



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, April 5, 2018

Day 12

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

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Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition
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Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (UCP)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (NDP)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)
Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (NDP)
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (NDP)
Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (NDP)
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP),
Alberta Party Opposition House Leader
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (NDP)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (NDP)
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Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (NDP),
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Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (NDP)
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Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (NDP)
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Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP),
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Fildebrandt, Derek Gerhard, Strathmore-Brooks (Ind)
Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (NDP)
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (AP)
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (NDP),
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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)
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New Democratic: 54 United Conservative: 25 Alberta Party: 3 Alberta Liberal: 1 Progressive Conservative: 1 Independent: 1 Vacant: 2

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 5, 2018

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Let us reflect or pray, each in our own way. Let us be ever mindful of our responsibility as elected officials. Give us the wisdom to serve for the common good of all Albertans, and help us to carry out our duties with respect and courtesy for all of our colleagues in the Assembly.

Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, it is my absolute pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly some exceptionally special guests. In the gallery today is a group of our own athletes who competed in the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. They inspired the nation, and they brought home a record number of medals.

As I read their names, I'd ask that each of these remarkable women and men please rise: Jack Leitch, gold and bronze medallist, para-alpine; Kurt Oatway, gold medallist, para-alpine; Kirk Schornstein, para-alpine; Alana Ramsay, bronze medallist, para-alpine; Derek Zaplotinsky, para-Nordic; Justin Kripps, gold medallist, bobsleigh; Melissa Lotholz, bobsleigh; Jesse Lumsden, bobsleigh; Alysia Rissling, bobsleigh; Seyi Smith, bobsleigh; Neville Wright, bobsleigh; Joanne Courtney, curling; John Morris, gold medallist, doubles curling; Karl Stollery, bronze medallist, men's hockey; Kimberley McRae, luge; Tristan Walker, silver medallist, luge; Brooke Apshkrum, luge; Barrett Martineau, skeleton; Kevin Boyer, skeleton – these skeleton people, Mr. Speaker, suggest that theirs is the safest sport ever; I don't buy it – Mackenzie Boyd-Clowes, ski jumping; Gilmore Junio, speed skating; Denny Morrison, speed skating; Keri Morrison, speed skating; Brady Leman, gold medallist, ski cross.

Mr. Speaker, these athletes, each and every one of them, inspired us, and each and every one of them made us deeply, deeply proud. I'd ask all of my colleagues here in the Assembly to rise and demonstrate that pride for all of them at this time. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: Thank you.

I know that I speak for all of the Legislature and the representatives here: you made our province very proud. Thank you.

Hon. members, are there any school groups here today? Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, kids, but you probably won't get a standing ovation. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House 60 students from Glen Avon school in St. Paul along with their teachers, Ms Deschamps, Mrs. Karen Kendel, Miss Nickason, and chaperones Tracy Boulianne, Tannis Baerg, and Debbie Rak. If I could get the students and chaperones and teachers to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. Government House Leader, did you have a visitor?

Mr. Mason: I do, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Mr. Ian Waddell. Mr. Waddell is a former parliamentarian of long standing. From 1979 to 1993 he served in the House of Commons representing the riding of Vancouver Kingsway and the riding of Port Moody-Coquitlam. He served as energy critic for the federal NDP caucus, and in that capacity he worked with both Premier Lougheed and Grant Notley and was a critic of the national energy program at that time. Later he served in the Legislature of British Columbia from 1996 to 2001, representing the riding of Vancouver-Fraserview, and served in two ministerial roles.

In addition to serving as a distinguished parliamentarian, many Canadians know Mr. Waddell as an author and a filmmaker. He divides his time now, Mr. Speaker, between Canada and Hollywood. He wrote a popular political mystery, *A Thirst to Die For*, and he is also well known in legal circles. He's a former Crown attorney, helped litigate the first class-action suit in Canadian history, and was a clarion voice for the creation of the International Criminal Court. Following his noted legal career, he was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Waddell is seated in your gallery, and I would ask that he now rise and that all members join me in welcoming him to our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome. I trust that one of the chapters in your new book will not be representative of this institution.

Back to school groups if I might. The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you the fantastic students of Mills Haven school, which happens to be a German bilingual school. The students are with their teachers, Irene Kolomijchuk, Derek Zukiwsky, and their chaperones/parents Doreen Checknita, William Langford Bawn, April Caron, and Tanya Lawrence. I would ask all of the students and their chaperones and teachers to rise to receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my absolute honour and privilege today to introduce two truly amazing individuals, the inspired Shirley Penner, founder of Youth Singers of Calgary, and her wonderful husband, Don McLean. I will be speaking more about Shirley in my member's statement today. I'd also like to thank the Minister of Culture and Tourism for having some time for them today. We're truly grateful to you for that time. I would please ask my wonderful guests to rise and receive the warm and welcoming applause from this House.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Environment and Parks.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all of our colleagues a wonderful student visiting today. Roslin McKechnie has joined us from Lethbridge on her last day of her senior practicum in social work. She has spent the last four months doing that senior practicum in my constituency office in Lethbridge-West and has been assisting many of my constituents. Roslin will be missed dearly when she leaves my office, but I do thank her for her service and congratulate her on joining the fine profession of social work, a profession that contributes to

making Albertans' lives better. Roslin, if you could please now rise and receive the traditional warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for St. Albert.

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and to all members of this Chamber my constituent Nicole Imgrund. Ms Imgrund is a Canadian certified counsellor and founder-director of the River's Edge Counselling Centre in St. Albert. She is also the chair of FACT-Alberta, a group pursuing regulation and the development of the Alberta college of counselling therapists. Please join me in welcoming this dedicated advocate for quality, regulated counselling therapy.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

1:40

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the entire Assembly here today two fantastic women, Rohini Kaur Arora and Maninder Kaur Arora. Of course, Rohini is my constituency assistant, and let me say through you to her here today that I couldn't do the job that I do without having her incredible support. As well, Maninder is also a union leader who is visiting her daughter here from B.C. I'd ask both of them to please rise at this moment and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Mr. Carlier: Mr. Speaker, my guests have not yet arrived.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Miranda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly staff and board members of the Alberta Sport Connection who did a fantastic job today of putting on the celebration for our Olympic and Paralympic athletes. I'd ask them to please rise, if possible, as I read their names: Scott Fraser, Tony Flores, Lloyd Bentz, Don Wilson, Tim Bjornson, David Hennig, Brandon Diprose. Alberta Sport Connection's vision is to make Alberta the premier sports delivery system in Canada. Through the support of our government, Alberta Sport Connection is proud to support a sport system where home-grown talent and athletes from all over Canada are able to live and train in our province using world-class facilities. I thank you all for the hard work you did in putting together this special day for our athletes and for the work that you do year-round to make life better for Albertans. I'd ask my colleagues to give them the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, are there any other guests? The hon. Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce guests from Woman's Health Options here in Edmonton as well as Compass Centre for Sexual Wellness, also in Edmonton. I'd ask that they rise while I introduce them. Woman's Health Options provides abortion and reproductive health services, including counselling and birth control options. From there we have Kim Cholewa, executive director; joined by Laura McBride, who is a counsellor and social worker; as well as Dr. Ann Marie Long, who

is a physician. We also have joining us Erin Bilawchuk, who is the executive director of the Compass Centre. Their work focuses on providing pro-choice sexual health education, counselling services, and resources to ensure that women feel safe and supported in their choice. Please join me in welcoming and showing your gratitude to these front-line health care professionals.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Stony Plain.

Carbon Levy

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hear a lot of negative hot air from the opposition about the climate leadership plan and the carbon levy. I just wanted to set the record straight because I, for one, am proud that Alberta is leading the rest of the country on the path to a more sustainable economy and a cleaner environment. The carbon levy is helping in so many ways to make that happen.

We're helping municipalities across the province with \$54 million to address climate change, with \$17.5 million specifically to reduce energy costs of community rinks, arenas, and swimming pools. We're helping the agricultural sector with \$81 million for solar panels, irrigation, and other energy efficiency programs. We're helping indigenous communities with \$35 million to support local renewable projects, energy efficiency audits, and training for jobs in a low-carbon economy.

We're helping everyday Albertans with energy efficiency programs, which have saved more than 420,000 gigajoules of energy so far, which is equal to heating over 3,500 homes. We're helping nonprofit and volunteer-based organizations conduct energy audits and create energy management plans with the nonprofit energy efficiency transition program, and we've provided \$795,000 to 106 nonprofit organizations for energy efficiency projects.

We're helping lower and middle-income families through the carbon levy rebates. Two-thirds of Albertans got a rebate on the carbon levy last year, and that rebate will continue in 2018. We're helping low-income single seniors in Alberta by providing them with a \$300 carbon levy rebate. We're helping small businesses by allocating \$40 million in carbon levy revenues toward a small-business tax reduction, and we're helping all future Albertans by ensuring that carbon funds are working towards a greener and healthier future for our children and grandchildren.

This government, Mr. Speaker, is showing the world how it's done.

Shirley Penner

Mrs. Aheer: Mr. Speaker, in 1985 Shirley Penner had the dream of giving young people a chance to express themselves on stage through music. She created Calgary's most comprehensive and exceptional performing arts program. In 2002 the Alberta ministry of learning formally acknowledged the Youth Singers curriculum by awarding it accreditation through the Calgary and area school boards. She became the first executive director of the Associated Manitoba Arts Festivals, and in 1980 she joined the staff of the provincial government's department of culture as the manager and was responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of cultural services for all regions in Manitoba.

She is a performer, a teacher, a director, a producer, and has worked in television. She received the YWCA woman of distinction award, was named a Paul Harris fellow by Rotary International, received the 2005 Alberta centennial outstanding citizen award, and

was awarded the Queen's diamond jubilee medal, and finally, the Alberta Order of Excellence in 2016.

She gives young people once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to showcase their talents across continents. I have personally travelled with her and her group, with my son as roadie, to China and Hawaii.

Shirley, your influence spans generations of families, and your dream to create a unique choral program where there's a place for anyone and everyone has impacted our family and thousands of others in ways that are very hard to express.

She inspires an army of volunteers that emulate the quality of the program and are invested in the program and work on everything from costumes to prop design. She has created a community that gives back to the community. She builds leaders and teachers and confident youth who feel ready to take on the world. The premise of the program is not just for the gifted but, rather, is a civilizing and humanizing force that makes a real, real difference in the world.

One thing, Shirley, that you said to me at Choralfest that resonates with me and stays with me is, quote: some people see obstacles as things that get in the way of opportunity. She sees opportunity in obstacles.

Thank you.

Emergency Medical Service Delays

Dr. Swann: Mr. Speaker, Alberta continues on the edge of a preventable emergency services disaster with precarious surge capacity in our EMS to respond to multiple casualties. Emergency response times are barely acceptable now in major urban areas only as a result of Herculean efforts and massive overtime by our dedicated paramedics in Alberta, with serious morale implications.

Our sympathies go out to the Morley families in a dramatic and tragic incident yesterday involving 15 people, including 10 children, in one house requiring assessment and evacuation to a medical facility. This incident illustrates just how close we are to the break point with our emergency response. Sources indicated a city-wide appeal was made to find five ambulances free to travel one hour out to Morley. This left the city vulnerable to any major crisis and highlights the fact that we cannot safely manage a major disaster.

The minister said yesterday, "It takes time to build long-term care, supportive living, and expand home care." I couldn't agree more, but these are longer term solutions. Alberta needs solutions to our critical EMS inefficiencies now, and a major immediate action would be ending ER hallway wait times. The 650,000 hours wasted annually in ER hallways can end tomorrow if this minister tells Alberta Health Services to reduce the standard transfer times in ER from one hour to 15 minutes. Tomorrow. They have done so in the U.K. and Israel. Only 5 per cent of transfers occur in Alberta within 15 minutes.

Currently AHS management has little incentive to do this as long as they can exploit EMS staff to continue to do the nurses' jobs in emergency. The priority is to get patients needing admission off EMS stretchers and onto hospital stretchers, up to the appropriate ward as necessary, to wait if necessary in their hallways, where they get specialized nursing attention, and free up the paramedics.

Get the critical EMS back on the road doing their life-saving work, with a bonus: save \$15 million to the health system a year. Madam Minister, in the interests of a safe disaster response, end EMS hallways now.

Oral Question Period

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

Carbon Levy Revenue and Rebates

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize in advance for my voice.

Mr. Speaker, a question to the Premier: how much more revenue will be raised by the budget's 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope that the member opposite is feeling better. He does sound a little under the weather, I must say.

As the member knows, we are looking forward, and the exact numbers are in the budget documents, which we'll have a chance to go through. But there is no question that the additional levies that would be going forward in, I think, 2021 and forward are noted in our budget and will be invested in protecting things like our education and our health care and bringing us to a stable, prudent path to balance.

1:50

Mr. Kenney: The budget documents do not include that number, Mr. Speaker, which is why I asked. Unfortunately, the Premier doesn't have an answer.

Mr. Speaker, does the government's projection of a balanced budget in 2023 depend on higher revenues raised by the 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we've already articulated, our path to balance depends upon diverting some of the money from the federal increase in the levy towards the path to balance. That is something that we are going to do because, in so doing, we'll be able to reach that prudent state of balance in 2023 while ensuring that we protect our hospitals, our education, our teachers, our nurses, and those important services that Albertans rely on. We're glad that we've been able to reach that balance.

Mr. Kenney: To decode, the answer was that, yes, the balanced budget in 2023 depends on the 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, will the government increase the carbon tax rebate when it increases the carbon tax by 67 per cent?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, we will be looking at that matter at that time, when that comes forward. That's still an issue that we are examining because, of course, we are talking about four years down the road at this point. At the same time, we are very proud to be in a position to be able to present to Albertans a thoughtful, reasonable six-year plan to bring the budget back into balance while protecting nurses, while protecting teachers, while protecting the kids in our classrooms, while ensuring that Albertans can continue to count on the services that are important to them and their families.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Second main question.

Mr. Kenney: The Premier says that she will look at it, but her Finance minister said that the budget does not include additional rebates. So, Mr. Speaker, which is it? Were the budget documents tabled two weeks ago inclusive of rebates or not?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The budget documents tabled two weeks ago talk about the budget for this year, and they also talk about the business plan, that goes out for three years, which is exactly what budget documents typically do. Our government went a step further than any government ever has in the past, and we provided high-level figures with respect to how we were going to bring the budget into balance by '23-24. This is in contrast to the opposition, which has yet to bring in a shadow budget, after three years of being here, and has yet to provide any explanation for how their path would ever be achieved.

Mr. Kenney: Does that projection of a balanced budget in 2023 include additional rebates to match the 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax or not? Does it include additional so-called targeted environmental spending or not?

Ms Notley: Again, Mr. Speaker, as I've outlined, because we are going out four years into the future, the level of specificity becomes a little bit harder to target. One of the reasons for that is because one of the key elements of the climate leadership plan and the carbon levy is to reduce emissions and to reduce carbon use. As that goes down, the amount of revenue that comes in may well go down as well as the cost that is experienced by individuals. At that time, we need to look at the appropriateness of adjusting the rebate, and that's what we will do when we are within 48 months of the time.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Kenney: So the government told Albertans that they have a plan for a balanced budget, but the Premier now tells us that they don't know how much spending is in that plan.

Since she raised carbon emissions, can the Premier tell us by how much the 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax will reduce carbon emissions?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, we know that there are a number of factors that are going to go towards reducing emissions as we move forward. Some of them are related specifically to the application of the carbon levy. Others are related to our ability to invest in a number of different things that will reduce emissions. Whether it's the hundreds of millions of dollars that we are partnering with industry on, for instance, to help them innovate, which we're very excited about, and bring down their emissions within the energy industry, whether it's with the renewal energy sector and being able to bring in the kind of amazing new investment we've seen, there are a number of different ways in which emissions will come down.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.
Third main question.

Carbon Levy and Emission Reduction

Mr. Kenney: By how much will carbon emissions be reduced as a result of the 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, as I've said, there are a number of different factors that are in play and a number of different tools that are being used. We are making a global set of estimates, which have been, actually, reviewed by the Auditor General recently, who indicated that we had a pretty rigorous level of assumptions and research that went into the plan. As I said, we

are very proud as a government to be able to be in a position to have a number of different strategies that are focused on bringing Alberta's emissions down and doing our part to tackle climate change.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, by how much will carbon emissions be reduced as a result of the 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, our climate leadership plan, as has been published many times over, will cut emissions drastically, a projected 30 per cent reduction by 2030. That's as a result of a number of different factors, including a coal phase-out, carbon pricing, a system of output-based allocations, and investments in clean tech. We may go as low as 222 megatonnes, and that will keep dropping, with respect to the investments and innovation. That's in stark contrast to the hon. member, who sat in a government, articulated the target, and then sat on their hands and did nothing to achieve it.

Mr. Kenney: So they tell Albertans that their carbon tax is going to save the planet, but they have no clue by how much it's supposed to reduce emissions.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier told me that she was imposing conditions before she would raise the carbon tax by 67 per cent. The condition was the completion of the Trans Mountain pipeline. Why did she remove that condition in her budget?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, in fact, we haven't done that, and I reject that characterization. What our budget does is that it bets on Albertans and it assumes that the pipeline that has been approved will ultimately be built. You know, it's interesting because the Leader of the Opposition spent 10 years in Ottawa – 10 years – and no pipeline. He had the ball; he fumbled. We are marching down the field. We're almost at the goal line. The member wants to throw in the towel. We will not. We will get the pipeline.

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

Alberta Health Services Letters to Clients

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we learned about a very disturbing letter sent to a 15-year-old indigenous girl that used the words "treaty Indian" instead of her name. To the Premier: is this the only letter that has gone out with such an offensive name? If not, how many more are there, and have you contacted each of the recipients to apologize?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let me begin by saying that I share the member's concern about this letter and about this incident. The language is completely inappropriate, and it is culturally offensive, and it should never have been used. Let me take this opportunity to offer my personal apologies to the person in question who received the letter. Should we discover that there are any others, that apology would be extended to them as well.

We take this incident extremely seriously. I understand that the Health minister along with Health Services is working very quickly to prevent it and also to move forward.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Madam Premier. I hope that you will undertake a thorough investigation and commit to informing the House of the results of that investigation as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, this is and should be a teaching moment. I'm glad to know the Premier and I agree that this should never have happened. While I commend her and her government for the steps they have taken towards reconciliation, very clearly, not enough has changed within all aspects of the provincial government. Again to the Premier: what specifically are you doing to ensure that this doesn't happen again anywhere else in the provincial government?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

2:00

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. I'm going to talk about Alberta Health Services specifically because this is where the incident happened. I, too, share my disappointment and frustration and anger that this person wasn't addressed with her name but rather with a title that has a deep historical legacy. Antiracism education is certainly an area of focus for our government, making sure that we break down the barriers, making sure that groups that already disproportionately access health care less frequently and have lower life expectancy should not feel that continued institutionalized racism impacts their ability to do so.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, privacy is of paramount importance, especially when dealing with health information. I'm concerned that this letter is not only grossly culturally insensitive, but if there are letters with confidential health information being sent to generic names rather than individual Albertans, there is the potential that this represents a significant breach of not only trust but of privacy. Earlier today I wrote to the Privacy Commissioner asking that she investigate to determine if there has in fact been a breach of the Health Information Act or any other relevant statute. To the Premier: will you support my request for this investigation? Will you ensure that the Privacy Commissioner receives the complete co-operation of any and all government . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.
The Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. We certainly respect the Privacy Commissioner's range of scope in being able to identify the appropriate places for these investigations. Regardless of what she chooses to do, AHS has launched their own investigation into this matter and will do their part there, and certainly if the Privacy Commissioner chooses to do her investigation as well, we will very happily comply. Our goal is to make sure that we address what happened in this situation so that it never happens again.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

Supports for Postsecondary Students

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I met with two representatives of the Council of Alberta University Students, CAUS, as they advocated on a number of issues. They spoke passionately about a number of initiatives they feel would make lives better for students. What is your ministry doing to make life

more affordable for students, and what action was taken in this year's budget on their priorities?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank CAUS for the work that they've been doing and for taking the time out of their lives to come and talk to us here at the Legislature. We're proud in our budget of 2018 to provide significant supports for students. That's why our budget has included a 2 per cent increase in operating grants for every university and college in the province as well as backfill funding to compensate for the continuation of the tuition freeze. This will ensure that our students continue to receive an affordable, high-quality education here in the province. Our tuition freeze will mean that the average student has saved over \$1,200 on the cost of a four-year degree. We expect to have more to say . . .

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

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The CAUS representatives did tell me that they were thankful for the action this government has taken to provide ongoing mental health funding. They would like to see this funding increased to provide further benefits to students. Is this something that is possible down the road? To the same minister.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, Mr. Speaker, we're proud to have launched an initiative that is providing \$8 million a year for mental health supports on campuses across Alberta. This funding means that colleges and universities will be able to hire counsellors, community outreach social workers, and psychologists. It also supports mental health workshops, stress reduction events, and peer support programs. We're committed to making sure that students have the supports they need, and we are continually monitoring our programs to make sure they are meeting the needs of students. Of course, all of this funding would be at risk if the Official Opposition had their way. They want to pay for a billion-dollar tax cut to millionaires, which would make it impossible to fund . . .

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

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has demonstrated a strong commitment to protecting front-line services and making sure that they're available where Albertans need them most. CAUS has advocated that more mental health supports be located on campus for students to have the fewest barriers to access. To the same minister: what are you doing to ensure this happens?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the funding that we've provided is already being used to create new initiatives and programs on campuses. When we rolled out this plan, we made sure that students would be very involved in the development and ongoing analysis of these programs. Beyond our commitment on campuses we're also working with AHS to make sure that there's a better integration of supports within our broader mental health system. Of course, the opposition doesn't like it when I raise this, but I will continue to do so. All of this is at risk if they had the opportunity to give away almost a billion dollars to millionaires and put this funding at risk.

The Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition.

Carbon Levy Rate

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, the budget includes projected increases in revenues from the 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax. As we've already established, that's the basis of the projected balanced budget in 2023. Can the Premier point me to any mention of conditions before that tax would be increased in the budget documents?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the province of Alberta has signed on to the pan-Canadian framework on clean growth some months ago on the condition that we would get pipeline approvals in place, and we got those pipeline approvals. Therefore, we have received \$150 million in federal investments in energy efficiency and lowering energy usage and lowering people's bills via those programs. The federal government is moving forward with legislation on the pan-Canadian framework.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Kenney: The question was to the Premier. It really dealt with the budget, not with the environment minister's responsibilities.

Let me restate it. Given that the balanced budget projected for 2023 is predicated on additional revenues coming from a 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax, where are the conditions attached to that? Is it not true that the balanced budget projection disappears without that 67 per cent increase in carbon tax revenues?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the federal government is bringing in carbon pricing across the country. The question, then, for Albertans becomes: do we have a made-in-Alberta plan that grows the economy while reducing our emissions, or do we have a plan imposed on us by Ottawa? I know that the hon. member has a great deal of affection for Ottawa and thinks longingly of his years there, but I am more interested in making sure we've got a made-in-Alberta plan in place that reduces our emissions, that grows our economy, that moves Alberta forward.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Kenney: Given that this government has a great deal of affection for Justin Trudeau, they signed a blank cheque and agreed to raise their carbon tax by 67 per cent. The question is: where are the conditions in this budget? Will the government recommit that it will not raise that additional revenue by hiking the carbon tax by 67 per cent unless a pipeline is completed? The question is not for the environment minister. It's for the Premier.

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What I will say is this. I would refer the member opposite to page 80 of the fiscal plan where, in fact, that's exactly what is included in that part of the fiscal plan. That being said, we talk about putting the path to balance at risk, and I'd just like to talk a moment about what really puts the path to balance at risk. What puts the path to balance at risk is cancelling the climate leadership plan and giving \$700 million away to Alberta's wealthiest citizens. That, in fact, blows about a \$5 billion hole in our attempt to get . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Mr. Kenney: Well, given that I'm looking at page 80 and there's no mention of conditions, I don't know what the Premier is talking about.

GST on the Carbon Levy

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, the carbon tax is taxed by the federal goods and services tax. Does the provincial government agree with the taxation of the carbon tax?

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would just read out from page 80. "The federally-imposed carbon price will increase carbon revenue based on federal approval of the Trans Mountain Expansion . . . and the federal government's commitment to its construction." I think that's awfully clear unless we want to get lost in debating the minutiae of language. I'm not sure. I think that's pretty clear. I would suggest that what our government has effectively done by embracing our climate leadership plan and moving forward is that we've gotten a pipeline built, and we will get . . .

The Speaker: Thank you.

2:10

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, given that the Premier did not answer the question, I'll ask it again. Does the government agree with the taxation of the carbon tax by the federal GST?

Ms Hoffman: Does the member opposite want to say why he spent 20 years in Ottawa, 10 in government, and did nothing to prevent that from happening, Mr. Speaker? That's what I'd like to know. On this side of the House we impact the things that we have the ability to change. That side of the House should have done it when they had a chance in Ottawa.

Mr. Kenney: I take it from that non answer that the government agrees with the application of the GST on the carbon tax.

My question is: is the carbon tax a good or a service?

Ms Hoffman: Climate change is real, Mr. Speaker, and on this side of this House we take that seriously. We know that we have to do something to get a pipeline built to tidewater. That's why we brought in a climate leadership plan that led to that exact approval. We got two approvals. Line 3 is well under construction. We keep winning every single appeal that gets put in our way on the way to the west coast. I wish we didn't have to win appeals every single time in this House. It's time to get onboard. The opposition should realize that this is a pipeline that is in the national interest and stand up to support this government in making it happen.

Provincial Debt-servicing Costs

Mr. Kenney: Given that the government didn't answer that question after three times, I'll ask a different question. How much does the government plan to spend on interest payments between now and 2023?

Ms Hoffman: My real question is: how much time are we going to spend debating the fact that the member opposite didn't do anything to prevent this from happening when he was in Ottawa and had the exact ability to prevent it from happening? We will certainly do everything in our capacity to lobby on behalf of Albertans, to make sure that we have a climate leadership plan that results in the pipelines that we have gotten approved and that we will get built, Mr. Speaker. I know that it's would've, could've, should've from the member opposite. I get it. You should've fixed this when you were in Ottawa. We're fixing things here in Alberta. I expect that

you will get onboard to stand up for Alberta and get our pipeline built.

Mr. Kenney: Given that apparently the audio system isn't working here, Mr. Speaker, I'll ask the question again, which had absolutely nothing to do with the non answer. How much does the government plan to spend on interest payments – I'll put that a different way – on debt interest costs between now and 2023? How much does the government plan to spend on debt interest costs between now and 2023?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, what we will do is service the debt in the same way any government would service the debt as long as the debt is in place. Now, the way to get rid of the debt is to balance the budget. The members opposite are suggesting to Albertans that they can give a \$700 million tax cut, protect services without any impact on Alberta families, and somehow get rid of the deficit early. That's the implicit thing here. It's not true. It just isn't true, and they need to start coming clean with Albertans about what their plan actually is.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, I twice asked the government a very simple, factual question about their budget. I asked them how much they project to spend on interest costs in the next five years. The answer is \$18 billion. Does the Premier think that \$18 billion in interest payments to bankers is a good use of tax dollars?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, as I've said before, we inherited an economy that was ill prepared to deal with the fiscal situation, that was ill prepared to deal with the catastrophic drop in the price of oil. The members opposite would have had to deal with the same issues. The question is: how do you deal with that kind of crisis? Do you pile on? Do you cut more jobs? Do you jam kids into classrooms? Do you blow up hospitals? Or do you have Albertans' backs? We chose the latter. We are investing in Alberta. As a result, we've created 90,000 jobs. Manufacturing is up, exports are up, and so is . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.
We are at the third main.

Mr. Kenney: I infer from the non answer that the Premier believes that \$18 billion spent on interest payments is a good investment.

Mr. Speaker, we are currently spending nearly \$2 billion in interest payments. Can the Premier tell us how many of her government's departments spend less than that \$2 billion?

Ms Notley: Here's a different answer, Mr. Speaker, but it's on the same principle. When you look at some of the plans that the member opposite has talked about, say, for instance, "Let's emulate B.C.'s spending," well, if we were to do that, the kind of cuts that that would bring into effect would eliminate the Department of Justice. Just eliminated. No Department of Justice. That's what happens when you address these problems through a lens of reality and facts, and I would suggest that the member opposite ought to start doing the same.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, given that the Premier didn't answer the question, I'll answer it for her. The \$2 billion, the cost of interest this year, is more than the government spends on 19 of its 24 departments.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier told us before the budget that there was going to be belt-tightening. Why, then, did the budget increase spending and increase debt by over \$50 billion?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What we have done is work to carefully reduce the rate of spending, even as Alberta grows and pressures grow, and to do it in a thoughtful, strategic, intelligent way that protects families. We will not make arbitrary, massive cuts, for instance, to do what the member opposite suggested on Monday, to get rid of over 3,000 teachers and teachers' aides. On Monday that's what he suggested he would have done, and that's not all. Those are not the kinds of careful spending decisions that we will make. We'll carry on with the record we have so far.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, I made no such suggestion.

Can the Premier point to anything in the budget that constitutes belt-tightening? Her phrase, not mine. She said that there would be belt-tightening in the budget. Where's the belt-tightening?

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, on Monday, just to clarify, the member opposite suggested that what he wanted to do was to have spending frozen at 2015 levels. Since 2015, through funding enrolment growth – thank goodness – we've been able to add over 3,000 teachers and teachers' assistants to our schools. So that's where we get that from, and it wouldn't have happened if we followed his path.

With respect to careful decision-making, Mr. Speaker, what we've done is that we've cut massive salaries in agencies, boards, and commissions. We cancelled the golf club memberships. We've made sure that the sky palace type decisions that his friends brought into place aren't being made anymore.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-South West.

Federal Infrastructure Funding

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that our government has committed to building the schools, hospitals, and rapid transit that Albertans rely on and given that the province this week signed a significant funding agreement with the federal government, can the Minister of Infrastructure tell us how much Alberta will be receiving over the next 10 years and the different streams of funding available?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Infrastructure.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member. [interjections] I'll wait for the heckling to go down.

Minister Sohi and I signed our ICIP agreement on Tuesday, \$3.39 billion over 10 years. Streams for this program include public transit infrastructure, green infrastructure, rural and northern communities, and culture, community, and recreation infrastructure. Each of those streams has different criteria with different cost-sharing percentages, and Alberta is investing nearly \$30 billion in this plan.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister.
First supplemental.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, given that Edmonton-South West is one of the fastest growing areas in this province and given that public transit projects like the Heritage Valley park-and-ride are crucial to servicing this region and given that the city of Edmonton is an important partner to the province and the federal government, can the minister tell us specifically: what is Edmonton's

share for the public transit stream, and how was that amount determined?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Edmonton's share is over \$877 million. The amount is determined by ridership. The funds can be used for projects that will improve capacity, improve quality and safety, and improve access to public transit. I know that if the members on the other side of the aisle stop visiting, they may want to listen to that. Infrastructure, obviously, is pretty important to them, as it is to us.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for the answer. Given that I know that there are many community groups in my riding and area who would like to apply for this funding, can the minister inform the House how the application process will work and how we can make sure that that process is fair and transparent?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, more information can be found through infrastructure.alberta.ca. It's a great website to go to. The first three of the four streams have already begun, so you can certainly get your applications in. Of course, August 1 is the deadline for the first set of applications. For all those fans of infrastructure – and I know we have quite a few on the other side of the aisle – they may want to take that information down. Certainly, now with over \$3 billion in infrastructure requests from the opposition, I think that they might want to check out that website.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-South East.

2:20

Mental Health Services

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The impact of poor mental health on our citizens can't be overstated, and we need to adequately address mental health issues in this province for economic reasons, public health reasons, and simply because it's the right thing to do. We're coming up on a year since the Valuing Mental Health: Next Steps report was released, and it has been two years since the Mental Health Review Committee's report. To the Deputy Premier: how many of the 32 recommendations and 18 actions proposed by those two reports have been addressed?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. To date, for the 2017-18 fiscal year, we've granted \$35.8 million directly to AHS or community organizations to implement the recommendations of Valuing Mental Health, and earlier interventions, of course, were for children and youth, better access to mental health services and supports for those using substances, for new detox beds, and so forth. I'll be happy to table the exact number, but we are well on track. We've implemented a great deal, and there is still more to come.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the habits and practices that lead to good mental health are best taught in early life and given that young people and adolescents are especially

vulnerable to mental health issues and given that it can be harder for young people to access mental health supports in the same way that adults do, to the same minister: what is being done to ensure that young Albertans specifically are able to access the necessary mental health supports and services?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're making smart investments to support our children and youth. For example, we've funded new counselling supports for survivors of sexual and physical abuse, including the Zebra Child Protection Centre. In 2017 they supported over 1,600 children and youth. We opened a new Rutherford mental health clinic here in Edmonton for youth in Edmonton and the surrounding areas, which triples capacity for this region. We're building a new eight-bed youth facility in Red Deer. We've added new detox beds for children and youth in Calgary, which results in shorter wait times, and the list goes on. The need does as well, and that's why we won't let up. That's why we won't allow for the deep cuts that are being proposed by the members opposite.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Fraser: Given that the demand for mental health services and supports is only increasing and given that the people suffering from mental illness or trauma are often desperate for any offer of help at all and given that this desperation can often make them targets for unlicensed and unregulated counselling and mental health supports, a practice that could lead to even more long-term harm, to the same minister: will you assure this House that you will regulate mental health counsellors and mental health services so that Albertans know that they are receiving a high standard of care when they seek it?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. This is something that we've heard calls for. It's something that we are in the process of doing consultation on. We want to make sure that we get this right. There are a variety of different types of people who use the term "counsellor," whether it's a guidance counsellor in a school, a financial counsellor, emotional, psychological, social support, or a religious counsellor as well. We want to make sure that we do the right consultation with the community to get the right feedback and make the right decisions as we move forward, but I appreciate the vein in which the question is being asked.

Federal Impact Assessment Act

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, the Trudeau government has brought forward a bill that will likely make it impossible to build major new pipelines. The Canadian Energy Pipeline Association says, quote: it is difficult to imagine a new major pipeline could be built in Canada under the Impact Assessment Act, Bill C-69. Does the Alberta government oppose the federal Bill C-69?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, our job is to stand up for Alberta and our industry by getting real results like, for example, pipeline approvals to tidewater.

With respect to the new impact assessment legislation, we have been in very close contact with the federal government. We've been ensuring that Alberta's perspective is heard at every turn. We have

made some changes to that legislation, for example around legislated timelines. We know there is more to do, and we're committed to doing it.

Mr. Kenney: Given the non answer, I will ask again. Does the government oppose or support the federal Impact Assessment Act, Bill C-69, as it currently stands?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are large pieces of that legislation that require more clarification from the federal government, and that's exactly what we've sought from them; for example, around what is meant by a preplanning phase and preconsultation.

Also, Mr. Speaker, we are quite adamant that we believe that our climate leadership plan should be recognized as sufficient for any evaluation of a climate change assessment within federally assessed projects. We have a number of other concerns as well around harmonization and so on.

Mr. Kenney: Given that the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association has said that Bill C-69 would make it difficult to imagine a new major pipeline being built in Canada, does the government agree with the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association and this assessment?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we're committed to working very closely with energy pipeline companies as well as other firms who are affected by this legislation. That is why, for example, we were very pleased to learn that in situ projects will not find themselves on a project list if they are covered by a climate leadership plan, that is to say a carbon pricing regime and an emissions cap, which puts Alberta at significant strategic advantage. That strategic advantage would not be there if it were not for the climate leadership plan, something that the member opposite opposes.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Second supplemental.

Mr. Kenney: Well, given yet another non answer, it's clear that the government does not oppose this bill, which the industry characterizes as the end of any future pipeline approvals and, by the way, Mr. Speaker, a massive violation of Alberta's jurisdiction. So my question for the government is: just what does it take for them to stand up to Justin Trudeau, to tell their close ally and friend that they will stop selling out this province to Justin Trudeau's anti energy industry agenda?

The Speaker: Hon. member, I was incorrect. That was a main question rather than a supplemental.

Minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The assertion is preposterous, that this province has not been advocating for Alberta's interests from the very beginning. The letter that I wrote initially, in response to the initial discussion document that came out in the summer of 2017, enumerated a number of concerns that Alberta had. Many of those concerns have been acted upon, as I indicated, not all of them, and that is why we continue to advocate.

Mr. Speaker, there are different ways of doing politics. I do not need to jump up and down, and I resent the idea that somehow we are not advocating for Alberta simply because we're not taking a belligerent . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, if there's a belligerent tone, it's not coming from this side of the House. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order, please.

Keep going.

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Justin Trudeau vetoed Northern Gateway. He killed Energy East. He surrendered to Barack Obama on the veto of Trans Mountain. He's doing nothing to assert federal jurisdiction in the construction of Trans Mountain. According to this government he's forcing them to raise the carbon tax by 67 per cent, and now he's introduced a bill that will make future pipelines just about impossible to get approved. How is that alliance working out?

Ms Phillips: Well, Mr. Speaker, we have been in close contact with the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, with other affected firms on this matter, and that is why the hon. Minister of Energy and I have been tracking this file from the very beginning in terms of the assessment of upstream greenhouse gas emissions, for example, and other matters that we find problematic within Bill C-69 and its potential associated regulations. That's why we continue to do this work.

Now, Conservative blustering left our province's most valuable resources landlocked for decades, Mr. Speaker. That is not . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, given that Justin Trudeau vetoed Northern Gateway, killed Energy East, surrendered on Keystone XL, and is doing nothing for the construction of Trans Mountain, why does the government now trust him on a pipeline bill that the industry says will make it impossible to get another pipeline built?

Ms Phillips: Mr. Speaker, the first line in the interview that I gave on this matter yesterday afternoon was, "We are by no means happy yet." We will continue to do the work to advocate on behalf of Alberta's interests. Those interests include pipeline approvals, that the hon. member could not get done in almost 20 years in Ottawa. It also means moving forward with the climate leadership plan so that we do not have one imposed on us by Ottawa, and it does mean that we ensure that we can get large projects built in a way that has appropriate timelines . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

2:30 Federal Equalization Payments

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, speaking of Ottawa, can the Finance minister point to any section in his budget which speaks to the need to reform equalization so that it is fair for Alberta?

Mr. Ceci: Well, Mr. Speaker, the member from the other side likes to talk about their work on the equalization format, but I can tell you that the Fraser Institute report – yes, the Fraser Institute – spells it out clearly. A rule change when he was in the federal cabinet actually hurt Alberta's economy just as we were in a downturn. The Conservatives did nothing to support Alberta with respect to equalization when he was there. He made the issue worse for Alberta.

Mr. Kenney: Well, given that that is yet another non answer, the minister would be interested to know, Mr. Speaker, that actually

during the tenure of the Harper government, federal transfers to Alberta more than doubled.

Mr. Speaker, let me ask the question again. Does the Finance minister share the concern of most Albertans that while times are tough here, we should not be, through our federal taxes, contributing over \$12 billion in equalization that benefits politicians who oppose our energy industry, that generates that wealth in the first place?

The Speaker: The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, Alberta needs a better deal when it comes to equalization, so I raised that issue when I was down at the Finance ministers' meeting in December. At that meeting I also called for the unanimous support of a pipeline to tidewater as our resources are a critical source for the future of the equalization program in this country. We will continue to fight for Alberta's priorities at each and every turn.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, if reform of equalization is a priority for the NDP government, why is it not mentioned once in the budget?

Mr. Ceci: You know, Mr. Speaker, I point back to the Fraser Institute report, where that side, that individual had an opportunity to address the GDP growth rate rule imposed by the Harper government, and they did nothing. It gets worse. That rule will give Ontario a whopping \$1.3 billion and Quebec an extra \$433 million by 2020, so either his government intentionally made the issue worse, or they didn't know what they were doing.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Stony Plain.

Hospital and Long-term Care Spaces

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WestView health centre in Stony Plain has some of the longest wait times in the greater Edmonton region. The facility averages 149 per cent at capacity, with 10 to 13 out of 23 acute-care beds occupied by people waiting to transition to long-term care. To the Minister of Health: what plans are in place to alleviate the pressure on facilities like WestView health centre?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This January I was pleased to have the opportunity to visit the WestView health centre with the member, and there, for example, I met many staff, including Roy, a dedicated member of the staff who happens to be the father of one of our pages, Jordan. He's incredibly proud of that, too. We also heard about some of the challenges that patients are facing. The government is committed to building 2,000 new long-term care spaces. We're on track to meet that goal, and we hope to share plans for building additional capacity beyond that very soon in this province.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: what are the wait times to get into long-term care facilities and out of transition, and has that wait time increased or decreased in the past three years?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, we know that there are significant pressures on our hospitals while patients wait for placement in long-term care, but these are issues that have been in place for decades. For example, under the watch of Ralph Klein in the 1990s, which the members speak gleefully about, we lost 88 per cent of our

staffed long-term care beds in the province of Alberta, which, of course, has made this a very difficult situation for us to catch up on. We're working diligently to do so. That's why we're building 2,000 beds, and that's just the beginning.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that we know that people are healthier – physically, mentally, and emotionally – when they can transition into care in their own communities, how are we supporting that in rural communities like mine, where more long-term care and assisted living beds are required?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you. We are committed to helping Albertans lead healthy and safe lives in their homes and in their communities. That's why in Budget 2018 we're making significant increases in home care. We hope that all members of this House stand in support of increasing investment to keep their communities intact, their residents safe and at home. Last year we saw over 3,800 additional new clients served by home care. Unfortunately, the members opposite didn't vote for it then. Maybe they will this time, though, Mr. Speaker.

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

Carbon Levy and School Transportation Costs

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On March 23 I met with a group of local school bus drivers in the St. Paul area. They expressed some very grave concerns about the ever-increasing effects of the NDP carbon tax on their livelihoods. These are the men and women that we entrust every day with our most precious cargo, our children. To the Minister of Education: is there any plan to help alleviate the extra cost this crippling carbon tax puts on these vital operators of our school busing system without simply passing the burden on to our already struggling school boards?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much for the question. Certainly, I've been working closely with all of our school boards here in the province, and rural school boards specifically, on ways that we can make our transportation systems more efficient and to ensure that they are properly funded as well. We know that the key way by which you can do that is to ensure that you have that base operating cost; in other words, make sacrifices in other areas to make sure that we're funding for enrolment in the province of Alberta for our kids. You know, that has resulted in about \$970 million, \$980 million more into school boards over the last three budgets that I've built, and I'm very proud of that fact.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, our bus drivers need help right now. Given that a bus driver picking up our children on a given route has no way of reducing the number of kilometres they drive or how many litres of fuel they burn while they're making the route, to the minister: was there any thought to how the ever-increasing NDP carbon tax would affect our school bus operators, especially since it will have a zero effect on GHG emissions?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, part of the whole concept behind the carbon levy is to make sure we realize savings so that you actually save money. When you do fix up, let's say, your insulation in your school and you save money, you're burning less power, right? When you are working with some bus routes and looking for ways by which to co-operate with the separate school system, the public school system, you can end up saving money as well as reducing carbon. So there's a whole universe of advantage to pursuing these things, and I think the vast majority . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister.
Second supplemental.

Mr. Hanson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I was talking about bus drivers.

Given, Mr. Speaker, that we have constantly requested a cost-benefit analysis with respect to this NDP carbon tax and given that this punitive tax has only negative effects on the men and women that transport our children, with no change to GHG emissions, Minister, will you do the right thing and simply scrap this ridiculous tax on our bus drivers and indeed on our entire education system?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we are doing is ensuring that we have higher efficiency in all of our public buildings over time, investing in higher efficiency windows and lights and so forth. I mean, I know that transportation is more challenging, but I'm working with individual school boards to make it happen. School boards recognize the value as well of helping to educate young people around carbon and the process of climate change. To make any denial in that regard goes against common sense, it goes against what children want for their future, for their education, and it goes against actually saving and helping to diversify our economy in the future.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Educational Curriculum Redesign Participants

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The largest curriculum rewrite in Alberta's history is currently ongoing. All parties must work to ensure that positive educational outcomes are the priority of this process. In order to achieve this success, the rewrite needs a balanced approach in order to develop our children into strong, critical thinkers. The minister has stated on numerous occasions that this balance will be achieved during this rewrite process. If this is true, could the minister provide the list of names of the university professors and the outside interest groups providing input into the rewrite? Please note: we are not looking for the names of teachers.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, the hon. member is correct. We are using literally hundreds of people working in our curriculum groups plus many, many other groups making presentations, including the energy industry, the banking industry in terms of financial literacy, computing – postsecondary institutions and industries associated with that as well – as well as working with our postsecondary institutions. It's one of the best canvassed and widest spread curriculum rewrites to help to build a stronger

curriculum for everybody, and I'm very proud of every step that we have taken.

2:40

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

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the minister seems to have taken the first small step towards doing what we were asking him to do and since he's provided a few names and interest groups today in the House, would the minister, in the name of transparency for the people of Alberta, publish the list of all of the other professors and interest groups who've been involved in the curriculum rewrite process to this point?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, I will always be in compliance with the law and so forth, but I will also be in compliance with the security and privacy of individuals who I will not see harassed by special-interest groups or members opposite who are very regularly using the sort of witch hunt sort of mentality of publishing and trying to shame people who are actually helping us to build curriculum. No, I won't do that, but I certainly will work for the benefit of our children.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of anybody on this side of the House that has shamed anybody that's been involved in the process.

Given that the minister has repeatedly assured this House and the concerned parents across Alberta that the curriculum rewrite will be inclusive of all political philosophies and given that many continue to express their doubts that this is occurring, again to the minister: can you outline for all Albertans how the professors and the interest groups involved in the curriculum rewrite were selected, what criteria were used, and was there a specific focus on ensuring a broad range of philosophical representation amongst these groups and individuals?

Mr. Eggen: Again, Mr. Speaker, you can see exactly that this is a portrayal of my reluctance to subject individuals to this sort of witch hunt mentality that exists across the aisle and with other groups as well. We are working very closely with literally anybody. The door is wide open for people to make submissions. We had people interested in submissions around Arab culture and history just a couple of days ago, with certain groups. We're certainly working with people that are willing to be open and to represent all sides. This is not – the politicization is coming from that side.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Hon. members, I have a request for unanimous consent to introduce a guest.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Introduction of Guests (continued)

The Speaker: The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a group of Albertans who have dedicated themselves to market development of Alberta's organic and local food systems from farm

to table. Consumer appetite for organic food and local food has grown considerably over the past several years and shows no signs of slowing down. We have with us Charles Newell, president and director of Organic Alberta, crop farmer and cattle rancher near Radway; Abbie Stein-MacLean, director of Organic Alberta; Jason Anderson, president of Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association and producer from Kathy's Greenhouse, near Kitscoty; Jim Hill, producer from Hidden Valley Garden, near Sylvan Lake; and Gezinus Martens, Alberta Milk board member and dairy farmer near Calmar. I would ask them now to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Members' Statements

(continued)

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

Counselling Service Oversight

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Alberta anyone can call themselves a counsellor. There are no regulations or oversight to regulate this profession in Alberta. Nicole Imgrund, my constituent and an advocate for regulated counselling, stated in a recent op-ed: it's estimated that there are more than 5,000 unregulated counsellors in Alberta. With an increased openness to talk about mental illness across Canada and a decrease in the stigma surrounding seeking help, more Albertans than ever are using therapists and counsellors. In fact, following the Me Too movement, support centres such as the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton are seeing demand in counselling services up by 53 per cent. The SAIF Society in St. Albert is also being overwhelmed.

Unregulated counselling can and has led to harmful outcomes for people seeking help. Unprofessional biases lead to discrimination against a client based on sexual orientation, race, or other factors. Think about conversion therapy. Think about fake pregnancy counsellors. Other problems with unregulated counselling therapists may lead to abuse and exploitation, breach of privacy, unethical business practices, or a failure to recognize that a client is suicidal or has a serious mental illness.

FACT, the Federation of Associations of Counselling Therapists in Alberta, represents 14 professional counselling associations and has over 3,500 members. This very large and diverse group agrees that regulating counselling therapy cannot wait.

To date FACT-Alberta has developed a definition of counselling therapy, adopted an entry-to-practice competency profile, created a code of ethics to ensure a smooth implementation of the counselling therapy college. The only steps remaining are a consultation process, which is under way, and the passing of the legislation.

Nicole Imgrund from FACT and I have met with the Associate Minister of Health twice over the last year, and a great deal of work has taken place. We can prevent well-meaning but untrained people from providing counselling supports that may have negative consequences for Albertans by doing this. It's an important step towards valuing mental health.

Thank you.

The Speaker: My apologies to the Member for Edmonton-South West.

Traffic Congestion in Southwest Edmonton

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Imagine pouring a gallon of water through a straw. It takes a lot of patience and care. You have

to pour that water painstakingly slowly, waiting for it to carefully drip or else it's going to spill out everywhere. Now, that is the current traffic situation in my constituency. In the fastest growing part of Edmonton my constituents have to face this challenge every single day.

The 2017 INRIX global traffic scorecard, which ranks traffic congestion in cities across 38 countries, showed that Edmonton drivers spent about 5 per cent of their commute stuck in traffic. That amounts to an average of 14 hours per commuter per year in congestion during peak travel times, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you that I myself sometimes make up an entire hour of that in one day. The city of Edmonton's Urban Planning Committee reports that 6 per cent of Edmonton's arterial road intersections are operating below an acceptable level of service, so we see that there are real transportation issues.

Now, public transit is similarly lacking in this area, with very few bus routes available to take people where they need to go. That leads to angry parents rushing their children to school; upset commuters, who are running late for work; and stressed out drivers, who are not as productive in our society.

Mr. Speaker, the government's recent commitment to the Heritage Valley park-and-ride is much applauded and a significant investment in our area. However, the southwest portion of the Anthony Henday is still a massive point of congestion in my riding and areas around it. I know that other roads like Terwillegar Drive, which goes through my colleague's riding, are driven on by over 44,000 vehicles a day. That is an immense number of cars.

We need to continue to invest in the road system and work with our municipal and federal partners to be able to offer people transportation options such as rapid transit, buses, and trains. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to commit to supporting transportation and improving the traffic situation in Edmonton-South West.

Federal-provincial Relations

Mr. Fildebrandt: The last time that a Trudeau was in power in Ottawa, the long-standing quasi-colonial attitude of the federal government to Alberta and the west began to boil over. Preston Manning and Stephen Harper constructively channelled our frustrations under the banner The West Wants In.

The election of an Alberta Prime Minister in 2006 saw some of the antiwestern injustices like the Wheat Board scrapped, but institutions and entrenched interests are hard to overcome. Equalization and other transfer programs continue to bleed Alberta dry of our hard-earned prosperity. The Senate remains unelected, unequal, and ineffective as ever. All four Atlantic provinces together have a combined population of 2.3 million, represented by 30 Senators. Alberta, with twice the population, has just six.

Albertans have always been willing to pay more than our fair share into Confederation out of love for our country and the understanding that, at the very least, we have the right to trade in an open and free fair market. But now this most simple condition for the existence of even a quasi-functional national state is questionable at best. Despite the NDP's well-meaning and honest efforts to bend over backwards to earn social licence for a pipeline, those who benefit from Alberta's economy continue to do everything possible to bite the hand that feeds. While I do believe that a change in both the federal and provincial governments will improve our situation, I fear that the deep institutional resistance towards Alberta's interests is becoming impossible to overcome.

In my constituency and across large swaths of our province Albertans, patriotic Canadians all, are beginning to lose hope. What were once whispers are fast becoming a demand for justice.

My colleagues, we are all proud Albertans and proud Canadians, but our relationship with the federal government is quickly becoming untenable. I ask that we stand together behind the old banner The West Wants In before some people want out.

An Hon. Member: You know that was pioneered by the CCF, right?

The Speaker: Hon. member.

2:50

Notices of Motions

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice of a motion for the next Order Paper, that being:

Be it resolved that the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne be engrossed and presented to Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor by such members of the Assembly as are members of Executive Council.

Introduction of Bills

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

Bill 7

Supporting Alberta's Local Food Sector Act

Mr. Carlier: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today and introduce Bill 7, the Supporting Alberta's Local Food Sector Act.

This bill stems from our government's commitment to work with producers, retailers, and processors to eliminate barriers to local food production and marketing. It also builds on efforts by Alberta's organic food producers to address the regulatory gap for organic foods produced and marketed within Alberta.

Alberta agriculture is ready-made for innovation, diversification, and job creation. This sector was strong through the recession and will continue to grow as we build a recovery to last. Alberta is uniquely positioned to continue that growth, Mr. Speaker. There's been a tremendous increase in local food purchased through on-farm sales and through Alberta's unique farmers' market system, supported by world-class food and excellent programs and policies.

Bill 7 will provide the forum and foundation to continue Alberta agriculture's track record of success.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 7 read a first time]

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier and Minister of Health.

Bill 9

Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Act

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to request leave to introduce Bill 9, the Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Act.

All Albertans should feel safe when accessing their health care services. That includes abortion services, which have been legal in this country for almost 50 years. This new act will ensure that women in Alberta can exercise this choice without fear of interference, bullying, threats, or intimidation. This legislation will also protect doctors and other service providers from harassment and scare tactics. All Albertans should feel safe when accessing any health care service, including abortion.

Introducing this bill is also a significant step in ensuring that health care providers feel safe when they do their jobs.

I look forward to the discussion and deliberation with my colleagues in the House on this very important issue. Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 9 read a first time]

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

Bill 203

Long Term Care Information Act

Mrs. Schreiner: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to request leave to introduce Bill 203, the Long Term Care Information Act.

Mr. Speaker, I worked as a health care professional for years in long-term care. I saw with my own eyes the families and loved ones of seniors come through our doors asking for information about the facility. Everybody in Alberta deserves to have that information available to them in a format that is accessible and easily understandable. Bill 203, the Long Term Care Information Act, will provide them with that information. I have talked to long-term care providers and to those looking for long-term care.

I look forward to debating this bill with my colleagues in the House. Thank you for the opportunity.

[Motion carried; Bill 203 read a first time]

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Bill 204

Land Statutes (Abolition of Adverse Possession) Amendment Act, 2018

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to beg leave of the House to introduce Bill 204, the Land Statutes (Abolition of Adverse Possession) Amendment Act, 2018.

This bill seeks to abolish adverse possession in Alberta, also known as squatters' rights. Alberta and Nova Scotia are the only provinces in Canada with legislation enabling claims of adverse possession. I believe this bill is a positive step for the protection of the rights of urban and rural landowners across Alberta.

I would also like to at this time give special thanks to Ken Allred, former MLA for St. Albert. Ken brought forward a private member's bill just before the 2012 election which would have abolished adverse possession. The bill passed first and second reading at that time but did not pass through the House before the election. Mr. Allred decided not to seek an additional term of office, and his bill died on the Order Paper.

I would like to thank Mr. Allred for his great work, tireless advocacy, and guidance on this issue, and I will be honoured to introduce him when he joins us during debate of this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 204 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater.

Mr. Piquette: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table five copies of an article from the *Smoky Lake Signal* on April 3 this year: MLA Says Alberta Is on the Right Track for Economic Rebound. I referred to it in my response to the throne speech yesterday.

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

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to a point of order that was made yesterday, where it was alleged by the Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre that an infrastructure list was not asked for and that it, in fact, did not take place, I table the requisite five copies of a letter that was addressed to all MLAs, including yourself and the member, on capital plan priorities, seeking information about priorities for Infrastructure by the Minister of Infrastructure.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you. I rise to table five copies of pages 80 and 84 of the Budget 2018 fiscal plan, and page 4 of my budget speech, which state that the federally imposed carbon price will increase based on the approval and construction of pipelines.

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table, and I have the requisite number of copies. They are the AHS procurement policy documents titled Competitive Bid Processes and Corporate Contracting. These are available online; however, I did commit to tabling them in the House yesterday, and I'm proud to keep my word.

The Speaker: The Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Dr. Starke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today, during consideration of the main estimates of the Ministry of Advanced Education, I made reference to a letter from the Alberta Beef Producers to the Minister of Advanced Education calling for a review of the decision to defund the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon. I have five copies of that letter to be tabled.

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

Mr. Loewen: Thank you. I'm tabling today a document containing a petition on behalf of the Friends of Berwyn Autumn Lodge, containing about a thousand signatures and asking that the Autumn Lodge in Berwyn be kept open. The closing of the Autumn Lodge will displace some 40 seniors from their homes. They go on to say that similar lodges in the Peace Country built at the same time, on an identical footprint, are still being used. Obviously, the closure of the Berwyn Autumn Lodge will be, you know, economically disastrous to the community of Berwyn. It also hurts small rural communities.

3:00

The Speaker: Hon. members, I wish to advise that the Routine needs to end, and we need to move to Orders of the Day. We will proceed very soon.

Point of Order Imputing Motives

The Speaker: My apologies to the House. I indicated that I would make a decision concerning the point of order from yesterday. I know that you're really waiting, so I would like to address that at this point. I deferred my ruling at the time because, as I noted yesterday, I did not have an opportunity to see the Blues.

I have now reviewed *Alberta Hansard* from April 4, 2018. I would note that the point of order was raised during the question period exchange between the Member for Chestermere-Rocky

View and the Minister of Infrastructure, which can be found on page 384 of yesterday's issue of *Alberta Hansard*. In the exchange the Member for Chestermere-Rocky View commented on the government's fiscal management plan and its effect on the Infrastructure budget and specifically the need to build additional schools in the province. She asked in her main question about "the criteria that were used to pick the schools that have been given the go-ahead." The minister responded by stating, among other things, that "it's perplexing that my friends across the aisle spend so much time talking about reducing spending while at the same time presenting me with a long list of infrastructure demands."

The Official Opposition House Leader, who raised the point of order, alleges that during the exchange the minister imputed false and unavowed motives and made allegations against the Member for Chestermere-Rocky View when, in his words, the minister stated that "the member provided a detailed list of infrastructure asks to the minister's office." The Official Opposition House Leader contended – actually, the deputy House leader I think it was at the time – that that did not occur.

In her response to the point of order the Deputy Government House Leader argued that the Official Opposition has in the past requested in question period, in meetings, and through a variety of other methods that the government undertake a number of infrastructure projects. The arguments from both House leaders can be found on pages 391 to 392 of *Alberta Hansard* for April 4, 2018.

Hon. members, it is not uncommon that such disagreements arise between members as to the facts of the matter on one side as compared to the other. In this case there was a disagreement as to the facts, but there is no point of order.

This concludes the matter.

Orders of the Day

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.

[Adjourned debate April 4: Mr. Drysdale]

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-Hays.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise and give a reply to the Speech from the Throne. Starting out, I suppose, with the positive, I was very pleased in the Speech from the Throne to see that many of the very best ideas in there originated on this side of the House. I'm very pleased to see that the government took at least some of that good advice that they've been receiving from our side of the House and pleased that they saw fit to put it into the throne speech.

Mr. Speaker, the throne speech is an important thing because it's the opportunity, typically, where the government sets the tone for the next session of the Legislative Assembly, and for approximately 4.3 million Albertans, I think, that should give them at least some signal of where the government is about to go. They are looking for a hopeful signal, particularly when one considers that there are, as of a Statistics Canada labour force survey in February 2018, 165,000

unemployed Albertans. That number would be 26,000 higher than when this government took office. The previous month there were 10,500 full-time jobs lost and replaced by part-time jobs in Alberta.

While it may not be true in every case, I think most members of this House and most Albertans would agree with me that there is a much higher chance of those jobs being mortgage-paying jobs when they're full-time than the chance of those being mortgage-paying jobs when they're part-time, so potentially there are as many as 10,500 more homes struggling after that month to pay their mortgage than there were before that month.

Indeed, there were nearly 43,000 unemployed youth in Alberta, and that, of course, is also according to the Statistics Canada labour force survey in 2018. The youth unemployment rate, at 13.1 per cent, is the highest in Canada outside of Atlantic Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these are all statistics where Alberta used to lead the way. Clearly, something has changed. Indeed, there were 92,000 fewer payroll jobs in Alberta at the end of 2017 than there were before the recession. Again, not my numbers but, rather, those of the Statistics Canada survey of employment, payrolls, and hours.

Calgary currently, again according to the February 2018 Statistics Canada labour force survey, has the second-highest unemployment rate amongst Canada's major cities, at 7.9 per cent. You can only imagine why Calgarians are so very unhappy.

Mr. Speaker, the Calgary Chamber of commerce and many other Albertans that keep track of these things made their feelings known of how unhappy they are, yet I will say that there are things we are pleased with. We're pleased that the government took our side and decided to become supportive of pipelines. We appreciate that they took our side and decided to push our neighbouring government in B.C. Again, I would say to anyone listening that our quarrel has never been with the people of British Columbia but, rather, with their NDP government, that chooses to try to hobble the most important industries in Alberta.

So, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't all bad, but it surely could have been a lot better had this government taken more of the advice from this side of the House than that which they did indeed choose to take. While I'll say that I'm grateful for the advice they took from us, they didn't finish the job.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will thank you for this opportunity to reply to the Speech from the Throne, and I will take my seat.

The Speaker: Hon. members, any other questions or observations under 29(2)(a)?

The Leader of the Queen's Official Opposition.

3:10

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to rise for what is formally my maiden speech in this place in response to the address and reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Let my first formal words on the *Hansard* record here be those of gratitude: gratitude for the constituents who have invested in me their confidence as their representative in this Chamber; gratitude for those who helped with my election in Calgary-Lougheed last December, the volunteers and many hundreds of people who contributed and participated in the democratic process; respect, parenthetically, for my fellow candidates from other parties who offered themselves in that democratic process; gratitude, of course, for my family, all members of whom have, in one way or another, like for all of us, helped to shape me as a person and given me my passion for public service.

I think particularly of my paternal grandfather, Mart Kenney, who was Canada's best-known musician in the 1930s and '40s and, after that, was a household name as the leader of Canada's best-known big band and dance band. He was also a passionate Canadian

nationalist who really invested in me my own passion for public service.

Gratitude for one of the former deans of this place, our friend Dave Rodney, my predecessor as the member of this Assembly for Calgary-Lougheed, for his statesmanlike decision to give me an opportunity to seek election to the Legislature to serve in the capacity as Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. Members who know Dave know him to be a quintessential Albertan who personifies the hopefulness and optimism that has always characterized Alberta. I respect him greatly for his past public service and for having given me the opportunity to be the voice for the Official Opposition in this place.

Finally, gratitude for the members of my caucus and for the members of my party for having confided in me their trust to be leader of the new United Conservative Party and, consequently, Leader of the Official Opposition. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply grateful for that trust, and I will endeavour every day to discharge the serious obligations that come with this role in an honourable fashion.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin with words of profound esteem for this institution in which we are also privileged to serve. I join in that privilege now, and we should never forget. I counsel my fellow members as somebody with nearly two decades of parliamentary experience never to take for granted the privilege of walking into this place. I quoted the late Rt. Hon. John Diefenbaker in my farewell remarks in the House of Commons in September 2016. He said at the beginning of his long and storied parliamentary career: "When I first walked into this Chamber, I was humbled. I looked around at this Chamber, that looks like a cathedral, and wondered to myself: how in the world did I ever end up here?" And he said: "A few days later I looked around myself and said: how did the rest of them end up here?" I'm sure that will never happen.

As I speak about the institution, let me begin by speaking about the people who inhabit it, all of us who are custodians of this institution and the customs that it incarnates, this great tradition of ordered liberty, the customs of free people of which parliament and its constituent chambers are the safeguard. Mr. Speaker, we are debating now the address and reply to the Speech from the Throne, which some might regard as an anachronistic tradition but I regard as an essential symbolic reflection of our constitutional order, of our parliamentary democracy, of our constitutional monarchy.

I'm proud to sit in a Chamber where our gracious sovereign looks over us every day and where Her authority is symbolized in the Mace that is before us, in an Assembly which flies the proud flags of Canada and Alberta but also the Royal Union flag, which reminds us every day as we approach this building, as we enter this Chamber that we are entering not just a sterile room, not merely some debating Chamber but a living institution that has developed organically over centuries of struggle, an institution and values which we can never take for granted.

The history of the development of parliament, going back to the 14th century in England, is the gradual, halting, occasionally violent but usually peaceful and organic development of free people finding their voice. It is no coincidence that the root word of "parliament" from the Norman French is "parler." It is the place in which we speak. It is that Chamber that initially placed checks and balances on the royal prerogative of the Crown.

But what is unique and one of the reasons why the Westminster parliamentary tradition, in which we all participate here, became the first and the oldest democratic tradition in the world is because there was a brilliant, delicate balance between order and liberty, between authority and democratic representation. There is that dynamic tension in the historic development of parliament about which we should always be mindful.

The entire secular liturgy around the Speech from the Throne reminds us of that. As Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor enters the Chamber, she does so accompanied not only by our accomplished Sergeant-at-Arms but by other representatives of martial authority, by her aide-de-camp, by leading members of Her Majesty's Canadian Armed Forces, by leading members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, all of whom are here in a sense representing the executive authority of the Crown meeting with the people's representatives.

We should never regard these as anachronistic customs. They give living expression to 800 years of development of this institution. Let's remember that from time to time. I think one way in which we can give practical expression of our collective esteem for this institution and what it represents and, in turn, can demonstrate our respect for the constituents, the Albertans whom we represent in this place, is through a degree of civility in the way that we engage in our debates here.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will of course frequently allude to my experience and privilege of serving in the Ottawa Parliament. Let me offer a mea culpa. There is no doubt – well, absolutely no doubt – that in my 19-some years in that place I said and did things that I regret, that were uncivil. I heckled. I made unnecessary noise. I'm sure I was a thorn in the side of your counterparts in the federal House of Commons from time to time. Mea maxima culpa.

However, I now find myself in the privileged position of serving as Leader of the Opposition in this place. That is why, upon meeting my colleagues here shortly after becoming elected to this Chamber, I proposed that we try to raise the tone, raise the bar of our comportment in this place. Even if it's not reciprocated, we can control at least our own actions, Mr. Speaker. I hope that in so doing, we have as a caucus decided to suspend the practice of thunderous desk thumping, which I think creates unnecessary disorder in this place and detracts from the quality of debate. As much as possible we have tried to suspend the custom of heckling.

3:20

Now, Mr. Speaker, I say these things knowing full well that parliamentary debate is not croquet. This is not a walk in the park on Sunday afternoon. This is where we resolve our differences peacefully but often in a spirited way. There should be clash. There should be occasionally partisanship as long as that partisanship isn't mindless. Partisanship simply means that we associate ourselves with other elected officials who broadly share our values, principles, and policies, to assert those in an organized and collective way. That's how our parliamentary system has developed. This is sometimes derided but, I think, something to be honoured and celebrated. Yes, this is a partisan institution, a place where there is and should be clash and occasional discord, but surely that clash and debate can happen in a broader context of civility, and the parameters for that civility are the institution itself and the customs that it incarnates.

I hope that we as the Official Opposition at least have been doing our best of late to demonstrate that respect for the institution and the people that we serve. As I've said, I am sure that I and perhaps even some of my colleagues here will do and say things in this place that we will regret, but at least we are trying to set for ourselves a higher standard. I do invite members of all parties to join with us in that effort. Nobody here is holier than thou, but we are all here. Regardless of our partisan affiliation, our political philosophy, or personal background, we are all here, ultimately, I hope, as humble servants of the people and of our sovereign. That is my commitment to you, Mr. Speaker, that as long as I stand in this place, I will try, at least, to respect the best traditions of this place.

Mr. Speaker, that leads me to some words about the province and the people whom we serve and the country to which we are so proud to belong. I note with pride that this is, I believe, the only Legislative Assembly in Canada out of the 14 Assemblies, including the federal Parliament, which displays all of the flags of the 10 provinces and three territories, a beautiful expression of the innate patriotism of Albertans.

In some places patriotism has gone out of fashion. There are some who suggest that to be patriotic is to be jingoistic, that there cannot be a healthy patriotism, that, rather, it immediately passes into jingoistic nationalism. I don't agree, Mr. Speaker. Patriotism simply means love of country, and I think that Albertans, perhaps because of the natural kind of unpretentiousness of Alberta people, are not afraid, are not ashamed to be proud as Canadians. Even when we believe that the federation sometimes is not working for our best interests, the response of most Albertans to that is to work to improve or perfect the federation rather than to undermine it or tear it apart. That impulse, that love for Canada, for the dream of Canada as a great land of opportunity is reflected in those flags that surround us here. I speak not just as an Albertan but as a Canadian first.

You know, Mr. Speaker, regrettably, in the give-and-take of partisan rhetoric, I've found in the past 18 months members of different parties attacking me because I was born in Ontario – heaven forbid – and raised in Saskatchewan before moving here to Edmonton, Alberta, when I was, I think, 22 years of age. I'm proud to have spent virtually my entire adult life in Alberta and over half of my life in this province.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am proud as well to have been born in and lived in other parts of Canada. You know, one of the most remarkable features of this province's political culture is how welcoming it is. I have rarely found traces of xenophobia amongst Albertans. To the contrary, this is a province that welcomes newcomers from every part of Canada and all around the world. The ethic of Alberta is simply this: we judge you not by where you came from, what your last name is, how you pray, or whom you love, but we judge you based on how you treat others, how hard you work, how you contribute to your community.

Mr. Speaker, if there is one word that can characterize the culture of this province, Alberta, it is "meritocracy." It is a province where we judge people by their merit, and that is why newcomers – and I love this. When I go through the Calgary Stampede parade, as I have 19 times as an MP, you see hundreds of thousands of people lining the streets and huge, I think disproportionate numbers of apparently new Canadians, Canadians by choice and not chance. It moves me when I go through that parade and I see little kids of African or Asian origin, Latin American origin, from all around the world, who are participating in that parade, wearing their cowboy hats and their little cowboy boots. They're eager, their families are eager to become Albertan, to identify with the symbols that are rooted in our history. That is how welcoming this place is.

We believe, Mr. Speaker, in the dream of unity in diversity. We Albertans don't believe that diversity is a strength in and of itself. We believe the strength lies in unity in our diversity, in sharing what's best about our cultural patrimonies and faiths and backgrounds in a true and authentic pluralism. That's how Alberta has always been.

In fact, let me reflect on our history, Mr. Speaker. I look at those families as I go through the Calgary Stampede parade. I'm often able to identify which countries of origin people are from and very often able to identify people who came to Canada as refugees. I know this because of my five-year experience as the federal minister of citizenship and immigration, during which time I was honoured to welcome over 1.2 million new permanent residents to Canada, including over 120,000 refugees to this country.

Mr. Speaker, as I said in my farewell speech to Parliament and as I will say now in my maiden speech in this Assembly, according to the McGill historian and former NDP candidate Desmond Morton, Canada has been built, quote, by the losers of history. Now, that's an odd thing to say, perhaps. It doesn't really feel right to think of ourselves that way, but let me develop what Professor Morton meant in his essay on Canada as the country built by the losers of history.

If you think about our history, our First Nations peoples who came to this often inhospitable environment tens of thousands of years ago and built communities in this place but who at the time of European contact lost a great deal and who suffered many indignities and injustices too numerous to recount. Those aboriginal people were in some sense the losers of history.

The French Canadians, les Canadiens français de la Nouvelle-France ont été les perdants de l'histoire. The new French Canadians who lost the French colony in 1759, at the Conquest, were, in a real sense, losers of history.

3:30

They were shortly followed by the United Empire Loyalists, who effectively founded English Canada. I'm proud to call some of my ancestors in their numbers. Those United Empire Loyalists were the losers, literally, of the American Revolution, Mr. Speaker. They were loyal to this Crown under which we serve, and they were willing to risk and lose all to maintain that fidelity to the institutions that we represent here. They came north. They came to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Upper and Lower Canada as well, and they essentially founded English Canada. They were then followed by – let's be clear. They were refugees. They were refugees that had everything taken from them and had to start plowing virgin soil with nothing but a small land grant, living through the first years of terrible deprivation, with a high rate of mortality. These were the people that founded English Canada.

Then the Highland clearance Scots, whose parents and grandparents had lost in the Jacobite uprisings and lost their small farms with the Highland clearances of the 18th century, one of whose descendants was Sir John A. Macdonald, the great father of our country, those Highland clearance Scots that populated Cape Breton and other parts of Canada, whose descendants have moved west to Alberta: they, too, were losers of history.

Mid-19th century, the Irish famine émigrés, Mr. Speaker: when a third of the population of Ireland, between 1847 and 1854, died in the famine, a third emigrated, a third survived and stayed in Ireland. Of the third that emigrated, tens and tens of thousands came to Canada, and I'm proud to say that I am one of their descendants. My family name came to this country in a coffin ship. I believe that my great-great-grandmother is buried in the mass graves at the quarantine station on Grosse-Île, at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. These were tough people. They were the losers of history, and they helped to found Canada. Their descendants find themselves, so many of them, here in Alberta. By the way, as members can see, I'm pleased to report that the Kenney family has since recovered from the famine.

Mr. Speaker, one could go on to the Mennonites, who fled pogroms and persecution in Ukraine and Russia, had been persecuted in western Europe before that, who came west – think of all sorts of communities in Alberta, from La Crête to Taber and everywhere in between, populated by those hard-working Mennonites, descendants of refugees – or the European Jews who escaped the pogroms before the Second World War, many of whom came from Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia, from the steppes of Europe, to become merchants in small towns in Alberta.

Think of the remarkable Chinese labourers, the bachelor labourers, who were brought over here to build the Canadian Pacific

railroad, with a high rate of mortality, often exploited, yet even though Canada wouldn't give them full citizenship, they still believed in the promise of this country. They planned and built their futures here. They spread out across every little town in the Canadian prairies, all throughout Alberta, and they started their small businesses, their restaurants, their laundromats, and their motels. Many of those families are still there 120 years later. In some sense, they were, originally, the losers of history, too.

You could think, of course, about the European or Jewish refugees who came after the war. You know, in Canada it's a great shame that we essentially had a none-is-too-many policy refusing the admission of European Jewish refugees during the Holocaust but, perhaps, in some small way redeemed ourselves by accepting the third-largest number of European Jewish refugees after the Shoah. Many of them I know, friends of mine, now in their 80s and 90s, who are amongst those survivors, losers of history.

One can think of the Hungarians of 1956, the anti-Soviet, anticommunist uprising – you know, one example: the entire forestry faculty of the university in Budapest was basically airlifted to Vancouver, became the faculty at the university; much of the forestry expertise in Alberta came from those individuals, losers of history, who all lost their homes, lost their freedom – the Czech refugees of 1968, right on down till today.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I can think of one man who I helped to come to Canada, named Lu De Cheng. Lu was at the Tiananmen Square protests in June 1989, in Beijing, and he was arrested and thrown into a laogai forced labour camp and tortured for the better part of a decade before escaping. He managed to get to Thailand. Members of the prodemocracy movement contacted me, and I helped Lu start his new life here in Canada.

Right down to the Middle Eastern refugees who have come here, many of them victims of the genocide of Daesh and other terrorist organizations – Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry for the long aside on our history, but it's important to remember who we are. The people that founded this province – the Ukrainians, who left, often, political oppression and hopelessness in their homeland to cross a vast ocean and then cross an enormous continent, then to plow virgin soil and live in mud huts for their first two or three years in a place with no stores, no supplies, no lumber – these people were heroes.

We stand on the shoulders of such heroes. Think of the Americans who came up from scrub farms in the American northern Midwest and settled much of southern Alberta. Think of the people like the family of my friend from Drumheller-Stettler, who got through the Depression and the drought in the special areas in the 1930s, when there was often nothing to eat but dust. These were tough people, resilient people. They did not give up. It didn't matter what nature threw at them or chance. I mean, Mr. Speaker, these are the people that built this province.

Here's my point. If we were to apply the current fashion of identity politics, of the politics of resentment to the history of all of these people, we would imagine that we are just a warring, squabbling series of factions, all with their historical grievances, all wanting to settle scores, all animated by bitterness and a desire to right history's wrongs. But no. Instead, all of these people decided to focus on the future; yes, to be proud about those who had gone before and the sacrifices that they had made, never to forget those things, including some terrible injustices, but never to become embittered or encumbered by those things.

Rather, they chose together to build a great country in the vision of Thomas D'Arcy McGee, the great martyr of Confederation, Mr. Speaker, who himself started as a Fenian rebel animated by bitterness towards the Crown under which we serve, yet he came to accept that in Canada we were building something remarkable in human history. We were building a place of fresh starts and new

beginnings, a place where it was possible to leave our ancient grievances outside of this country and to build it together, united in our diversity. In so doing, we, the descendants of these great people, have become the winners of history.

3:40

That's why I'm a proponent of a certain Canadian exceptionalism. I do believe there is something exceptional in the character of this country and, particularly, this province, which takes all of those experiences and then adds to it, like, a special entrepreneurial drive and work ethic. That's what I love so much about this province.

In fact, I myself as a 22-year-old had a good-salary job offer to go down and be a political staffer in Ottawa and then, at the same time, an offer to come up here and help start an organization more or less from scratch, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation in Alberta, the Alberta association of taxpayers at the time, in 1991. For some reason, maybe just because I was young and foolish, that idea of starting something, of not knowing where your next paycheque would come from, of putting it all on the line, appealed to me.

That is the draw of Alberta. That is why we have been, all through our history, a magnet for risk takers and entrepreneurs and hard workers and wealth creators. It's that belief in the creative power of human freedom. Mr. Speaker, it is no coincidence, as we enter those doors to this Assembly, that over them is written this province's motto, *Fortis et Liber*, strong and free, words beautifully taken from our national anthem, words that themselves perfectly reflect what I call this Canadian tradition of ordered liberty, strong and free. This, I believe, is the only province in Canada which includes freedom in its motto – and it's no coincidence – the land of big skies, of endless opportunity, where dreams can come true. That is the province of which we all are custodians. So I rededicate myself to that Alberta project of being a sign of hope for people all around the world.

Let me share with you, Mr. Speaker, a remarkable and true story, an Irish story. It would have been in 2012, I believe, when I was minister of citizenship and immigration. Members will recall that one of the most significant challenges in our economy at the time was labour shortages as our economy was supercharged. We had, effectively, full employment. Boy, wouldn't it be nice to have those days again. But employers were desperate, and the number one request I was getting in Alberta as the federal immigration minister was: we need more workers.

So I went to Ireland to attend and participate in something called the Working Abroad Expo, and I went there with several dozen Canadian employers, Edmonton Economic Development, Calgary Economic Development, and so forth. In fact, I think Alberta Health Services was there trying to recruit nurses. There were employers from Canada, United States, Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere. At that time Ireland and Europe were still going through their financial crisis. In fact, I think that unemployment in Ireland at the time was 20 per cent. It was 40 per cent youth unemployment. There was, like, much of that through parts of Europe.

I will never forget it. At 9 a.m., as they opened the doors for the jobs expo, there were over 10,000 young Irish and other Europeans and people from, actually, all around the world that went around several city blocks. On that misty Irish morning I worked my way down that queue and tried to shake every hand, spent four or five hours going down that line because, Mr. Speaker, my formal agenda was to encourage them to come to Canada, but I must confess that I had a hidden agenda. It was to get them to come to Alberta.

As I went down the queue, I saw in the faces of so many of these young people who had been unemployed for two or three years a look of hopelessness and despair, which, sadly, have been too much of Ireland's history. I would say to them: which of the countries that are represented here do you think you might be interested in going

to? I was pretty pleased that about half of them said Canada. About half of them. We were beating Australia, with their beaches and their warm weather. That was pretty cool.

And then for those who said Canada, I went a little deeper. I said: now, do you know which part of Canada you might be interested in? Mr. Speaker, it sends a shiver up my spine to think of it every time. Again and again and again that morning I heard from those young Irish and others the same word: Alberta, Alberta, Alberta. They said this, people who had no relatives here, had never visited here, had no friends. It would be a hard place to find on a map, but the word "Alberta" represented for these young people hope, opportunity, and a new beginning.

This is not just a random place on a map. It is not a haphazard collection of people. It is an idea, an idea that has the power to animate hope amongst the hopeless halfway around the world. That is Alberta, Mr. Speaker, and that is why we all serve this province. Having said that, having said that we do have this special, exceptional – Canada is exceptional. I believe in world history for the reasons I've described, and I believe Alberta is exceptional within Canada for those reasons.

So, Mr. Speaker, what then motivates me personally in my public service? I'd like to cite words I offered when I began our Unite Alberta campaign on July 6, 2016. I talked about those newcomers who had come from every corner of the Earth to a land where dreams come true, and I said: that's what drew me to devote my life to public service, a passion constantly to renew Canada's promise as a land of opportunity so that every one of us, especially those who are least fortunate, can realize their God-given potential.

The greatness of Canada and of Alberta is not an accident of history. Every day people join our family, having left behind countries seized by corruption, poverty, and tyranny. Why, then, are we different? Why are we considered a model to the world in so many ways? It is not because, as Justin Trudeau claims, we are a, quote, postnational state with, quote, no core identity. It is not because we are simply a reflection of the world or, as Yann Martel, the novelist, said, *Hotel Canada*.

It is because we are the inheritors of a great tradition of ordered liberty based on the dignity of the human person, the inalienable dignity of the human person incarnated in certain institutions and customs like the rule of law, limited parliamentary government, and the sanctity of property and contract. From these have come the brilliant achievements of free markets, free enterprise, and democratic capitalism, of innovation and prosperity, all of which have harnessed human freedom to lift countless women and men out of poverty and despair, to realize the greatness of their potential.

I say these things because I want to start at the beginning. Far too often in politics we forget what we are about. We lose track of the first principles that animate us. So I say to you: these are my first principles. I am a conservative because I believe we have an obligation to transmit and renew these traditions of ordered liberty that have helped to make Canada the envy of the world.

Now, Mr. Speaker, with that as a statement of my philosophy about our country, province, and politics, let me then turn to more current challenges which we all face. I preface this by reiterating my respect for members of all parties, including the government. It is important to offer this condition because I do not want my criticism of the policies of the government to be taken as an *ad hominem* personal criticism of the people who make up the government.

3:50

Insofar as the hon. the Premier is my opposite in this Chamber, I would like the record to be clear about my highest esteem and respect for our Premier. When she has been sometimes viciously

attacked on social media and elsewhere, I have tried to remind people that we do not have an obligation to agree with our head of government, but she is our elected head of government, and we do have an obligation to respect her mandate and to respect her office and to respect her personally. And that, Mr. Speaker, applies to every minister of Executive Council and every Member of this Legislative Assembly. To reiterate what I said earlier about civility, I hope to be able to disagree without being disagreeable, for the differences to be predicated on policy and not people.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I am very conscious of this. It is my constitutional role as Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition to hold the government to account and to prepare an alternative government to the Lieutenant Governor should circumstances warrant it. That is a burden, a constitutional convention that falls on the Leader of the Opposition and the Official Opposition, and I'm serious about discharging that.

That is why, Mr. Speaker – let me just begin with this section of my remarks – I and so many others have worked so hard over the past 21 months to create one united, competent, credible alternative to the current government. Twenty months ago, when we launched this Unite Alberta campaign, we had two conservative parties in Alberta. The Progressive Conservative Party had a great legacy of having helped to build modern Alberta with inspired leaders like the great Alberta statesman the late Peter Lougheed, like the great Ralph Klein, a man of the people. I know friends opposite didn't agree with Premier Klein, many of his policies, but I think very few Albertans could deny that Ralph, as we all loved to call him, had a passion for the little guy and an innate sense of the common sense of common people.

Mr. Speaker, so much of modern Alberta developed through these and other leaders. They weren't perfect. Those governments made mistakes, and that's why we're in the opposition, some of those mistakes that were made in recent years. Some of those mistakes were also why we ended up with a division in the conservative movement in this province. This is no secret. We had two ostensibly conservative parties, the Progressive Conservatives and the Wildrose Party, which itself incarnated important Alberta values: a belief in fiscal responsibility, in democratic reform. While in its relatively brief existence some members of the Wildrose Party made mistakes as well, fundamentally I believe that the members of both parties were animated by a love for this province and a desire to serve her.

Unfortunately, the members of these two parties were locked in a war of attrition, much of it animated by bitterness and resentments that had developed over a decade of division. It was not only my observation, Mr. Speaker, but others' that as long as this war of attrition continued, we would be creating the potential conditions for a re-election of the current government. I respect the 40 per cent of the popular vote won by the New Democratic Party in the May 2015 election and the majority of members elected to this place as a result. I point out, however, that the combined vote of the Progressive Conservative and Wildrose parties in the same election was over 50 per cent of the vote.

My view, the view of so many of us, was that whatever differences those parties had between themselves, they paled in comparison to the differences that we shared with the New Democratic Party. It was our view that we had to find a way to overcome these differences, to heal the wounds, to start again, and to give a new beginning to democratic conservative politics in Alberta.

We went through a huge amount of heavy lifting. At first the Progressive Conservative Party decided in its leadership election just over a year ago to get on the path to unity. I want to thank the former members of the PC caucus who are in this United Conservative caucus for their leadership. It wasn't an easy or an

obvious thing to do, and they deserve great credit for being ahead of the parade, Mr. Speaker.

Then we negotiated a unity agreement. It was hard work. You need only ask these two gentlemen, Mr. Speaker. I appointed the Official Opposition whip, the Member for Calgary-Hays, as my primary representative on the negotiating committee, and our House leader, the Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, was one of the principal Wildrose representatives. Look at them getting along here right now, the very picture of unity. Someday I will perhaps join with them in writing the history of what happened in those difficult negotiations. It was not a sure-run thing, by any means. A couple of times this thing was stuck in a ditch, and as one prairie politician once said, you don't shout "whoa" when you're stuck in a mudhole. That wasn't the Member for Drumheller-Stettler either.

So, Mr. Speaker, we got it done. We got the unity agreement done, and then we presented it to the members in a democratic exercise. This was not a top-down, elitist contrivance. It was an authentic reflection of a democratic will. We all had the courage to put it all on the line. Again, the outcome was not certain. Yet I am pleased to say that 95 per cent of the members of both of our legacy parties said yes to unity. They said yes to the future. They decided to focus on the future rather than getting stuck in the past. They said that our province is more important than any political party.

We did it, so thank you to my colleagues and, through them, to the 120,000 members that make up the newest political party in Canada. With that novelty comes a great deal of opportunity but also concomitant responsibility. That's why I have emphasized with all of our party members the importance of rising to that level. We'll begin doing some of this important democratic work at a founding convention on the first weekend of May in Red Deer, where our members will have their say on the initial policy direction of our party and so much other work to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to address this in my maiden speech because what we have done together is to make history. Every day, hon. colleagues, we continue to make history together. So let us never forget the lessons of a decade of division and what it has cost Alberta, and let us rededicate ourselves to the mission of renewing this province as that beacon of hope and opportunity and renewing the Alberta advantage.

Let me, then, turn to those imminent challenges, Mr. Speaker. Our province has recently gone through the longest and deepest recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s, and that was a doozy. This province went bankrupt, effectively, in 1934. Albertans are still suffering the consequences of this long and deep recession, at the height of which over 200,000 Albertans were unemployed. We had a 9 per cent unemployment rate. We had gone from consistently the lowest unemployment rate in Canada to the highest, outside of Atlantic Canada. We saw near-record levels of business bankruptcies and insolvencies. We saw tens of thousands of people leave the labour force altogether, just giving up looking for work, and tens of thousands of others who left the province. We had seven straight quarters of net out-migration, with more Canadians leaving Alberta than coming to it.

4:00

Mr. Speaker, in the last 20 months I've put 140,000 kilometres on my pickup going to over 900 events everywhere from High Level to Milk River and Manyberries to Rocky Mountain House. How many times have I been in Rocky? About six times? To the Member for Medicine Hat, I think it's about 12 times that I've been in the Hat. As I've gone around and just listened to Albertans, as I've done that – by the way, Winston Churchill reminded us that moral courage consists not just in speaking out but also in humbly

listening. We've done a lot of humble listening in the last 18 months. As I have done that, I have been moved again and again by the stories of despair being experienced by our fellow Albertans. I'll never forget.

I was going around in the Drumheller-Stettler constituency to three events one day, and there was a couple who followed me to each of the three events. They spent the whole day driving around listening to my speeches again and again. I wouldn't have done that for my speeches, I assure you. At the end of it, the third event, I went up to them. They were kind of shy, and they were standing at the back, and they were frankly looking like they'd been through some bitter times, you know. It kind of reminded me of one of those Johnny Cash songs, Mr. Speaker. It looked like they'd lived through one of those tough country music songs.

I went up to the husband and wife and said: why were you following me around all day? The wife broke down in tears. She said: "Well, Mr. Kenney, my husband was in the construction industry and lost his job. It was through his job that we were able to pay the bills to keep the farm going, but when we lost that income, we lost the farm. Now we're living in a trailer on our son's acreage. We're in our late fifties, and we've lost everything, and we feel like we have to start all over again like we're in our twenties. We're embarrassed to be dependent on our son." Breaking down in tears in front of me, they said: we just want to know that there's some hope that we're going to turn this thing around.

I think of the lady who approached me after a speech I gave in Calgary, who again came up to me – this happened a lot – and just broke down emotionally and she said: "Mr. Kenney, six months ago I lost my job. I've been looking for work ever since without any luck. The company that I worked for here moved to the States, and they said that this government's policies were part of the reason why." And she said, "Finally, just to put food on the table for my family, I had to take the same job I was doing when I was 18, an entry-level retail job, and I just feel ashamed and embarrassed." She broke down in tears in front of me.

When I think of the young man – many of my colleagues have heard this story. I was filling up my gas tank at the Esso station in Hardisty. Whose riding is Hardisty in? Battle River-Wainwright? You know the Esso station there. Mr. Speaker, I'm filling up, and this young man pulls up behind me in his pickup. He jumps out. He seemed to recognize me. He said, "Are you that Kenney guy?" I said, "Yeah." He said, "How long before you replace this government?" I said, "Well, hopefully, three years." He said, "That's not fast enough." I said, "Well, buddy, I'm going as fast as I can, but we don't decide when the election is." He said: "But, sir, you have to understand. This really matters. My dad lost his job two years ago, and he can't find any other work, and he's getting depressed now. I've never seen him like this before." Then the young fellow goes on to say, "Sir, I'm just 17, and I'm now the only paycheque for dad and mom and all four of my brothers and sisters, and the pressure and the stress is getting to me, too." And this young man started to break down in front of me.

Now, I think we all know that young man. Some of us may have been that young man or a young woman like him. We know that at any normal time in our history a 17-year-old oil field worker like that would be working hard and playing hard, that he couldn't pick me out of a police lineup, and he probably wouldn't know what government is doing. But, Mr. Speaker, all of a sudden this young man understood that politics has real-life consequences for him and his family, and he wants to do something about it.

These are the Albertans that I have met, and when they hear the government say, "Happy days are here again. It's all fine. There's some great recovery going on," it doesn't relate to their real, lived experience, Mr. Speaker. We still have 175,000 unemployed

Albertans and 40,000 who have left the labour market and stopped looking for work. Many of those who are technically working – I mean, this is supported by the data; it's not my opinion – are working part-time, piecemeal, and contract work, where they were in full-time, secure, high-paying, often six-figure jobs, and they're having a hard time making it. I just met with such a fellow in Drayton Valley the other day: a nice, young, I think 28-year-old oil field worker. He's working in Saskatchewan because there's no work for him here. He says: maybe I can get a day or two, but at least in Saskatchewan I can get regular work.

Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, it's not just workers who have left the province. Why are they leaving the province? Why do we have 9 per cent unemployment in Calgary, the highest of any city in the country? It is in part because tens of billions of dollars of capital have fled this province. Now, the government tells us every day that this happened simply because we are the passive victims of global commodity prices, that we can't do anything to help, that we have to surrender in the face of global commodity fluctuations. Nonsense. Our province has been through cycles and downturns before, but at least in the past we had governments that were trying to maintain and restore investor confidence rather than undermine and destroy it as has happened in the past three years.

Mr. Speaker, over \$36 billion has been taken out of Alberta's oil and gas sector alone in the past two years, redeployed to the same industry, oil and gas, in other parts of the world at the same global prices. It is not about price. Through most of our history – like right now global prices are \$62, and our effective export price to the U.S. is \$35. Those price points are high compared to most of our history. The Klein government balanced the budget at \$20 and then \$10 oil. Through most of our history we've had lower prices than this, but tens of billions of dollars have been relocated.

Take, for example, one of the majors – I think it was Exxon – who took billions out of the oil sands and then redeployed that capital to former Soviet Socialist Republic of Kazakhstan, one of the most corrupt economies in the world. What's wrong with this picture? Total, the French oil giant, divested themselves of a multibillion-dollar oil sands development, and then they redeployed that capital months later to gas fields in the Islamic Republic of Iran, a theocratic dictatorship that stones women accused of adultery and hangs gay men, Mr. Speaker. Is the world better off? You know what that means? That decision means that some guy, probably with a PhD, sitting in the Total headquarters in Paris did a global risk assessment and determined that Iran was a lower risk for Total's capital than the province of Alberta. This is what's happened to this province, every day.

Drilling activity was up dramatically in Saskatchewan while it was down in Alberta. You know, the oil field is booming in the Bakken in North Dakota, in Colorado, in the Permian basin in west Texas every day. Talented Albertans – we had this incredible brain drain. Why is all of this happening? Well, it's not, obviously, about the same oil prices, the same gas prices. It's about policy. Alberta has fallen from being the 14th to the 44th most competitive jurisdiction in North America for upstream oil and gas investment, and it's just beginning.

4:10

Why? Because this government decided to pour fuel on the flames of a recession rather than trying to douse the flames. Mr. Speaker, we found ourselves in a hole of the recession. The first thing you do is that you stop digging when you're in a hole, but they dug deeper. They raised taxes on everything: higher income taxes, higher business taxes, higher provincial share of property taxes. They're helping Mr. Trudeau, their close ally. They just can't say no to Justin. They've never met a Trudeau policy they didn't love.

[Mr. Sucha in the chair]

When the Liberal Prime Minister, who's polling at 11 per cent in Alberta right now, half of where his father was during the NEP – the NDP may not have figured it out, but Albertans sure have, that Justin Trudeau does not have our best interests at heart. When Justin Trudeau said, "I want to raise the CPP payroll tax to make it more expensive to hire people and create jobs," the NDP government said: "Oh, sure. Yeah. Okay." Then they imposed the largest tax increase in Alberta history, the multibillion-dollar, job-killing carbon tax, which they did not mention to Albertans in the last election. I keep it here on my desk every day, Mr. Speaker. It's the NDP platform, *Leadership for What Matters*, page 24, balancing the books. [interjections] Yeah, balancing the books. That was supposed to be this year, a \$25 million surplus. Whoops. They were only off by \$9 billion. That's 16,000 per cent. Is that right?

Some Hon. Members: It's 364 per cent.

Mr. Kenney: Three hundred and sixty-four.

Mr. Speaker, I read this, like, almost every day because I think I'm missing something. There are seven tax changes mentioned, not one mention of a carbon tax or a carbon levy or a save-the-planet tax or whatever they're calling it now. Zero. It was the biggest misrepresentation, mistruth – I'm looking for a parliamentary word – in Alberta political history. They imposed it five months later. They pretended: oh, we had never really thought about it; it was just kind of a new idea. And then they raised it by 50 per cent on January 1. Then Justin Trudeau comes along and says: "Yeah, I don't like your \$30 tax. I want it to be \$50. You should go 67 per cent higher."

Now, at any normal time in Alberta history an Alberta Premier would have said: "Hold on a second, Prime Minister. We're going through a tough time here. We've got a couple hundred thousand unemployed people. There's a total failure of investor confidence. You know, incomes are down and unemployment is up. No, no, Prime Minister. I'm sorry." A normal Alberta Premier would have said: "No. We're going to fight you on this." What did they say? They said, "Absolutely. We'll happily implement your 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax." Then the Premier goes on, as I've quoted her before, saying that they're open to raising it beyond that.

I said this the other day on the speech last week on the budget. We all know what it's about, Mr. Speaker. To give New Democrats their due, they really believe that they're saving the planet by forcing seniors to turn down the heat at home in Alberta when it's 30 below outside. They're so driven by that ideological zeal. We all know where that really leads us to. Professor Leach, who wrote their carbon tax, said: we need a price of \$200 a tonne to achieve Paris climate targeted goals. Environment Canada says: \$300 a tonne. And that's where they want to go.

This is just incrementalism. Like, who's kidding whom? Let's be grown-ups here. What's the point? As Andrew Coyne says in today's *National Post* of a punitive consumer tax that makes it more expensive for people to consume energy in a big, complex, industrialized, cold, northern economy: what's the point? When there's no elasticity, people don't stop driving to work. Carbon emissions are up in B.C. over where they were when they brought in that carbon tax. The Australians repealed their carbon tax because it didn't work, didn't reduce emissions, but it did hurt the economy. He says: what's the point? Go big or go home. Make it 300 bucks a tonne or stop hurting our economy.

Well, Mr. Speaker, on top of all of that – on top of all of that – massive new regulations, increased labour costs. What government raises labour costs by 50 per cent in the middle of a recession, when people are losing their jobs?

You know, I get a kick out of the NDP talking about evidence-based policy. Well, here's the economic evidence. According to a metastudy of all of the minimum wage increases in Canada in the past 40 years a 10-point increase in the minimum wage results on average in a 2 per cent reduction in employment for immigrants and youth. Why? Because they're the newest entrants to the labour market, the most marginal in the labour market.

What do you think a 50 per cent increase in the minimum wage results in? Well, according to the Bank of Canada 60,000 job losses across the country. According to the C.D. Howe Institute 25,000 job losses in Alberta. Think about how – oh, my goodness – when New Democrats get on their moral high horse and pretend they have a monopoly on compassion, and then because union bosses tell them to, they bring in a policy that according to the think tanks will kill 25,000 jobs for immigrants and youth. Where is the compassion for those who lost their jobs, Mr. Speaker? There is none. There's no regard.

The massive new regulations on everything: you know, their economic policy reminds me of how Ronald Reagan used to characterize socialist economics. "If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it." That's a billion dollars in corporate welfare for hand-picked companies in the energy sector after \$35 billion in capital has been pulled out and, by the way, an unnecessary royalty review that helped to fuel this investor uncertainty, and it goes on and on.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, our concern is not limited to the economy, but look at the fiscal catastrophe in what I think history will record as one of the worst budgets in Alberta history. The NDP was elected. All of the members opposite went to Albertans and said: vote for us, and we'll give you a \$25 million surplus in the 2018-19 fiscal year, this fiscal year, and we'll only increase the debt by about \$11 billion. That was the contract with Alberta voters in 2015; instead, a \$9 billion deficit and a plan for another \$40 billion in debt. Altogether they promised \$11 billion in debt, but we're going to end up with a debt of \$96 billion, nearly \$100 billion, based on absurdly optimistic projections; mortgaging the future, as I said in the budget speech; spending \$4 billion in interest payments, already at \$2 billion, more than 19 of the 23 government departments.

I asked the Premier today: does she think that spending \$17 billion in interest payments in the next four years is a good use of public money? And she couldn't even bring herself to say no. How far these Alberta New Democrats have strayed from the great tradition of Tommy Douglas, who, for all of his policy mistakes, balanced Saskatchewan's budget 17 times because as an intellectually honest social democrat Tommy understood that when you borrow money, you've got to pay it back, and to whom? The bankers. And where? Bankers in Toronto and in London and in Zurich and in New York. Tommy understood that there's no social justice in enriching bankers and that it therefore requires discipline, a discipline this government is completely incapable of demonstrating.

Not only is this a fiscal train wreck, Mr. Speaker, but we are profoundly concerned about the government's direction on so many other issues, including, for example, education. Albertans want to ensure that we have a quality education system that focuses on the transmission of critical knowledge and skills to young people to help ensure their success. What Albertans don't want is failed pedagogical facts or political agendas in the classroom. We are deeply concerned as well about the NDP unleashing their astroturf front groups to attack Alberta's wonderful tradition of school choice.

We hear all these speeches about diversity, but they are ideologically – it's NDP policy. It hasn't yet become government policy, but NDP policy is opposition to diversity in education. They

don't believe in pluralism in education. They believe in monism, only one way, government cookie-cutter schools whereas we believe that every child is unique, that families have different values and they have a prior right, as reflected in article 26(3) of the universal declaration of human rights, to choose the form of education that their children will receive. Well, we will defend that universal human right against the NDP's allies, Mr. Speaker.

4:20

So, Mr. Speaker, it will fall to us in the year ahead to present a compelling alternative to the economic disaster and the fiscal train wreck of this ill-prepared government, and we will do so deliberately and democratically. Some of our critics say: well, why don't you have a platform, an alternative budget, and so forth? We're not going to, like the NDP did in their platform, make stuff up on the back of a cocktail napkin. We're going to consult our own grassroots membership with a deliberate debate to set the basic policy direction of our party, and then we will consult broadly amongst Albertans of all backgrounds and walks of life to produce a comprehensive, positive, compelling, realistic, and affordable plan, blueprint, to reignite our economy, restore investor confidence, and renew the Alberta advantage.

I can, however, tell you that I think we have a consensus on some elements of that plan. It is our intention, Mr. Speaker, should we be honoured with the confidence of Albertans in the election scheduled for next spring, to call an extraordinary summer session of this Assembly, so I forewarn colleagues who are running for re-election to book off no summer holidays next summer. Okay. You can take Canada Day off, and that's it.

And should we have this opportunity to come to this place, we will begin systematically to repeal every damaging element of the NDP's economic agenda. Beginning with Bill 1, the carbon tax repeal act, we will put that job killer through the shredder. Mr. Speaker, within weeks if we should be honoured with the confidence of Albertans, we will repeal the legislation, the damaging aspects of Bill 6 that imposed massive costs on our farmers and agribusinesses and agrifood operators. We will repeal the regulations and the new laws imposed by this government as part of an endless accretion of higher costs on the entrepreneurial sector of Alberta's economy. We will move to demonstrate fiscal responsibility.

It's interesting. The NDP was saying last fall that I have a secret agenda, they claim, to cut government spending by 20 per cent. Now, just today the Premier is saying that I have a secret agenda to freeze government spending at zero cuts. Boy, that's quite a shift. But last week her communications director, her spokesperson said that the only way to balance Alberta's budget was, quote, to blow up every school and hospital. To Albertans who are watching this, Mr. Speaker, that's a preview of the election to come. As this government runs out of time, becomes increasingly desperate, we can expect the volume of that hyperbolic anger to reach ear decibel breaking levels.

Mr. Speaker, Albertans aren't going to rise to that bait. Albertans are too smart. They understand that we can exercise some reasonable fiscal discipline in the provincial government that spends more than any other in per capita terms by far. We are the most inefficient provincial government in Canada by a country mile, and this is not simply the fault of the NDP. Recent PC governments must share a part of the responsibility for that.

So, Mr. Speaker, we will demonstrate that commitment to fiscal responsibility. We will demonstrate an immediate commitment to lifting off of the wealth creators in our society the enormous accretion of job-killing regulations. We will eliminate that huge, massive new tax burden of the carbon tax, and we will do everything to send a message all across Canada and around the world that Alberta is open for business again and that this, once again, is that land of opportunity.

Why do we do this, Mr. Speaker? I'll close with this. We do this not because there's some great unique virtue just in having balanced budgets or allowing people to keep more of their own money. We do this because we understand that wealth cannot be redistributed unless that wealth is being created through people's hard work in the first place, that in order for us to have the means to be a generous society with proper funding for critical social programs like health care and education, we need that wealth to be generated in the first place. The NDP raised taxes on incomes and businesses but saw revenues go down. We need to reignite the creative power of this economy so that we have those resources and so that we are not wasting billions of tax dollars year after year enriching bank holders rather than investing in the future of this province.

The blueprint that we present, our vision of the renewal of the Alberta advantage, is designed not to achieve some abstract economic growth. What drives us, what motivates us is a passion to ensure true equality of opportunity for every member of Alberta society, especially those who live at the margins, especially those who have many disadvantages: for persons with disabilities who want to get into the workforce, for single moms who need that opportunity that they desire, for First Nations people who too often are excluded from prosperity in our economy, for low-income seniors who are having a hard time paying the bills as they go up with the carbon tax and the cost of heating their homes.

For all of those who are at the margins, what we will present is a vision, a credible plan of opportunity once again to restore Alberta as a province that is the beating heart of enterprise in Canada, the job-creation engine of this country's economy, that Alberta that animated those young people in Ireland I met five years ago to see this as the land of fresh starts and new beginnings, that Alberta that is, in the words of our province's motto, strong and free.

The Acting Speaker: Questions or comments under 29(2)(a)? The Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Time is short, and there's not enough time, unfortunately, for a full 29(2)(a), but keeping, of course, with parliamentary tradition, through you on behalf of the entire Assembly and certainly on behalf of the Official Opposition I'd like to congratulate the hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed on his maiden speech before this Assembly.

Also through you to him, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Official Opposition we'd like to congratulate him on getting here. I'd like to say that you've got it all the way done, but I think, through you to him, that he has one more step to go. I'm looking forward to his maiden speech a little over a year from now as Premier of Alberta.

Thank you very much.

The Acting Speaker: Hon. members, pursuant to Standing Order 4(2) the House stands adjourned until Monday afternoon at 1:30.

[The Assembly adjourned at 4:28 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 29th Legislature - 4th Session (2018)

Activity to Thursday, April 5, 2018

The Bill sponsor's name is in brackets following the Bill title. If it is a money Bill, (\$) will appear between the title and the sponsor's name. Numbers following each Reading refer to Hansard pages where the text of debates is found; dates for each Reading are in brackets following the page numbers. Bills numbered 1 to 200 are Government Bills. Bills numbered 201 or higher are Private Members' Public Bills. Bills numbered with a "Pr" prefix are Private Bills.

* An asterisk beside a Bill number indicates an amendment was passed to that Bill; the Committee line shows the precise date of the amendment.

The date a Bill comes into force is indicated in square brackets after the date of Royal Assent. If a Bill comes into force "on proclamation," "with exceptions," or "on various dates," please contact Legislative Counsel, Alberta Justice, for details at 780.427.2217. The chapter number assigned to the Bill is entered immediately following the date the Bill comes into force. SA indicates Statutes of Alberta; this is followed by the year in which it is included in the statutes, and its chapter number. Please note, Private Bills are not assigned chapter number until the conclusion of the Fall Sitzings.

Bill 1 — Energy Diversification Act (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 6 (*Mar. 8, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 50-51 (*Mar. 13, 2018 morn.*), 184-87 (*Mar. 15, 2018 aft.*), 233-43 (*Mar. 20, 2018 morn.*), 301-08 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 2 — Growth and Diversification Act (\$) (Bilous)

First Reading — 118 (*Mar. 14, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 243-46 (*Mar. 20, 2018 morn.*), 294-96 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft.*), 314-25 (*Mar. 22, 2018 morn.*), 411-12 (*Apr. 4, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 3 — Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2018 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading — 184 (*Mar. 15, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 221-26 (*Mar. 19, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 261-68 (*Mar. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 296-98 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 28, 2018; SA 2018 c1]

Bill 4 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2018 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading — 165 (*Mar. 15, 2018 morn., passed*)

Second Reading — 226-32 (*Mar. 19, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 268-75 (*Mar. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 298-301 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 28, 2018; SA 2018 c2]

Bill 5 — An Act to Strengthen Financial Security for Persons with Disabilities (Sabir)

First Reading — 200-201 (*Mar. 19, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 360-62 (*Apr. 3, 2018 morn., adjourned*)

Bill 7 — Supporting Alberta's Local Food Sector Act (Carlier)

First Reading — 425 (*Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 8 — Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2018 (S. Anderson)

First Reading — 374 (*Apr. 3, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 9 — Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Act (Hoffman)

First Reading — 425 (*Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 201 — Employment Standards (Firefighter Leave) Amendment Act, 2018 (W. Anderson)

First Reading — 118 (*Mar. 14, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 201-14 (*Mar. 19, 2018 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future*)

Bill 202 — Alberta Taxpayer Protection (Carbon Tax Referendum) Amendment Act, 2018 (Kenney)

First Reading — 179 (*Mar. 15, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 203 — Long Term Care Information Act (Schreiner)

First Reading — 425 (*Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 204 — Land Statutes (Abolition of Adverse Possession) Amendment Act, 2018 (Gotfried)

First Reading — 425 (*Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

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For inquiries contact:

Managing Editor

Alberta Hansard

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875