given that oil sands companies are very active in reclamation and that these reclaimed sites are thriving and given that Fort McMurray's air quality is better than Vancouver's or Montreal's, not to mention that we don't dump sewage into the water, and given that oil sands companies are often at the forefront of clean technologies, to the minister: will you come up to Fort McMurray and explain to my constituents why our oil and our industries are unethical?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, our government, our Premier, our Minister of Energy all stand with industry. We are proud of the work that our oil and gas sector does. In fact, last month I was in Abu Dhabi for ADIPEC, the second-largest world oil and gas trade show, with 50 Alberta companies. Let me tell you that there is significant interest to invest in our oil and gas sector. They recognize we have the technology, the expertise, and that some of the most qualified people in the world are here in Alberta.

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, they chased all the internationals out of Fort McMurray.

Given that Fort McMurray and Alberta's oil sands are economic drivers in this province that create jobs for thousands of people not just in Alberta but across our country and given the fact that this industry also invests heavily in the nonprofit sector and that they continue to help Albertans while this government continues to impose harmful policies and regulations on them, to the minister: will you come up north and explain to my constituents your comments? I demand that you apologize to them.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member needs to check his facts because just two months ago JACOS, a Japan oil and gas company, announced a new \$2 billion expansion of their existing oil sands facility up in Fort McMurray. Drilling activity is up, with 64 per cent more wells drilled this year. Husky energy announced that they're going to boost their capital spending. Last month we learned Chevron is ramping up spending in the oil patch,

investing up to a billion on the Duvernay shale basin. Cenovus Energy has more than doubled its production this year. CNRL has also increased production. Suncor reported their best quarterly results since oil was \$100 a barrel. [interjections]

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

Hon. members, how many of you are looking forward to gifts in your socks at Christmastime? Please. We've got a lot of late nights, folks, and we need to keep each other together.

Public Service Pension Plans

Dr. Turner: Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents are part of a public-sector pension such as the local authorities pension plan or the Alberta teachers' pension plan. A few years ago, under the previous Conservative government, there was a great deal of uncertainty about the viability of these plans. To the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance: what is our government doing to ensure the ongoing functionality of these vital pension plans for Albertans?

Mr. Ceci: Our government believes, Mr. Speaker, that all Albertans deserve a dignified retirement. That's why we supported common-sense and phased-in changes to CPP that will benefit Albertans.

As for the public-sector plans, I'm pleased to report that excellent strides have been made towards full funding of those plans. The public-sector pension plan is at 90 per cent funded, and the local authorities pension plan is 94 per cent funded.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Dr. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. Given that I understand from my work on the Alberta heritage trust fund committee that our pension plans' investments are managed by AIMCo and that AIMCo has had good returns for these investments, what effect will that have on prospective pension contribution rates for my constituents and for the government?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you. The public-sector pension plan and the local authorities pension plan are tremendously important to thousands of Alberta workers and retirees. AIMCo does an excellent job, and I would just say that their 10-year anniversary is tonight, Mr. Speaker. They've done an excellent job investing funds on behalf of Albertans, and I want to thank them for their hard work. These plans had been unfunded liabilities for some time before, but it looks like that gap is closing. AIMCo's sound investment decisions are part of closing that gap.

Dr. Turner: Given that nurses, teachers, and municipal workers are among my constituents who provide exemplary public service to Alberta and that they deserve a dignified retirement, to the same minister: how is the government ensuring the ongoing viability of public service pensions?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Our government is committed to helping ensure Albertans have a secure retirement and that public-sector pension plans are sustainable and well run. As I mentioned, both the PSPP and the LAPP are close to being fully funded. As a result, the pension contribution rates have been reduced for both of those pension plans, which saves government and workers money. That is making life more affordable for all Albertans.

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

Cold Lake Area Unemployment

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A leaked memo from the NDP government specifically mentions that the Cold Lake region will see job losses. My constituency is already reeling from high unemployment, and now we hear from this memo that we can expect greater job losses than what we have already witnessed in the coal phase-out. To the minister: how am I supposed to tell my constituents that their mortgage-paying jobs are at risk and that they are going to be treated worse than can be expected in Hanna, Forestburg, and other coal communities? This is unbelievable. This needs to have an answer, Minister, please. Are you putting my constituents out of work?

2:30

The Speaker: The hon. minister of economic development.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, the only thing that's unbelievable is Jason Kenney when he was part of a federal government that brought forward regulations to close coal and phase out coal, with no plan to help workers transition, no plan to support communities. I don't know if Mr. Kenney even visited the coal-affected communities. But I'll tell you what. Our government has their back. We not only created a \$40 million fund to help workers transition; we've also created a \$4.5 million fund to identify economic diversification opportunities for communities. We are working with the communities as they transition off coal, and we're excited at the opportunities the companies . . .

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

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Jason Kenney has visited my constituency and given that a month ago I asked both the environment and Energy ministers what they are doing about projects in my constituency and they both potentially pushed forward policies that will hurt the oil sands industry, to the Minister of Energy and the minister of environment: will you confirm today the number of job losses that Alberta will sustain due to your policies? Is it a thousand as per the memo, is it worse than we can expect, or is it the 7,000 that CAPP quoted just last month?

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I hope that Mr. Kenney apologized to them when he was visiting them.

What I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, is that we've been working very collaboratively with industry: with CNRL, with Imperial, with Husky, and with all the other oil sands juniors. They have identified and said to us that we need to be investing in innovation, that the government of Alberta needs to be a partner with them. We have done that. We've come to the table to say: we know that our oil and gas sector is the best in the world, the most responsible. We're going to continue to work with them to drive down their costs, lower their emissions, and continue to remain competitive to attract investment back here in Alberta.

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

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only apology that we need to see is from the economic development minister, who said that

my constituency is creating unethical oil. Will you apologize, Minister? Yes or no?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know what? We're very, very proud of our energy industry, and we know it is the most ethical and responsible in the world. We know that through investments and innovation, including the \$1.4 billion that we announced earlier this week – that is going to go a long way to ensure that industry continues to develop solutions, reducing their costs, improving the way that they extract and refine, and ensuring that we are a world leader – Alberta will continue to be a world leader because our government is investing in our industry.

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

Energy Industry Opposition

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year the government appointed known outspoken oil sands opponent Tzeporah Berman to its oil sands advisory group, who then went on to compare the oil sands to Mordor, the fictional hellish, scorched land in the *Lord of the Rings*. Given the recently leaked document which states that new emissions rules will put forward a cost to industry of \$900 million in the coming year and then \$1.2 billion in the year 2020, to the Premier: how much influence did Ms Berman have on this initiative?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thanks again, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question and the opportunity to clarify again that the research that was shared publicly was research based on a plan that was months old that was never implemented. The plan that did move forward was created completely independently from the work that Ms Berman was involved with in the past. We're really proud of the work that we're doing. That's going to make sure that we continue to be leaders, that we continue to have good jobs, and that we continue to make sure we work hard for the people of Alberta.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, Alberta's oil and gas industry continues to come under attack by this government. Given that as recently as yesterday Ms Berman referred negatively to the oil sands again as tar sands and since working for the NDP government on OSAG she has gone on to actively protest pipeline expansion in B.C., to the Premier: how is it feasible that this government is advocating internationally for the promotion of our ethical resource development when they are following the advice of environmental activists?

Ms Hoffman: Well, Mr. Speaker, if we want to talk about people we've had past relationships with, I warn the members opposite that those who live in glass houses may not want to pick up those stones because we've certainly seen what happens when people who were formerly associated with them get up, shoot off their mouth, go into the middle of racist incidents, and incite violence. Certainly, I think it's important that we think about the people we have relationships with and the work that this government is doing and the policies we have. If you want to talk about past relationships, we're certainly happy to discuss relationships members opposite have had with Rebel media and others, but, you know, we're here to discuss government policy and opposition policy, and I look forward to doing that.

Mrs. Aheer: Well, Mr. Speaker, the taxpayer is on the hook for this particular relationship.

Given that Ms Berman and Ms Mahon have continually and continue to actively protest the oil and gas sector, that provides the amazing quality of life for Albertans, and given that the NDP believes that our oil and gas industry is behaving unethically, to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade: how can Albertans have any confidence in the recommendations of these activists when they're working against the well-being and the prosperity of Albertans? Please apologize to Albertans.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Albertans and the world can have confidence in the fact that investment is continuing to occur here in the province. As I mentioned earlier, we've got: Husky Energy announced they're boosting their capital spending; CNRL increased their production; Suncor as well took its first steps to set up two cogen units at its oil sands base plant. Steve Williams, the CEO of Suncor, said: "We believe that bold, ambitious action is required by all of us to effectively tackle the climate change challenge." I can tell you that the opposition wants to stick their head in the ground and pretend like this doesn't exist. We're . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Postsecondary Education Funding

Mr. W. Anderson: Mr. Speaker, the postsecondary tuition freeze implemented by the NDP government is unsustainable. Budgeting for students in institutions for future years seems impossible with this government's refusal to make any decisions. This government seems to have little thought for poor students and upfront grants and has budgeted more for student loans, setting the stage for something, but who knows what? There seems to be no timeline, and the minister keeps shifting his responsibilities onto the taxpayers of this province. To the minister: when will you announce the funding review so that students and institutions can plan for years to come, not just semester to semester?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was proud to announce last week our government's continuation of the tuition freeze that will keep tuition among the lowest in the country, which was not the case when we became government. Of course, under those guys opposite we had the highest tuition in the country. We don't believe that that's the way we create opportunities for our students. We want to make sure that no student chooses to not go to school because they can't afford it, which is why we're continuing with the tuition freeze. Of course, we'll have more to say about our policies around tuition and student aid in the very near future.

Mr. W. Anderson: Mr. Speaker, we know that since continuing the tuition freeze, the rate of inflation gap continues to grow exponentially each year by keeping tuition rates at 2015 rates, and given that the cost of this continued freeze will be either forced onto taxpayers or students in the future, is the minister buying time to set up political scoring points from students for the next election?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we recognize that the cost of delivering higher education goes up, which is why we've backfilled the difference between the tuition increase and the

tuition freeze that we've announced for three out of the four years of the tuition. Of course, you know, the members opposite are so concerned about future generations; however, they have no concern at all for the current generation of students who wouldn't be able to afford tuition under their policies.

The Speaker: I remind you again and yet again that statements like "not true" are not acceptable.

2:40

Mr. W. Anderson: Mr. Speaker, given that the minister has repeatedly promised frustrated administration and the students a funding model review that keeps getting pushed to the side and into the future and given that the minister can't use time and the freeze to keep Alberta students pacified and use international ones for the sustainable budgeting purposes, is the next item on the agenda to downgrade tuition costs entirely to Alberta taxpayers for all Alberta students and thus lower the quality of education and the completion rates here in Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we continue to have some of the most highly ranked universities in the whole country here in Alberta, and that will continue under the policies of our government. Not only that, but we're making it much more affordable for our students to get that high-quality education right here in the province. Under their plan they would close the doors to additional students. They would jack up tuition so that it's unaffordable for most students. We don't believe that that's the way to promote higher education in the province of Alberta. Our plan will support students.

The Speaker: In 30 seconds we'll continue with Members' Statements.

Members' Statements

Official Opposition and Government Policies

Mr. Westhead: Mr. Speaker, the winter season has inspired me to write a poem based on Robert Frost's *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*.

Whose words are these I think I know:
Gays can marry, not each other though;
Reproductive rights aren't respected here.
Those words are Jason Kenney's prose.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer,
In my Alberta, you're all welcome here.
Human rights aren't give and take,
Who you love not cause for fear.

We give our collective heads a shake,
That access to abortion is at stake.
Not a word from UCP, not a peep.
When it comes to caring, they are fake.

What they sow they too shall reap.
A talent pool more shallow than deep.
Far less cunning than a rabid fox.
Wolves in wolf clothing, eating sheep.

To say the cancer centre is a box.
To patients, an insulting shock.
"Cannabis causes communism": so absurd.
They should think before they squawk.

Reckless cuts by them preferred.
Ideology makes their vision blurred.
I find their world view rather strange.
They like the facts, not stirred.

Denying hope and climate change,
Future generations would be shortchanged.
Carbon dioxide's on an upwards slope.
UCP priorities must be rearranged.

But don't despair and do not mope.
Alberta's Premier, she brings us hope.
Building pipelines east and west.
Could Kenney build them? The answer's nope.

Our Premier's plan is the best.
Keeping promises, she's never stressed.
And to fulfill them we will not rest.
And to fulfill them we will not rest.

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

Interprovincial Relations

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that. Yesterday Saskatchewan announced it was banning Alberta licence plates from government infrastructure projects. The Minister of Economic Development and Trade rightly stood up for Alberta, very UCP-like. He cited existing trade agreements among the reasons why this action cannot stand and threatened legal action if Saskatchewan doesn't rescind their policy within a week.

Now, that's tough talk, Mr. Speaker, and we in the UCP always support standing up for Alberta's workers. But I wonder when the NDP changed its mind about free trade. It was this summer when a national trade panel found Alberta's beer subsidies to be in violation of our interprovincial trade obligations, yet the Finance minister, the minister of microbrews, chose to double down on his protectionist policies. It seems the NDP is only for free trade when their NDP friends give them permission to be.

Another example, Mr. Speaker, is the NDP action, or should I say inaction, on pipelines, specifically when it comes to blatant attempts by the B.C.'s NDP Premier to block Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain project. In this case we've seen no tough talk from anybody on the government side, no threats of legal action, no willingness to stand up for Alberta against an NDP government standing in the way of a project so critical to our economic prosperity. In fact, Horgan himself said that the Premier didn't even try to convince him on pipelines when they had dinner a year ago. Didn't even try.

Mr. Speaker, this NDP government is more than willing to get tough with a conservative government in Saskatchewan but not with their pals and partners over in B.C. It's all starting to make sense now. The fact is that the UCP is the only party willing to stand up for Alberta's interest in every case, not just when it's easy or convenient. We are the only party willing to get tough on B.C. when it comes to pipelines, and we're the only party that's truly looking out for Alberta's interests.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP is not standing up for Albertans. The UCP needs to take over so they will have somebody in their corner.

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

RCMP St. Albert Detachment

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inspector Pam Robinson, Constable Patrick Lambert, Corporal Laurel Kading, and Auxiliary Constable Shelly Ullery are RCMP members from the St. Albert

municipal detachment. All too often we don't recognize and celebrate their work and dedication until we are reminded of their heroism because of a tragedy. St. Albert is all too familiar with that kind of tragedy, so today I'm celebrating the women and the men who currently serve in St. Albert.

I'd like to share a few reasons why. I'd like to draw particular attention to Constable Lambert's role in St. Albert. In addition to patrolling, Constable Lambert works closely with the community to develop meaningful relationships that ultimately result in a stronger, more resilient community. Constable Lambert is a member of the St. Albert Neighbourhood Watch crisis management and outreach team. He also facilitated the implementation of the violence threat risk assessment model for St. Albert schools.

Spend some time in St. Albert during the warmer months and you'll run into RCMP members patrolling the parks and paths and playgrounds on bikes and golf carts. Our members collectively attended 150 block parties this year. They know the value of relationships, and they invest their time developing them.

Our members joined the collective earlier this year to do essential outreach in Lions park to the young people struggling with addictions and homelessness. This year we attended a city-wide block party, and of course one of the most popular events was Constable Lambert with his car. The kids were just clamouring all around him, wanting to turn on lights and sirens, but he took every moment and every opportunity to interact with the children and young people to teach them a little bit about how things work, and they always flock to him.

For all of these reasons and so much more, I extend my sincere gratitude to the men and women of the RCMP, who give so much every single day to all of us.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek.

Habitat for Humanity Edmonton-Mill Creek Project

Ms Woollard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very excited today to share with you all a special occasion coming up for nine Alberta families. On December 21 these nine families will be receiving the keys to new houses in Carter Place.

Now, it's a common belief by many of us that everyone in Canada deserves the right to a safe, affordable, and decent place to live, yet many families do not have that. Habitat for Humanity, of which I've previously spoken, works diligently and extensively to enable families who cannot afford to buy a house using the usual mortgage system to purchase their own homes.

In the summer of 2017 Habitat for Humanity began work on a new build in the constituency of Edmonton-Mill Creek, starting with the interfaith building component and then moving to the site construction at the Carter Place location. The project involved the building of 58 homes and was named Carter Place in honour of Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter, who take part in the annual Habitat for Humanity work projects. The Alberta government and the city of Edmonton teamed up with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Rosalyn Carter and many volunteers on one of the biggest Habitat builds ever undertaken. Now, a short six months later, nine of the houses are completed and ready for occupancy.

This project illustrates the power of collaboration and compassion. The project created an important benefit for people in need and was inspirational for those doing the building. Seeing the houses take shape and rise up from the efforts of so many, including the future owners, showed the power of working together and the strength of determination.

I'll be conveying good wishes to the new homeowners for long and happy occupancies and best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Red Deer-South.

2:50 Red Deer Regional Hospital Emergency Services

Ms Miller: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to salute a dedicated group of people, the staff of the emergency department of the Red Deer regional hospital. An emergency department is not where anyone wants to be, but it is a place where I had to spend some time recently, and I was impressed by the efficiency and professionalism of the staff at the hospital.

I took someone to the hospital after a fall down the stairs. We arrived about 8:30 p.m. and within 10 minutes were triaged and assessed. While we waited, 11 ambulances arrived. Even with this sudden influx of patients, the staff was compassionate and efficient. Within two hours we were in a room awaiting X-rays. It was determined that a CT scan was necessary and that an overnight stay was required.

The staff, with all the incoming and checked-in patients, was stretched to the limit, yet they never stopped showing how much they cared for patients. From porters to nurses to doctors to X-ray technicians, each of them demonstrated respect and compassion in every interaction. When we face a medical emergency for ourselves or our loved ones, we are at our most vulnerable, and it is at times like this that the compassion and care of our medical professionals mean the most to us.

I want to recognize Red Deer regional hospital and their emergency room and other staff today because they are the front line, Mr. Speaker. They are the people that this government pledged to protect during our campaign in 2015, they are the people who look after Albertans around the clock every day, and they are the people who deserve our support and respect in return.

Thank you.

Rural Crime

Mr. MacIntyre: Mr. Speaker, we're in the season of Advent, during which time we look forward with anticipation to Christmas. Children eagerly await Christmas morning, when they will finally find out what lies beneath that wrapping paper.

Well, in rural Alberta residents have a different kind of anticipation, one filled with dread and one that, while it may sound exaggerated, is nothing but reality. Across rural Alberta residents are cowering as thieves and assailants wander freely. There is no silent night here, there are very few merry gentlemen, and all five golden rings along with the one-horse open sleigh have been stolen. Afraid to leave home yet afraid to stay, what are they to do? As parents tuck their children into bed, they pray that not a creature is stirring, but they have learned that that is often too much to hope for. While children hope that St. Nicholas soon will be there, their parents are concerned that someone else will be. Albertans should not need to wonder if their presents will still be under the tree come Christmas morning.

Last week, while this side was fighting for rural Albertans, including those 100 that came to the gallery, three Red Deer schools were getting robbed, Mr. Speaker. Last weekend yet another break and enter in Red Deer is turning into an attempted murder charge. Tell the people of Red Deer and Red Deer county that there is no emergency.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP members of this Assembly may not think that rural crime is an emergency, but the United Conservative Party

does, and we will not let up. I have been tabling terrified constituents' letters for eight days straight, and I'm not done. We have been meeting with rural crime watches and Albertans to listen to and to find solutions so that everyone, especially those in crime-stricken rural Alberta, might have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Presenting Petitions

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

Mr. Nielsen: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition signed by over 430 Albertans. The petition reads: "We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition The Legislative Assembly of Alberta to pass a Bill banning all trophy hunting within the province of Alberta." The petition was created by a group in Edmonton called Voice for Animals Society and originally held more signatures. However, some of them were from outside of Alberta and therefore were, unfortunately, out of order.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Mr. Hanson: Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

The Speaker: Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Mr. Hanson: That's okay, Mr. Speaker. I've got five copies. Yesterday, during debate on Bill 32, I referenced that many union members are forced to donate a portion of their union dues to the Alberta Federation of Labour. I have a report from Elections Alberta that shows that just in the first three quarters of this year AFL donations were \$503,267.38 on the backs of union members.

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

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, have five copies of a letter from the Minister of Service Alberta to the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association members. I'd just like to put that on the record.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Mr. MacIntyre: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present some more letters that have been coming to me from people who have suffered crime. This one – it's from a resident in Red Deer county – says: "I am afraid of being home alone day or night. I am afraid of leaving my home unattended. I am afraid . . . my children and grandchildren [are going to be] hurt."

Another one, from Sue and Doug: "We believe that we are no longer safe in our own home. We are [terrified]."

This is another one, from Alisha, who says that she suffers from anxiety every time someone comes in the yard and that her three-year-old son has recently started hiding his toys so the bad guys won't find them the next time they come back.

Mrs. Pitt: But it's not an emergency.

Mr. MacIntyre: But it's not an emergency, of course.

Also, I referred to two incidents in my member's statement, one regarding the attempted murder and home invasion in Red Deer and another one regarding three break-ins in Red Deer schools.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table two sets of correspondence. One is from Dr. Julie Schell, a veterinarian in Calgary-Fish Creek, in which she states that "Bill 31 is dangerous to animal patients because," and then she lists five different reasons why that is the case.

I also table some other correspondence, from Christian Hansen-Jones, also a veterinarian in Calgary-Fish Creek. "I am writing to express my grave concern with recent proposed amendments to the Veterinary Profession Act . . . contained in Bill 31."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 Sigurdson, Minister of Seniors and Housing, responses to questions raised by Mr. Smith, the Member for Drayton Valley-Devon, and Mr. Clark, the Member for Calgary-Elbow, on April 13, 2017, Ministry of Seniors and Housing 2017-18 main estimates debate; pursuant to ministerial order 001/2016 the office of the Seniors Advocate of Alberta annual report 2016-17.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I believe we are at points of order. I understand that the first point of order was withdrawn.

The second point of order was by the Minister of Economic Development and Trade. The Deputy Government House Leader.

Point of Order

Referring to Proper Titles

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that you actually did call the member for Lloydminster to order during your statements at the time. Perhaps if the member for Lloydminster would simply stand up and withdraw the remarks. Otherwise, I could speak to it further, but perhaps we could resolve it quickly.

The Speaker: I'm sorry. Could I just understand the . . .

Mr. Feehan: During question period you yourself made comments to the member about the comments that he had made during his questions. As such, I believe he's been already called to order, so perhaps if he'd just apologize.

Mr. Hanson: What's the citation?

Mr. Feehan: Okay. That's fine. I will make the full point of order. I thought we were going to be able to get through that a little bit quickly instead because the Speaker has already commented.

Under section 23(h), (i), and (j) I would like to comment on the violation of the rules – sorry; I should read that out: "uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder." And, of course, the violation of the rules of order under *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, page 613: "A Minister is [always] referred to by the portfolio he or she holds."

3:00

In this particular case the member for Lloydminster referred to our Minister of Economic Development and Trade as the minister of economic development and tirade and subsequently as the minister of economic development and blockade. Both of these are a clear violation of the rules of order in this House, and as such I believe that it's quite right that the member from Lloydminster stand and withdraw the remarks and apologize.

Thank you.

Dr. Starke: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy to respond to that. I'll start by responding that if I'm supposed to be doing that, perhaps you could get my constituency name correct. I'm the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster, not the member for Lloydminster, and the people from Vermilion would like that recognized.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that I find it a little bit rich that the folks from that side suddenly reply with righteous indignation when a turn of phrase is used against them because when they sat over here – in fact, the Minister of Economic Development and Trade, back in the day when he was the Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, when he sat over here, used these techniques on a regular basis. They were, in fact, the stock-in-trade, and I would even say that the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood was widely regarded as the Zen master of these techniques.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, the words that I used were neither nonparliamentary, nor were they abusive. In fact, the words that I used were chosen very carefully to reflect the minister's actions. You will note that the word "tirade" and the word "blockade" and the rather cleverly selected word that I had for my second supplemental all would have reflected exactly on the minister's activities yesterday.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I can understand that if words are used to disrespect a minister, they perhaps should be called out of order, but one of our weapons, one of the tools we have to use as parliamentarians is the English language. If we are restricted from using the tools of the English language, if we are restricted from using idioms and turns of phrase to get our point across because the thin-skinned ministers on the government side can't handle it, yet at the same time they can quite easily misname our constituency names, which is the only name that we are to go by, well, there's a double standard going on here. Certainly, there's a double standard, considering that when I sat over in those chairs, we regularly had to hear these sorts of charges from the folks sitting especially in this corner of the House. Now that they're over there, suddenly something has changed.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly followed the directive that you gave me. I changed the language that I would have used in my second supplemental, but with specific reference to the point of order that has been raised here, I do not agree that this is a point of order. I do not agree that the citations that the Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, the Minister of Indigenous Relations, has used are, in fact, relevant in this case.

While it is correct that we should use the names of the ministers, that is a convention. It is not a rule of order. To state that somehow the standing orders and the rules that we have here have somehow been violated because I chose a specific turn of phrase that was intended to get a point across in the 35 seconds that we are proffered in this House to do that, to suggest that that is somehow against the rules of order, well, Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that this government needs to grow a little thicker skin.

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

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will comment on the 23(h), (i), and (j). You know, far be it from me to take the government's side, but on this rare occasion they're correct. It's a rare occasion.

You know what? I will say that the hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster – I hope I got that right; I certainly intended to – has some points about the disrespect that comes from the government side on a regular basis. To be clear, Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that we could all perhaps use a lesson here. There are enough things to fight about, there are enough things to disagree about,

there are enough things to debate about without debasing one another's names. I'm of the opinion that we don't need to do that.

I will say, in fairness, that the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster is a master of the English language, and I believe he's quite capable – I believe he's more than capable – of calling out the government when he needs to without debasing their names. I would suggest to you that you ask the member to withdraw that remark and find ways to call out the government, as he ought to do and is very good at doing, without debasing their names.

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

To the Deputy Government House Leader: I thought the point of order you may have made was with respect to another comment that the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster made. However, that was not the case. As I recall – and I don't have the exact Blues in front of me – the point that the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster made was that he referred to the minister as "economic development and blockade" if I recall exactly. I rose on the point and asked him not to repeat that, which he did not.

To the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster, an experienced member of this House and, as said, very knowledgeable about the rules and procedures in this House: I know that he knows that his broad statement about that use of the English language is the only tool that – in fact, I think I heard you say "weapon." Isn't it unfortunate, members, that we have to use words like "weapon" in this place? So I beg to disagree with the hon. member with respect to the use of English.

To the Official Opposition House Leader: I hear your point about disrespect, and well intentioned it is. However, I think that in this instance I asked that the member not repeat that. He did not again.

Also, as you see on occasion in this room, I have not always been successful in terms of identifying the constituency names. I believe twice today I called one member a different constituency.

In this particular instance I don't believe there is a point of order, and I would suggest that we go to Orders of the Day.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 31

A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act

Mr. Loewen moved that the motion for second reading of Bill 31, A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act, be amended by deleting all of the words after "that" and substituting the following:

Bill 31, A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act, be not now read a second time but that the subject matter of the bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Families and Communities in accordance with Standing Order 74.2.

[Adjourned debate on the amendment December 5: Mr. Hunter]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

The Deputy Speaker: Any hon. members wishing to speak to the amendment?

Seeing none, are you ready for the question?

Mr. McIver: No. Sorry, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. McIver: Madam Speaker, we didn't hear the announcement of what bill is forward right now, please. That's why nobody knows

which amendment this is. As soon as we hear which bill it is, we'll ...

The Deputy Speaker: I do realize there was a little bit of distraction, but it is important to pay attention. The responsibility is on each member. I will, however, reinforce the bill that we are working on. We are on second reading of Bill 31, A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act, and the debate was adjourned on the referral amendment by Mr. Hunter.

Does any member wish to speak to the referral amendment? The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Mr. Yao: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to speak to the referral motion to Bill 31, A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act. My colleagues have brought forward a lot of excellent points on a variety of topics, and I think it's important that I take a few minutes to expound on that.

3:10

Madam Speaker, you've been here as long as I have, which means you've heard this government talk about the importance of consultation just as much as I have, and I think you'd agree with me that without proper consultation nothing gets done properly. The thing with consultation, though, is that it's relatively simple to determine whether or not it's actually happened. Certainly, the government can point us to an online survey released this summer. This would be a good first step if only the questions weren't so heavily weighted towards getting the government the answers it needed to justify what's going on with this piece of legislation.

For example, who wouldn't want to know how much they need to pay before they have to pay? Just because the question appears on their survey doesn't mean that the practice is not already being followed. We have heard it here in this very Chamber from the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster that those conversations are frequently, if not always, had over the phone before a procedure takes place. Price shoppers, as he noted, exist in every industry.

It's an interesting thing to note that we deal with dentists as well, and there are concerns around the whole fee guide. Again, there's the motor vehicles act, the private member's bill that came across in our first term. I mean, there's an underlying sentiment about costings and billings and things that impact consumers, but I can't help but wonder if we just simply need some basic education for consumers as well as for all these businesses, to provide that freely, or for a consumer to ask for this information, to be a responsible consumer.

But I digress. We mustn't forget that veterinary medicine is not an industry. It's a profession, and the people that we're dealing with when we take our pets to the clinics are professionals. To suggest that they're trying to pull the wool over their clients' eyes I think is preposterous. I can certainly attest to my own experiences with veterinarians with my own canine. I've always been well informed. I think I've used three different ones over the life of my pet familiar there, and they've always been upfront with me. They've always explained what the procedures are, how much it will cost. They took the time to educate me, and I've always respected and appreciated that. I've never had any issues with veterinarians.

Consultation is not true consultation if it's not entered into by both sides with respect and in good faith, yet based on feedback from dozens and possibly hundreds of vets, this did not happen. Now, who do we believe? The minister, who has promised consultation, whose government has already proven time and time again that it does not quite grasp what that means, or do we trust independent people, groups, and associations who may have received a phone call or may not have heard from the minister at

all? For my part, I think that the volume of correspondence speaks volumes. What's more, these are not form letters that are being sent out but personal letters that describe personal situations and interactions. Again, we're dealing with veterinarians, a very professional crew.

Madam Speaker, you know as well as I do that the committees of this Legislature exist for a purpose, and that is to provide further venues to engage with the public, to engage with the government, and to engage with legislation. Committees provide an additional venue for questions to be asked and, at least theoretically, answered. They provide a place for stakeholders to take their concerns, either in person or via written submissions. There is, at times, more time available to devote to matters at committee than in the House, especially when the government is frantically trying to push through whatever legislation suits its fancy.

It is so important that we get consumer protection right because it is something that necessarily affects Albertans. Maybe someone isn't an animal lover, but they might love to attend a hockey game or a concert. Maybe some prefer home cooking to eating out. I mean, there's no need to write a review, good or bad, but they might be in the market for a car or require the repair of one.

Madam Speaker, I know that one of the hon. members has previously mentioned the good work that comes from sending a bill to committee. I've forgotten who that was now, but they referenced the Alberta Standard Time Act, the one that went through committee, and the members of the committee were given the opportunity to hear directly from stakeholders and to mull over the bill in greater detail and at greater length. This took an entire summer. There were several meetings held throughout that summer, and there were good responses coming in. The government put in the effort to go online through social media, mail-outs. They engaged so many various operators and influencers of the industry, and they came to a great, thorough conclusion that a lot of that legislation already existed. There were venues and means where a lot of it could be addressed already.

But the point is that committees are an integral part of this Legislature, and we have some experience recently in seeing the good work that they do. We have to remember, again, that even at the federal level, with our federal cousins, everything goes through committee because it is truly a fair way of ensuring that all sides get input, get the same information from stakeholders, from the public, and that they participate in that process. Basically, all sides are given time to accumulate that information.

This legislation also includes a section on computer software and bots. Now, this is something I like the sound of. Again, at face value it seems like a very noble and good thing to do, but we also have to remember that this is hard to track down. We don't know if we even have the resources to identify it and combat these large bulk purchases of tickets to events. We have to recognize that for these companies that do provide these services, these large ticketing agencies, it is not in their best interest either to have private vendors buying all the tickets and then reselling them at increased rates. That does not benefit the primary ticket sellers. They also recognize that it is a hard thing to track, but they do try, as they've stated clearly. We have to wonder if you have to make a rule for something that they are inherently trying to combat already. Perhaps some fines. I don't know.

This is another reason why we need to send this bill to committee. Let's take a look at the details. Let us see if maybe we can tweak the language a little bit to ensure that what we have is not just a benefit to consumers but also doesn't put our law and justice systems into an impossible situation. Again, it is about identifying the situation, addressing it, and finding how to penalize these people. In the end, we will have a hard time addressing that when

already the major ticket companies do struggle with that, but they continually try, and they continually evolve. They are inherently doing it within their own systems. Unfortunately, for every lock that is created, there's always someone who'll figure out how to pick that lock, and it keeps on going on and on.

Madam Speaker, with that, I'm going to wrap things up here. I just need to say one final thing. The government truly has nothing to lose by sending this to committee. Fuller conversation and consultation can only benefit the legislation and Albertans, and I think all of us here can appreciate the ability to get some legislation done properly and correctly to the benefit of all Albertans.

Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments under Standing Order 29(2)(a)? The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. Some comments, if I may, on the hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo's interesting argument in favour of sending this to committee. Certainly, he wants to repeat, say, the federal government's practice of referring things to committee, which had a terrible track record of actually getting things done for the benefit of the people of Canada.

Of course, we are a government that is keen to get things done for the people of Alberta, and we have a proud track record of doing those things. Just moments ago the NEB sided with the government of Alberta and decided to grant Trans Mountain the ability to build its pipeline without needing permission from the city of Burnaby, a significant accomplishment for our government, one that the people of Alberta can be proud of and one that the Premier can certainly be proud of. I look across the aisle, and I see some fallen faces. I know that their electoral hopes were really pinned on that project failing, Madam Speaker.

3:20

My point, Madam Speaker, is that we have heard for the last days, again, their deep commitment to not getting anything done for the people of Alberta. They want to send all four of the bills that are currently before the Legislature to committee. I'm just asking the Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo why it is that he thinks that the people of Alberta don't deserve to get anything done from the Legislature. Why does he think that we need to continue the failed policies of the federal Conservative government, who failed to get any pipelines built? Why does he need to continue the practice of sending those bills to committees for endless examination – right? – without any commitment at all to getting things done that will benefit the people of Alberta, much like what our government has done with promoting the approval of the Trans Mountain pipeline, Madam Speaker?

I ask the Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo why it is that he feels that the people of Alberta don't deserve a government that's actually interested in doing things for the benefit of the people of Alberta. Why does he want to sequester the good members of this Legislature into a windowless committee room in the Federal Building so they can pore over the pieces of legislation, perhaps stare at their navels for a little while – right? – and repeat the practices of their heroes in Ottawa, who sat in Ottawa for 10 years and failed the people of Alberta every single year when it came to getting pipelines built? Why don't they want to adopt our approach of actually getting things done for the people of Alberta? Why don't they want to adopt our approach of a government that's working to make . . .

Mr. McIver: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: I will hear your point of order. Go ahead, hon. member.

Point of Order Factual Accuracy

Mr. McIver: Well, Madam Speaker, under 23(h), (i), and (j). Listen, the hon. minister is clearly grasping at straws, and with the lack of any cogent argument on the legislation he's just slinging mud. He's saying things that aren't true. Certainly, as we've said in the House and demonstrated with documents, when our leader, Jason Kenney, was in Ottawa, three pipelines were built and another one approved, two of which have been cancelled since this government has gotten in. He talks about nothing positive being done during 10 years of a government, that he knows is not true, that actually was very positive towards Alberta, had an Alberta Prime Minister, something that we should be proud of.

The hon. minister, with the lack of any arguments to defend his indefensible legislation, stood here for the last five or 10 minutes and did nothing but sling mud and sling it, honestly, inaccurately. I won't use the L-word although it would be appropriate here. It was inaccurate. He should be called to account on that. He should be asked to address the legislation and stop trying to disturb the House with unfounded allegations.

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

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think what we have here is not, in fact, a point of order but, rather, just a disagreement on the facts. The minister is putting forward his opinion about the circumstances over the last number of years that have occurred while certain members were in this House or while some of their friends were in Ottawa. The opposition clearly disagrees with that. We could spend all day arguing whether or not those facts are true. In fact, it is quite legitimate in this House to have a disagreement on those facts. That does not constitute a point of order. I think that in this particular case we would ask that you rule that way.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Any others wishing to speak to the point of order? The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Mr. MacIntyre: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wish to point out that part of the responsibility that rests upon your own shoulders is to uphold I will call it the sanctity of the proceedings that take place in here with regard to parliamentary procedure. That member slagged accepted, long-standing parliamentary procedures of sending bills to committee for study, for testimony from the citizens of the countries in which we have the Westminster parliamentary system. That hon. member slagged that process and those long-standing procedures in a parliamentary procedure that has cost thousands and thousands of lives over the years to protect, to uphold, and to sustain. I take offence and I think the chair should also take offence at anyone that would slag a long-standing parliamentary procedure such as sending bills to committee.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other members wishing to speak to the point of order?

Seeing none, I'm prepared to rule. I think it's been a long week, and I think everybody is starting to really feel things quite intensely here, which is leading to this. I've heard many, many comments from both sides about pipelines, no pipelines, cancelled pipelines, pipelines not approved. It just goes on and on and on. So I'm inclined to think that this is really just a dispute over interpretation of the facts.

Just to add to your point, hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, there was nothing I heard in the minister's comments that was criticizing the parliamentary process, because we do deeply respect that here in this House. It was more that he was criticizing individual players within that that he felt perhaps had not lived up to that responsibility.

That being said, there was no point of order, and I would encourage us to all stick to the matter at hand. Let's try to get some work done here in the next hour and move some things forward in this House.

Please continue, hon. minister.

Debate Continued

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I very much appreciate your incredibly wise ruling on this matter. Of course, I just wanted to reiterate that I have nothing but the greatest respect for the procedures that we follow here in the Legislature. We all have to keep in mind that we've been sent here by the people of Alberta to actually get a job done, and that is to pass legislation – right? – that will make the lives of the people of Alberta better, which is what we have before us right now. That's under debate.

It is, of course, my view, my comment on the comments made by the Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo, my opinion that he doesn't seem to be interested in proceeding quickly with this legislation, that we want to delay and repeat the track record of not achieving outcomes for the people of Alberta that their idols in the federal Conservative government have in 10 years. It was interesting that the Member for Calgary-Hays stood up and tried to articulate the things that the federal government achieved for the people of Alberta and couldn't actually name a single thing. I'm hard pressed to also name anything that the federal government under the Conservatives achieved for the people of Alberta.

It's my view, of course, that our government has a proud track record of getting things done for the people of Alberta, that have made their lives better. Many of these are presented in the legislation that is before us for debate today. You know, our track record includes getting the Trans Mountain pipeline approved, as we just found out, and it's our view, Madam Speaker, that the time of the member . . .

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

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise on the referral motion to Bill 31. Now, I understand the government's reluctance to put this bill into committee because I believe that we've dealt with two of these issues in previous private members' bills this year. I mean, they were referred to committee, where they were shot down, yet here we go again.

They tucked them into something. You know, they tend to throw in these little nuggets that you can't really argue against like ticket resale and bot sales. You know, it's very, very difficult to talk against or vote against a bill with that kind of thing in it, but then they tuck in AMVIC, that was dealt with in Bill 203 earlier, and also the veterinarian act and the attack on the professionalism of our veterinary industry. I find that a little bit hard to swallow, and that's why I would like to get this bill in particular sent to committee, where it, again, can be quashed by the committee on a recommendation.

3:30

Now, what frustrates me about the veterinarians and their professionalism is that they talk about, you know, upfront estimates. I don't think we've ever taken any of our animals to a

veterinarian or called them on the phone and said, "How much would it cost for you to come out and do this?" where they weren't very up front with the costs. Sometimes, when they realize they hear a hesitation in your voice, "Oh, boy," they'll even offer a payment plan or some other way of coming out, because their concern is about the animal. I know that the hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster can attest to that, that most of these people aren't just: oh, this is a big money-making business. It's because they love the animals, and they love the patients that they deal with.

I really think that it's shameful that we're throwing this portion of the bill in amongst the other stuff and that we couldn't just leave it out, where it was quashed on Bill 207.

Now, I'd also like to brag a little bit. My daughter-in-law is also a veterinarian, and to suggest that she and other veterinary professionals are somehow unethical in the fees that they're charging is a little bit ludicrous.

An Hon. Member: That wasn't said.

Mr. Hanson: It is absolutely what they're saying.

You know, attacking an industry that tends to be highly populated by young women – if you look at the enrolment into Saskatchewan and in Calgary, I would say that probably upwards of 80 per cent, 80 per cent or higher, are young women. We talked about the loss of some of the seats that were going to Saskatchewan and the lack of veterinarians. We have young women that are in the prime of their life going into a profession, and a lot of times, while they're in university or shortly after, they get married and decide to have children. They want to take their maternity leave and work at raising their children, and they need good professionals to be able to stand in and fill in those spots. This is really an industry that, as far as supporting young women in our province, is a very, very important industry.

Add to that the fact that the veterinary industry also hires a lot of young ladies that are veterinary assistants or receptionists that work in the offices. They've got X-ray equipment to pay for. You know, it's not a cheap industry where you can just hang out a shingle and all of a sudden you're going to work: bring in the animals, and we're going to charge you through the nose and make a whole bunch of money. It's very, very expensive to set up a veterinary practice, and I think that they're doing an absolutely amazing job working and with all the employees that they have and the expense of the building rental, the natural gas, and I'll throw the carbon tax in there just for good measure. They're doing a very good job at keeping the costs down to treat these patients.

Another thing is that, you know, you talk about a veterinarian. When they're dealing with some of these animals that come in, these animals aren't always having their best day, and they're not always on their best behaviour, so there is a certain amount of risk involved as well.

To suggest that the veterinary industry isn't being ethical or isn't being up front with costs is quite surprising to me, actually, and I would really like to see this go to committee, where we can have this dealt with, have the veterinarians come forward, as the suggestion was in the letters that we got on Bill 207, the absolute uproar. I find it very surprising – well, actually, not surprising at all – that this government would try to sneak this in in an omnibus bill like Bill 31 and try and hide it behind something as devious as bot ticket sales. I can't believe that they actually have lumped the veterinarians in with that kind of an industry.

I want to relate a little personal story if I might. We had a very active young black Lab dog running with the horses out in the snow one day. I didn't even know it was possible, Madam Speaker, but dogs' back knees are built very much like human knees. They can

blow them just like an athlete can. Our black Lab blew the left knee, I think it was, and it required surgery to reattach it. While he was healing up from that with his cast on, he was putting so much stress on his other leg that – guess what? – he blew the other one, too. So now we've got a dog that has very powerful front legs and chest because when he goes outside to do his business, he's got to balance on two front legs. It's quite amazing.

You know, we could have very easily accepted a dog that was going to limp for the rest of his life, but we chose to bring him in to the veterinarian. We had the surgeries done. I'll tell you what. This veterinarian was so visibly heartbroken when one of the surgeries didn't take and he had to go in and do it again. I think this dog ended up having four surgeries or possibly even five. At least one of those surgeries the doctor did for free because he was more concerned about the patient than he was about making money. He wanted to make sure that this dog had a good, long, productive, healthy, active life.

Again, Madam Speaker, we need to push Bill 31 to committee, remove these clauses from it completely. I have no problem dealing with the ticket resales, but I'm sure that there are people in the industry that would probably have something to say about that as well. My concentration would be on the attacks on the veterinary industry, that I find really shameful. We already dealt with them in Bill 207. They shouldn't even be part of this bill. Like I said, I was surprised, but really not surprised, that this government would try to pull a fast one on the veterinary industry again and slide this into Bill 31.

I'd be very happy to answer any questions under 29(2)(a) if there are any. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Any questions or comments under Standing Order 29(2)(a)? The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Mr. Strankman: Thank you. It's a pleasure to rise and talk about this interesting component, the idea of taking a piece of the legislation to committee. I'd like to speak to the member's comments about what I would call the compassion that was shown by the veterinarian. I wonder if he had any further experiences in regard to other animals that he's taken to veterinarians. In the case of other animals, I've experienced it widely in the case of bovines. As you may or may not remember, Madam Speaker, a few nights ago the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster had people, actually, in the gallery here overseeing the situation, and the member talked about that at that time. I was wondering if the Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills could expand on the compassion shown by the veterinarian profession.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Hanson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. With pleasure. I could definitely add to that. You know, one thing I'd like to mention is that, especially in rural Alberta – and I know that there are a lot of veterinary clinics in Edmonton, emergency clinics as well as private, smaller clinics. Out in St. Paul we have a veterinary clinic. There's another one in Bonnyville. There's another one in Bellis, that deals more with horses, and I know that we've used that one, taken our horses there. People with animals, and with pets especially, will travel from one town to another, and it's not because they're trying to save a buck. It's not because they're trying to save a buck. I can get a procedure done in St. Paul for \$25, or I can get it done in Bonnyville for \$22, but it's going to cost me \$35 in gas to get there, so it doesn't make any sense. But I know people that will travel from St. Paul or from Two Hills all the way to Bonnyville because that veterinarian has the patient care and the respect of the people. They're not concerned about it.

I know that it happens here in Edmonton as well that there are veterinarians, just like in any other profession, that are good and bad. When people go specifically to them, they're not as concerned about whether the rates are 5 per cent or 3 per cent higher or lower than the other guy. They're there because of the way their animal gets treated, the way they get treated when they walk in the door, the way the receptionist is, the way the vet techs are.

You know, to answer the question there from the Member for Drumheller-Stettler, it is a profession. These are very, very respected people in our communities. Like I say, lumping them together with robot ticket sales is a little bit surprising.

3:40

I know that the veterinarians are very well respected. I know that my daughter-in-law is very respected. She did her training in Saskatchewan and really liked that school. To be honest, it was very good training that she got there. She's very well respected in all the places that she's worked at. Because of my son being in med school, they've lived in Edmonton as well as Red Deer. She's worked at, I think, three or four different veterinary clinics within the Edmonton area and the Red Deer area and always has been very well accepted, and they're very happy with her work. She is a very good professional veterinarian, and I respect her for that.

I think that all of our veterinarians and their veterinary assistants deserve a lot more respect from us and this government than they seem to be getting at this moment, Madam Speaker.

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

Seeing none, any other members wishing to speak to the amendment? The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Once again here we are in the dying days of session, and the government introduces another large overarching and possibly overreaching piece of legislation. Here we are just beginning to talk about it, trying to appropriately and intelligently consider it, consult with our constituents – that's a novel idea – all of this with just a few days left in our legislative calendar.

Madam Speaker, this bill introduces sweeping changes that will affect consumers, businesses, all without any consideration for the economic impact or cost to many struggling business owners in Alberta, and I speak to many of them. In fact, this summer I spent time with virtually all of the small businesses in my constituency, talking to them about some of the challenges that they're facing in terms of survival, in terms of sustainability, in terms of viability, in terms of retaining staff, in terms of making payroll, in terms of not dipping into their personal savings, in terms of not having to mortgage their home to save their business.

Madam Speaker, taking the time to diligently review, consult on, and study legislation like this should not be treated with hostility or derision by this government. We are, after all, here to put forward the best possible legislation to advance the best interests of Albertans and, by extension, Alberta employers and entrepreneurs, who contribute to the vibrancy, resiliency, and health of our communities and the economy.

Madam Speaker, if improving a piece of legislation means that it ends up being addressed in a more detailed manner in committee and then passed a few months hence with potential improvements and with reflection on the economic impact and cost to both consumers and business through more robust consultation, that might just make the difference between mediocre legislation, with a plethora of unintended consequences, or improved and appropriately vetted policy, regulation, and legislation.

Madam Speaker, at the end of question period today I tabled two letters from veterinarians right in my own constituency. As the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster has stated, veterinarians, from what I can tell from the correspondence I've received, are not happy with Bill 31. I would just like to read a few of the follow-up comments from one of the veterinarians in my area which were not contained in that letter. In fact, we had multiple e-mails back and forth with one particular veterinarian. The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association has

as a regulated, governing and disciplinary profession, many steps in place to have [vets] obtain informed consent from their clients before [proceeding with] procedures . . . Bill 31 . . . is a road block to veterinarians who are in surgery having to make immediate life and death decisions. [Having] to wait for every single detail to be pre-approved and signed off by a client [may] put the pet [their patient] at risk [in these situations].

Madam Speaker, make no mistake: informed consent is important. Vets already have a disciplinary body within the ABVMA who have the ability to manage those who contravene this policy. I cannot see a single proposed change that would improve the client-patient experience, the outcomes, or the quality of care offered in the field of veterinary medicine.

This vet who I corresponded with is also concerned that there is an increasing trend that the profession of veterinary medicine is beginning to be viewed as a commodity, and I think that the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster would think and agree that the services he has provided are not a commodity. They are given with professionalism, with a heartfelt approach to their patients, Madam Speaker, as a professional service which requires an extremely high level of skill, investment, and training.

Madam Speaker, they would like to know why the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association was not consulted before Bill 31 was drafted – not consulted – which brings me back to why this bill should be sent to a committee of this Assembly. Strengthening legislation should be the key objective of debate in this House and in associated committees, and there is no better way to strengthen legislation, particularly of this nature and depth, than by sending it to a focused all-party committee for scrutiny, improvement, and recommendations. Sending it to a committee allows for robust discussion amongst all parties and for further consultation with key stakeholders, some of those who were not consulted prior, the people that were not consulted. We're hearing from the industry that they were not consulted before this was tabled in this House.

What we have here is a bill drafted by the government, for the government, and only for selected friends of this government, which they intend to ram through this Legislature in just a few short sitting days without consultation with those stakeholders that have been missed in the process. Sending it to a committee of this Legislature and allowing for due process allows for thorough stakeholder consultation. Thorough stakeholder consultation. That process is far superior to that which occurred prior to the introduction of this bill because it would allow all parties in the Assembly and independent Albertans and Alberta employers and employee groups to bring forward their opinions, those of themselves and the people they represent. It would allow government and this Assembly to consult thoroughly and in greater depth with stakeholders, the veterinarians.

I'm also hearing from motor dealers who say that they were not consulted. Does that not allow for us as legislators to better understand what might be the unintended consequences by talking to real people, real Albertans, about the legislation we enact? Do the members opposite really care about the impact on Albertans at large? It would seem perhaps that the answer to that may be no.

Sending a piece of legislation to committee is all about thoughtful, informed, thorough, and robust consideration of legislation before it

is passed into law. Take that word seriously, "law," that all Albertans will then have to adhere to – individuals, businesses, and the list goes on – that they must adhere to. Let's take that with the importance that those words imply and that they will have the effect of having on all Albertans.

Madam Speaker, let's use the committee system and process for what it was intended: to study legislation in greater depth, to consult, to consider, and to improve. We owe that to Albertans. This would yet again, as suggested for Bill 31 ahead of this, be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate that all members of this House are willing to use the time-honoured – I think that was mentioned by one of the members here – nonpartisan committee process when it actually makes sense, not politicizing the issue or legislation at hand but fully and comprehensively addressing it for the betterment of all Albertans.

Further, the government can prove that they have no interest in politicizing this issue nor avoiding the input, feedback, and concerns of Albertans by sending it to an all-party committee. Again, as already noted, at that stage a multitude of presenters and stakeholders, both individual and organizational, can be brought into the process to discuss how this legislation will actually impact everyday Albertans and what it will cost Alberta businesses and business owners both on the employee and employer side, somewhat in lieu of the economic impact study that does not seem to form a part of the work leading up to the moving of this bill.

3:50

Further, as already noted, this government has an abysmal track record when it comes to unintended consequences with various pieces of legislation. This government needs to be more considerate and respectful in the introduction of far-reaching legislation and take the time to actually listen to all stakeholders. All stakeholders. I'll say it again: all stakeholders, Madam Speaker. Then they may have the ability to prevent the fallout that we continue to see to this day from many past bills behind us, where that process was not followed, which again brings me back to my original concerns.

This legislation has a wide-ranging and far-reaching impact on individuals and businesses, and at what cost? No economic impact study to give us that information, no consultation with the veterinarians, no consultation with the motor dealers, no consultation with other businesses that we haven't even discussed here in this House, which again brings me back to some of my original concerns. This legislation will impact people and businesses of this province, virtually every single employer in this province and virtually every single employee in this province.

Madam Speaker, committee is a perfect place to thoroughly address those concerns and to allow all impacted stakeholders the opportunity to come before that committee, a committee of this House, that nonpartisan group, where we are instructed to act in a nonpartisan way to do what's best for Albertans and to allow the stakeholders the opportunity to come before us in that committee and share their concerns. Yes, again, the radical thought of creating an opportunity for input, consultation, and engagement of those most affected: is that too much to ask? I ask the members across the House here: is that too much to ask to ensure that we enact the best possible legislation in this Legislature?

Some of the experiences I've had in committee as well: it's not always time that I think has necessarily been well spent. But, in reflection, we talked about daylight savings time in our committee, the Economic Future Committee, and we gave that private member's bill due consideration, I think, respectfully across party lines in committee, respectfully with Albertans who came forward across this province: Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge. After doing online

consultation, we did personal consultation, and we heard from Albertans. We heard from individuals. We heard from organizations.

We actually heard some of the economic impact and some of the strategic impact that would deeply impact opportunities for this province. We were able to balance that impact, that economic impact, with the personal desires of many, and we did come to a consensus at that committee and bring back recommendations to this House on that particular piece of legislation. Can we not bring that same process to a bill which has even more far-reaching impact on the economics, the fragile economics, of this province, Madam Speaker?

Again, I think we owe it to Albertans to be that thoughtful, to be that considerate, to be that diligent to ensure that we can bring forward the best legislation for us to vote on in this House, where we can all put on our hats, our thinking – we're not allowed to wear hats – which we bring into this House, and say that we represent all of our constituents. We think about those constituents when we come into this House. We think about the feedback we received from the veterinarians, from the motor dealers, from the individuals that come into our offices day after day, those constituency managers and staff that we had here today, who listen to them, day in and day out, who I receive letters from that are forwarded to me on a daily basis so that I can understand the concerns from my constituents, my honoured constituents, who are my bosses, to ensure that they are communicating.

Every time I send out a newsletter, every time I'm in a meeting, I ask my constituents: "Please, don't sit on issues that come up. Don't stew about them. Don't worry about them. Contact me. Let me be your voice in this Legislature. Let me talk on your behalf." I'm doing that now, Madam Speaker. I'm doing that because my constituents are saying: "I was not consulted. I want to be consulted. If this bill passes and I'm not consulted, how will you make the best decisions on behalf of Albertans?"

I'm not sure how we'll do that, Madam Speaker. How can we do that when we don't consult with people? When I'm getting, in what might be the dying days of us being able to vote on this bill, which may be passed in this Legislature irrespective of and disrespecting the voice of many of constituents telling us they have not been consulted – is that the right thing to do? I throw that question back at the members opposite as well. Is that the right thing to do? Are you hearing from veterinarians? Are you hearing from motor vehicle dealers? Are you hearing from other businesses? If you are, I'm not hearing it in this House. Are you representing them? I'm doing my best to do that.

Honestly, if somebody came to me and said, "I support this bill; it's a hundred per cent great; I've been consulted; I'm feeling great," you know what? I would tell you that, and I hope you would tell us the opposite as well. You know what? I'm an honest person. If they came to me and told me that, I would tell you that. I challenge all of you. If you're getting those e-mails, bring them to the table. Table them in the House. Bring them forward and table them in this House and show us that you're representing your constituents, all of your constituents.

An Hon. Member: They deleted them all.

Mr. Gotfried: Did that go with the 800,000 e-mails?

The Deputy Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a) allows five minutes for questions and comments. The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the hon. member for his comments this afternoon about consultation and about how that brings good legislation.

You know, as a former social studies teacher I can remember talking to my kids about the fact that in a democracy the legislation that we bring into our House should have at least three components to it. It should have the input of the people. I mean, if the legislation doesn't have the input of the people, what are we doing this for? Secondly, it should reflect the majority opinion of the people. Whatever legislation that we pass through this House, we should be able to say and be able to show that it reflects the majority will of the people of this province. The third piece that I said we really ought to be able to see out of any piece of legislation that comes out of the House is that it also respects the rights of Albertans. That's why consultation – I think that's the point we're trying to make – is so really important. It helps you to figure out: what do Albertans really want? What is their input? Does it represent the majority will of this province, and does it respect the minority rights of the people of this province?

So, I guess, in light of some of the comments earlier today by the Minister of Advanced Education, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, about his concerns with sending something to committee for referral, I was wondering if you could explain to us again and maybe help to educate this Chamber as to why strengthening legislation is so very important, why a robust discussion about these kinds of issues is so very, very important, why stakeholder input and sending it to a committee and referring it to committee should be so very important.

You know, when I look at the track record of this government on consultation, I get worried. I get worried because we read in the news just today that consultation obviously didn't occur on Bill 32 because the Chief Electoral Officer was saying that he was never even asked.

I've seen the value of consultation when I remember Bill 203, the fair trading amendment act. That was sent to the Families and Communities Committee. We brought in a wide range of stakeholders, we had a chance to listen to the feedback of the stakeholders, and at the end of the day the committee and the hon. member that placed forward that private member's bill, Bill 203, took it off the plate because of the consultation and that it didn't meet those three standards.

Madam Speaker, I would like to hear the hon. member's comments with regard to the importance of consultation on these kinds of issues if we could, please.

The Deputy Speaker: Calgary-Fish Creek.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the member for his very thoughtful comments and questions. It reminds me that the stakeholders that we're talking about – and we use that term quite loosely here – are Albertans. They're our constituents. They are the people of this province, who we are here to serve.

4:00

Your comments about the majority will: I take those to heart as well. Yes, we have to ensure that the majority will is represented in that engagement, that consultation, but as importantly you mentioned the minority voice. I think the minority voice there is something that we all – again, we represent all constituents in our constituencies, every last one of them. I'm diligent about that, and I make myself available – and I hope every member in this House does – to listen to them. You may agree or disagree with them. They may sway your view. They may actually turn your thinking around, or you may inform them about your perspective, and you may agree to disagree and still maintain the respect that you have there. Those are very important things to do.

We talked about the unintended consequences and if we don't consult. Madam Speaker, if we don't consult – I think that consulting, the most important part of that, is what? It's listening. It's hearing our constituents and listening to our constituents and embracing what they're telling us. They're not wasting their time to gratuitously spew something just because they want to talk. They actually want to be heard. They want to be heard. They want to be consulted. I don't think we've given them that opportunity with this piece of legislation, by not consulting them.

By putting it to committee – again, I encourage all members of this House to support this amendment, not because it came from this side or that side or somewhere else or another side or one of the independent members but because we owe it to our constituents individually to do so.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other members wishing to speak to the proposed amendment?

Seeing none, are you ready for the question?

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment REF1 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 4:02 p.m.]

[Fifteen minutes having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Gotfried	McIver	Starke
Hanson	Pitt	Strankman
MacIntyre	Smith	Yao

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Gray	Nielsen
Babcock	Hinkley	Payne
Bilous	Hoffman	Piquette
Carson	Horne	Renaud
Ceci	Kleinstauber	Sabir
Connolly	Larivee	Schmidt
Coolahan	Littlewood	Schreiner
Cortes-Vargas	Loyola	Shepherd
Dang	Luff	Sigurdson
Drever	Malkinson	Sucha
Feehan	McKitrick	Turner
Fitzpatrick	McLean	Westhead
Goehring	Miller	Woollard

Totals:	For – 9	Against – 39
---------	---------	--------------

[Motion on amendment REF1 lost]

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

Mr. Strankman: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to rise and make an amendment to Bill 31 if I could. I have the requisite copies for that here. I'll await your direction for further information regarding that motion as we distribute it.

The Deputy Speaker: Reasoned amendment RA1.

Go ahead, hon. member.

4:20

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The members should have or are going to be receiving from the pages a copy of the amendment. I hope the Clerk has the original at the desk there.

I move that the motion for second reading of Bill 31, A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act, be amended by deleting all of the words after "that" and substituting the following:

Bill 31, A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act, be not now read a second time because the Assembly is of the view that the government did not adequately consult with the veterinary professionals across Alberta, including the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.

With that, Madam Speaker, I think it's important – and we have been taking great pains and considerations – to try and come forward with as much democratic conversation as we can. I just would like to comment that in looking through the bill, not particularly referring to the veterinary section of the bill, I highlighted some nine different sections: the Fair Trading Act, the Consumer Protection Act, ticket sales and resales, automotive sales and repairs, the high cost of credit, court action by consumers. Part 15.1 just is entitled General. That's the number 7 point that I have. Number 8 is fees, authorization for veterinary medicine.

Part of my time in the Legislature and dealing with these things is a frustration that we keep adding all this legislation. We stack it up. In this case the legislation is, I believe, some 26 pages long, but we've had legislation – I think Bill 30 or 33, one of the two, was 150 pages long. The phone book in my district isn't that thick, Madam Speaker. It's important that this continual onslaught of legislation needs to be reviewed, I think. In some jurisdictions they call it a sunset clause. I'd like to see the addition of a review for legislation as we proceed.

Madam Speaker, I think it's important to comment that the first time I saw this bill, I had the hope that the government was seeking to regulate itself. In fact, I didn't see a section in there, though, in this whole long list, on the regulation of garage sales. You know, there may be some materials that are sold at garage sales which may not meet some regulation, and it's unfortunate that maybe the government needs to regulate that. Part of a review process would be, in the case of this government, that we would do that so that we can be more safe and secure in Alberta, particularly in the view of an NDP government.

I've lived right beside the social experiment called Saskatchewan previously, which had an NDP government, and only recently did they actually see significant growth and fervour. As I travelled to Saskatoon, the growth, Madam Speaker, in that town is marvellous. Even in the past I've used Saskatchewan for veterinarian services and had marvellous and excellent service in an open fashion.

I find it interesting that the government is wanting to elicit a vast umbrella of coverage, so it's somewhat frustrating. You know, this bill, on its face, Madam Speaker, is attempting to do some good things, and maybe the inclusion of garage sales or farm auctions or whatever they might see would be a greater inclusion if the government wants to try and regulate that. You know, they seem to have a wont to do that. I don't know. Is it going to make it absolutely safer? We've got onerous legislation: OH and S, Bill 6. The government had an interesting reaction to that, mostly negative.

It's interesting that the legislation targets some commercial areas where many Alberta consumers find themselves frustrated, areas like automotive repair. Madam Speaker, in the rural areas, where I come from, the qualities and the profusion of automotive repair is based on the number of vehicles that the operator has parked in his lot. A lot of people do it on a simple level of word of mouth, and the quality of the work travels by word of mouth. It doesn't travel by government legislation. That's the code of professional businesses. Word of mouth sometimes is far more prominent than

legislation. Legislation comes after the fact, but the work is done, in many ways, based on personal contracts.

The problem that you see, Madam Speaker, is that when you look at legislation like what we have before us, many of these bills are brought forward by the government but are riddled with problems and unsound thinking, leading to unintended consequences, and we see that in many pieces of legislation. This kind of legislation, in my view, is embodied by the government that we have at hand. It rests on the assumption that businesses in A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act, like veterinarians in this case, in one portion of this act, may be out to singularly attack consumers. It implies that consumers should be treated like children rather than responsible adults. Just like I was using the example of the local automotive repair people, their profession, their skills travel widely

in many areas by word of mouth. Even in the area of Edmonton I found that to be the case.

Madam Speaker, at this time I'd like to take the opportunity to adjourn the debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

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

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Noting the time on the clock, I would seek the unanimous consent of the House to adjourn until Monday at 1:30.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:28 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, December 7, 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*)

Third Reading — 1789-90 (*Nov. 7, 2017 aft., 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*)

Third Reading — 1790-94 (*Nov. 7, 2017 aft., passed*)

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

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

Second Reading — 1761-69 (*Nov. 7, 2017 morn.*), 1796 (*Nov. 7, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1805-15 (*Nov. 8, 2017 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1910-17 (*Nov. 14, 2017 aft., passed*)

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

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

Second Reading — 1769-74 (*Nov. 7, 2017 morn.*), 1796-1803 (*Nov. 7, 2017 aft.*), 1833-46 (*Nov. 8, 2017 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1847-55 (*Nov. 9, 2017 morn.*), 1870-75 (*Nov. 9, 2017 aft.*), 1917-19 (*Nov. 14, 2017 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1921-35 (*Nov. 15, 2017 morn., passed on division*)

Bill 25 — Regulated Forestry Profession Amendment Act, 2017 (Gray)

First Reading — 1745 (*Nov. 6, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1794-96 (*Nov. 7, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1815-19 (*Nov. 8, 2017 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1935-36 (*Nov. 15, 2017 morn., passed*)

Bill 26 — An Act to Control and Regulate Cannabis (Ganley)

First Reading — 1978 (*Nov. 16, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2021-26 (*Nov. 27, 2017 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2087-2104 (*Nov. 29, 2017 morn.*), 2121-26 (*Nov. 29, 2017 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2166-69 (*Nov. 30, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 27* — Conflicts of Interest Amendment Act, 2017 (Ceci)

First Reading — 1831 (*Nov. 8, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1876-78 (*Nov. 9, 2017 aft.*), 1904-10 (*Nov. 14, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1936-39 (*Nov. 15, 2017 morn.*), 1955-59 (*Nov. 15, 2017 aft.*), 2066-68 (*Nov. 28, 2017 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2119-21 (*Nov. 29, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 28 — School Amendment Act, 2017 (Eggen)

First Reading — 1953 (*Nov. 15, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1980-81 (*Nov. 16, 2017 aft., adjourned*), 2027-31 (*Nov. 28, 2017 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2126-29 (*Nov. 29, 2017 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2169-75 (*Nov. 30, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 29* — An Act to Reduce Cannabis and Alcohol Impaired Driving (Mason)

First Reading — 1903 (*Nov. 14, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1959-66 (*Nov. 15, 2017 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1982-85 (*Nov. 16, 2017 aft.*), 2031-39 (*Nov. 28, 2017 morn.*), 2053-66 (*Nov. 28, 2017 aft., passed with amendment*)

Third Reading — 2117-19 (*Nov. 29, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 30 — An Act to Protect the Health and Well-being of Working Albertans (Gray)

First Reading — 2000 (*Nov. 27, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2131-51 (*Nov. 30, 2017 morn.*), 2230-34 (*Dec. 4, 2017 eve*), 2209-25 (*Dec. 4, 2017 eve.*), 2235-43 (*Dec. 5, 2017 morn.*),

2274-78 (*Dec. 5, 2017 aft.*), 2332-51 (*Dec. 6, 2017 aft., adjourned (on amendment)*)

Bill 31 — A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act (McLean)

First Reading — 2115-16 (*Nov. 29, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2225-30 (*Dec. 4, 2017 eve.*), 2243-46 (*Dec. 5, 2017 morn.*), 2263-74 (*Dec. 5, 2017 aft.*), 2402-10 (*Dec. 7, 2017 aft., adjourned (on amendment)*)

Bill 32 — An Act to Strengthen and Protect Democracy in Alberta (Gray)

First Reading — 2190 (*Dec. 4, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2297-2316 (*Dec. 6, 2017 morn.*), 2369-88 (*Dec. 7, 2017 morn., adjourned (on amendment)*)

Bill 33 — Electoral Divisions Act (Mason)

First Reading — 2190 (*Dec. 4, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2279-95 (*Dec. 5, 2017 eve.*), 2353-68 (*Dec. 6, 2017 eve., adjourned (on amendment)*)

Bill 34 — Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2017 (Mason)

First Reading — 2329 (*Dec. 6, 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*)

Committee of the Whole — 1747-56 (*Nov. 6, 2017 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1879-82 (*Nov. 14, 2017 morn., passed*)

Bill 207 — Regulatory Burden Reduction Act (Hunter)

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

Second Reading — 1756-58 (*Nov. 6, 2017 aft.*), 1882-90 (*Nov. 14, 2017 morn.*), 2008-11 (*Nov. 27, 2017 aft., defeated on division*)

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

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

Second Reading — 2012 (*Nov. 27, 2017 aft.*), 2191-95 (*Dec. 4, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 209 — Radon Awareness and Testing Act (Luff)

First Reading — 1903 (*Nov. 14, 2017 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2195-2203 (*Dec. 4, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 210 — Missing Persons (Silver Alert) Amendment Act, 2017 (Smith)

First Reading — 1869 (*Nov. 9, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 211 — Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (Discretionary Trust) Amendment Act, 2017 (Malkinson)

First Reading — 2259 (*Dec. 5, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 212 — Tobacco and Smoking Reduction (Protecting Children's Health) Amendment Act, 2017 (Sweet)

First Reading — 2329 (*Dec. 6, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 214 — An Act to Regulate Political Action Committees (Swann)

First Reading — 2165 (*Nov. 30, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 215 — Tow Truck Safety Act (Drysdale)

First Reading — 2329 (*Dec. 6, 2017 aft., passed*)

Bill 216 — Child, Youth and Family Enhancement (Protecting Alberta's Children) Amendment Act, 2017 (Ellis)

First Reading — 2259 (*Dec. 5, 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	2389
Oral Question Period	
Energy Policies	2391, 2396
Provincial Response to Pipeline Opposition.....	2392
Valuing Mental Health Report Recommendations	2393
Saskatchewan's Construction Site Ban on Alberta Licence Plates.....	2394
Greenhouse Gas Large Emitter Regulations.....	2395
Public Service Pension Plans.....	2397
Cold Lake Area Unemployment.....	2397
Energy Industry Opposition.....	2398
Postsecondary Education Funding.....	2398
Members' Statements	
Official Opposition and Government Policies	2399
Interprovincial Relations	2399
RCMP St. Albert Detachment	2399
Habitat for Humanity Edmonton-Mill Creek Project.....	2400
Red Deer Regional Hospital Emergency Services.....	2400
Rural Crime	2400
Presenting Petitions	2401
Tabling Returns and Reports	2401
Tablings to the Clerk	2401
Orders of the Day	2402
Government Bills and Orders	
Second Reading	
Bill 31 A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act.....	2402
Division	2409

Alberta Hansard is available online at www.assembly.ab.ca

For inquiries contact:

Managing Editor

Alberta Hansard

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875