



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Tuesday morning, March 13, 2018

Day 3

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

Fourth 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),
Alberta Party Opposition House Leader
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawthorn (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 (AP)
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)
Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (NDP)
Kenney, Hon. Jason, PC, Calgary-Lougheed (UCP),
Leader of the Official Opposition
Kleinstueber, 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)
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),
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, Fort McMurray-Conklin
Vacant, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

Party standings:

New Democratic: 54 United Conservative: 25 Alberta Party: 3 Alberta Liberal: 1 Progressive Conservative: 1 Independent: 1 Vacant: 2

Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

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

Clark	Horne
Cyr	McKitrick
Dang	Turner
Ellis	

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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

Carson	Littlewood
Clark	Piquette
Connolly	Schneider
Coolahan	Schreiner
Dach	Starke
Fitzpatrick	Taylor
Gotfried	

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Ms Goehring
Deputy Chair: Mr. Smith

Drever	Miller
Ellis	Orr
Hinkley	Renaud
Horne	Shepherd
Luff	Swann
McKitrick	Yao
McPherson	

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Shepherd
Deputy Chair: Mr. Malkinson

Aheer	Littlewood
Drever	Pitt
Gill	van Dijken
Horne	Woollard
Kleinstauber	

Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

Chair: Mr. Wanner
Deputy Chair: Cortes-Vargas

Cooper	Nixon
Dang	Piquette
Jabour	Pitt
Luff	Schreiner
McIver	

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Chair: Ms Kazim
Deputy Chair: Connolly

Anderson, W.	Orr
Babcock	Rosendahl
Drever	Stier
Drysdale	Strankman
Hinkley	Sucha
Kleinstauber	Taylor
McKitrick	

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Ms Fitzpatrick
Deputy Chair: Ms Babcock

Carson	Loyola
Coolahan	Miller
Cooper	Nielsen
Goehring	Nixon
Gotfried	Pitt
Hanson	van Dijken
Kazim	

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Mr. Cyr
Deputy Chair: Mr. Dach

Barnes	Malkinson
Carson	Miller
Fildebrandt	Nielsen
Gotfried	Panda
Hunter	Renaud
Littlewood	Turner
Luff	

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Chair: Loyola
Deputy Chair: Mr. Drysdale

Babcock	Malkinson
Dang	McPherson
Fraser	Nielsen
Hanson	Rosendahl
Kazim	Woollard
Kleinstauber	Vacant
Loewen	

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Deputy Speaker: Morning.

Let us reflect. Let's think of the great strength and courage of all Albertans across this province. During difficult times we need to have confidence that strength will be found from within ourselves and those around us. Let us welcome small acts of kindness and recognize that small acts will make a huge difference.

Please be seated.

Orders of the Day

Government Motions

- Ms Ganley moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:
Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly resolve into Committee of the Whole, when called, to consider certain bills on the Order Paper.

[Government Motion 3 carried]

- Ms Ganley moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:
Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly resolve itself into Committee of Supply, when called, to consider supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

[Government Motion 4 carried]

Transmittal of Estimates

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

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I received messages from Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, which I now transmit to you.

The Sergeant-at-Arms: Order!

The Deputy Speaker: The supplementary supply message reads as follows. The Lieutenant Governor transmits supplementary supply estimates of certain sums required for the service of the province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

The interim supply message reads as follows. The Lieutenant Governor transmits interim supply estimates of certain sums required for the service of the province and of certain sums required from the lottery fund for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Please be seated.

The hon. President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I have received certain messages, and I now wish to table the 2017-18 supplementary supply estimates. When supplementary estimates are tabled, section 4(5) of the Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act requires an update to the consolidated fiscal plan to be tabled. Accordingly, I wish to table the 2017-18 third-quarter fiscal update, which serves as the updated fiscal plan. The quarterly fiscal plan provides the framework for additional spending authority for the Legislative Assembly and for the government.

Madam Speaker, these supplementary supply estimates will provide additional spending to the Legislative Assembly and the 10 government departments. When passed, the estimates will authorize an approximate increase of \$720,000 to the office of the Child and Youth Advocate, \$1.5 billion in expense funding, and \$35.7 million in financial transactions funding for the government. Of this funding, the highest single expense is the reprofiling of \$800 million for the municipal sustainability initiative. These estimates will also authorize the transfer of \$49.7 million, with a net transfer of \$41.5 million, from expense vote to capital investment in the ministries of Education and Economic Development and Trade as previously approved.

In addition, I now wish to table the 2018-19 interim supply estimates. These interim supply estimates will provide spending authority to the Legislative Assembly and to the government for the period of April 1, 2018, to May 31, 2018. This interim funding authority will ensure continuity in the business of the province while the Legislature takes the time necessary to discuss, debate, and enact the full funding required for government business for the 2018-19 fiscal year. When passed, these interim supply estimates will authorize approximate spending of \$29 million for the Legislative Assembly, \$7.7 billion in expense funding, \$559 million in capital investment funding, \$160 million in financial transaction funding for the government, and \$240 million for the transfer from the lottery fund to the general revenue fund.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Government Motions

(continued)

- Ms Ganley moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:
Be it resolved that the message from Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the 2017-18 supplementary supply estimates for the general revenue fund, and all matters connected therewith be referred to Committee of Supply.

[Government Motion 5 carried]

- Ms Ganley moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:
Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 61(2) the Committee of Supply shall be called to consider the 2017-18 supplementary supply estimates for the general revenue fund for six hours, three hours on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, beginning at 3 p.m. and three hours on Thursday, March 15, 2018, beginning at 9 a.m.

[Government Motion 6 carried]

- Ms Ganley moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:
Be it resolved that the message from Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the 2018-19 interim supply estimates, and all matters connected therewith be referred to Committee of Supply.

[Government Motion 7 carried]

- Ms Ganley moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:
Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 61(2) the Committee of Supply shall be called to consider the 2018-19 interim supply estimates for three hours on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, beginning at 9 a.m.

[Government Motion 8 carried]

10:10 Evening Sitting on March 19, 2018

- Ms Ganley moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:
Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 4(1) the

Assembly shall meet in the evening on Monday, March 19, 2018, for consideration of government business.

[Government Motion 9 carried]

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

Morning Sitting Cancellation

10. Ms Ganley moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:
Be it resolved that, notwithstanding Standing Order 3(1), the morning sitting of the Assembly on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, be cancelled.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. By way of explanation I should indicate that on the morning of March 21 the AAMD and C is hosting the ministerial forum. To facilitate greater participation, we are proposing that there not be a morning sitting on that date.

[Government Motion 10 carried]

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

Morning Sitting Cancellation

11. Ms Ganley moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:
Be it resolved that, notwithstanding Standing Order 3(1), the morning sitting of the Assembly on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, be cancelled.

Ms Ganley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you know, the office of the Speaker hosts the annual event MLA for a Day to give students the opportunity to experience what it's like to be an MLA. That event is traditionally held overlapping the first Tuesday in May. I understand that participants make use of this Chamber during the event, so for that reason we have cancelled the morning sitting on that date in previous sessions, and we propose to do the same this May.

[Government Motion 11 carried]

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

Auditor General Appointment

12. Ms Ganley moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:
Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly concur in the report of the Select Special Auditor General Search Committee tabled on December 21, 2017, Sessional Paper 732/2017, and recommend to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that W. Doug Wylie be appointed as Auditor General for the province of Alberta for a term of eight years, effective April 29, 2018.

Ms Ganley: Thank you once again. As stated in the motion, the Select Special Auditor General Search Committee – say that five times fast – completed a thorough hiring process in December and recommended that Mr. Doug Wylie be appointed as Alberta's Auditor General. Mr. Wylie has been in the office of the Auditor General for 28 years. For the past 14 years he has worked as the Assistant Auditor General. He has a wealth of relevant knowledge and experience, which he would bring to his new role. I encourage all members to support this appointment.

As well, I would like to thank our outgoing Auditor General for his service. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: Any hon. members wishing to speak to this motion? The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to speak on the motion, Motion 12, before the House to adopt the recommendations of the Select Special Auditor General Search Committee in appointing the next Auditor General of Alberta. As a member of the committee I had the opportunity to be involved in this critical process to set a future course of this important institution, which serves to hold government to account and makes sure taxpayers get the value for their money. I think this is all important. I think that's all that every MLA is looking to achieve.

Madam Speaker, the independent office that has been led by the Auditor General helps to give Albertans and the members of the Legislature a perspective that is insulated from partisanship of politics and the spin of government. They do immense work to help sort through a web of government bureaucracy and keep the government accountable for its decisions.

As we move on to select a new leader for this important role, I believe that it is worthwhile to stop and acknowledge the exceptional work that has been done by the current holder of the office for a better part of a decade. Merwan Saher is and has been for some time an extremely dedicated public servant, a true Albertan.

I have to say that he started his career in the Auditor General's office in 1980. Mr. Saher has given almost 40 years of service to the people of Alberta and over the last eight years has done so as the Auditor General of Alberta. As the job of the Auditor General's office is to keep the government accountable and steward the hard-earned tax dollars of Albertans, I would wager, Madam Speaker, that over his impressive career Albertans have saved substantial sums of money by Mr. Saher's dedicated work. As an elected representative of Albertans I would like to thank the Auditor General for what he has done for the betterment of our great province.

Now, looking forward, we must make sure that the quality work of the Auditor General's office continues to go on. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to say with confidence that the people of Alberta have yet another dedicated person ready to serve them. After advertising the position, receiving many from both in and outside of Alberta, and conducting interviews, our committee concluded that the best person to become the next Auditor General of Alberta was Doug Wylie. Like his predecessor, Mr. Wylie has a long track record of public service for the province of Alberta. For the last 28 years – 28 years, Madam Speaker – he has been a part of the team of the Auditor General's office, being a Deputy Auditor General for half the time. His experience and effectiveness in the role leave him well prepared to take on this daunting challenge that's before him. He will now lead this team that does such incredible work for the people of our great province.

Madam Speaker, I just want to conclude by reiterating the importance of this role and this office to the people of Alberta. As a member of the opposition it is our job to hold the government to account, and we do that to the best of our ability in the Legislature. But accountability and efficiency in government take more than just opposition. The Auditor General has a critical role as a nonpartisan third party in ensuring the prudent management of fiscal resources in government departments.

I would like to say once more: thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Saher, for the incredible service that you have done for the great province of Alberta. I would like to add my congratulations and best

wishes to Doug Wylie as he carries on with the important duties entrusted to the Auditor General's office of Alberta. It is for this reason I am pleased to support this motion. Thank you for putting this forward. I look forward to seeing what Mr. Wylie does for Alberta.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other hon. members wishing to speak to the motion? The hon. Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to speak in favour of this motion. It was my privilege also to be a member of the Select Special Auditor General Search Committee. I think the committee has done good work and worked well together, so I fully endorse this motion and the appointment of W. Doug Wylie to the position of Auditor General.

Madam Speaker, I also rise to pay tribute to the soon-to-be-retiring Auditor General, Merwan Saher. According to his official biography Merwan became a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in 1972 and a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta in 1982. His career as a legislative auditor began with the office of the Auditor General in 1980, where he engaged in various roles. Throughout his professional journey within the office Merwan's devotion to improving the Alberta public service has grown unceasingly, fuelling his decision to dedicate his career to the province. Merwan Saher was appointed Auditor General of Alberta in April 2010, and in 2012 he was made a fellow of the Chartered Accountants of Alberta.

10:20

Merwan has shown an unwavering commitment to helping government managers wisely use the funds and resources that have been entrusted to them over almost four decades. I can attest to the seriousness that some departments treat the findings of the Auditor General's reports. The best public service managers launch tiger teams and special temporary work units to fix problems in short order so they don't happen again. The role of the Auditor General, of course, is to improve all the processes and procedures that are in these departments. I feel that he has been able to bring light and bring also an awareness in these departments so that they recognize the importance of the recommendations and the importance to Albertans in ensuring that Albertans are getting the best value for the dollars that are being spent.

Merwan has delivered at least 26 office of the Auditor General reports, and in a place filled with so much partisanship, Merwan is truly a light of nonpartisanship, overseeing the government's finances and processes no matter who is in power and delivering the same fearless recommendations.

With that, I'd like to recognize the retiring Merwan Saher. Also, again I repeat my full endorsement of the work that the committee has done and fully recommend the appointment of W. Doug Wylie to the position of Auditor General.

Thank you.

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

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

Then we'll call the vote.

[Government Motion 12 carried]

Consideration of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

Ms Sweet moved, seconded by Mr. Malkinson, that an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows.

To Her Honour the Honourable Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Alberta:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Madam Speaker and to the members of this Assembly, for the opportunity to respond to the Speech from the Throne. It is such an honour to be able to debate on the throne speech. I'd like to thank Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor for her thoughtful and passionate words about our province and for laying the groundwork of this, the Fourth Session of the 29th Legislature of the province of Alberta. I am humbled and deeply honoured to rise today.

On International Women's Day we celebrated the success of women here in Alberta and around the world. We celebrated our daughters, who represented the future of our province; we celebrated our mothers, who are the backbone of our economy and our communities; and we celebrated our grandmothers, whose wisdom and perseverance in creating a more just and equitable world helped lay the foundation for the progressive Alberta we all love.

Madam Speaker, I am so proud of how far we have come. I am proud that in the heartland of this great country Albertans have elected a government where the majority of ministers are women. I am proud that in this Legislature half the government caucus is represented by women, and I am proud that we established a government with a Status of Women ministry at its core, a ministry that ensures every single day that we are doing our part in government to advance the place of women in our society.

Madam Speaker, as Albertans know, symbols matter. Symbolic figures like the Famous Five help us tell the story of the progress in our society, but as history has shown, for real progress to be made, symbolic rhetoric must be matched with concrete actions.

That is why our government, the government that Alberta put their trust in, took real action. We are raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour because we know that it is disproportionately helping low-income women. We established the Alberta child benefit because we know that it will help lower income families reach their full potential. We took the first steps towards advancing affordable and accessible child care so that more mothers can take advantage of our economic opportunities.

Madam Speaker, the good news is that economic opportunities for women and for all Albertans are looking up. After the toughest recession in generations, brought on by historic drops in oil prices, Alberta is back in the saddle. Almost 90,000 Albertans have found a new full-time job over the last year. Wages are up, our economy is diversifying, and Alberta is once again the leader in the country for economic growth, growth and opportunity that is being shared by all and not just a few at the top. The choices that our government has made were the right ones, and the plan we enacted to protect core public services like health care and education while stimulating job creation is working. I see the evidence in my constituency of Edmonton-Manning.

Every year I collaborate with Women Building Futures when planning my annual job fair. Since 1998 Women Building Futures has been preparing women for career success in industries where we have been historically underrepresented. Their work is critical in creating new economic opportunities for women.

Women Building Futures shared a success story with me recently that really hit home. Last year a woman came to our annual job fair with her sister. She was there, as siblings often are, to lend her support. She wasn't looking for a new job let alone a new career, but she had some time, connected with Women Building Futures, and had a conversation. She ended up enrolling in their journeywoman start program, an integrated job-training program that is offered in conjunction with the province of Alberta. She graduated at the top of her class. And today she's building her own future in the trades, with a new career, a new job, and endless opportunities. It is experience like this that will tell the story not only of our economic recovery but of how our government is working day in and day out to ensure that all women can succeed in today's Alberta.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to take a few minutes to talk about this job fair. It was held over the weekend in Edmonton-Manning. It was bigger than last year but also smaller. Sounds confusing, but let me explain. This year I collaborated with more employers. Quite simply, there were more employers looking to hire. Over 50 businesses, some large and some small, came together to try and fill 500 vacancies across a broad range of sectors. While the number of jobs available increased, I am so very pleased to report that the number of job seekers decreased, and for the first time I had employers hiring people right on the spot.

Nothing is more gratifying than sharing in the experience of one of my constituents finding new economic opportunities and a new job, the smiles on their faces, the look in their eyes. It is replicating the experience across this great province that is at the heart of the work of this government. We know that stories like this are happening with increased frequency. We see it in the job numbers. We see it in the take-home pay numbers. We see it in the economic projection after projection that says that Alberta will lead this country in economic growth year after year after year. More importantly, I'm seeing it in my constituency and in the stories my constituents are telling me and at my annual job fair, where more and more Albertans are finding work and securing their future.

Madam Speaker, as I said earlier, this government resolutely committed to providing economic opportunities for all Albertans. Alberta is the economic engine of this country, and when our engine is humming Alberta's success, our country succeeds. As we all know, Albertans are down-to-earth, practical people. They know that today and into the future our energy industry will continue to provide good quality, mortgage-paying jobs. They know that getting a pipeline to tidewater is an economic and social imperative. And they know that they have a government that will use every tool at its disposal to get energy products to market and to get the pipeline built.

Let's be clear. We will get the Trans Mountain pipeline built. We will do whatever it takes. This government has already succeeded where others said that we would fail. We did what many thought was impossible in today's climate. Under the leadership of Premier Notley we had the federal government declare that a pipeline was in the national interest, and we had the federal government grant regulatory approval for a pipeline to tidewater. This was a historic step for our province, for our energy industry, and for all Albertans. Now we are taking action on the next step in this two-step dance. Under the leadership of Premier Notley we are working strategically in concert with our partners to get this pipeline built.

While the city of Burnaby tried to block our pipeline in court, we intervened. Albertans as practical people supported this move. When the government of British Columbia tried to overstep its constitutional authority and regulate something it has no right to regulate, we intervened. Albertans as practical people supported this move. They supported our Premier when she shut down talks about electricity sales from British Columbia, deals worth potentially \$500 million to them. They supported the Premier when she shut the door on B.C. wine in order to get B.C. to back down on the infamous point 5. Under the leadership of our Premier the measures our government introduced were effective in getting B.C. to back away from the illegal and unconstitutional part of their plan.

When I talk to my constituents, they are proud of this government and proud of our Premier. They see what I see. They see a bold leader and a champion for our energy industry. They see a strategically sophisticated thinker who has delivered on regulatory approval and is working day in and day out on their behalf to get the pipeline built, and they see a government who is determined to do whatever it takes to stand up and make sure Albertans are respected on the national stage.

10:30

Let me say this to my fellow Albertans. Thank you for your vocal support over these past two months. From east to west and north to south you've had our backs. It's because of you and the strength of your voices that your government has been successful. And know this. Just as you've had our backs, we'll have yours. We'll get this pipeline built by pulling together as Albertans always do. Finally, know this. Your government will not back down. This project is in the national interest. This project is essential to our future prosperity, and this project will get built.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning, I just want to confirm that you are moving the motion.

Ms Sweet: Yes, Madam Speaker. My apologies.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It is a pleasure to be here this morning. You know, each spring your government outlines a plan for the future of Albertans through the presentation of a throne speech. The throne speech is a way for us to reaffirm our values as a society, and it sets the broad strokes of a government's legislative agenda. Previous throne speeches and budgets have outlined our commitment to affordable child care, to protected leave to care for a sick child, and to a \$15 minimum wage for Alberta workers.

During the worst economic downturn since the dust bowl of the 1930s we promised to have Albertans' backs, and we did just that. We've protected our health care and education. We've invested in green energy, public transit, and the long-promised and much-needed projects like the Calgary cancer centre. Those decisions ensured that many Albertans did not lose their jobs and that many others got back to work. Over 90,000 new jobs were created, and today there are more jobs than ever before in our province's history.

I am so proud of the choices our government made during the downturn and the choice to have Albertans' backs all across this province, but even though Alberta is once again leading Canada's economy, important work remains to be done. The recovery has not yet touched all of my constituents. That is why I'm proud to be part of a government that is putting people first. I'm proud to be part of a government where every decision made about how every dollar is

being raised, saved, and invested is being done with one goal: to make life better for all Albertans.

As I move my comments to the current throne speech, I think it's best to review how we got here. I came up with my response to the throne speech while working on my car, which is, strangely, where I'm at my most relaxed, as some of you may know. That car is a good metaphor for where we are at currently. My car is as old as the previous PC government, and just like the previous PC government, it contains 44 years of questionable compromises, quick fixes, and just plain weird add-ons that don't work well together anymore. That's why I fixed it up, upgrading some things with new, modern parts, adding speed and efficiency, and in other areas returning it to stock. I suppose one could say that this is a good analogy for politics here in Alberta. The UCP is really just the same rusted, barely functioning, sputtering car that the PCs were, except that somebody pried off the PC logo and slapped a UCP one in its place. Albertans rejected that tired car. It wasn't working for them.

To govern by putting people first is not about putting new paint on an old car and saying: "There. All done." It's about rebuilding that car piece by piece. That is what Albertans elected us to do, and that is what we see in this throne speech. We will diversify our electricity sector and lay the groundwork for a more stable electrical system by introducing legislation to create a capacity market, a new, modern capacity market that will enable us to get new, low-cost electrical supply that Albertans will need to power our long-term prosperity. The old model relied on squeezing consumers to attract investors. The new model will attract investors through stability and reliability.

Madam Speaker, in other areas our government is taking our best ideas from the past such as diversifying our economy. I know you've heard that one before, except this time we are actually doing it. The Energy Diversification Act will support the commercialization of partial upgrading of our bitumen. It will increase the number of refineries that can accept our energy resources and will create good jobs for Albertans and for residents of Calgary-Currie. This is important work, and it is work that Albertans are depending on us to get right. When I meet people on their doorsteps and verandas or chat with commuters on C-Train platforms or at community events, those in Calgary-Currie appreciate that work, too.

Members opposite like to clamour that we are out of touch with Albertans – tell me if you've heard that one before – but that it is not what I am hearing in Calgary-Currie. People want a car that works and one that works when you need it most. That means addressing inequality and taking action on climate change. And in a riding where over 20 per cent of families work in oil and gas, that means investing in diversifying our energy economy.

I met many seniors and parents at the doors. I met a mother of a daughter who is on AISH. She learned about the work I did on Henson trust, and she was very hopeful that the meaningful changes I brought forward will be taken up by this government, changes that will be made to safeguard her daughter's future. She knows that this government is looking out for her and that we will not leave the most vulnerable behind.

Last November the Minister of Seniors and Housing and I visited Spruce Cliff Downs, an affordable housing for seniors in Calgary-Currie. With Marlys Jordan, CEO of Calgary Heritage and Housing, and Graham MacDonald, the facilities manager, we identified a need for unit replacements. Just last week as part of a \$1.4 million investment in affordable housing to build and renovate housing units across the province, Spruce Cliff Downs was successful in securing \$250,000 to work with this government to make lives better for senior citizens in this townhouse complex.

This funding complements work already done in Calgary-Currie. Just last year I had the opportunity to open a 26-unit affordable housing redevelopment which will help families stabilize their finances, live in a safe place, and build their lives for themselves and those they love. Just on the other side of the street from my riding, at the base of 45th Street, 160 new affordable housing units are just months away from completion, when they'll be occupied by Calgarians in need. This is putting people first.

In Calgary-Currie we have many young families, and I frequently hear about the struggles families face in balancing child care and working needs. Last year a mother in Rosscarrock, another neighbourhood in my riding, told me she paid \$65 a day for child care and was forced to decide whether she could afford to go back to work and place her child in care. She could not. Studies show that she is not alone. I also met with a father living in Killarney, a more affluent area of my riding, who said that he can afford child care while he knows many of his neighbours cannot. What he particularly liked about our pilot project was that we had thought out well-rounded solutions to child care that work for everyone. He's a shift worker, and he has always had trouble finding child care that extends beyond 6 p.m. He said that he was happy to contribute to an affordable child care that works for all and is happy that we are exploring new child care initiatives.

Young families across Calgary-Currie welcome Alberta's new \$25-a-day daycare, and this throne speech promises that it will expand this year. This is great news. Affordable child care is the most effective way to tackle the gender wage gap, but it is also effective at creating jobs, good jobs for students like those at Mount Royal University who are training to become professionals in early learning and child and youth care programs. Alberta's \$25-a-day early learning and child care centres are making life more affordable for the people of Calgary-Currie, and I want to see even more of them.

We are not neglecting education either. Where past governments announced school after school only to announce the same school four years later, we have taken action by actually building the schools we have promised. A novel concept, I know. We have newly built or substantially modernized 128 schools since election.

10:40

For too long Alberta governments – I'm going to stick with my car analogy here – sputtered along with the check climate change light on. In 2015 we campaigned on taking concrete action on climate change, and we have. We struck a committee with leading experts, resulting in recommendations on how to address climate change, and that work has begun to yield results. The carbon levy has resulted in rebates to families and businesses and community organizations like Richmond Knob Hill Community Association in my riding, which used that money to install solar panels to offset costs.

Over 150,000 Albertans have taken advantage of the energy efficiency program. There has been record investment in renewable energy, resulting in new and innovative ways to diversify our traditional energy industry. One innovation that was recently announced by Gen III Oil Corp is the construction of a \$90 million, 2,800 barrels per day re-refinery. This will be the first re-refinery on the prairies and just the third in Canada. Many of you probably drove by this project on the way here; it's in Bowden.

I was pleased to host Calgary-Currie resident George Davidson, who is the president of Gen III Oil Corporation, as one of my throne speech guests. We will now have a place right here in Alberta where we can recycle used oil and have it turned into new products, and I personally look forward to giving him some used oil as one of the first feedstocks for that project. But we cannot diversify a ghost

town. Calgary-Currie residents understand that you cannot have one foot on the gas and the other on the brake. This is not about the environment and the economy but how they work together, and getting a pipeline to tidewater is an important part of Alberta's diversification plans for a lower carbon future.

Downtown Calgary is headquarters to several pipeline companies, including Inter Pipeline and Pembina, both recent recipients of newly announced royalty credits under Alberta's petrochemical diversification program. Inter Pipeline is building a \$1.85 billion propane dehydrogenation facility near Fort Saskatchewan, and Pembina has a proposed propane-to-plastics facility. Employees of these pipeline companies and employees of their oil-producing businesses as well as engineers and everyone involved in the construction and operation of these plants are partners in Calgary-Currie or employees that live in Calgary-Currie. Calgary-Currie will benefit from these investments.

As we work to diversify the markets our energy resources can access via pipeline, we are also adding value to our resources right here at home and laying the groundwork for new renewable energy jobs and an electricity system with more stable prices.

In 2015 Albertans rejected that unreliable car – I love my car analogies – and they replaced it with a government that works for them. Since 2015 I go out door-knocking as much as I can. Prior to the election I thought my local MLA was too absent, someone who only liked to be with like-minded people – I was a mechanic; I moved into sales before the election – and I thought this was wrong. That is why I've been to events filled with supporters and others filled with people that have a concern. Face to face and on occasion in my face I chat with all of my constituents to hear their perspective and what matters to them most.

Just this weekend, Madam Speaker, when I was out door-knocking, I met a man, a lifelong conservative, who could not imagine how anyone could stand up stronger for our province than our Premier. I thanked him and told him about the future outlined in the throne speech, a future where Albertans work together, where they have each other's backs. He, like so many others in Calgary-Currie, see this recovery, that things can be done differently and that good things happen when governments proudly put people first.

I am truly proud of this exciting throne speech. That is why I sought to be an MLA representing the people of Calgary-Currie. The people of Calgary-Currie are energy workers, parents, students, seniors, immigrants, and we all share in this tremendous love for this province and want to see each other succeed, to be educated, and to be healthy. We want each other to have good jobs, and we know that it is important to support pipelines to tidewater while maintaining our environmental integrity. We know that energy jobs are what grow our city, and we know that supporting the arts is just as critical to a well-balanced livelihood and community.

We are also learning that this government's initiatives are resonating with Albertans. They are seeing that progressive values are Albertan values and that they can peacefully coexist with an economic recovery. We are forging the path to prosperity without sacrificing Albertans along the way.

I have truly enjoyed all the relationships I've built with various community organizations and businesses in Calgary-Currie. People know that they can come to my office or give me a call any time, and if they are too busy in their lives to come to my office, I will find them at the doors. Calgary-Currie wants a representative government to fight for them, and this throne speech makes it clear that this is exactly what they'll get.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member for Calgary-Currie, could I just confirm that you are seconding the motion to accept the throne speech?

Mr. Malkinson: That is correct, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

Mr. Cooper: Why, thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a pleasure today to rise to speak about the throne speech. Very clearly, if you've listened to the government members this morning, there are two very different Albertas that are currently taking place here across our province, one that the government wants you to believe and one that's filled with constituents like the ones in Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, that I hear from on a very regular basis. They certainly see the world very differently than the government would like to have you believe.

I do rise to respond to the government's Speech from the Throne. As you've heard from the Leader of the Official Opposition, they say that replicating what someone has done is the sincerest form of flattery, and I can only imagine how flattered the Leader of the Opposition must be by this government. Last week their speech swung from reading talking points from the Member for Calgary-Lougheed to making further announcements of risky ideological policy. It was something else to see. I know, Madam Speaker, that I spent a good portion of the summer speaking about the future of Alberta and how the best days of Alberta are ahead and that there are many great things to come.

Madam Speaker, one thing that I know to be true is that that's because of the people of Alberta, not because of the government of Alberta. It was so interesting to hear the government's throne speech speak about those days ahead. I really, firmly believe that the best days are ahead of us, but it isn't going to be because this government continues their reckless track record. It's going to be because of everyday Albertans that are committed to moving this province forward.

You know, Madam Speaker, the role of the opposition is to ensure that voices of everyday Albertans are being elevated and represented here in the Chamber. For the sake of Albertans I desperately wish that the government's sunny-skies optimism outlined in the Speech from the Throne was truthful. I wish that I had constituents lining up at my office to tell me about the amazing new job that they have, how they felt supported by this government during the economic downturn and recession. I wish that I had food banks coming to the office and saying, "We're ready to close our doors," that they're seeing such a decline in the need for service, that they've had so few people knocking on their door asking for their services. But that's just not the case. I wish that I had industry telling me that the government was creating an environment where they wanted to create and invest billions of dollars in Alberta, but those folks aren't coming to the office in Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

10:50

There are a lot of things that the government talked about in their throne speech that I desperately want to believe were true for the sake of Albertans. Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, that is just not the case. Just recently I've been meeting with service providers and nonprofits, who have spoken very frankly about the devastation and destruction that this government has done and the pressures that their legislation and policies have put them under, the type of pressures that come from government regulation and changing the rules that will add significant burden and cost to their service providers. I think specifically about major legislation changes to

labour laws that literally will be costing nonprofits \$50,000, \$100,000, \$200,000, where they're going to have to dramatically reduce services because of this government.

You know, in the throne speech we heard a lot of buzzwords like "diversification," "economic development," and "predictable funding" to disguise the fact that despite their best efforts Alberta is still struggling as we go further into debt every single day just to keep the lights on. Madam Speaker, there are currently 165,000 unemployed Albertans. Last month alone 10,500 jobs were lost, and not included in that statistic are the Albertans who've given up looking for work. Even the lucky Albertans who've been able to find employment have not been able to find jobs that pay them the same type of wages comparable to what they were making prior to this NDP government.

The problem is that the government has piled on taxes, regulatory burden, red tape, labour changes, a minimum wage hike on top of an already spiralling economy. The government's job was to do no harm, and they did an incredible amount of harm. Investment fled the province in unprecedented numbers for more stable markets. According to the CFIB 92 per cent of business owners are not confident that this government is committed to improving the business climate. We've seen countless businesses go under, losing valuable jobs and crippling small businesses, which are the backbone of the economy.

Madam Speaker, I've spoken to small-business owners, and they are resilient. They have the entrepreneurial spirit that is built into the very core fabric of Alberta. But, unfortunately, they continue to see a government that works against them. These people are not able to absorb the ballooning costs of the minimum wage, the carbon tax, mandatory statutory holiday and overtime pay, particularly in the nonprofit sector, along with the increasingly complicated red tape that they must wade through. This government is truly crushing Alberta business with their death-by-a-thousand-cuts tactics.

It's not just small businesses and medium-sized businesses that are struggling financially. Our province is facing a fiscal crisis that this government seems intent to ignore, but it is their own creating that has created this fiscal crisis. They frame their out-of-control spending in light of the investment that they're making in Alberta, all while racking up billions of dollars of debt. The government talks about returning to balance as if the additional \$45 billion that they've borrowed since coming to office is just going to be found in the couch cushions or something like that.

You know, the NDP stated in their speech that they "did not rest idle or turn [their] backs on the day-to-day needs of people and families," yet those same families, Madam Speaker, have less money in their pockets, they have fewer economic prospects, and they have less access to quality health care and education as billions of dollars disappear into the bloated bureaucracy. Those same families have seen Alberta's credit downgraded six times since the NDP took office. This means that we are borrowing more and we are seeing our liability of borrowing costs go up. This is clearly not the best path forward.

This Speech from the Throne addressed a number of issues, including rural crime. While I was pleased to see the government finally acknowledge this significant problem facing rural Alberta, I am and have been disappointed that it took so long. The United Conservative Party caucus had been calling for this issue to be addressed over 12 months ago. Rural crime is up by over a hundred per cent in many counties all across our province. Our amazing first responders have been doing everything within their power to protect rural residents, but with the economy in a free fall crime has continued to rise.

Last fall the United Conservative Party caucus invited dozens of rural Albertans to share their stories with the Assembly and give a face to these shocking statistics, but when we called upon the government to take emergency action to protect these Albertans, their calls were brushed aside as if we were making things up as hundreds and hundreds of impacted Albertans looked on, whether it be at home or in the Chamber galleries.

Madam Speaker, we have seen this time and time again, whether it is on the issue of pipelines, where the Premier has poked fun at the opposition and the Leader of the Opposition, or whether she has made all sorts of outlandish comments about the direction that we believe should be taken, only to be a convert in recent weeks to the importance of what we have been saying and now taking many of the same steps that we have been calling for. I hope that in that respect we will see a continued trend because if there's one thing I can assure you, it's that the United Conservative Party wants to make sure that Alberta is the best place to live, work, and raise a family, that Alberta is the best place for business to invest, that Alberta is the best place for the strongest outcomes in education, that Alberta is the best place for women to have success, that Alberta is the best place for the prospect of jobs and a growing economy.

One of the ways that I believe we can get there is for the government to continue to respond to the calls of the Official Opposition. When the government has heeded our advice, that is when the government has done its best work, and I encourage them to continue to do that.

Madam Speaker, as I said, I would love to take the government's throne speech at face value. I want to believe that the hard times for the people of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills and right across this province are over, but unfortunately we cannot bring this into existence by sheer force alone. It is going to take some tough decisions, some discipline and sacrifice, and it's been unfortunate to see that up to this point the government certainly has been unwilling to do that.

What I do know is that Albertans have been making those sacrifices, that Albertans have been leading by example, that Albertans have been pressing forward against all odds. They've seen all levels of government, in particular the provincial and the federal governments and the Trudeau-Notley carbon taxes . . .

Mr. McIver: You can't say names.

Mr. Cooper: I will be happy to withdraw my reference to the Premier.

. . . the NDP government and their extremely close relationship to Prime Minister Trudeau. All of the times that the Prime Minister has failed to defend our interests, we have not seen the response from this NDP that Albertans expect. It's my hope that over the next coming days and weeks we will see actual action from this government. Led by the Leader of the Official Opposition and the good work that he has done in his short time as leader, I look forward to what we can do over the coming days and months to really provide strong leadership for this province.

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

Seeing none, any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek.

11:00

Ms Woollard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm very pleased today to have the opportunity to respond to the Speech from the Throne. We all heard the inspiring words of the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Mitchell, in which she described Alberta's priorities

and how the government of Alberta will help each and every one of us. The people in my wonderful constituency of Edmonton-Mill Creek tell me at every opportunity that they're happy to live in such a vibrant and growing area of Alberta and that they look to our government to create new jobs which will benefit their families and to maintain and support the schools, hospitals, and social supports which are essential for our communities to keep prospering.

The dramatic collapse of the global price of oil had a serious negative impact on many of the constituents of Edmonton-Mill Creek and, of course, people all across Alberta. Many of my constituents work and have worked in the oil and gas sector, and the downturn in the fossil fuel industry really hit many people hard. As well, the impact that the lower global price of oil had on not just our oil and gas sector but on all sectors created ripple effects that affected many more people than just those directly involved.

But these are resilient and resourceful people, as all Albertans are, who realize that when one door closes, another one opens. Thus, the message from the throne speech that our government is going to focus on creating jobs in a more diversified economy was very welcomed. Thousands of new spaces will be created in our postsecondary institutions that will be dedicated to technology. As well, a second round of the new petrochemical diversification program will create new jobs and attract new investments. Work is being done with industry to incentivize investment in new straddle plants and the commercialization of partial upgrading, which has the potential to significantly improve getting our bitumen to market. I had the privilege of visiting a plant in northern Alberta near Christina Lake in which they're engaging in research to partially upgrade bitumen, and it's fascinating. The process is ongoing in a number of areas and shows great potential.

Speaking of bitumen, our government is determined to do everything in its power to get our pipelines built to carry our resources to the Canadian coast. As I've said, all our innovations are helping in this endeavour.

Two other measures to help energy consumers is to establish a capacity market to give people more stability in electricity prices and to continue to support the development and implementation of renewable energy, which will create jobs and diversify our electricity mix. The construction industry, another industry that's so important in Alberta and which has been affected in Alberta, is now definitely on the upswing and is creating housing and employment for people all over Alberta, especially in Edmonton-Mill Creek. The construction industry is one of the sectors that is so important to keeping our communities growing and thriving.

A project in Mill Creek that I found very interesting is an innovative development which is a collaboration between a private building company and Capital Region Housing. They're creating a mixed market price and subsidized-unit building, a couple of buildings, actually. Residents who start off in a subsidized unit will not have to move if or when their circumstances change and they no longer require subsidized housing. They'll be able to stay in their unit with just a transition to a market-based rental agreement. It provides a lot more stability for people. Another thing that's so important is that people get the financial support they need. They're able to live in a modern apartment unit. It's close to transit. It's within walking distance of parks, schools, and stores, and they're able to live there with other people and not have stigmatization about being on income supports. It's a really fantastic arrangement. Housing supports of this kind also really help support people upgrading their education, so if they want to be able to qualify for employment in order to be able to achieve their goals and support themselves, this helps to make that possible. Mixed accommodation allows people to be able to receive rental supports without being

labelled. That's one of the many propositions, one of the many endeavours going on to help Albertans.

The increases also in minimum wages have had a really solid and positive impact on improving people's lives. Many people, especially people I meet – I meet them all the time – who are newly arrived in the country and the community: they start off with minimum wage jobs to support themselves and their families as they improve their language skills, they learn the customs of their new home country, and they try to figure out what their long-term employment goals will be. Many newcomers to our province have professional qualifications or training from their homeland, and they need to spend time learning how to gain equivalent qualifications in their new home.

For instance, as an example, the other day I met with a person who was trained as a pharmacist in their home country. They may need to work in Alberta at a minimum wage job until they're able to get their credentials evaluated, upgrade equivalencies if need be, and write equivalency exams, all at which time will help them gain the confidence and the ability to work in their profession. I met a couple of people in various fields like pharmacy who are now working in small, rural communities who are more than happy to work in very outlying areas that, you know, a lot of people maybe who grew up in the big cities are not so keen to do, and they're providing a valuable service in all areas.

This is in addition to the many other minimum wage workers who benefit from wage increases, people in the community who are tiding themselves over until they have more lucrative employment, people who have started off their working life or who are working toward their postsecondary education. These kinds of jobs are invaluable. Research from other areas which have raised the minimum wage as we are doing shows that having a higher minimum wage allows workers to have a better quality of life and more discretionary income, which gets spent in the community. This small measure to improve people's lives can make a huge difference in how they succeed in the long run.

People in my constituency have also expressed great appreciation for what our government has done and plans to continue doing in our education system. Parents are very happy with the new schools that are being built, not just promised but built, and the education that their children are receiving. As we all know, the education of our children and youth is vital to ensuring that we have a well-educated and well-prepared workforce in the future. Our children today are our teachers, doctors, scientists, and politicians of tomorrow.

Another important measure to support members of our community is to ensure that they feel safe and secure in their neighbourhoods. Our government is providing additional initiatives to combat crime and to help keep families and property safe.

Health care, mental health care, and addictions treatment are also important to Edmonton-Mill Creek. The planning for the new southwest hospital is very welcome news for people in the southeast and southwest of Edmonton. This will be the first new hospital built in Edmonton in the last 30 years, and with the Grey Nuns hospital in southeast Edmonton already seeing or treating twice the number of patients per year as it was designed to do, this new hospital is sorely needed.

In all of our services which our citizens rely on – health care, schools, postsecondary facilities, and all of our social services – it is absolutely essential that we have trained nurses, doctors, teachers, and all front-line staff to keep our society functioning and our citizens' needs addressed. Every day I am asked what agencies provide programs to help people entering or progressing through the workforce and how they can access the services available.

11:10

It's clear that Albertans want an economy that's resilient to energy price swings. That is why we're focusing on building on our strengths in construction, in the agriculture and forestry sectors, in clean tech, partnering with tourism, and leveraging what we are already doing well. Our government has addressed and acknowledged the current economic climate within the province, within Canada, and the challenges we are experiencing in maximizing our resource sector through getting our pipelines built to carry our products. We're looking at opportunities to partner with the private sector and the job creators to ensure that we're acting in a supportive way, that we're laying the right foundations to encourage economic growth.

Madam Speaker, I am optimistic that our economy is moving in the right direction, that we have chosen wisely in deciding to build and create in the midst of a downturn rather than slashing and burning to save money, and that we have a plan to get back to balance now that the corner has been turned. With the outlook brighter and the spring approaching, we can all look ahead with anticipation to great things for Alberta and for all Albertans.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Seeing none, any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I've spoken on the other throne speeches over the years, and I like to as a practice actually go through the throne speech and more or less discuss how relevant it is to my constituency and how it's relevant to Alberta and whether or not I agree with parts of it. Now, this throne speech is 15 pages long and it's double spaced and it's more or less very general, I would say, in the fact that it's announcing already-made announcements. Now, I don't see important groups in here, and I can be corrected if I'm wrong, but farmers and seniors should be very specifically mentioned in here. I don't see them in this speech, and that's disappointing.

Starting on page 1, we've got International Women's Day. I have to say that the one thing that I take pride in is my mother. I think we all have a mother that raised us to have those qualities and the morals that we all bring forward to this House. You know, I had the opportunity to have my mother sitting right behind me on the floor during the throne speech. Just remarkable that I had that opportunity. You know what also made this great? It was her birthday. Now, isn't that something that's remarkable that lined up? On International Women's Day I had my mother sitting on the floor in the House during the throne speech. I have to say that this was truly a memorable thing for me and my family. You know what? I plan on passing on the morals and the values that my mother passed on to me to my two little daughters, Amelia and Charlotte.

This actually is something that I would hope this Assembly can agree on. This is quoted from the throne speech. "Women's rights are human rights, and your government celebrates them." I wholeheartedly agree with this. I think that this is a great opening.

Moving on, Saluting Alberta's Heroes is the second part of this. Again, I can't say enough when it comes to our local heroes, and this speech actually acknowledges our local heroes. When it comes to the fact that we have EMS, RCMP, peace officers, firefighters, and our military all contributing to our safety, this is something that needs to be clearly laid out as important to each and every one of us in this House. Again, when it comes to opening, I think that this throne speech did a great job with International Women's Day, and

I also believe that acknowledging our local heroes is an incredible part to be put in by our government.

However, it follows this up with Ensuring Canadian Tidewater Access for Alberta Energy. I believe that we've had some very confusing messages coming from this government when it comes to trying to get to tidewater. Now, I went and searched last night to try to find one NDP government, whether it's federal or provincial, that supports pipelines besides Alberta's NDP. You know what? I will tell you that I was unable to find one that said that they support it. This is where I'm saying that we've got conflicting messages from the NDP Party. We have an entire group that is acknowledging that they see pipelines as a problem, where Alberta needs to get its energy resources to tidewater. It is indisputable. It's a constitutional right. And we need to be pressing this.

Why am I saying that it's confusing? Well, you know, we have a Premier that picks winners and losers when it comes to pipelines. She outright said that she's taking a hands-off approach when it comes to Keystone and Energy East. She is quoted before the 2015 election as saying that. This is disappointing. And you know what? In the end, the pipeline that she was betting against, we see the United States moving towards, and the one that she is potentially saying that she'd like to see go forward, which is Keystone, her own NDP allies and Trudeau government are pushing to shut down. It's truly shameful.

Now, I have to say, in going through this, that we're seeing that this Premier has got a tough message. She's saying that what we need is to start to send a message, more or less. Her plan, which I wholeheartedly agreed with, was to start with B.C. wine. Send a subtle message saying that we're serious. After a week and a half or two weeks she buckles. Buckles. Shameful. We needed to keep the pressure on. You don't just say, "We did a very insignificant move" and not follow it up with actual action.

What we did see in this throne speech is her saying, "We shut down talks about electricity sales to British Columbia, talks that could have meant up to \$500 million per year for them." It is unbelievable that Alberta, which has the largest energy resources in all of Canada, is negotiating to buy power. I do not understand how this works. Why is it that we are even looking at that? We're moving too fast with this radical government.

Now, when it comes to energy, you would think that we would at least be sufficient for ourselves. When we need to go outside of Alberta to get energy to be able to support the direction this government is going in, it shows that we have a problem, and it needs to be resolved. On the PPA agreements, the power purchase agreements, the government went in and unilaterally shut them down. And you know what ends up happening? We end up making massive payouts to these companies that are affected by the decisions that this government has been making. Whether it's the carbon tax, the fact that they're phasing out our coal, it continues to accumulate to a point where it is unsustainable to make energy in this province. So we're seeing that we need to go out of our province to make it.

One thing didn't occur to me until I was talking with one of my local farmers. He is buying coal right now to heat his farm. It is clear that this government does not like coal though I have to say that it appears to be an energy source that has proven to be cheap, efficient, and for the most part clean. But what he's saying is that the farmer right over the border, in Saskatchewan – right over the border, in Saskatchewan – is buying that same coal. He's buying coal from Alberta: no carbon tax. So he cannot compete with the farmer just over the border because we're selling our energy cheaper. That is unbelievable. This is carbon leakage. Carbon leakage. This is an example that is happening within my constituency.

11:20

Now, I'd like to talk about a member's statement that was put forward by Calgary-Klein. He made some compelling arguments, and we'll start off with a part here.

Instead of arguing at the level of insult, let's look at some facts.

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

I am telling you now that Prime Minister Trudeau is not doing enough. It is clear that he needs to be called to account, and this government is not doing what it needs to do.

To move on,

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

Clear. Again, a lot of this I agree with. I don't disagree with a lot of that. I will say that when we come to defending our resources, though, there is no way that we are ever going to convince some of these groups. There is no way to do that. And you know what? The B.C. NDP and the Trudeau Liberals are those two groups. That means that we actually have to take action.

I've spent a lot of time on pipelines – I've probably eaten up more than I should have because I've got to get through a lot on this thing – but I will say that when it comes to pipelines, Bonnyville-Cold Lake is really being impacted in a terrible way right now. Right now our oil companies are unable to bring the economics forward because they can't get the darn oil out of the province.

Choices Made during the Downturn is the next one. This is where the government more or less says that the choices that they've made have made things better. I will tell you that when it comes to 2019-20, we're looking at a \$70 billion debt. Seventy billion dollars: this is a stunning number. You know what? This is the government's own number. This isn't something that comes from the opposition. This is actually from the government. It is Alberta Finance that put this number out.

Now, what we've got in the last second-quarter update, the 2017-2018 second-quarter update – and I know a third-quarter update has come out – is a billion dollars of interest that we're going to be paying. That is twice the amount that we're spending on our entire spending for Justice. That's remarkable. In rural Alberta right now we're crying out to the government: "Please, help us with this rural crime, this property crime that we've got in northeastern Alberta. Bonnyville-Cold Lake has a problem, where we're seeing a substantial increase in rural crime. What are you doing about it?" What I can tell you is that as we continue to raise our debt in an irresponsible manner, we will continue to see less and less funds going to these important things like education, health, and our police forces. This is disappointing, that we are actually saying that the decisions that they've made are helping Albertans. I can't disagree enough. It's clear that it's not.

One thing that they've got is Things Are Looking Up. "Almost 90,000 people have found a new full-time job over the last year." Well, that sounds good, but when we actually look at the facts, the facts are that there are 165,300 unemployed Albertans, and 26,000 more than when the government took office are unemployed. This is from Statistics Canada. Again, this is not something that the

opposition has driven. Last month we had 10,500 full-time jobs that were lost – last month – and the youth unemployment rate is 13.1 per cent. This is the highest outside of Atlantic Canada. Now, I have say that if that's making Alberta look better or things are looking up, I would disagree. I think we need to be better and more responsible when it comes to ensuring that investment flows in. I'll tell you that as long as there's instability within our government when it comes to decision-making, we're not going to see that investment.

All right. Let's move on to Diversifying Our Economy, and they've actually got Diversifying Our Energy Sector. Now, I would say that every Albertan would love to see diversification. I can't see that anybody would want to say: well, you can't bring manufacturing into our province because – you know what? – we don't believe in that. So to say that we're going to diversify, I would say that we need to do it responsibly. Especially when it comes to taxpayer dollars, we need to ensure . . .

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

Seeing none, any other speakers? The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I move that we adjourn debate on this issue.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 1 Energy Diversification Act

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

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in the House to table Bill 1, the Energy Diversification Act, for second reading.

Bill 1 is legislation to realize a vision of Alberta, a vision of a more diversified energy industry that is a vital part of a healthy and more diversified economy, an economy that provides good jobs for people, growing industries for our communities, and exciting new products for export.

As the Member for Calgary-Klein I am honoured to speak to Bill 1 in the company of my colleagues from Edmonton-Manning and Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater. We're from different parts of our province – Calgary, Edmonton, and rural Alberta – but the three of us share an understanding of what Bill 1 will mean for our constituents and to people in cities, towns, and communities across the province. There are three components to Bill 1. I will look at how the bill will renew the petrochemical diversification program, my colleague from Edmonton-Manning will explain how Bill 1 supports the commercialization of partial bitumen upgrading, and my colleague for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater will speak to a new petrochemical feedstock infrastructure program made possible by Bill 1.

Before we get into the details, it's important to look at the context of this bill. Madam Speaker, Bill 1 is part of a long, proud history in this province of innovation in our energy sector. For generations Alberta's oil and gas resources have been a pillar of our economy and our enviable quality of life, and for generations Albertans have looked to their government to stand up for their energy resources and industries.

Peter Loughheed stood up for Alberta's interests and our right to get full value for our natural resources. His vision spurred the

development of our petrochemical industry. His vision spurred the development of Alberta's oil sands. Peter Lougheed understood that Alberta's resources were a blessing and an opportunity, one that Alberta could not afford to squander. He believed that it wasn't enough to get value in the upstream side of the sector. He believed that Albertans were smart enough, innovative enough, and creative enough to take our province's nonrenewable resources and add value to them right here in the province. In short, he believed in Albertans.

But as we saw from the recent economic downturn, Peter Lougheed's vision of a more diversified economy was never fully realized. We are still not getting full value for our resources, and we are still too vulnerable to world oil prices and to decisions made elsewhere. Part of the reason for that vulnerability is, of course, the land lock – hence, the need for new pipeline capacity – and part of the reason is also that we're not doing enough to add value to our resources here at home. Things are looking up in Alberta, Madam Speaker. Our economy is recovering, but we need to do all we can to ensure that this time the economic recovery is built for the long haul and that Alberta's dream of economic diversification becomes a reality.

11:30

Diversification does not mean leaving Alberta's traditional leadership in oil and gas behind. Instead, Bill 1 builds on this traditional economic strength to make it even stronger, and it does this by providing the authority to create three new programs that will help Alberta get full value from energy resources and multiply the benefits right across the province.

Components of natural gas that are feedstocks for a wide range of products will drive new facility construction, find new markets, and create new jobs. Oil sands bitumen will be attractive to more refineries and will pass through pipelines with need for less diluent. Energy will have an even stronger role in a more diversified Alberta economy.

As I said, I will focus on how Bill 1 extends and expands the highly successful petrochemicals diversification program. This program targeted propane and methane upgrading and already has resulted in two major projects that will establish Canada's first propane-based value chain right here in Alberta. Bill 1 will extend the program to draw even more investment into petrochemical processing, and it will expand the program by adding ethane as a recoverable natural gas feedstock. It will foster investment in additional petrochemical processing, and ultimately it will further diversify Alberta's energy sector by focusing on creating new petrochemical value chains.

Of course, we are not the only jurisdiction in the world to understand the economic benefits of petrochemical investment. Alberta is facing stiff competition from jurisdictions around the world. Without the necessary leadership in government, Alberta won't be as competitive as we need to be. An extended and expanded petrochemicals diversification program will help Alberta remain competitive. Processing natural gas feedstocks will increase the value of our raw resources and help Alberta get the most out of them in the form of investment capital, jobs, increased economic activity, new revenue from taxes, and more exports.

The components of natural gas form the ingredients that are the building blocks for products that enable modern life. These include plastics, antifreeze, fertilizer, fabrics, toys, and much more, Madam Speaker. As the world population grows, so does the demand for these products. The Chemistry Industry Association of Canada estimates that Alberta's chemical industry exports are already valued at \$8.2 billion. This new round of the petrochemicals diversification program will help that grow.

The first round of the program was very successful. It attracted 16 applications, representing \$20 billion in private investment. We expect the second round of the program to see similar results. The resulting petrochemical manufacturing facilities will create thousands of construction jobs and hundreds more operational jobs, and that is good news for Alberta workers and their families.

The Chemistry Industry Association estimates direct employment in Alberta's chemical sector at more than 7,500 people. That's half the population of Canmore. That's a lot of jobs. The average salary is estimated at more than \$90,000 per year. That supports a good standard of living. Expanding petrochemical processing will add even more good-paying jobs. Those are all very good reasons to support Bill 1.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all members of the Assembly to examine Bill 1, the Energy Diversification Act. Consider all of the benefits of expanding the petrochemicals diversification program. See for yourselves how this bill will build even stronger energy and petrochemical industries by getting more value out of our natural resources. I am confident that you'll agree that Bill 1 is a crucial step in helping to build what we all want for Alberta, a more stable, more diversified, more prosperous economy for Albertans and a recovery that is built to last.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I would like to adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

Government Motions

(continued)

Trans Mountain Pipeline

2. Ms Notley moved:
Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly support the government of Alberta's fight on behalf of Albertans' interests to ensure the lawfully approved Trans Mountain pipeline expansion is built, and be it further resolved that the Legislative Assembly call for the federal government to continue to take all necessary legal steps in support of the pipeline's construction, and be it further resolved that the Legislative Assembly reaffirm its support for the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion as a key component of Alberta's energy future.

Mr. Nixon moved that the motion be amended as follows:

- (a) in the first recital by striking out "the government of Alberta's fight on behalf of Albertans' interests" and substituting "the efforts by the government of Alberta to fight on behalf of Albertans' interests"; (b) in the second recital (i) by striking out "continue to" and (ii) by adding "including putting before Parliament a declaration that the pipeline is in the national interests pursuant to section 92(10)(c) of the Constitution Act, 1867" after "construction."

[Debate adjourned on the amendment March 12]

The Deputy Speaker: Any speakers wishing to speak to the amendment? The hon. Member for Calgary-Hays.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to rise and speak on the amendment put forward by my colleague from Sundre and area. It's an important one because the government's motion is one that is certainly not everything that we hoped it would be. The point is that what is important and has been seen as important is that the fight for pipelines is important, and it's certainly one that we on the UCP side of the House support.

Let me say this. When the government has actually been in support of the pipelines, we have been with the government, cheering for them, supporting them, being their biggest allies in the world, and we certainly hope that we see more of that from the government in the future.

Now, Madam Speaker, it's important to remember that we actually need to put our hearts into this. The government needs to put their hearts into it, and we all need to put our hearts into it. I think that for the government's sake, they were very fortunate that the Leader of the Official Opposition came on the scene, because that was truly, truly the point in time where the government started to pay attention to this issue, truly the point in time where the government, I believe perhaps initially out of fear for their own political futures, decided to make some efforts here.

But I am prepared to take the government at their word today when they say that they're in support of the pipeline. When they do that, I support them one hundred per cent and the UCP Party supports them one hundred per cent because the pipeline itself is going to be core to the long-term health of our province. It's going to be core to providing a future for all of our children and our grandchildren, and it's going to be core to the financial health of the government of this province and, along with that, the ability of this province to provide the services that Albertans both need and demand, rightly need and rightly demand: a good health care system, a good education system, strong social services, good infrastructure.

All of this depends upon a private sector that is vibrant, that is successful, that is profitable and includes as many Albertans as possible. Of course, the profitable part matters severely because, of course, the profitability is what a lot of the government's taxes are based on, so we should be cheering for businesses, big and small, to be profitable. The pipeline and the government's efforts to get it are potentially going to be at the heart of that. If successful, it will certainly be at the heart of that in the future. Even if not successful, the part of the industry that will go ahead without additional pipeline capacity will still for decades to come be at the core of the Alberta government's ability to provide schools, roads, hospitals, social services, the education system, the entire social safety net, and supports for our citizens.

But Albertans have never really been shrinking violets about the way they make a living. Albertans have always and continue today to act bigger than our population would indicate, to act bigger than our geography would indicate, to act bigger than what our people can consume. Because of this, Albertans create not just more energy than we could possibly consume but more agricultural products, more forestry, and indeed provide more tourism than we could possibly consume. So when the government's efforts are to support additional pipeline capacity, we're with them. We are with them.

11:40

The amendment from the hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre actually strikes out "the government of Alberta's fight on behalf of Albertans' interests" and substitutes "the efforts by the government of Alberta to fight on behalf of Albertans' interests" because we actually think the government's fight could be a lot stronger than it has been. We support the fight such as they put it forward. We're with them. We're looking for more.

Certainly, I was disappointed – and I believe I'm not the only one of my colleagues – when the government folded their tent on the wine ban after just a week or two. In my view, it left the impression about the government of Alberta that this government's heart was not really in it. I believe that's the prevailing sentiment as a result

of the government folding their tent and backing down on that. The Premier and the government say no. Let me say this, Madam Speaker: I would like to believe that. My level of belief will be largely influenced by either the action or the lack of action that the government takes in the future, but we would like the government to take more action. We would like to be there cheering them on, to be partners with them in it, to support them, to continue to cheer for the success of Alberta by cheering for the success of the Alberta government being part of getting this pipeline built. That is indeed what that first part of the amendment truly says.

Now, Madam Speaker, moving on to part (b), it says: by striking out "continue to." To me, that's a statement that the government could do more, and I believe the government could do more. We want them to do more than continue to. We want them to expand their efforts. We want them to make it clear to all Albertans that their heart is truly in this effort, that they're truly putting their shoulder to the wheel, that they truly want this to happen.

Part of that, in my mind, means convincing the NDP's political partners, which is the British Columbia NDP. They are the same party, so I don't think I'm casting any aspersions by saying that they're partners. That's just a fact that I think we all accept in this House. If anybody should be able to get the NDP's partners to come around to a place of reason, it ought to be their partners, the Alberta NDP. It seems logical to me. I'd be surprised if even any of the government members argue with me on that because it is, after all, the same happy family.

Furthermore, we'd like to see stronger efforts by the Premier and the government pushing the federal government and their best friend Justin Trudeau to actually live up to his responsibilities and get this done. Our leader has put the idea of court action, of having a referendum on the table. I would like to see the government follow our leader's lead farther than they already have. They certainly indicated in the throne speech that they're following the direct path that our leader has suggested that Alberta go, and I'm grateful that they have been moved by those arguments. I appreciate that it took them a little while to come around to that. It was fairly recently that the Premier was actually outwardly making fun of those efforts, but in fairness to the Premier, she's come around to adopting it to such an extent that many of the ideas first put forth by the Leader of the Official Opposition became very much the centrepiece of the government's throne speech very few days ago.

So there's hope, and we want to encourage the government along the lines of that hope. We want to help them. We want to be part of the solution. We want to provide more ideas together because we believe, as I believe the government believes, that if we go to Justin Trudeau as the government of Alberta, as a united front and if indeed we can present that united front to the people of Alberta, I think more of them will be believers that we are committed to getting this done. That indeed should actually help the cause. That indeed should help the Prime Minister to know we're not going away. That should indeed help the Prime Minister and encourage him to get off his hands, to spend some time in Canada, and to actually work with what I believe is the biggest economic issue facing this country.

Why is it the biggest economic issue? Because it affects what I think is, if not the biggest, one of the biggest cash registers that the federal government rings, the revenue that comes from Alberta through transfer payments and other taxes and fees and payments. The Prime Minister needs to actually do the job of a Prime Minister, not the job of a movie star, not the job of a celebrity, not the job of someone who's on *Dancing with the Stars*. He needs to do the job of the Prime Minister of this great country and stand up for and enforce one of the main tenets that holds this Confederation together through the Constitution, the right for each province to sell

their goods without interference from the other provinces. It's not a one-way street or a two-way street. Depending on how you do the math, it could be a 13-way street or a several hundred ways street, but the fact is that the Prime Minister has to enforce that right, that main tenet, that core part of the country of Canada that he is sworn to protect and look after. He needs to actually get down to the business of protecting and looking after this country because he has been missing in action.

He, I believe, is hoping this goes away, which, unfortunately, will be to Alberta's detriment because I think the only way it's going to go away is if the shareholders of Kinder Morgan say: we cannot put up with any more monthly losses because the federal government will not enforce the ability for us to get the pipeline built. That risk exists. The Prime Minister needs to actually decide that – you know what? – actions do speak louder than words. Right now the Prime Minister actually needs to act because the Prime Minister's actions now say that he doesn't care. The Prime Minister's actions, which are none, now say that he's hoping this goes away. The Prime Minister's actions now say that he doesn't have the courage to take a side when a side needs to be taken. It says that he doesn't have the courage to lead when leadership needs to be provided for the country that he decided to lead and got elected to lead. He is the rightful Prime Minister and leader of this country, and he is letting this country down big time.

We would be happy to join with the government in delivering that message louder and clearer to the Prime Minister and his government, that we have noticed and that Albertans have noticed. It's not just the people in this Chamber; 4.3 million or 4.4 million Albertans, whatever the number is today, have noticed that this Prime Minister has left them laying in the dust, unattended to by the person most responsible to attend to us.

The risk for the rest of Canada is that if the Prime Minister will let one province drown, choke to death, not be able to make a living because he wouldn't live up to his responsibilities, then the other provinces and territories ought to be saying to themselves at the various Legislatures around the country: we could be next. They actually ought to have Alberta's back because I would surely hate to see – no one wants this. Nobody even wanted the wine ban. But the fact is that we had to get the government's attention, and we supported the Premier a hundred per cent in getting the government of B.C.'s attention. Nobody really wants to stop drinking B.C.'s wine. We just had to get their attention. We also don't want to necessarily stop driving cars that are built

in Ontario. We don't necessarily want to stop eating agricultural products from Quebec, eating fish, seafood products from eastern Canada or western Canada. Every province has things that they produce and sell to the rest of the country, and we are all healthier when we share.

So, Madam Speaker, as I close, I would move to adjourn debate with your permission.

11:50

The Deputy Speaker: I'll allow that motion even though your time was up.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion to adjourn debate lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 11:51 a.m.]

[Fifteen minutes having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Godfried	McIver	Smith
Hanson	Panda	Strankman
Loewen	Pitt	van Dijken

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Gray	Nielsen
Babcock	Hinkley	Payne
Carlier	Hoffman	Phillips
Carson	Horne	Piquette
Connolly	Larivee	Rosendahl
Coolahan	Loyola	Sabir
Dach	Luff	Schreiner
Dang	Malkinson	Sigurdson
Eggen	Mason	Sucha
Fitzpatrick	McKittrick	Turner
Ganley	Miller	Westhead
Goehring	Miranda	Woollard

Totals:	For – 9	Against – 36
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[Motion to adjourn debate lost]

The Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 4(2.1) the House stands adjourned until 1:30 this afternoon.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:08 p.m.]

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