



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature  
Fourth Session

# Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, April 19, 2018

Day 20

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 29th Legislature

### Fourth Session

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

Aheer, Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Rocky View (UCP),  
Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition  
Anderson, Hon. Shaye, Leduc-Beaumont (NDP)  
Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (UCP)  
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (NDP)  
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)  
Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)  
Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (NDP)  
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (NDP)  
Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (NDP)  
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP),  
Alberta Party Opposition House Leader  
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (NDP)  
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (NDP)  
Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP)  
Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (NDP),  
Government Whip  
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake (UCP)  
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)  
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (NDP)  
Drever, Deborah, Calgary-Bow (NDP)  
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UCP)  
Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (NDP)  
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (UCP)  
Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
Fildebrandt, Derek Gerhard, Strathmore-Brooks (Ind)  
Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (NDP)  
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (AP)  
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (NDP),  
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Official Opposition Deputy Whip  
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)  
Gottfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)  
Gray, Hon. Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)  
Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (UCP)  
Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (NDP)  
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)  
Horne, Trevor A.R., Spruce Grove-St. Albert (NDP)  
Hunter, Grant R., Cardston-Taber-Warner (UCP)  
Jansen, Hon. Sandra, Calgary-North West (NDP)  
Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (NDP)  
Kenney, Hon. Jason, PC, Calgary-Lougheed (UCP),  
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Larivee, Hon. Danielle, Lesser Slave Lake (NDP),  
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Loewen, Todd, Grande Prairie-Smoky (UCP)  
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (NDP)  
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Mason, Hon. Brian, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP),  
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Orr, Ronald, Lacombe-Ponoka (UCP)  
Panda, Prasad, Calgary-Foothills (UCP)  
Payne, Hon. Brandy, Calgary-Acadia (NDP)  
Phillips, Hon. Shannon, Lethbridge-West (NDP)  
Piquette, Colin, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater (NDP)  
Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie (UCP),  
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader  
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)  
Rosendahl, Eric, West Yellowhead (NDP)  
Sabir, Hon. Irfan, Calgary-McCall (NDP)  
Schmidt, Hon. Marlin, Edmonton-Gold Bar (NDP)  
Schneider, David A., Little Bow (UCP)  
Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (NDP)  
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-Centre (NDP)  
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Starke, Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC)  
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (UCP)  
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)  
Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (NDP)  
Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)  
Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (UCP)  
Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)  
van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (UCP)  
Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (NDP),  
Deputy Government Whip  
Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (NDP)  
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)  
Vacant, Fort McMurray-Conklin  
Vacant, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

### Party standings:

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

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Christina Gray	Minister of Labour, Minister Responsible for Democratic Renewal
Sandra Jansen	Minister of Infrastructure
Danielle Larivee	Minister of Children's Services
Brian Mason	Minister of Transportation
Margaret McCuaig-Boyd	Minister of Energy
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Ricardo Miranda	Minister of Culture and Tourism
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### Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Coolahan  
Deputy Chair: Mrs. Schreiner

Cyr	Luff
Dang	McPherson
Ellis	Turner
Horne	

### Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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

Carson	Littlewood
Connolly	McPherson
Coolahan	Piquette
Dach	Schneider
Fitzpatrick	Starke
Gotfried	Taylor
Horne	

### Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Ms Goehring  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Smith

Drever	Orr
Ellis	Renaud
Fraser	Shepherd
Hinkley	Swann
Luff	Woollard
McKitrick	Yao
Miller	

### Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

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Deputy Chair: Mr. Malkinson

Aheer	McKitrick
Gill	Pitt
Horne	van Dijken
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### Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

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Babcock	Nixon
Cooper	Piquette
Dang	Pitt
Drever	Westhead
McIver	

### Standing Committee on Private Bills

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Babcock	Rosendahl
Drever	Stier
Drysdale	Strankman
Hinkley	Sucha
Kleinsteinuber	Taylor
McKitrick	

### Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Ms Fitzpatrick  
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Coolahan	Miller
Cooper	Nielsen
Goehring	Nixon
Gotfried	Pitt
Hanson	van Dijken
Kazim	

### Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Mr. Cyr  
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Carson	Miller
Clark	Nielsen
Gotfried	Panda
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Littlewood	Turner
Luff	

### Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

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Kazim	Schreiner
Kleinsteinuber	

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 19, 2018

[The Speaker in the chair]

### Prayers

**The Speaker:** Good afternoon.

Let each of us reflect or pray in our own way. As we enjoy a breath of fresh air provided by Mother Earth, go in peace, go safely to your homes and the communities you serve.

Please be seated.

### Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Labour and minister responsible for democratic renewal.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you four hard-working individuals with the Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta. As I say your names, please rise: Barry Cavanaugh, Mat Steppan, Jennifer Bertrand, and Adam Campbell. This is Adam's first visit to the Legislature. He's ASET's recently elected council president and currently works as operations manager for water and waste-water utilities for the city of Lethbridge. Adam is from Okotoks and currently lives in Lethbridge with his wife and lovely two-year-old daughter. Thank you, Adam, for your commitment to the public service and for your contributions to ensure the safety and success of engineering professionals across Alberta. I'd like to invite everyone to please give them a warm welcome to our House.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Energy.

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to rise and introduce to you and through you to this Assembly a team of individuals helping to ensure the long-lasting success of Alberta's electricity system. This team is from my department and has put in literally hundreds of hours in meetings and policy work, all to determine how best to design Alberta's new capacity market. This legislation, which I will be introducing later today, will go a long way to achieving a stable and reliable and affordable electricity system for Albertans. As I call their names, I would ask them to rise: Stacey Smythe, Mike Fulsom, David Stanford, Helaina Zyp, James Lin, Kaitlin Boyd, Kelly Tai, Kimberly Budd, Steven Flavel, Hossein Hatami, Brenda Hawkins, Zackary Merilovich, Madelene Belanger, Russel Andrews, and Robert Chow. I would personally like to thank these folks for the hard work they've done and ask the members to join me in welcoming them.

**The Speaker:** Hon. minister, your guests may not have arrived yet. The Minister of Advanced Education.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of this Assembly representatives of the Alberta graduate provincial advisory council, which I had the pleasure of having lunch with today as well as several meetings over the past year. I'd ask the representatives to please rise as I name them. With us today we've got Willem Klumpenhower. Mostafa Sakr I don't think came in. We have Lindsay McNena, Jamie Czerwinski, Shawn Ang, Babak Soltannia, Masoud Khademi,

and Nicole van Kuppeveld. I ask my colleagues here to please give them the warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to introduce some special guests who are joining us today to celebrate National Volunteer Week. They are seated in the members' gallery. These are specifically a group of very thoughtful and committed, passionate AHS volunteers and one volunteer co-ordinator. Volunteers are among the most devoted people in our health care system. Last year almost 15,000 individuals volunteered more than 1 million hours of service to the patients through Alberta Health Services. Whether it's greeting patients or helping them find their way, assembling patient blank charts, or knitting a baby's first blanket, these volunteers are an important part of our AHS team. I invite them to rise if they're able to or to wave otherwise – Ruth Smith Hill, Aaltje Fokkema, Ed Quao, Anne Christou, Max Li, Shakib Rahman, and Debbie Kennedy – to please receive the appreciation and warm welcome of our Assembly. And to your family members, please join us as well in rising and receiving our gratitude.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

**Loyola:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Jasleen Kaur Mann. She's a high school student and a constituent from Edmonton-Ellerslie. She's a dedicated volunteer who shows up regularly to the office, sometimes even unannounced. That's how eager she is to help. I couldn't ask for a better volunteer. So through you, Mr. Speaker, to Jasleen, thank you for your dedication, determination, for always getting the job done. I'm lucky to have you as a constituent and as a volunteer. I ask that we give her the warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater.

**Mr. Piquette:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a very special day for me today. I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly some of the VIPs in my life: my mother, Valerie Cote, who was, you know, contrary to what people might think, the first NDP member in our family and a great inspiration for me; my stepfather, Alvin Brockman, who is an all-around great guy, and it's wonderful to have him here; my sister, Andrea Piquette, who is a surprise guest for me today and is welcome. You know, it really means a lot to me that my family is able to be in the House today. They have been tremendously supportive, and I certainly wouldn't be anywhere close to this place without their help.

I would also like to introduce Vanessa Goodman and Tammy Forbes. Vanessa is the manager of external relations for the North West Redwater Partnership, which is the subject of my member's statement later today. With her is Tammy Forbes. She is the director of strategic communications for Women Building Futures, which is a key labour force contributor to the partnership. I see they've already risen, so I would be, you know, really thankful if all the members would give a very warm welcome to them.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow.

**Mr. Clark:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a tremendous honour to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly Mark Taylor. Mark is the executive director of the Alberta Party, and he's here helping democracy happen, building constituency associations, and getting our fabulous volunteers ready for the upcoming election. I see that Mark has risen. I'd ask you all, please, to welcome Mark with the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

**Mr. Yao:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Aileen Jang. She is a pharmacist here in town and a business owner. She is greatly concerned about some of the regulations going on, and she's one of the organizers of the protests across this province that are being led by the pharmacists. I'd ask the House to give her a great greeting.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

**Mr. Yao:** As well, Mr. Speaker, to the House I'd like to introduce Chris Relph. Chris was from Bathurst, New Brunswick. He worked for the Fort McMurray fire department as an EMT firefighter. I got along very well with him because we're both from New Brunswick. His service is today – right now – in Fort McMurray, and I just wanted to say some kind words about him.

Thank you. I'm sorry for misappropriating the time of the House.

### Members' Statements

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Stony Plain.

### Women's Equality

**Ms Babcock:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reality is that women have the right to equality in Alberta, yet we still face barriers to equal treatment. Women not only had to fight for the right to vote, but they had to fight to get their sisters of colour that right, and they had to fight to get their indigenous sisters that right. They had to fight and still keep fighting so that legal health services are safe, protected, and free from harassment. We stand with our trans sisters, making sure that their rights are also protected.

The Equal Suffrage Statutory Law Amendment Act passed unanimously in Alberta on April 19, 1916, but it was a long fight to get there. Canadian women had been campaigning for better health care, working conditions, and against family violence. They also fought for reproductive choice and birth control. These brave women helped found political movements and brought new voices to politics. WHO states that the minimum number of women in decision-making bodies should be 30 per cent. In this House we see that – and maybe it's a good thing – 98 per cent of the women in this House sit on this side, so we have parity at the decision-making tables.

We need to continue working towards ending violence against women and girls, pay equity, getting more women in leadership positions, and increasing women's democratic participation. To do this, we need to see women from every walk of life in this Legislature and around every board table. We need all women to know their voices matter.

Most importantly, we need to let women tell us what they think the biggest women's issue is in Alberta. Women I have talked to have a large variety of issues that are important to them. For many mothers, especially single mothers, \$25-a-day daycare is their priority. For those women with a family accessible and affordable health care for their children and elderly parents is their priority.

For women of a lower socioeconomic status opportunities for equal pay is their priority. As a woman my biggest issue is my children's education. Women in Alberta are diverse and have diverse issues, and we cannot be painted with a single brush.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that women have the right to equality in Alberta. Thank you.

1:40

Israel

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, 70 years ago today the ancient longings of the Jewish people were fulfilled with the creation of the Jewish democratic State of Israel, born out of the ashes of the Holocaust, born out of centuries of pogroms and persecution. The Jewish people carved out of an inhospitable terrain a new homeland, a homeland that has been assailed decade after decade, invaded on five occasions, facing existential threats every day, but a nation that has persevered in fidelity to the ancient Covenant of the Jewish people, a land that has been home to Jews making aliyah from Ethiopia, from Asia, from the former Soviet Union, a land that has been an example to the world, carved out of the desert, creating one of the most innovative and successful economies on earth, but, most importantly, a secure homeland for a people who today face the new anti-Semitism, violence across the world, sadly including here in Canada, which perpetuates the most ancient and pernicious form of hatred, that of anti-Semitism.

Mr. Speaker, in the anthem of Israel, Ha Tikvah, it says that our hope is not yet lost, the hope 2,000 years old, to be a free nation in our land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem. Today we join with the people of Israel and with all Jewish people in celebrating that land of Zion and Jerusalem. Israel is the answer to the Shoah, and the people of Israel live. That is the message of Israel. [Remarks in Hebrew]

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

### Provincial Strategy on the Kinder Morgan Pipeline

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Choices. Every day we all make choices. A parent chooses how to raise their child, an MLA chooses how best to advocate for our constituents, and the government chooses how to react to the issues of the day. The government has information that the rest of us don't have. At times they need to keep sensitive discussions behind closed doors, and that needs to happen even when the opposition is making noise or the media is asking difficult questions. In those situations the government can choose to play to the crowd. They can choose to try to win the daily media cycle or win the next three hours on Twitter. They can choose to govern for the headlines and maybe generate a nice YouTube clip or a meme they can use for fundraising, which is exactly what the NDP have done when it comes to the Kinder Morgan expansion project. They've been caught focusing on politics and the short-term win instead of taking a long-term view.

When Kinder Morgan announced their May 31 deadline to decide whether their expansion project will continue, the government had a choice. They could work quietly to negotiate the best deal for Albertans, or they could go for that headline. To the detriment of our province they have chosen the latter. They told Kinder Morgan exactly what they would do and how far they would go. When the Premier called the Kinder Morgan expansion too big to fail and said that the government was willing to buy the whole thing, they put all of their cards on the table. It's like walking into a car dealership and saying: "Here's how much money I have. Now how much is that truck?" Well, guess what? It costs exactly the amount of money that you have.

The Kinder Morgan expansion should go ahead, but if Alberta does end up buying a stake or even the whole thing, there is absolutely no chance now that we're going to get the best deal for Albertans. It didn't have to be this way. If the NDP had chosen patience and focus instead of a quick political win, the pipeline would have a better chance of moving ahead and Albertans would get a better deal.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Sturgeon Refinery Update

**Mr. Piquette:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to give an update on a project that I'm proud to have in my riding, the Sturgeon refinery. It is a good-news story. The refinery is now nearing completion. Nine out of 10 units are now in the commissioning phase. This past December the refinery produced its first diesel, and I was honoured to attend the celebration in Morinville along with my colleague the MLA for Sherwood Park. At the current stage of construction this refinery is able to process synthetic crude into diesel and other value-added products. Over 2 million barrels have been refined and shipped within western Canada already, and the refinery has started paying off.

The Sturgeon refinery is state of the art and a testament to Alberta ingenuity. It's the world's first refinery with integrated carbon capture and storage. At completion this refinery will capture 1.2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. The CO<sub>2</sub> is safely sequestered by injecting it into depleted geological formations deep beneath the Earth's surface. This is the equivalent of taking nearly 300,000 cars off our roads. The refinery also protects the environment by producing ultra low sulphur product with low carbon intensity.

From a peak of 8,000 workers to around 2,500 today this refinery has logged over 50 million hours of employment. During one of the worst downturns in recent memory this project has provided a decent income to thousands of Alberta families. Further, this refinery has stood out as a leader in ensuring an equitable and representative workforce through partnering with organizations such as Women Building Futures and working closely with First Nation communities. It is also known as a good neighbour by the farmers nearby and is a huge supporter of the local community.

Seventy-five per cent of Albertans want to see more refining done in this province. The Sturgeon refinery was the first new refinery built in years and was done with the novel funding arrangement that has made this project possible. The North West Redwater Partnership is to be commended for creating something successful and truly made in Alberta.

Thank you.

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

### National Day of Mourning

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April 28, the National Day of Mourning, is the day Canada remembers and honours the workers who have died, been injured, or became ill due to their workplace. Every year health and safety committees and investigators look at these injuries, illnesses, and deaths. Recommendations to make changes in the workplace usually occur after any investigation so that these occurrences are not repeated and any other lives are not affected. This year we will not be in the Legislature on April 28, so I have chosen to do my statement today about the importance of this to each and every one of us.

I have always felt a deep connection to health and safety in the workplace perhaps because I worked in an environment with the

potential for danger for so many years. That danger could come from the work site, other staff, or the offenders. You might have heard over the last two years about two incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault within two federal correctional facilities. These were incidents of workplace injuries, sexual assault, and sexual harassment which could have been prevented. These injuries have left at least three staffpersons, who were doing their jobs, damaged probably for their lifetimes. I will say again that they could have been prevented.

Taking action when a workplace is not safe is what the Day of Mourning is all about. We all hold a responsibility for making our workplaces safe. I speak about this because it is so important to remember those who have suffered, to push for change, and to keep on pushing until every person in every workplace is safe from preventable injury, illness, or death.

Thank you.

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

### Health Ministry Communication with Clients

**Mr. Fraser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes when we are dealing and speaking about billion-dollar budgets, it can be easy to forget that the work that we do here is for the benefit of all Albertans. Looking through the budget doesn't help us connect to the people who need health care. It's not that this work isn't important. We need to ensure the sustainability of the whole system to help individuals, but we need to remember it's only one part of the story. The other part of the story is the Albertans who are facing serious illness. Albertans dealing with serious illness, whether it's their own illness or that of a friend or a family member, are incredibly brave. It's often a lonely journey, and whenever possible we should lend a hand and give them our compassion and understanding.

With that in mind I want to talk about some constituents of mine. Kira Palmer is the mother of her son Evan, who's been dealing with a rare disorder, spinal muscular atrophy, a disorder that is slowly taking Mrs. Palmer's son away from her. Mrs. Palmer along with other parents struggling with the same issue have been campaigning to get access to life-saving medication. I know the Minister of Health has been contacted by these folks, and to her credit and to the credit of her office they have responded, albeit through a form letter. The problem with a form letter, especially when dealing with such a heart-wrenching medical issue, is that it can make someone feel like they're stuck in a faceless system. A form letter doesn't make someone feel like they've been heard. For someone who is fighting for the life of their child, who just wants somebody else to understand the complexity and the nuance of what they are going through, a form letter isn't always appropriate.

1:50

Minister, this woman isn't asking for a miracle. She's asking for something much more human, something well within your power to give. She's asking for compassion, understanding, and a chance to be heard. I'm asking this minister to please meet with Mrs. Palmer. She's asking for half an hour of your time because that half an hour might mean a lifetime with her child.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### Oral Question Period

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

### Trans Mountain Pipeline Construction Suspension

**Mr. Kenney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday at 4:30 in the afternoon the Premier told me at committee, "We are in a position

now where we are very close to being able to establish the certainty that is necessary” for the construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline. At exactly the same moment the president of Kinder Morgan Canada was telling his investors: it’s become clear that this particular investment may be untenable for a private party to undertake; the events of the last 10 days have confirmed those views. Why did the Premier get it so completely wrong?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I know that the member is desperately trying to cherry-pick quotes from here and there in order to create a semblance of failure that he can then celebrate. Heaven knows that he’s good at celebrating failure because his party has quite a long record of that on the matter of getting pipelines to tidewater.

That being said, what we know is this. Kinder Morgan said yesterday: we are actively engaged with the federal and Alberta governments, and those conversations will continue in good faith; nothing has changed in that regard. Nothing has changed, Mr. Speaker. We are working with Kinder Morgan and with Ottawa to get this pipeline built, and it will happen.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, the question is about the Premier’s credibility. She’s been declaring victory on this from day one, doing a nonstop victory lap. In the face of another B.C. delay she pulled the wine boycott and said, quote: it’s a definitive victory. Yesterday Steve Kean, the president of Kinder Morgan, said on the issue of potential public investment: there are really two separate things; most of the investment is in British Columbia, where the government is in opposition to the project; that is an issue that, in our view, needs to be resolved. The question is: why did she get it so wrong? Why doesn’t she understand what the project proponent itself is saying?

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

The hon. Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, in fact, Kinder Morgan said exactly what they said on April 7: B.C.’s actions have put the project in jeopardy. This is not news. We are fully aware of that. That is why I have said that Alberta is prepared to take a public position. That is why we brought in Bill 12. That is why I flew to Ottawa and had some very detailed conversations last week with the Finance minister and then again on the weekend with the Prime Minister and again with the Finance minister. We are working very hard to get this pipeline built, and I believe that we will be successful.

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, it seems that the Premier’s chief of staff was too busy posting videos of the opposition on Twitter to inform her that she was misleading a committee yesterday in saying that we were close to certainty when the company was saying exactly the opposite. How can Albertans take seriously this Premier’s observations about this critical issue, vital to our economic future, when she’s saying, “Don’t worry; be happy,” while the company is saying that the project may be untenable, and nothing has changed to improve its prospects of construction in the past 10 days? Why did they get it so completely wrong?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, as I’ve said before, Alberta is closer than ever to getting the pipeline built. Now, to be clear, if it was easy, there is a slim possibility that the members

opposite might have been able to succeed when they had eight years to get it done, not a huge possibility, but it is ever so slightly possible. Nonetheless, we are working very hard, and we will win this fight because we have the facts on our side. We have Canadians on our side. We have recent polling that shows that we have the majority of British Columbians on our side, even in the Lower Mainland. The only people not on our side are the UCP and their leader.

**The Speaker:** Second main question.

**Mr. Kenney:** Yeah, right, Mr. Speaker. The party that surrendered to Justin Trudeau’s veto of Northern Gateway, surrendered to his killing of Energy East, surrendered to Barack Obama’s veto of Keystone XL, and did absolutely nothing but attack us for suggesting a fight-back strategy against British Columbia for the past nine months – instead of attacking the opposition, why doesn’t she thank us for giving her the policy ideas that have now become government legislation?

**Ms Notley:** Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, I’m sure that the member will be incredibly surprised to learn that this issue is actually not about him and that, in fact, our government has been working in a very determined fashion since well before his return to the Alberta political scene, a scene that he wasn’t actually on when he was in Ottawa, where he could have actually been fighting for pipelines but chose not to, but that’s a whole other issue. We’ve been working on this all along. We have been working with stakeholders across the board, industry experts, politicians from across the country, and ultimately we are convinced that we will get it done.

**Mr. Kenney:** You know, Mr. Speaker, it’s not about me; it’s about Alberta. Funnily enough, the NDP mentioned my name 209 times in the fall session of this place.

Mr. Speaker, the important thing is that they accepted our ideas after mocking and ridiculing them, and that’s fine. They’re welcome to good ideas, including the idea of being prepared to turn off the taps. Unfortunately, there’s one critical person who doesn’t believe that they’re serious about it. His name is John Horgan. He’s a New Democrat. He says that this Premier is bluffing. He says that she told him she has no intention of using the legislation. So why should we believe this Premier when the NDP in British Columbia doesn’t?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, while we’re in the business of counting up names and words in *Hansard*, I’ll just say that I’m pretty sure it wasn’t me that counted my own name. In any event, one thing that I did do was that I looked at how many times the word “pipeline” appeared in *Hansard* by the member opposite when he was actually a member of the government in Ottawa. You know what? Once. You know how often the word “Kinder Morgan” showed up? Maybe on the last day. I can’t remember; he might have been doing it then. The point is that when it comes to looking at *Hansard* and counting up words, what it shows is that someone wasn’t actually standing up for Alberta when they had the chance. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, while this Premier was standing at rallies with signs saying, “No pipelines, no tar sands, no oil,” I was standing up in Ottawa as part of a government that saw the construction of four pipelines that doubled shipping capacity in Canada, of which I am proud, but the real question is the Premier’s



credibility. Her British Columbia New Democrat allies are telling us that she is making a bluff on the threat to turn off the taps. What is the use of using that threat if the other side doesn't believe that it will be used, and why has she blown her credibility with the B.C. New Democrats on this issue?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I will say that it is true that the level of credibility that I have with the B.C. New Democrats is very different than that of the member opposite. What I will also say, as I have said before in this House and in every other forum, is that the B.C. government knows full well that we brought in a piece of legislation that was designed to be used, that was designed to withstand legal scrutiny, that was designed to ensure that Alberta's interests are absolutely represented at absolutely the right strategic time, and we will not back down from doing the job when it becomes necessary.

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

### Mental Health Services for Children

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, on another important subject, there's troubling new data about deteriorating access for mental health for Alberta children in particular. The Alberta Health Services third quarterly monitoring update indicates that the number of children who get access to mental health treatment within 30 days has declined from 82 per cent in 2014 to 67 per cent now even though the Premier said that improving the mental health and well-being of Alberta's children is a priority for the government. If it's a priority, why is access to that service deteriorating?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm really proud of the fact that we've actually increased access. We've increased services. For example, the Zebra Child Protection Centre: in 2017 we supported over 1,600 children and youth. We opened the Rutherford mental health clinic for children and youth in Edmonton and surrounding areas. We're building an eight-bed youth facility in Red Deer, and the list goes on. You know what? There is more to do, and that's why this side of the House is investing more in health care instead of pushing for rash cuts, because we know that we're headed in the right direction, but we know that there is more work to do, and we know that there are more families in need.

2:00

**Mr. Kenney:** This is one of the problems with the NDP, Mr. Speaker. They think that spending more results in better outcomes when the opposite is true in this instance. In 2014 in Edmonton 77 per cent of children got access to mental health services in 30 days or less. That's down to 45 per cent now, a 32 per cent drop since this government took office. They may be spending more money, but that money is not resulting in better services to children in need of mental health services. Why?

**Ms Hoffman:** Well, the truth is, Mr. Speaker, that we are increasing investment because we believe that these families deserve opportunities to access increased supports. Demand is also going up. I know the member says that we're doing worse, but we're actually doing more. There is increased need as well. That's why when the member says that we should be spending less, that if we spent less, we'd get better outcomes, he couldn't be further from the truth. We saw what happened when they moved forward with

drastic cuts in the 1990s, closing 88 per cent of long-term care beds. I am so relieved that he isn't in a position to be able to do that to the children and families of this province who count on us for mental health supports.

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, it's this government's record that we're talking about. In Calgary in 2014 91 per cent of kids got access to mental health services in 30 days or less. That's now down to 74 per cent. It's down province-wide. The government said that this is a priority. Then why are fewer kids getting access to timely mental health services? Does the minister understand the concept of ministerial responsibility? Instead of blaming some government from 20 years ago, does she have the capacity to stand up and take responsibility for this decline in services and fix it?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think the first thing to make really clear, which the member opposite didn't quite seem to pick up on, is that the demand for these services has grown, which means that we have more work to do in order to provide services to meet that demand. We are committed to doing that. Beginning the analysis by saying that more money won't help but that privatization will is absolutely the wrong direction to go in. Beginning the analysis by suggesting that we keep funding at the same level it was at three years ago is absolutely the recipe for failure and the recipe for pain and suffering on the part of these kids and their families. Thank goodness that they won't get the chance to do that.

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

### Trans Mountain Pipeline Construction Suspension (continued)

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the president of Kinder Morgan said that despite meetings between the Premiers and the Prime Minister nothing has changed in the past 10 days and that their project remains untenable. To the Premier: now what?

**Ms Hoffman:** Now what is that we're continuing to move forward on three fronts, Mr. Speaker, the fronts being that we are willing to take a public stake in this project. I wish the members of that party would say the same. This is so important. It's so important to the people of Alberta and of Canada that we can't threaten to have a board from Houston potentially impact our future. That's why we have taken this. We have also taken legal measures to be able to control the taps. If I were in the Lower Mainland filling up today at prices above \$1.50, I'd be really worried about what might happen when this bill is passed, if it has to come into play, if their government doesn't get out of the way and let us get our product to tidewater. That's what's happening. We're fighting for this project, and we won't back down.

**Mr. Clark:** Mr. Speaker, Kinder Morgan is legitimately concerned about their ability to get this project built in this political environment, but it is that very same political environment that the Premier may force Albertans into by potentially buying the entire Kinder Morgan pipeline. Again to the Premier: if we do buy into this project, what makes you think that your government will be able to succeed where Kinder Morgan, a company that does nothing but build and operate pipelines, looks like they may fail?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said to the member opposite when we were in estimates yesterday, there are certain parts of the conversations and the negotiations that are going on right now that need to stay at the table in order to make sure that we get the best outcome possible. Suffice to say that the question raised by the member opposite is one that we have already taken into consideration. As he knows, the federal government has already talked about moving forward with additional federal legislation in order to address some of those matters. We are very confident that we are putting together the capacity to make sure that the pipeline can move forward.

**Mr. Clark:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I sincerely wish things would stay confidential, because about 10 days ago, when news about the troubles with Kinder Morgan came out, the Premier, frankly, overreacted. She immediately talked about buying the entire project, to the point of purchasing the whole thing. She said: it is too big to fail. That very clearly jeopardized Alberta's negotiating position on this project. To the Premier: why did you negotiate in public? Is there any scenario where Alberta will take a lesser stake, or are we boxed in, already committed to buying the entire project?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, there are multiple scenarios that would not involve us buying the entire project. I can assure the member of that. But the fact that I outlined the fact that Alberta was now prepared to consider taking a public position in the pipeline if necessary was a message to B.C. that they were going to be dealing with a much more determined set of investors if they thought that that was the strategy that was going to work for them.

To the member's previous points, let me just say this. You know, you can't bargain well when you walk into a car dealership if you tell them how much money you're going to spend, but at the same time, if you never walk into the dealership, you will never buy the car.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.  
Calgary-Shaw.

### Foster and Kinship Care Supports

**Mr. Sucha:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While serving on the Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention, I learned that foster and kinship caregivers provide safe, loving, and caring homes to thousands of children who need them the most, and they deserve the supports due this life-changing work. To the Minister of Children's Services: what is our government doing to ensure foster and kinship caregivers have the resources they need to look after the children in their care?

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

**Ms Larivee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are so thankful for foster and kinship caregivers, who step up for kids in need and show us what community truly means. That's why our government's 2018 budget provides an additional \$1.9 million for basic maintenance funding to support foster and kinship caregivers as well as those who have supports for permanency agreements. These supports help cover the day-to-day costs of raising a child in foster or kinship care as well as for potential adoptive or private guardianship families and supports for permanency caregivers.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Sucha:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that we haven't seen these rates increase since 2014 and that foster and kinship caregivers have been advocating for these increases for some time, will the same minister update the House on what foster and kinship caregivers have been saying about these increases?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Ms Larivee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thousands of foster and kinship caregiver families across Alberta play a critical role in providing safe, loving, caring homes for so many children who need one. We share their commitment to ensuring that foster and kinship programs give both children and families the best possible outcomes. For too long caregivers weren't given the supports that they needed, and now the Conservatives, you know, want to potentially cut these supports and services just to give their rich friends a \$700 million tax giveaway. Unlike the Conservatives, our government has these families' backs and is proud to stand with them.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Sucha:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that foster and kinship parents are at the front lines providing the supports that children in care deserve, will the Minister of Children's Services update the Assembly on what other work the ministry is doing to support caregivers?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Ms Larivee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of us know just how challenging it can be to raise kids, which is why I'm so humbled by what these families do. Their work is selfless but should never be thankless, and every parent and caregiver deserves a break. That's why our government has also doubled the amount of rest and respite days available to caregivers. We will continue to listen to caregivers and the Foster and Kinship Association and ensure they have the supports they need to care for kids in Alberta.

### Budget 2018 Revenue Forecasts

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, Mr. Speaker, last month this government unveiled a budget that is dependent on the success of the Trans Mountain expansion project. At the time the Finance minister said that his revenue projections were based on the fact that he believed Trans Mountain would be built, but yesterday the Kinder Morgan CEO said that the Trans Mountain expansion is untenable. The question I have for the Finance minister is this. Can he tell us how Kinder Morgan's decision to suspend nonessential activities impacts his budget projections?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Ceci:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The budget that was tabled, Budget 2018: A Recovery Built to Last, talked about three lines in the future needing to be present or that will be present. Those are KXL, line 3, and Kinder Morgan. Whether they're Kinder Morgan and line 3 or line 3 and KXL, we have our path to balance assured.

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, the budget also shows that there is a 67 per cent increase to the carbon tax that was hidden within that budget, and since this government has indicated that that carbon tax increase is directly associated with putting in pipelines, if they remove that carbon tax because we don't get the pipeline, what will that do to the projections in the budget?

2:10

**Mr. Ceci:** Mr. Speaker, just with regard to the comment about being hidden in the budget, I want you and all members to know that the budget that we presented last year and this year are judged by I believe it's the Conference Board of Canada as being the highest grade in terms of transparency of financials reported in this country. We know with regard to the federal portion of the carbon levy that those will help offset the costs of programs and services Albertans need and will get us back to balance in 2023.

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, given that this Finance minister soon expects us in this House to vote on his budget and given that this Finance minister presented a budget that is putting us on track to have \$96 billion in debt based on if Kinder Morgan manages to get Trans Mountain built, to the minister: if this pipeline is not built – and we sincerely hope this does not happen – how much debt will Albertans be facing in 2022?

**Mr. Ceci:** Mr. Speaker, of course, the other side keeps cheering that they don't want Kinder Morgan to be built and that they want the outcome to be negative for this province, but we are cheering for it to be built, and it will be built. The other part of the deficit and the debt is that we had a choice in this province. We could severely cut programs and services, like that side would do, and give tax breaks to friends. We won't do that. We're going to keep the programs and services strong and get back to balance in 2023.

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

#### Provincial Response to Pipeline Opposition

**Mr. Drysdale:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. B.C.'s NDP government was always adamant about its intention to obstruct the Trans Mountain pipeline. Here in Alberta our caucus has long called for consequences if B.C. continued on this path, but the government chose to mock our calls instead of taking action sooner. Yesterday B.C. announced that it's moving forward on its court reference to further delay this project. To the Energy minister: why did your government wait so long to talk about consequences for B.C.'s obstructions?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Energy.

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, our government has taken strong leadership on this matter. Our Premier has been engaging people in many provinces, including British Columbia. She's been to Ottawa many times. She's talked to investors about the importance of this pipeline not just for Alberta but for all of Canada. Our Bill 12 that we've introduced is adding another tool in our tool box. I can assure members that we've got strong legal advice on this and that we are on strong ground on this matter.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Drysdale:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that on February 22 this government chose to prematurely end its temporary wine boycott, meant to discourage the B.C. NDP from its pipeline obstruction, and given that the next day the B.C. government said that it was moving ahead with the court reference and specifically said that Alberta should take no comfort in this, to the Energy minister: what assurance can this government give that the next steps on this important file will get actual results, not a premature declaration of victory?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Energy.

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, the court challenges are just an example of many roadblocks that have been set before us on this pipeline, and that's the reason that we introduced Bill 12 the other day. We are very serious about taking action should it be needed, and if there are continual roadblocks set before us, we will absolutely use that legislation.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Drysdale:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the recent statements from Kinder Morgan, including yesterday's, indicate that they're still lacking much-needed certainty for this project and given that the Premier of British Columbia and his Attorney General have both said this week that they are not taking Alberta's Bill 12 seriously, what is the minister doing today to ensure that British Columbia stops its attempts to obstruct this project?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Energy.

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, if we weren't serious about Bill 12, I wouldn't have been in Calgary last Friday meeting with over a hundred energy stakeholders. I wouldn't have wasted their time on that. It might be that the British Columbia government is not taking it seriously, but I can assure you that British Columbians are, as are Canadians. Our support for this pipeline is up over 10 per cent just in a little over a month, and it will continue to rise. Make no mistake; this pipeline is going to be built.

#### Justice System Delays

**Mr. McIver:** Mr. Speaker, Albertans need confidence that our justice system can hold violent criminals to account. Just this week we saw a gang leader accused of murder released onto the streets because of trial delays. The Justice minister promised to triage cases so that the most important ones would not be delayed. I'm not asking the Justice minister to comment on this particular case, but can the minister say not which cases but which type of cases got to court in the last year, on your watch, which were more urgent than a trial for first-degree murder?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Community and Social Services.

**Mr. Sabir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. Of course, we are concerned about this matter, and this is why the Crown filed an appeal yesterday, so I won't talk about that.

But let's talk about the member opposite's record. The Leader of the Opposition sat in Ottawa for a decade and ignored those issues. In 2012 a *Herald* article said Ottawa Silent on Alberta Plea to Ease Judge Shortage, while on this side of the House the Justice minister has taken steps . . .

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

**Mr. McIver:** Given that the minister doesn't want to answer this difficult question and given that the Minister of Justice has assured us that her triage protocol will prioritize serious and violent offences and given that charges of first-degree murder, conspiracy, and instructing a criminal organization were not triaged under this minister, to the Minister of Justice: how dare you say that your triage protocol is working when one of the most violent cases to come before the courts this year did not get the needed priority to avoid a judge calling the delay extreme and excessive?

**Mr. Sabir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. As government we are absolutely committed to making sure that Albertans are safe in their communities and that their justice system is working for them. That is the reason we have hired 50 new Crown prosecutors. We are hiring 10 more. That is why we created 10 new judicial positions, so we can address this backlog, which was ignored by the previous government in Ottawa, which the member opposite was part of.

**The Speaker:** I would just caution both sides of the House with respect to a case currently in the court, but I think you'll be conscious of that, hon. member.

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, given that there was no justice, as the minister said, for the victims of the crimes that the court threw out this week and given that the Justice minister said last year that the triage protocol is explicit and it empowers prosecutors to make the decisions necessary to focus on violent crime and given that an accused charged with first-degree murder was released without a trial this week, again to the minister: as it is now clear that your actions from the last year have failed, what are you doing today to fix your own serious problem, which is to ensure that violent offenders stand trial before judges set them free for a lack of your timely process?

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.  
I'm going to caution you again, hon. minister.

**Mr. Sabir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will avoid commenting on that, but it's a serious matter. But we will talk about the record of the Conservative government in Ottawa, which was there for a decade and only created two positions. That certainly added to the backlog we are facing today due to the Jordan decision. On this side the Justice minister has worked hard on this issue from day one. We have created 10 positions, and we have constantly asked Ottawa to fill these positions so that Albertans can get the justice they deserve and they need.

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

### Anticrime Initiatives

**Mr. Nixon:** It was very embarrassing to just watch what the minister did in those lines of questions on crime. Let's be very clear. The Leader of the Opposition in this House, when he was in Ottawa, passed over four dozen tough-on-crime laws during his time there. What has this minister done to pass laws to be tough on crime? I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that over and over we have been to this Chamber on this issue while this government has sat on their hands. What have you done to be tough on crime inside this Legislature?

**Ms Hoffman:** What we've done, Mr. Speaker, is that we've increased resources for front lines. Instead of grandstanding and pointing fingers, we've actually worked with Ottawa. We've created a number of different judiciary positions that should have been filled when your leader was in Ottawa, but instead we'll work to get them filled today. What did happen when the leader was in Ottawa? The appointment of a justice, Robin Camp, who was single-handedly the judge who blamed a rape victim for not keeping her knees together. When asked if members from Alberta were involved in that, I have to say that Peter MacKay, the Justice minister at the time, said that the current leader of the UCP . . .

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

2:20

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, what this government has done besides yell in this place is to actually freeze funding for police inside Drumheller and Calgary and other places for the next two years. They brought forward an announcement that, at its core, has just taken RCMP officers, that are already overwhelmed, out of their current detachments in our communities and put them somewhere else. This government has no idea how to handle this. Once and for all, what are you going to do to get tough on crime in our communities? We're sick of being abused. We don't want to hear your rhetoric. What's your plan? Your plan is not working. This week proves it.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Deputy Premier.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a budget that we've put forward that acknowledges that there is increased need in rural communities. We've also asked for justices to be appointed by the federal government. Again, the *Globe and Mail* interview: multiple people, including Peter MacKay, the former Justice minister, stated that the Leader of the Opposition, the UCP, here in Alberta, was the political minister for Alberta and that he personally signed off on the appointment of Judge Camp. That is a shame. That is an embarrassment, and I have to say as a woman that having somebody like that make a decision to tell me to keep my knees together if I were to be assaulted is shameful. That's not justice.

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, this government passed the budget last year, and still nothing has changed, so passing the same type of stuff within their budget now is not going to change anything because the problem is that this government and these NDP members will not go talk to Albertans that are being impacted by these decisions. Instead, they want to stand up here dodging questions and go with pure rhetoric all the time. Again, what steps are you taking right now to be tough on crime besides yelling at the opposition? What's your plan? You are in government, not us. We'll be there soon. What's your plan right now?

**Ms Hoffman:** Let me give you two tangible actions that we've taken on this side of the House. One is that we brought forward additional funding to help fight rural crime. The members of the opposition voted against that. Two is that we brought forward funding to support the victims of sexual assault. The members opposite voted against it, Mr. Speaker. I guess we'll find out in a few short minutes what the members opposite will do with the increases to the Justice budget because on this side of the House we're standing up with Albertans, we're putting our money where our mouth is, and all they've got is a lot of mouth. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Stony Plain.

### Municipal Funding

**Ms Babcock:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Municipalities in my riding, because I do listen to them all the time, were pleased to hear the announcement made during the budget speech of this government's intent to legislate the fiscal relationship with municipalities, fulfilling a decades-long ask by those municipalities. Given that our municipalities need the stability of a long-term commitment because they need to make three- to five-year plans, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs: how will this achieve that stable and predictable funding that those municipalities need?

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Serenity now, Mr. Speaker. All right. Let's talk about something really good. Our government is committed to

infrastructure for municipalities. I've listened to them, I know what they are looking for, and we want to have stable and predictable funding. We will aim to make legislative changes to have a new system operating by the time MSI expires. Legislating this fiscal relationship will allow municipalities to accomplish long-term municipal and regional financial planning to ensure stable delivery of the services and to accomplish key infrastructure builds that Albertans need.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Ms Babcock:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: given that municipalities have been asking for stable and predictable funding, for those of us who listen to them, for years, how will they be engaged in this new funding agreement?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. MSI will expire in 2021-22. The new funding arrangement discussions: we will begin with municipalities that will be large and small. We will engage with our municipal stakeholders such as AUMA and RMA over the spring and the summer, when it comes, to ensure that the municipalities have a say in the development of this legislative relationship. The relationship between the provinces and municipalities is evolving, so our funding arrangements must evolve with that. The municipalities have indicated they need something that is sure, that is stable, that is sustainable and allows them to plan for the long term, and that is what we are going to do.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Ms Babcock:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're talking to these municipalities and listening to them tell us what they need – to the same minister: when can these municipalities expect to see these upcoming changes?

**Mr. S. Anderson:** As I said, the MSI will expire in 2021-22. Following funding arrangement discussions this summer and pending those agreements, the government will aim to make legislative changes later in this year and to have a new system operational by the time MSI is set to expire. For many years we have maintained strong supports for municipalities. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud that our government continues to support municipalities, and I'm proud that municipalities all across this province, 340 municipalities, have stable funding right now. We will create a long-term legislative funding agreement with them.

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

#### 212th Avenue S.E. Interchange Project in Calgary

**Mr. Fraser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Constituents in my riding of Calgary-South East are continuing to feel the pressure of rapid population growth. As I've stated in this House before, transportation infrastructure is desperately needed to keep those neighbourhoods connected to the rest of Calgary and grow the economy in Calgary-South East. One important part of that infrastructure is the 212 interchange. To the Minister of Transportation: can you let us know when the 212 interchange is expected to be completed and whether it is on schedule?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Transportation.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, I was very pleased to be part of negotiations with the developer and the city of Calgary, and we came up with, I think, quite a creative funding arrangement where each partner contributed one-third towards that, and that has been signed. We announced that some months ago in Calgary. Design work is under way, and I'm hopeful that the project will be completed in the next couple of years.

**Mr. Fraser:** Rightly so, you stated that the funding for the 212 interchange was funded by partnerships between Brookfield, the city of Calgary, and your government and given that this may be the last budget presented before the next election and a possible change of government, to the same minister: has all the necessary provincial funding for this project been allocated for this year's budget?

**Mr. Mason:** Well, thank you very much for the question. Well, I am not anticipating a change in the government, Mr. Speaker – I have to say that right off the bat – but obviously the hon. member is concerned that if the UCP was to form the government, this arrangement and many other arrangements, not just for infrastructure but for health care, for education, for all sorts of services that Albertans need would be in jeopardy, and I think that in that he's absolutely right. We need in this government to work very hard for the trust of Albertans to make sure that that does not happen.

**Mr. Fraser:** Given the government's legislation prohibiting spending announcements during an election period and given that the next provincial election falls during budget and the start of next year's construction season and given the possibility of cost overruns on construction at the 212 interchange, to the same minister: what's being done this year to mitigate the risk of cost overruns resulting in delays in the completion of this project?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, we are very serious in the Department of Transportation to make sure that projects are delivered on time and on budget, and we take great efforts to scrutinize the course of planning, engineering, and construction to make sure that we have the best possible prices, that we have the best possible prices on tenders. We've been able to get some very good prices on tenders, as a matter of fact, by investing at a time when people are looking for work and companies were looking for contracts. We've been able to achieve significant cost savings in that. We're going to make sure this project is on time.

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

The hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

#### Physicians' Hearing Tribunal Decision

**Mrs. Aheer:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week there was a disturbing report that an Edmonton-area doctor sexually assaulted a female patient and twice assaulted a nurse and has been allowed to be returned to work even though this individual has a recurring pattern of behaviour. The hearing tribunal said that his "proven conduct was very serious and repugnant for a member of the medical profession." To the minister: does she agree that this is outrageous, that this predator is allowed to continue practising as a doctor?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, and thank you to the member for the important question. I, too, am deeply concerned by this. I think that any woman going to a doctor's office should feel

confident that she's in good hands. Any woman working in a doctor's office should feel that way as well, Mr. Speaker. Immediately my office reached out to the College of Physicians & Surgeons to discuss this matter and our concern. We understand that there is legislation in Ontario to give greater teeth in response to this, and we're certainly considering that possibility along with other tools that we can do to ensure that anyone going to go a doctor's office has confidence that they're not being seen by somebody who has a history of assault.

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

**Mrs. Aheer:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is. It's truly distressing that a predator like this is allowed to continue working as a doctor.

Given that section 133(1) of the Health Professions Act states that the responsible college needs to provide their code of ethics for the minister to review, does the minister intend to raise this disturbing issue with the college responsible to ensure that this never happens again, and if so, when?

**Ms Hoffman:** Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, immediately after hearing about this specific case, we picked up the phone, reached out to the College of Physicians & Surgeons to find out how this could possibly happen and what we can do to ensure that it doesn't happen again. I have to say that I would expect, just like from my experience on the school board, when you send children to school, that you want to have every assurance that the people who are working with them are in a position of trust. It's the same when you're talking about people working in the health care system. We're working with the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta, and we began that process yesterday.

2:30

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mrs. Aheer:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I mean, given that this so-called doctor assaulted an 18-year-old woman during what was supposed to be a routine examination in 2013 and given that section 135.1(1) of the Health Professions Act states that the minister can actually give direction to the college after consulting with them "if in the opinion of the Minister it is in the public interest or if in the opinion of the Minister [there's] a direction [that] would provide for matters related to health, safety or quality assurance," to the minister: will you commit to working with the college to restore this trust and confidence in the system?

**Ms Hoffman:** Just to restate, Mr. Speaker, this process began yesterday. We reached out immediately to the College of Physicians & Surgeons and began these conversations. We do need to make sure that the college has the appropriate legislative authority to be able to act in a way that would give me and other women confidence in this province. I wish that those measures that other jurisdictions had taken had been considered by governments in the past, but we're here today. We're certainly looking at all of the tools that are available to us because we want to ensure that every patient going to a doctor feels safe and that the college itself has the tools to be able to ensure that.

#### **Taber Flood Recovery and Mitigation**

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, when the fires in Fort McMurray raged, emergency services from the MD of Taber were some of the first to answer the call for help. When the floods in High River and Calgary surged, residents of the MD of Taber rolled up their sleeves, put on

their rubber boots, and cleaned out flooded basement after flooded basement. To the minister. The MD of Taber is now in need of help. My ask is straightforward. Will you direct disaster recovery money to help them out when they come calling?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the important question. We all feel for the people in southern Alberta right now during the floods and are very sorry for what's happening. We have people on the ground that are helping right now. I'd just like to point out that the local officials on the ground are doing a fantastic job: the volunteers, the firefighters, everybody who's out there right now. We have said that we will give help whenever they need it. We have equipment on the ground right now. We have people on the ground. Disaster relief funding is a program. The disaster recovery program is something that comes after things are said and done here. We will work with the municipalities. In fact, I had some information yesterday . . .

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

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, given that the MD of Taber did the right thing and was proactive in their efforts and given that they averted a major disaster by their quick response and given that 50 per cent of the roads in the MD have been affected by washouts, again I ask the minister: will you do the right thing and make sure that the MD of Taber receives proper funding through the DRP so that they are not left having to bear the burden of their mitigation efforts, that have saved the province tens of millions of dollars, for potential damage?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member well knows – he should know how DRP works – it does come after people come to the municipality. They apply for that. We have special criteria that are in place. As I said, we will help when asked, and we have been helping when asked. Again, I do want to point out that they're doing some great work on the ground, public works down there, who have, you know, cleaned out ditches, dug big dugouts to hold water and that. They are doing some really good things down there. One of those things with the DRP is that we do have specific criteria for these disasters in place for a reason.

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

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, given that three irrigation districts – the SMRID, the TID, and the BRID – proactively mitigated the loss of critical bridge and road infrastructure by quickly subcontracting 40 excavators to clear hazardous ice floes from the main irrigation canal and given that it was not their water problem to begin with, yet they still stepped up and did the right thing, and given that had they not subcontracted those excavators, the loss to critical infrastructure and loss to farming production this year would have been catastrophic, will the minister step up and, again, do the right thing and make sure that the DRP money to fix this problem is at hand?

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

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been engaged crossministry, actually, down there. Alberta Environment and Parks has been working closely with the impacted communities down there. Alberta Transportation has been giving updates on road

closures. Provincial emergency social services has been engaged with local emergency social services with reception centres. Service Alberta has deployed 12 AFRRCs radios to support AEP's efforts in the Taber region and 12 radios to Taber for the local authorities. Pumps and hoses from the GOA provincial stockpile have also been sent to the region. As I said, when the DRP comes in, when the requests are there, we will evaluate.

### Bill 12

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, we've heard the Premier declaring victory over the Trans Mountain on numerous occasions. Let's be clear. The opposition would like to see this pipeline built more than anyone in the province. However, we have heard that the NDP in British Columbia says that they do not expect that Alberta will use this legislation. What assurances can the House have that that, in fact, will take place?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Energy.

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, we've been taking leadership on this matter for a couple of years. As roadblocks have appeared with respect to the Kinder Morgan pipeline, we introduced Bill 12 the other day, which is going to allow us the power to be strategically thoughtful in how we employ the exports from our province, the resources that Albertans own. As I mentioned in a previous question, I met with industry last week, on Friday. I would not have wasted their time were we not intending to use this legislation.

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, given that we are about to rise and take a constituency break in just a few hours and given that Bill 12 has now been on the Order Paper for over a week and given that the B.C. NDP is saying that they don't expect this legislation to be used, why are we going to wait till the end of the month to even debate second reading of Bill 12?

**Mr. Mason:** Mr. Speaker, that's an interesting question. You know, this is a very important piece of legislation, and we need to make sure that we've had it thoroughly discussed, that the public is aware of its contents. I think it's a very portentous piece of legislation. We, of course, do not want to use the powers in that bill, but we're prepared to do so if necessary because we're prepared to do what it takes to make sure that that pipeline is finished and completed as we have planned.

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, given that this is a say one thing and do another government and that they've said that they've had a plan for months – and now he's saying: we want to make sure that we're heard on our plan, which, clearly, they haven't been speaking to anyone if they haven't been listening. They say that they have a plan, they say that they have legislation, and now they say that they need to wait. Which one is it? Do they have a plan or not?

**Mr. Mason:** Mr. Speaker, we absolutely have a plan. Now, on the other side – you know, we've just seen the government of British Columbia make a reference to the Supreme Court with respect to the federal government's authority. The opposition is now saying: well, that's just going to delay things. We agree. So why was it that the leader of the Conservative opposition stood up and said that he wanted to go ahead with the reference? Was he also seeking to delay the pipeline along with his ally Premier Horgan?

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

### Women's Equality

**Ms Luff:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The I Believe You, Me Too, and Time's Up movements have all demonstrated the consequences of women's absence from the decision-making table. When more women are in positions of leadership, culture changes. To the Status of Women minister: what is being done to advance women in leadership?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Ms McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the hon. member for the question. Women in Alberta are strong, talented, and make incredible contributions to our province, but for too long women in our province have faced barriers to attaining leadership positions. We know that a diversity of ideas leads to better outcomes and better bottom lines for this province. This is why we asked the Alberta Securities Commission to adopt, disclose, or explain rules to help increase the number of women on corporate boards. That's why our government launched programs like the Ready for Her initiative, where we encourage women to run for office, and that's why we're also providing much-needed dollars through grant funding to empower local nonprofits to advance women in STEM fields and in business.

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

**Ms Luff:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For too long in Alberta women have been absent from public agencies, boards, and commissions. To the same minister: what has the government done to empower women to be present at the table?

2:40

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Ms McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. The previous government did not make addressing women's representation on public agencies, boards, and commissions a priority. In 2015 women held only one-third of the seats on Alberta's public agencies, boards, and commissions. Our government changed the board recruitment process for Alberta's agencies by making it more transparent and easier for women to put their names forward to be leaders in our province. Today, under our government, women hold 53 per cent of these seats. It's only with deliberate action that we will see more women at that table. That's why we've also created a mentorship pilot project in Calgary for women looking to advance their careers.

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

**Ms Luff:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Owing to movements like Me Too, gender inequality is at the forefront of public consciousness. I hear very often about issues like child care, the gender pay gap, and sexual harassment. What is the ministry doing to tackle gender inequality on a broader level?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Ms McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For too long women in our province have faced barriers to work, unequal pay, and high levels of domestic violence. That's why our government is taking concrete steps to make life better, fairer, and safer for women of Alberta. We're investing in affordable child care, helping more women to enter or stay in the workforce, increasing the minimum wage to

make real progress towards closing the gender pay gap, providing a historical amount of funding to sexual assault centres to support survivors, strengthening workplace protections against sexual harassment, creating the first-ever domestic violence leave that provides up to 10 days of protected job leave per year for employees by addressing the situation of domestic violence.

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

### Presenting Petitions

**The Speaker:** The Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

**Mr. Yao:** Thank you very much. I'm here to table a petition by the pharmacists from across the province, sir, if I may read it out loud:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, hereby petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to reinvest at least 50% of any savings anticipated from generic drug cost reductions resulting from the 5-year agreement recently negotiated between the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance and the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association effective April 1st, 2018, into frontline pharmacy services and programs to ensure the delivery of better healthcare for Albertans and the sustainability and job security of the thousands of Albertans employed in pharmacies and drugstores across our province, including Alberta pharmacists who have a demonstrably positive impact on the healthcare outcomes of Albertans and do save the healthcare system money.

### Introduction of Bills

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Energy.

#### Bill 13

#### An Act to Secure Alberta's Electricity Future

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 13, An Act to Secure Alberta's Electricity Future. This being a money bill, Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has been informed of the contents of this bill and recommends the same to the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, in November 2016 we committed to modernizing Alberta's electricity system to ensure that we continue to deliver reliable energy, attract investment, and prepare for a low-carbon future while all the time protecting Albertans from service problems and price swings that they have experienced under the existing system.

To continue moving forward with this transition, a number of changes must be made to various electricity-related acts and regulations. More specifically, if passed, this bill will enable the creation of a capacity market, increase investor confidence in Alberta's electricity system by providing policy and regulatory certainty, protect consumers when electric and natural gas service providers breach service quality and compliance standards, and provide more options to Albertans who want to generate their own electricity from renewable or alternative sources.

Thank you. I move first reading.

[Motion carried; Bill 13 read a first time]

### Tabling Returns and Reports

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

**Mr. Shepherd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As chair of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices I'm pleased to table five copies

of the following document: Putting Alberta's Financial Future in Focus, a commentary by the Auditor General April 2018. An electronic copy of this document will be provided to all members.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Highwood.

**Mr. W. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week I was questioning the minister on conditional pricing and RFPs. I'd like to table the required number of copies for the House regarding an example of conditional pricing and an RFP response.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner.

**Mr. Hunter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table five copies of an article from the CBC: 'Catastrophic' Overland Flooding Shuts Down Southern Alberta Highways, Threatens Taber Homes.

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

**Mr. Loewen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a letter from Irene, who says: "As a former resident of the Autumn Lodge in Berwyn I am writing this letter in appreciation to the Friends of the Autumn Lodges many members. You came to our aid when we asked as our voices were not being heard after the devastating news came on July 7, 2017 that we were being evicted."

I also want to table an article entitled Flag at Autumn Lodge Lowered to Half-Mast. It says in here: "We're victims. We used to be senior citizens, but the way they've done it, we're victims." He felt that "lowering the flag to half-mast was an accurate symbol of the mood inside the Autumn Lodge."

Thank you.

### Orders of the Day

#### Committee of Supply

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

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

Hon. members, prior to beginning this afternoon, I will outline the process. The Committee of Supply will first call on the chairs of the legislative policy committees to report on their meetings with the various ministries under their mandate. No vote is required when these reports are presented pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(10).

The committee will then proceed to vote on the estimates of the offices of the Legislative Assembly. The estimates of five ministries will then be voted on separately pursuant to Standing Order 59.03(1)(b) and in accordance with notice provided by the hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow on April 18, 2018. The final vote for the main estimates will consist of the remainder of the ministries not yet voted upon.

Finally, the chair would like to remind all hon. members of Standing Order 32(3.1), which provides that after the first division is called in Committee of Supply during the vote on the main estimates, the interval between division bells shall be reduced to one minute for any subsequent division.

### Committee Reports

**The Chair:** I would now invite the chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future to present the committee's report.

**Mr. Sucha:** Thank you, Madam Chair. As chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future and pursuant to Standing



Order 59.01(10) I'm pleased to report that the committee has reviewed the 2018-19 proposed estimates and business plans for the following ministries: the Ministry of Advanced Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the Ministry of Executive Council, the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Labour.

Thank you.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

I will now call on the chair of the Standing Committee on Families and Communities to present the committee's report.

**Ms Goehring:** Thank you, Madam Chair. As chair of the Standing Committee on Families and Communities and pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(10) I am pleased to report that the committee has reviewed the 2018-19 proposed estimates and business plans for the following ministries: the Ministry of Children's Services, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General, the Ministry of Seniors and Housing, the Ministry of Service Alberta, and the Ministry of Status of Women.

Thank you.

2:50

**The Chair:** Thank you.

Now the chair of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship.

**Loyola:** Thank you, Madam Chair. As chair of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship and pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(10) I am pleased to report that the committee has reviewed the 2018-2019 proposed estimates and business plans for the following ministries: the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Environment and Parks, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance.

Thank you.

### Vote on Main Estimates 2018-19

**The Chair:** We shall now proceed to the vote on the 2018-2019 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates. Pursuant to Standing Order 59.03(5), which requires that these estimates be decided without debate or amendment prior to the vote on the main estimates, I must now put the following question on all matters relating to the 2018-19 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019.

Agreed to:  
Offices of the Legislative Assembly \$164,494,000

**The Chair:** Shall the vote be reported? Are you agreed?

**Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Chair:** Opposed? That's carried.

We will now proceed to the vote on the estimates of the five ministries which will be voted on separately pursuant to Standing Order 59.03(1)(b) and in accordance with notice provided by the hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow on April 18, 2018.

On the 2018-19 estimates for the Ministry of Advanced Education, expense, \$2,810,299,000; capital investment, \$298,366,000; financial transactions, \$669,500,000, are you agreed?

[The voice vote did not indicate agreement]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 2:52 p.m.]

[Fifteen minutes having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For:

Anderson, S.	Gray	Piquette
Babcock	Hinkley	Renaud
Carlier	Hoffman	Rosendahl
Carson	Horne	Sabir
Ceci	Loyola	Schmidt
Clark	Luff	Schreiner
Cortes-Vargas	Malkinson	Shepherd
Dach	Mason	Sigurdson
Dang	McCuaig-Boyd	Sucha
Drever	McKitrick	Sweet
Eggen	McLean	Turner
Fitzpatrick	Nielsen	Westhead
Fraser	Payne	Woollard
Goehring		

3:10

Against:

Aheer	Hunter	Pitt
Anderson, W.	Kenney	Schneider
Barnes	Loewen	Smith
Ellis	McIver	Strankman
Fildebrandt	Nixon	van Dijken
Gill	Orr	Yao
Hanson		

Totals: For – 40 Against – 19

[The Department of Advanced Education estimates were carried]

**The Chair:** Shall the vote be reported? Are you agreed?

**Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Chair:** Opposed? That's carried.

On the 2018-19 estimates for the Ministry of Children's Services, expense, \$1,348,552,000, are you agreed?

[The voice vote did not indicate agreement]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:11 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For:

Anderson, S.	Gray	Piquette
Babcock	Hinkley	Renaud
Carlier	Hoffman	Rosendahl
Carson	Horne	Sabir
Ceci	Loyola	Schmidt
Clark	Luff	Schreiner
Cortes-Vargas	Malkinson	Shepherd
Dach	Mason	Sigurdson
Dang	McCuaig-Boyd	Sucha
Drever	McKitrick	Sweet
Eggen	McLean	Turner
Fitzpatrick	Nielsen	Westhead

Fraser	Payne	Woollard
Goehring	Phillips	

Against:

Aheer	Hunter	Pitt
Anderson, W.	Kenney	Schneider
Barnes	Loewen	Smith
Ellis	McIver	Strankman
Fildebrandt	Nixon	van Dijken
Gill	Orr	Yao
Hanson		

Totals:	For – 41	Against – 19
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[The Department of Children's Services estimates were carried]

**The Chair:** Shall the vote be reported? Are you agreed?

**Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Chair:** Opposed? That's carried.

On the 2018-19 estimates for the Ministry of Education, expense, \$4,822,460,000; capital investment, \$116,345,000; financial transactions, \$15,034,000, are you agreed?

[The voice vote did not indicate agreement]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:17 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For:		
Anderson, S.	Goehring	Phillips
Babcock	Gray	Piquette
Carlier	Hinkley	Renaud
Carson	Hoffman	Rosendahl
Ceci	Horne	Sabir
Clark	Loyola	Schmidt
Cortes-Vargas	Luff	Schreiner
Dach	Malkinson	Shepherd
Dang	Mason	Sigurdson
Drever	McCuaig-Boyd	Sucha
Eggen	McKitrick	Sweet
Feehan	McLean	Turner
Fitzpatrick	Nielsen	Westhead
Fraser	Payne	Woollard

3:20

Against:

Aheer	Hanson	Pitt
Anderson, W.	Hunter	Schneider
Barnes	Kenney	Smith
Ellis	Loewen	Strankman
Fildebrandt	McIver	van Dijken
Gill	Nixon	Yao

Totals:	For – 42	Against – 18
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[The Department of Education estimates were carried]

**The Chair:** Shall the vote be reported? Are you agreed?

**Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Chair:** Opposed? That's carried.

On the 2018-19 estimates for the Ministry of Health, expense \$20,696,101,000; capital investment, \$191,447,000; financial transactions, \$74,200,000, are you agreed?

[The voice vote did not indicate agreement]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:22 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For:		
Anderson, S.	Gray	Piquette
Babcock	Hinkley	Renaud
Carlier	Hoffman	Rosendahl
Carson	Horne	Sabir
Ceci	Loyola	Schmidt
Cortes-Vargas	Luff	Schreiner
Dach	Malkinson	Shepherd
Dang	Mason	Sigurdson
Drever	McCuaig-Boyd	Sucha
Eggen	McKitrick	Sweet
Feehan	McLean	Turner
Fitzpatrick	Nielsen	Westhead
Fraser	Payne	Woollard
Goehring	Phillips	

Against:

Aheer	Hanson	Pitt
Anderson, W.	Hunter	Schneider
Barnes	Kenney	Smith
Clark	Loewen	Strankman
Ellis	McIver	van Dijken
Fildebrandt	Nixon	Yao
Gill	Orr	

Totals:	For – 41	Against – 20
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[The Department of Health estimates were carried]

**The Chair:** Shall the vote be reported? Are you agreed?

**Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Chair:** Opposed? That's carried.

On the 2018-19 estimates for the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General, expense, \$1,391,988,000; capital investment, \$9,932,000, are you agreed?

[The voice vote did not indicate agreement]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:27 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For:		
Anderson, S.	Goehring	Phillips
Babcock	Gray	Piquette
Carlier	Hinkley	Renaud
Carson	Hoffman	Rosendahl
Ceci	Horne	Sabir
Clark	Loyola	Schmidt
Cortes-Vargas	Luff	Schreiner
Dach	Malkinson	Shepherd
Dang	Mason	Sigurdson

Drever	McCuaig-Boyd	Sucha
Eggen	McKitrick	Sweet
Feehan	McLean	Turner
Fitzpatrick	Nielsen	Westhead
Fraser	Payne	Woollard

3:30

Against:		
Anderson, W.	Kenney	Schneider
Barnes	Loewen	Smith
Ellis	McIver	Strankman
Fildebrandt	Nixon	van Dijken
Gill	Orr	Yao
Hanson		

Totals:	For – 42	Against – 16
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[The Department of Justice and Solicitor General estimates were carried]

**The Chair:** Shall the vote be reported? Are you agreed?

**Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Chair:** Opposed? That's carried.

We shall now proceed to the final votes on the main estimates. Those members in favour of the remaining resolutions for the 2018-19 government estimates for the general revenue fund and lottery fund for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, please say aye.

[The voice vote did not indicate agreement]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:32 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Ms Jabbour in the chair]

For:		
Anderson, S.	Hinkley	Piquette
Babcock	Hoffman	Renaud
Carlier	Horne	Rosendahl
Carson	Loyola	Sabir
Ceci	Luff	Schmidt
Cortes-Vargas	Malkinson	Schreiner
Dach	Mason	Shepherd
Dang	McCuaig-Boyd	Sigurdson
Drever	McKitrick	Sucha
Eggen	McLean	Sweet
Feehan	Nielsen	Turner
Fitzpatrick	Payne	Westhead
Goehring	Phillips	Woollard
Gray		

Against:		
Anderson, W.	Gill	Orr
Barnes	Hanson	Schneider
Clark	Kenney	Smith
Ellis	Loewen	Strankman
Fildebrandt	McIver	van Dijken
Fraser	Nixon	Yao

Totals:	For – 40	Against – 18
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[The estimates of the general revenue fund and lottery fund were carried]

**The Chair:** Shall the vote be reported? Are you agreed?

**Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Chair:** Opposed? That's carried.

I will now invite the hon. Acting Deputy Government House Leader to move that the committee rise and report the 2018-19 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates and the 2018-19 government estimates for the general revenue fund and lottery fund.

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, it's my pleasure to move that the committee now rise and report.

[Motion carried]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

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

**Mr. Dang:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions relating to the 2018-19 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates and the 2018-19 government estimates for the general revenue fund and lottery fund, reports as follows, and requests leave to sit again.

The following resolutions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, have been approved.

Offices of the Legislative Assembly: support to the Legislative Assembly, \$67,639,000; office of the Auditor General, \$27,834,000; office of the Ombudsman, \$4,291,000; office of the Chief Electoral Officer, \$38,949,000; office of the Ethics Commissioner, \$970,000; office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, \$6,916,000; office of the Child and Youth Advocate, \$15,425,000; office of the Public Interest Commissioner, \$1,149,000; office of the Election Commissioner, \$1,321,000.

Government main estimates.

Advanced Education: expense, \$2,810,299,000; capital investment, \$298,366,000; financial transactions, \$669,500,000.

Agriculture and Forestry: expense, \$773,547,000; capital investment, \$14,705,000; financial transactions, \$1,310,000.

Children's Services: expense, \$1,348,552,000.

Community and Social Services: expense, \$3,713,582,000; capital investment, \$547,000.

Culture and Tourism: expense, \$360,713,000; capital investment, \$2,041,000; financial transactions, \$909,000.

3:40

Economic Development and Trade: expense, \$356,009,000; capital investment, \$2,615,000.

Education: expense, \$4,822,460,000; capital investment, \$116,345,000; financial transactions, \$15,034,000.

Energy: expense, \$262,029,000; capital investment, \$899,000; financial transactions, \$67,063,000.

Environment and Parks: expense, \$751,430,000; capital investment, \$63,394,000; financial transactions, \$100,000.

Executive Council: expense, \$18,642,000.

Health: expense, \$20,696,101,000; capital investment, \$191,447,000; financial transactions, \$74,200,000.

Indigenous Relations: expense, \$243,478,000; capital investment, \$25,000.

Infrastructure: expense, \$547,902,000; capital investment, \$1,494,970,000; financial transactions, \$40,496,000.

Justice and Solicitor General: expense, \$1,391,988,000; capital investment, \$9,932,000.

Labour: expense, \$230,030,000; capital investment, \$1,900,000.

Municipal Affairs: expense, \$1,116,499,000; capital investment, \$5,911,000; financial transactions, \$148,595,000.

Seniors and Housing: expense, \$554,698,000; capital investment, \$182,947,000; financial transactions, \$19,700,000.

Service Alberta: expense, \$468,697,000; capital investment, \$101,132,000; financial transactions, \$10,150,000.

Status of Women: expense, \$6,830,000; capital investment, \$50,000.

Transportation: expense, \$1,210,896,000; capital investment, \$1,099,105,000; financial transactions, \$97,957,000.

Treasury Board and Finance: expense, \$201,953,000; capital investment, \$2,273,000; financial transactions, \$3,617,000; transfer from the lottery fund, \$1,439,443,000.

Madam Speaker, that concludes my report.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Does the Assembly concur in the report?

**Hon. Members:** Aye.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Opposed? So ordered.

I would like to alert hon. members pursuant to Standing Order 59.03(7) that following the Committee of Supply's report on the main estimates, the Assembly immediately reverts to Introduction of Bills for the introduction of the appropriation bill.

### Introduction of Bills

(reversion)

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

### Bill 15 Appropriation Act, 2018

**Mr. Ceci:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 15, the Appropriation Act, 2018. This being a money bill, Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the contents of this bill, recommends the same to the Assembly.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion for first reading carried]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:44 p.m.]

[Fifteen minutes having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Anderson, S.	Goehring	Payne
Babcock	Gray	Piquette
Carlier	Hinkley	Renaud
Carson	Hoffman	Rosendahl
Ceci	Horne	Sabir
Cortes-Vargas	Loyola	Schmidt
Dach	Luff	Schreiner
Dang	Malkinson	Sigurdson
Drever	McCuaig-Boyd	Sucha
Eggen	McKittrick	Turner
Feehan	McLean	Westhead
Fitzpatrick	Nielsen	Woollard

4:00

Against the motion:

Anderson, W.	Hanson	Schneider
Barnes	Kenney	Smith
Clark	Loewen	Strankman

Fildebrandt	McIver	van Dijken
Gill	Nixon	Yao
Totals:	For – 36	Against – 15

[Motion carried; Bill 15 read a first time]

### Government Motions

#### Evening Sitzings

20. Mr. Carlier moved on behalf of Mr. Mason:  
Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 4(1), commencing May 1, 2018, the Assembly shall meet on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings for consideration of government business for the duration of the Fourth Session of the 29th Legislature 2018 spring sitting unless the Government House Leader notifies the Assembly that there shall be no evening sitting that day by providing notice under Notices of Motions in the daily Routine or at any time prior to 6 p.m.

[Government Motion 20 carried]

### Committee Membership Changes

17. Mr. Mason moved:  
Be it resolved that the membership of the Assembly's committees be replaced as follows:
- A. on the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future that Mr. Horne replace MLA Connolly, Ms Luff replace Mrs. Schreiner, and Ms McPherson replace Mr. Clark;
  - B. on the Standing Committee on Families and Communities that Ms Woollard replace Mr. Horne, MLA Connolly replace Ms Luff, and Mr. Fraser replace Ms McPherson;
  - C. on the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship that Mrs. Schreiner replace Ms Woollard, Mr. Westhead replace Mr. Kleinsteuber, Mr. Fildebrandt replace Ms McPherson, Mr. Clark replace Mr. Fraser, and Mr. Panda be appointed to the vacant position;
  - D. on the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund that Ms Luff replace Ms McKittrick and Ms McPherson replace Mr. Clark;
  - E. on the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices that Ms McKittrick replace MLA Drever and Mr. Sucha replace Mr. Kleinsteuber;
  - F. on the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services that MLA Drever replace Ms Luff, Mr. Westhead replace Ms Jabbour, and Ms Babcock replace Mrs. Schreiner;
  - G. on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts that Mr. Clark replace Mr. Fildebrandt.

[Adjourned debate April 12: Mr. Nixon]

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park.

**Cortes-Vargas:** Thank you. It's an honour to rise today. I would like to move forward an amendment. I know that after we presented the motion, there were a few other changes and tweaks we just wanted to be able to make to make sure that the right changes were made in the subcommittee in addition to the membership changes. Madam Speaker, I will give this to be handed out, and then I'll read it out.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Go ahead, hon. member.

**Cortes-Vargas:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I apologize to the members in the Legislature that are so diligently reading along as I read this out. Part A is amended by striking out “MLA Connolly, Ms Luff replace”. Part B is amended by striking out “, MLA Connolly replace Ms Luff,”. Part C is amended by striking out “Mr. Westhead replace Mr. Kleinsteuber,”. Part E is amended by striking out “and Mr. Sucha replace Mr. Kleinsteuber”. And the following is added after part F.

(1) On the subcommittee established by the Standing Committee on Members’ Services on October 25, 2016, that Ms Babcock replace Ms Luff, MLA Cortes-Vargas replace Ms Jabbour, and that MLA Cortes-Vargas replace Ms Jabbour as chair of the subcommittee subject to any subsequent changes in membership made by a motion of the committee.

Madam Speaker, it was clear to us on the day it was presented that we missed a few other items, and I propose to you that these should cover all of them and that we move forward with the great work of this Legislature.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Any others wishing to speak to amendment A2?

Seeing none, are you ready for the question?

[Motion on amendment A2 carried]

**The Deputy Speaker:** Any other members wishing to speak to Motion 17? The hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have an amendment to put forward. I’ll distribute it to members right now. It’s a relatively simple amendment. I can speak to it now while it’s being distributed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Just one moment.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Okay.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Do you have the original, hon. member? We need an original.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Oh. Right here.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Go ahead, hon. member.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I’m putting forward this amendment, that Government Motion 17 be amended in part G by striking out “Mr. Fildebrandt” and substituting “Mr. Carson”.

What the government has done here is decide to remove my membership from the Public Accounts Committee. I might say, in all modesty, that I think I serve pretty well on the Public Accounts Committee. I understand it inside and out. I chaired the Public Accounts Committee for about a year and a half and have served on it since the founding of this Legislature. I would dare to say that I’m possibly the only member of this House who actually followed the Public Accounts Committee before being elected because I think it’s that exciting of a business to do. Maybe Mr. Westhead did if he in his spare time would sit at home and watch Alberta Leg. online, Assembly Online. Maybe he did, too. I’m glad that he shares my enthusiasm for the good work of Public Accounts.

It’s a great committee, and it’s one of the more regularly meeting ones here. It does very important business of analyzing Auditor General’s reports, any reports of departments. I think I make a great contribution to it. The government has proposed to move me to Alberta’s Economic Future Committee, I believe, but I think my

membership on any particular committee would definitely make the greatest contribution possible on Public Accounts, continuing the work I’ve done there. I would hope that my being removed is not that I’ve been doing too good of a job, but it’s just trying to reflect party balances in the Legislature.

What I’ve done here is propose that rather than my being removed – I do support the addition of Mr. Clark to the committee to reflect the Alberta Party’s numbers here, but what I’ve tried to do is maintain the relative balance of parties as much as they can be in the committee system, allotting for, you know, the way we try to fit independents and the smaller parties into our committee system. This still leaves the government with a very clear and, I might say, unhealthy majority on the committee. They still have clear control of it. It doesn’t change the chairmanship or the deputy chairmanship of the committee. It doesn’t change the overall general balance of party representation, but it allows me to continue the work I’ve done there.

Now, it’s nothing against Mr. Carson.

**An Hon. Member:** Names.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Well, sorry. I’m speaking to the amendment. Sorry.

The hon. member: it’s nothing against him in particular. If the government members were open to this amendment, they could make it any one of their members. I picked him, really, just out of alphabetical order. It’s nothing personal. I actually really like you. You’re a nice guy. If the government members were open to this, I would be willing to entertain a friendly amendment to this to make it any one of the government members. I’m sure you all don’t find the Public Accounts Committee as riveting and exciting as I do. Many of you do, but I’m sure maybe one of you – maybe one of you – would rather go to a different committee. Maybe the Member for St. Albert would volunteer. She raised her hand.

**4:10**

Anyway, if government members are willing to entertain this, it could be the member of the government caucus that I’ve proposed, again, nothing personal, or it could be anyone from that committee to volunteer.

I ask that members give this due consideration so that I can continue to serve my constituents and Albertans as best as I can in my capacity on the Public Accounts Committee.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Under Standing Order 29(2)(a) any questions or comments?

Seeing none, any other members wishing to speak to amendment A3?

[Motion on amendment A3 lost]

**The Deputy Speaker:** Any other members wishing to speak to Motion 17? Seeing none, are you ready for the question?

[Government Motion 17 as amended carried]

## Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

### Bill 10

#### An Act to Enable Clean Energy Improvements

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. We’re here to debate the merits of Bill 10, An Act to Enable Clean Energy Improvements. Our climate leadership plan is made in Alberta to

diversify our economy, create jobs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. From home improvement rebates and incentives to install solar power to programs to improve energy efficiency on farms, we have a lot of ways to help homeowners, businesses, nonprofits, and farmers save money while reducing emissions. These programs have a big uptake and have been working well, but we can do more.

On this side of the House we know the importance of taking action on climate change. We are doing just that today by adding another tool to our toolbox in climate leadership programs. This new opportunity is properly assessed clean energy, or PACE. PACE is a program that will enable municipalities to work with Energy Efficiency Alberta to fund energy efficiency or renewable energy improvements to private property and then recover those costs through the owners' property taxes. From solar panels and high-efficiency heating and cooling systems to insulation in windows and doors, there are many options for improvements.

I've travelled a lot around Alberta and have toured many amazing energy efficiency buildings and projects, and I've seen first-hand how committed municipalities are to climate leadership. The cities of Edmonton and Calgary and our rural and urban municipal associations are very interested in PACE. They've asked for PACE enabling legislation, and we're listening. They want the ability to provide a PACE program as another option and incentive for their residents to make clean energy improvements. Many Albertans have told us that they want more programs like PACE in their communities so that they can reduce energy use and save money.

An Act to Enable Clean Energy Improvements will empower our municipal partners to take a larger role in advancing Alberta's climate leadership goals. Through this legislation municipalities will be able to pass a bylaw to offer a PACE program to their residents. The property owner will then be able to sign an agreement with their municipality in which the municipality works with Energy Efficiency Alberta to pay for the installation of the clean energy upgrade. It then recovers the cost through the owners' property tax bill over a number of years. It's as simple as that.

Of course, we know folks are interested in making energy efficiency upgrades, but the cost of running a business or raising a family can sometimes get in the way, making energy efficiency less of a priority. But with PACE it will be more affordable for Albertans because they will be able to pay for it over time with lower interest rates instead of paying for the whole cost up front or taking out a loan on their own. This is a win-win for homeowners, residential building owners, farmers, and businesses, who will ultimately save money and do the right thing for the environment.

What also excites me is that a program like PACE will lead to more jobs in Alberta's clean energy sector. We need a lot of skilled tradespeople and technicians to make these types of upgrades and retrofits, so enabling PACE is a huge opportunity to stimulate our economy, especially in rural areas.

On that note, I want to make it clear that PACE is not just for the big cities. We see PACE as a program that can be successful in any municipality, which is why the bill proposes that any municipal borrowing used to fund a PACE program will not count against a municipality's debt limit, and we plan to consult with municipalities and other stakeholders to get their input on PACE program design. The intention is that Energy Efficiency Alberta will administer the program and work with lending institutions to secure agreements for financing. This will help support municipalities who choose to pass PACE bylaws and make it easy for them to implement this program.

This government is committed to making life better for Albertans. This legislation is just one more example of Alberta taking the lead on energy efficiency and renewable energy. This bill will make it

easier and more affordable for Albertans to make clean energy improvements that will protect their pocketbooks while reducing emissions, creating jobs, and stimulating our economy.

With that, Madam Speaker, I move that debate be adjourned.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

## Bill 11

### Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2018

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Labour.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's a privilege to move second reading of Bill 11, the Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2018.

For too long under previous governments decisions were often made out of the public view and in backrooms, away from the scrutiny of everyday Albertans. For decades Albertans had to simply get used to outrageous backroom deals that took pocketbooks and not the people into consideration. That meant decisions were not often being made in the best interests of ordinary folks, and instead these decisions only served to make things easier for those Conservative insiders and those at the very top who were lobbying for those changes. That's why from day one our government has worked to renew democracy for Albertans. The legislative improvements we're proposing will further those principles of open government and inspire more confidence in the policy-making process of our province.

Under the act lobbyists are currently required to provide information in returns to the Ethics Commissioner of Alberta and the lobbyist registrar, who is responsible for maintaining and administering a registry of lobbyists, that is publicly available. Our amendments to the Lobbyists Act would ensure that Albertans would have access to more information about what discussions are taking place because those being paid to influence government would need to register more of their activity. Albertans deserve better, and that's why I'm very proud of the work our government has done to move forward on our commitment to restore democracy in Alberta. This act was reviewed by the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship, and I have taken their recommendations very seriously in bringing forward this amendment and this legislation.

As things stand, people who lobby government on behalf of their employer or business only have to register this activity after 100 hours of lobbying in a year. To put this into perspective, 100 hours is 25 four-hour games of golf. It's 50 two-hour dinners. It's 3,000 two-minute-long phone calls. A lot can happen in 100 hours. Proposed amendments would lower this threshold to 50 hours, and it would now include any preparation time in addition to any time a lobbyist spends meeting with a public office holder. The requirement for lobbyists to declare which departments are being lobbied and on which subjects remains. Lobbying is not a dirty word, but Albertans have the right to know who is being paid with the intent to influence our government's decisions.

The amendment proposed here to the Lobbyists Act would also restrict lobbyists from giving money, gifts, or other items that would place a public office holder in a conflict of interest. These rules will match the existing conflict-of-interest standards that govern the conduct for all public office holders. For example, the Conflicts of Interest Act, which is currently being reviewed by a standing committee, says that an MLA may not in most cases accept gifts or benefits that exceed \$200 or tickets or invitations to events from one source that exceed \$400. Employees of the public service may not accept fees, gifts, or other benefits other than tokens

exchanged as part of protocol. Lastly, according to an order in council, members of the Premier's and ministers' staff will follow the same rules as elected MLAs and shall not accept fees, gifts, or benefits exceeding \$200. We are proposing to ensure that the Lobbyists Act reflects these standards by prohibiting lobbyists from offering fees, gifts, or benefits the acceptance of which would contravene the existing Conflicts of Interest Act.

4:20

The bill would also prohibit contingency fee payment arrangements. Some clients currently only pay consultant lobbyists if their lobbying efforts are successful. This is known as a contingency fee payment arrangement. As the legislation stands, it's possible for consultant lobbyists to take the position that they do not have to register because they have not received payment yet. This change will better clarify that any lobbying activity conducted by a consultant lobbyist must be registered. This will inspire more public confidence in the way lobbying is conducted.

Additionally, the new legislation would close off another avenue that may be used to sidestep reporting requirements. Right now the act doesn't require lobbying activity to be reported if the lobbyist was proactively contacted by a public office holder or if the lobbyist is responding to a form of request for comment. We are proposing a change that would improve accountability by ensuring that lobbying activity is reported regardless of who initiated it.

I do want to be clear. These amendments are not intended in any way to prevent Albertans from contacting or engaging with public office holders on topics that matter to us. Our government values, appreciates, and relies on the input and feedback of Albertans. This is why nonprofits and those volunteering their time to advocate will remain exempt and not be required to register. As well, we have excluded members of committees or task forces established by government. They would not be considered lobbyists. The act already provides that a person who is paid to advise the government also cannot lobby the government on the same subject.

Another amendment that I think makes sense. The Ethics Commissioner has previously issued an advisory bulletin stating that grassroots communication can be considered lobbying. Grassroots communication is when someone appeals to the public to get people to pressure the government to endorse a particular opinion. As interpretation of this act is within the Ethics Commissioner's jurisdiction, a proposed amendment would include grassroots communication in the definition of lobbying. We're proposing this clarification because we want to ensure that lobbyists understand what activity is included in the definition of lobbying. Again, this does not stop everyday Albertans from being politically active or trying to convince their neighbours of one position or another. It also doesn't stop lobbyists from being paid to try to sway public opinion. What it does do and what the sum total of these changes is doing is to lift the veil of secrecy around many activities, require those activities to be done transparently, in the light of day, for all Albertans to see.

We've also clarified that communication between an organization and its members, officers, or employees or between a person in partnership and their shareholders, partners, officers, or employees will not be considered lobbying. We'd also like to be able to keep our list of prescribed provincial entities up to date through ministerial order rather than through the regulation, where it is now. Currently it is out of date.

We would also like to propose an exemption to include indigenous elders in the exemptions that currently exist for government departments; those appointed to boards, committees, or councils; employees, officers, directors, or members of public agencies; and prescribed provincial entities. As is already the case for public servants at other levels of government, they are not considered lobbyists. Neither are members or employees of indigenous governing bodies. In their traditional capacity indigenous elders are very much public servants in their communities. They are representing their people. Our government honours and acknowledges this practice, so we've expanded the exemption to include indigenous elders.

We would also like to ask lobbyists to state, where possible, in advance the end date of their lobbying activities as a way of keeping our registry up to date.

Finally, the act currently requires lobbyists to report the name of any government department or agency that funds their client or organization. It also requires lobbyists to include the amount of the funding. However, the act does not specify what time period, and that has caused confusion. We are suggesting an amendment where the act would clarify that lobbyists are meant to report on the period of 12 months prior to the filing of the return.

This is a quick overview of some of the many items that I hope to discuss with the House as we look into Bill 11. Our proposed amendments would not only clarify the legislation but provide a much-needed boost to transparency. Albertans do have a right to know who is trying to influence their government. When people have confidence in the way government and lobbyists are working and the way decisions are made, that's when we can all do our best work. So I would encourage all Members of the Legislative Assembly to support Bill 11, and I am looking forward to debating this bill with my hon. colleagues in the future.

With that, Madam Speaker, and with constituency break just around the corner, I would like to adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

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

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Considering the time on the clock and the good work that we did today, I'd like to move that we adjourn until April 30 at 1:30 p.m.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:25 p.m. to Monday, April 30, at 1:30 p.m.]





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

**Activity to Thursday, April 19, 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.*), 482-87 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

### **Bill 6 — Gaming and Liquor Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Ganley)**

First Reading — 448 (*Apr. 9, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 533-34 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

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

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

Second Reading — 491-97 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft.*), 534-36 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft., adjourned on amendment*)

**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*)

Second Reading — 497-502 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

**Bill 10 — An Act to Enable Clean Energy Improvements (S. Anderson)**

First Reading — 528 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 611-12 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

**Bill 11 — Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2018 (Gray)**

First Reading — 505 (*Apr. 11, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 612-13 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

**Bill 12 — Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act (McCuaig-Boyd)**

First Reading — 547 (*Apr. 16, 2018 aft., passed*)

**Bill 13 — An Act to Secure Alberta's Electricity Future (\$) (McCuaig-Boyd)**

First Reading — 606 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft., passed*)

**Bill 14 — An Act to Empower Utility Consumers (McLean)**

First Reading — 590 (*Apr. 18, 2018 aft., passed*)

**Bill 15 — Appropriation Act, 2018 (\$) (Ceci)**

First Reading — 610 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

**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*)

Second Reading — 549-63 (*Apr. 16, 2018 aft., defeated on division*)

**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 (Gottfried)**

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

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