



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Wednesday afternoon, May 16, 2018

Day 31

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

Fourth Session

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

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Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition
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Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (UCP)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (NDP)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)
Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (NDP)
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (NDP)
Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (NDP)
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP),
Alberta Party Opposition House Leader
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawthorn (NDP)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (NDP)
Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP)
Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (NDP),
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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),
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Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (AP)
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Gill, Prab, Calgary-Greenway (UCP),
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Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)
Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)
Gray, Hon. Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)
Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (UCP)
Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (NDP)
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)
Horne, Trevor A.R., Spruce Grove-St. Albert (NDP)
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Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (UCP)
Starke, Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC)
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (UCP)
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)
Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (NDP)
Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)
Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (UCP)
Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)
van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (UCP)
Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (NDP),
Deputy Government Whip
Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (NDP)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)
Vacant, Fort McMurray-Conklin
Vacant, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

Party standings:

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

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

Introduction of Visitors

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

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, it's great to see the hon. Member for Stony Plain here today. [applause]

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly our special guests from the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region, also known as PNWER. PNWER is an excellent model for regional and binational co-operation because of its proven success to foster economic growth, cross-border relations, and market access efforts. We've worked hard to get tariff exemptions for Canadian steel exports to the U.S. and have a fair deal on NAFTA. In my role as vice-president of PNWER for Alberta I want to acknowledge the PNWER leadership joining us here today: Senator Arnie Roblan from the state of Oregon and PNWER president; Mike Cuffe, Representative from Montana and PNWER vice-president; Matt Morrison, executive director of PNWER, which operates out of the state of Washington; and Brandon Hardenbrook, COO of PNWER. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly several members from the Canadian Welding Bureau. We have – and I'll ask them to stand as I call their names – Ms Michelle Stanford, senior vice-president, industry services; Mr. Craig Martin, vice-president, public safety; and Mr. Saro Khatchadourian, senior consultant. The CWB is a certification, registration, and training organization for companies involved in the welding of steel structures. They hosted a fantastic spring reception last night for MLAs, where I had the opportunity to try the welding simulator. Unfortunately, my high score was beaten by the Minister of Advanced Education. I'd like to now invite them to receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the House Eric Musekamp and Darlene Dunlop. Eric and Darlene have fought tirelessly and at great personal cost to gain personhood and equality of law for men and women and children employed as Alberta farm workers. Their efforts played a crucial role in the creation of the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act. Since the passing of the act, Eric and Darlene have continued their efforts to help Alberta farm workers overcome the continued misrepresentation by the UCP members and take their rightful place in society. If they'll stand, we'll give them the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

Mr. Yao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the amazing students from Christina Gordon public school. They are accompanied by their teachers, Erin Gates and Gavin Rutledge, as well as chaperones Cameron Loose and Jen Hoiland. I must say that during our interviews earlier these kids grilled me like the media does when they corner a politician. If everyone could give them a round of applause, please.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce a second class to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, the fantastic students from Timberlea school. They also were very inquisitive when I went to visit them in class, and I couldn't help but notice, but now I understand why these two groups were so knowledgeable: they were prepared to come here. They're accompanied by their teachers, Bambi Lafferty and Justine Kelly, as well as their chaperones, Tracey Penney and Cassandra McLean. I'd ask that the House please give them a warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Little Bow.

Mr. Schneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my distinct privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a remarkable group of grades 5 and 6 students from Champion school, which, of course, is in the village of Champion, which is, of course, in the Little Bow riding, as you know, sir, and also very close to my home. My daughter was actually educated from her elementary school to junior high in the same school. I met with these students and teachers out on the steps as we got our picture taken this afternoon. As I say your name, please stand. The students are accompanied by their teachers, Mrs. Amanda Rodgers and Mr. Nathan Jackson, chaperones Mrs. Tami Sanderson and Mrs. Melanie Groves. I ask that the rest of the class please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thanks, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm honoured to introduce to you and through you the team from Telus who have been outside all day helping to serve our constituents by hosting kits for kids. It's a program that helps kids in ridings with school supplies. They've helped more than 15,000 students at the start of every school year, giving them pens, papers, notebooks, and so forth. I'd ask them all to rise now and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Airdrie.

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly three members from the Foundation for Addiction and Mental Health. The FAMH is a grassroots, community-based charitable organization committed to sharing the reality about addiction and mental health, the potential links between addiction and other secondary health conditions, and the continuing care required for long-term recovery. Would you please rise as I call your name. Alistair Hepworth is the vice-chairperson for FAMH; Cory Hetherington, the chairperson for FAMH; and Dr. Raju Hajela, the

medical adviser for FAMH. Please receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to the whole House the Paul band First Nation's consultation team, Donny Rain, Raymond Cardinal, and Vince Rain. Consultation in indigenous communities on projects that might affect their rights is vital to the success of our partnership with nations as we work to protect the environment and support economic growth for all Albertans working together in the spirit of reconciliation. In addition to working on project-based consultation with Alberta's aboriginal consultation office, Paul First Nation is also partnering with Alberta Environment and Parks with the goal of collecting environmental data needed to guide management and recovery actions under the north-central native trout recovery program and the whirling disease program. I also would say that this team is working on the Trans Mountain with Kinder Morgan and upholding the values and needs of the community. Please welcome Vince, Raymond, and Donny.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Miranda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Lauren McMahon, a summer intern with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Lauren is working hard at her second year at university, working on a degree in peace, conflict, and political science. Originally from Calgary she has travelled to India and Vietnam on several international community development projects. We're very glad to have Lauren join our team, and I ask all the members to give her the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the House two Albertans who are working very, very hard to communicate and share their ideas to make the future of Alberta brighter. I first met these two gentlemen on Twitter, and then I was really pleased to see two weekends ago that they were at UCP AGM, where they were totally willing to be involved, share their ideas, talk to each other, and, with 3,000 other Albertans, build a stronger future for Alberta. Strong family men, strong entrepreneurs, strong Albertans. I would like to ask Spencer Bennett and Payman Parseyan to please rise and accept the traditional warm welcome of the House. Thanks for being here.

1:40

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the Reverend Kurt Katzmar and his wife, Marcia. Reverend and Mrs. Katzmar joined our community and the congregation at Sherwood Park United church in October 2016 from the U.S.A., when Kurt joined the worship leadership team. On April 15 I was pleased to be present when Sherwood Park United church was officially declared an affirming ministry of the United Church, recognizing and celebrating all legal marriages, including same-sex couples, previously divorced people, and couples of different

religions. As the MLA for Sherwood Park it is my honour to represent the Katzmars and Sherwood Park United church. Kurt and Marcia, please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to rise today to introduce some committed hospital foundation volunteers who are seated in the members' gallery. They are dedicated to enhancing care in communities across Alberta, and they share their passion for philanthropy and building excellence in health care. I want to thank them for their contributions and invite them to rise as I say their names and stay risen until the end of the introduction: Catherine Williams, Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation; Waseem Jabre, Drayton Valley Health Services Foundation; Jim Brown and Dr. Allewell Nieberding, University Hospital Foundation; Zicki Eludin and Mayor Omer Moghrabi, Lac La Biche Regional Hospital Foundation; Ralph Westwood, Tri-Community Health and Wellness Foundation. Thank you so much for all of your contributions to the people of Alberta and to the hospitals in your regions. We are very grateful. Please, colleagues, join me in extending a warm welcome.

The Speaker: The hon. Associate Minister of Health.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you patient advocates and members of the ALS Society of Alberta. We're a couple of weeks ahead, but June is ALS Awareness Month, a time to focus attention on advocacy, prevention, research, and cure. I'd like to thank the ALS Society of Alberta for its dedication to making each day the best possible for people living with and affected by ALS and their families as well as for their tireless work to increase awareness of the illness so that greater compassion and understanding is extended to Albertans with ALS. Our government is so grateful for the work you do and for our partnership. I would invite Cathy Martin,* Karen Caughey, Lisa Copeland, Mary Thorp, Rodel Reyataza, and Matt Jarbeau and his family to rise if they are able and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a very special introduction today. I'm proud to introduce one of the most engaged residents of Edmonton-Gold Bar. I don't know if he's ever been introduced to this Legislature, but he's certainly well known to all of the members, Mr. Brad Jones. Brad Jones writes e-mails to us every day on matters of import of that day. He is certainly to be commended for his active engagement in the political process in this province, and I'm proud to call him my friend. I ask Brad to please rise, and I ask the members of the Assembly urgently and permanently, with no foot-dragging, to give him the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Members' Statements

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

Organ and Tissue Donation

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in the House on behalf of the thousands of Canadians whose lives are on pause as we speak, on pause waiting for organ and tissue donations. Right

*Glen Jarbeau attended in place of Cathy Martin.

now there are approximately 4,500 Canadians and 700 Albertans on the transplant wait-list, waiting to get a call that will change their lives forever. That's 700 families praying for a miracle that is organ donation, 700 individuals whose lives are on hold or are in pain or are limited while they wait, 700 Albertans whose lives could fundamentally and permanently be changed by the generosity of a perfect stranger.

In 2013 the previous government passed legislation to create an organ and tissue donation agency to help Alberta address the serious deficit of organ donation in our province. The legislation would require private registry agents to ask everyone renewing their licence if they wish to donate their organs. Despite those efforts, our province is still well below the national average in terms of registered donors. In 2016, 260 Canadians sadly lost their lives while waiting for a transplant, 45 of which were Albertans.

Recently we saw the amazing impact of organ donation when Logan Boulet, the Humboldt Broncos player, saved six lives by donating his organs following the tragic bus accident that killed him and 14 others. Organ and tissue donation, Mr. Speaker, are the gift of life. It's the greatest gift that we as humans, Canadians, and Albertans can give.

In honour of Logan Boulet I want to encourage my fellow MLAs and everyone in this House and all Albertans to consider giving that gift of life and registering to be an organ donor. I was inspired to become a donor by Logan, and I hope that you will all join me in signing the back of your health card or registering at your local registry agency.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Female Cabinet Ministers

Mrs. Littlewood: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At a recent UCP policy meeting attendees applauded comments from a senior member who said that a government cabinet made up of 50 per cent women was humiliating and patronizing and even said she would have trouble naming five ministers. It's against the rules to use names in the House, but here's some help.

Minister of Labour and Democratic Renewal. She introduced job-protected leave for sexual violence survivors and put the power of our democracy back in the hands of Albertans. I know her name.

Minister of Justice and Solicitor General. She amended laws to protect gender identity and gender expression and to allow for sexual assault cases that are older than two years and appointed Alberta's first female First Nations Provincial Court judge, Karen Crowshoe. She also has a baby. I know her name.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. She expanded midwife services, announced the Calgary cancer centre, and introduced legislation that will protect a woman's legal right to access reproductive health services without harassment. I know her name.

Associate Minister of Health. She is opening up harm reduction services across the province. She also has a baby. I know her name.

Minister of environment. She just created the world's largest boreal protected forest. I know her name.

Minister of Seniors and Housing. She is overseeing the building of \$1.2 billion of provincial housing. I know her name.

Minister of Children's Services. She has created 7,300 affordable \$25-a-day child care spaces. I know her name.

Minister of Infrastructure. She is overseeing the largest infrastructure build in Alberta's history. You can believe I know her name.

Minister of Service Alberta and Status of Women. She announced \$8.1 million in comprehensive support for survivors of sexual violence, a first. Also has a baby. I know her name.

Our Premier. She asked these amazing women to run for the NDP. Conservatives called that quota filling. We call it empowering women to take on the roles they rightly deserve.

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

G7G Northern Railway Project

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Generating for Seven Generations, also known as G7G, has plans to construct a railway from Fort McMurray to Alaska. Investors have lined up to finance the project, so it doesn't need funding; it just needs provincial government support. It's hard to imagine why this government won't support it because G7G rail checks off all its boxes. Let me review them for you.

Tidewater access for Alberta energy: check. This rail line will go to the existing west coast port facilities in Valdez, Alaska, and it'll be able to move in excess of 1 million barrels per day.

Economic diversification: check. The railway will carry a multitude of commodities for many resource sectors, including forestry, agriculture, mining, and energy.

First Nations partnerships: check. All First Nations along the route support it with resolutions. Furthermore, G7G plans for First Nations to acquire 50 per cent equity ownership in the railway, and their communities will benefit from long-term employment.

Create jobs: check. The railway's operations will generate employment all along its path as well as even more jobs created through economic development in northern Alberta, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories, not to mention the rail line's construction.

1:50

Encourage renewable energy: check. It's green, an electrically powered train driven by wind turbines.

Mr. Speaker, the G7G railway is innovative, with design safety features, versatile, and welcomed by our northern neighbours. As I've just demonstrated, it checks off every box. I look forward to hearing that this government is working with G7G to make this railway a reality because going north is the right direction for Alberta's future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Question Period

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

Alberta Boycott of British Columbia Wine

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 22 the hon. the Premier lifted the wine boycott of British Columbia, saying that she thought there was certainty that the government of British Columbia would allow the construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline. The Premier said at the time: we know we have tools in our tool box. What are those tools, and why have none of them been used?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the member opposite knows, we did get small movement from the B.C. government in terms of stopping the immediate action to restrict products going into B.C. with respect to the wine ban. He also knows that we have been working with leaders across the country to work on changing and developing public opinion in support of Kinder Morgan. That is one of our tools, and it is being used quite

successfully. In addition, today we will be further debating Bill 12, which he also knows is part of that plan.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, does the Premier believe that it sent the right message to her New Democrat friends in Victoria about our determination on Trans Mountain that she lifted the wine boycott? Does she think that was the right thing to do in retrospect?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think that we have done a number of things to make our position with respect to the need to get Trans Mountain built very, very clear to the government of B.C. I can tell you that very definitively. One thing that we'll be doing tomorrow is meeting with a mission of business leaders from British Columbia who are coming to Alberta to talk with us and share the fact that they understand the value of this pipeline to the B.C. economy and talk about how they will make sure that that opinion is shared even more in the province of B.C.

Mr. Kenney: I thank the Premier for the answer, and I commend the Vancouver board of trade for that initiative. I look forward to their visit.

But, Mr. Speaker, the question is really about the strategy because the British Columbia government has not stopped their stated intention to obstruct and prevent the construction of the pipeline, yet our government here decided to reduce pressure on the B.C. government. Is the Premier sure that was the right call to make? Doesn't she think that instead we should have increased pressure rather than releasing it on the B.C. government?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest that there is nothing but growing pressure on the B.C. government with respect to this matter. The discussions that have been going on over the last several months have increasing impacts on pressure. More to the point, probably the most important form of pressure is public opinion in the province of British Columbia. We have been working very hard to influence that public opinion, and we are succeeding on that topic. I wish the member opposite would actually join in that instead of constantly trying to call down our efforts and cheer for failure on the part of Albertans.

The Speaker: Second main.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, we certainly hope for the construction of the pipeline, as I've reassured the Premier on multiple occasions. We just want the most effective way of ensuring that it gets built.

Trans Mountain Pipeline Public Purchase Proposal

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Premier: is she offering to buy the Trans Mountain pipeline from Kinder Morgan?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, as the member opposite has probably heard me say in the media, we are working daily, talking daily with the Minister of Finance. Our officials are working with federal officials. We are engaged in complex, multilayered negotiations with Kinder Morgan to ensure that we meet their deadline, that we ensure that the summer building schedule is resumed and that no time is lost, and that we get the pipeline built.

Mr. Kenney: Well, that wasn't an answer to the question. The question was: is the Premier offering to buy the Trans Mountain pipeline? Mr. Speaker, is the government offering to buy either the proposed expansion, which is, I think, a \$7 billion capital commitment, or is the government offering to buy the 60-year-old Trans Mountain pipeline operated by Kinder Morgan, or both?

Mr. Mason: I'd love to play poker with you.

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the House leader makes a very good point, that it's not helpful to reveal your full hand when you are negotiating on these matters.

As I've said, we have been very focused, we have been working very hard, we've been working very closely with the federal government, with the clear intention of ensuring that we remove both the legal and the financial uncertainty that has been troubling Kinder Morgan and to ensure that the project moves forward without delay. We are very confident that we will get there.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, Kinder Morgan has made it clear repeatedly, including this morning, that what they are seeking is absolute legal certainty that the pipeline will be built in British Columbia without obstruction from the provincial government. Has the Premier received any such assurances from her counterpart Premier Horgan in Victoria?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What we have done is that we are working with the federal government to meet the concerns that are legitimately raised by Kinder Morgan with respect to their ability to proceed with building this pipeline, and we will continue to do that. I think it's very clear that at this point we haven't got those kinds of assurances from the B.C. government, but we are working to put pressure on them and/or to render their participation in this irrelevant. We are continuing to do that, and we'll get there.

The Speaker: Third main question.

Federal Bill C-69

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, the Alberta-based Canadian Energy Pipeline Association says that the federal pipeline bill, Bill C-69, will make it virtually impossible to imagine a new pipeline being approved in Canada. The Premier committed to this House to raise concerns with the federal government about these provisions in Bill C-69. Has she received any undertakings from the federal government that they will substantially modify that bill so that it does not effectively block the prospect of future pipeline approval?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I believe both our minister of environment and our Minister of Energy have engaged with the federal government to outline the significant concerns that arise from elements of that bill, and we have been assured that they are hearing those concerns. We haven't gotten any formal undertakings yet, but we are continuing to work with them because there are definitely some uncertainties that exist in that bill that need to be remedied. So we will continue to do the work to make sure that happens.

Mr. Kenney: Well, the problem here, Mr. Speaker, is that there were consultations leading towards this bill over the past two years, yet a bill was introduced that, according to the industry, will block future pipeline approval. That bill is now proceeding through Parliament. No changes have been made, so apparently the efforts of the Alberta government have been ignored. Will the Premier join with us in expressing concern about the prospect of a new federal law that according to the industry will make it impossible to get future pipelines approved?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, we've already articulated our concern about the impact of this suite of laws on the ability to move forward on a number of different projects, including pipelines, so we have looked at a number of different ways to ensure that it doesn't have the effect that our reading of the legislation might well have. One thing, for instance, would be to ensure that the climate leadership plan is recognized as sufficient for evaluating upstream greenhouse gas emissions associated with pipeline projects. As a result, we would see C-69 not have any impact. But there are a number of different mechanisms at our disposal, and we'll continue.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, there's actually only one mechanism available, and that would be an amendment or a series of amendments to Bill C-69, amendments which have not been forthcoming. Again I will ask the Premier: will she join with the industry in expressing grave concern that Bill C-69 could cause significant further investor damage to confidence in our oil and gas sector, and would she join with us in adopting perhaps the unanimous motion of this Legislature calling for major amendments to that bill to protect our industry?

2:00

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I've said before, our ministers have already been engaging with the minister of environment with respect to this bill, and we will continue to do that. We will ensure that industry in Alberta is protected, and I suspect that we'll see some good resolutions with respect to that matter. We support ensuring that we have an accountable but time-determined process to get these projects approved that ensures certainty for investors and accountability to Canadians.

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

Trans Mountain Pipeline Public Purchase Proposal (continued)

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Alberta Party wants to see the Kinder Morgan pipeline built. Unlike others, we will never cheer against Alberta and hope for the pipeline to fail because we think somehow that's going to help our political fortunes. Today the federal Minister of Finance in Ottawa said that Ottawa would indemnify Kinder Morgan and that that would transfer to new owners if the pipeline was sold. Now, interestingly, he said that there are plenty of investors who'd be interested in taking on that project. To the Premier. You have said before that you would consider buying the entire project. Is Alberta one of the investors considering taking on a stake in the Kinder Morgan pipeline?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now, I appreciate the member's question, but as I've said, we are working very closely with the federal government. Our officials are working very closely with them. We're speaking, again, with lead negotiators on a pretty much daily basis, and negotiations are under way. There are a number of different elements to those negotiations. When we get to the point where we are in the best position on behalf of Alberta taxpayers as well as Alberta citizens to release more information, we will do that.

Mr. Clark: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's very interesting. You've said that you won't negotiate in public, but your headlines say otherwise. When news about the troubles with Kinder Morgan first broke, the government overreacted, saying immediately that they would buy the whole thing. The Premier even said that the pipeline project was, quote, too big to fail, which further jeopardized Alberta's negotiating position. It seems that every time the government speaks, the price goes up. To the Premier: will you commit here and now to exercise some discipline and not speak publicly about the Kinder Morgan pipeline negotiations until there is a deal to announce?

Ms Notley: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a darn good thing I didn't answer his first question. Yes, we will certainly be very strategic in the way we engage in the communications on this because we understand that the stakes are high and that we need to be very strategic on this matter. What we do know is that at the end of the day, there are a number of different paths to ensure success for Albertans, and we are pursuing all of them rigorously on behalf of the people of Alberta.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, here's my concern. It isn't just government officials speaking openly about this project; we have backroom operators leaking like a sieve as well. According to the CBC a senior official in this government said, "Kinder Morgan is not making this easy." Now, as tempting as it may be for the government to grab for headlines, these sorts of leaks damage our relationship with Kinder Morgan, they damage Alberta's reputation, and they hurt our chances of getting a pipeline built. Again to the Premier: will you ensure that none of your officials or anyone with knowledge of the Kinder Morgan negotiations speaks to the media on or off the record until a deal is done?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, what I will ensure is that we are as strategic as we can possibly be to ensure that we get the best outcome for Albertans, one that represents the overall public interest, that is reflected in getting this pipeline built, as well as one that goes as close as possible to achieving the best commercial interest in terms of the way in which the pipeline is built. That's a complex process. We are working very carefully to navigate it, and we will do so in the best interests of all Albertans.

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

Support for Postsecondary Students

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, my constituents are very concerned about the policies passed at the recent UCP policy convention, particularly motions passed that would make life harder for students, like making student union fees optional. These organizations rely on these funds to deliver programs and services that benefit everyone on campus. To the Minister of Advanced Education: how does this government continue to support student-led organizations?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank the Member for Edmonton-South West for being such a powerful advocate for student issues. Certainly, it's been my pleasure as Minister of Advanced Education to work with many students' unions on issues that are important to students, like maintaining access to affordable higher education in this province. I'm proud of the work that we've done to keep tuition affordable as well as making student mental health grants available. It's clear that the motion that the Conservatives passed two weeks ago is intent on crushing dissent at universities because they plan to make big cuts to postsecondary education and they want to weaken students' ability to fight back against that. The funding that students . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

A government policy question. First supplemental.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, given that students' unions benefit all students and given that I'm hearing from students in my constituency about how they appreciate these organizations, again to the same minister: what are you hearing from student organizations about how they support students?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The thing that I hear from students over and over again is how vital students' unions are for providing students with essential services such as scholarships, student food banks, and support for refugee students. The Conservatives want to make big cuts to postsecondary education, and they want to impair student unions' ability to fight back. With this kind of policy students would be poorer, hungrier, and less supported. We're proud to make education more affordable, and the Conservatives would do just the opposite.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, about those big cuts. Given that those past big cuts by Conservatives to postsecondary education made life more difficult for students, what supports is this government providing for students?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we've been proud to freeze tuition for four years as well as provide millions of dollars in new funding every year to every university and college in the province, which stands in stark contrast to the previous Conservative government's famous cuts for universities and colleges. They managed to find creative new ways to hurt students such as implementing market modifier tuition hikes. Despite being one of the wealthiest provinces in the country, our universities and colleges were the most expensive. Under our government they're among the most affordable.

Pharmacy Funding Framework

Dr. Starke: Well, Mr. Speaker, we're one day away from the deadline for Alberta pharmacists to sign on to the disastrous new pharmacy funding framework, which has thrown the Health department into full damage control mode. Now, last week's hastily called briefing included representation from even the Premier's office. That doesn't happen until an issue is really going south. To the Health minister. We know your department is scrambling. What

contingency do you have in place for the pharmacists who don't sign off by tomorrow's deadline?

Ms Hoffman: I want to say that nothing could be further from the truth. We respect the opposition and want to support them in being able to do their jobs, and that's why we arranged to have staff, including staff from my department, sit down with any members of the opposition through your offices. We certainly welcome you to have the information, to be able to have the best information about what it is that we're doing on behalf of all Albertans.

I'm very proud of the work that we've done to make sure that we're making life more affordable and not hurting front-line services. We know that Conservatives have called for deep cuts. We've kept growth to only 3 per cent, and we've improved services for the people of Alberta. I'm proud of the work that we've done with pharmacists, and we're going to keep doing it, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Dr. Starke: Well, Mr. Speaker, this framework is nothing the minister should be proud of. Given that we now know that the new framework was driven by a desire to rein in a large Ontario-based drugstore chain that had dubious dispensing practices and given that this government's heavy-handed approach will hurt small mom-and-pop pharmacies and their most vulnerable patients, to the minister: why don't you work with the RxA to investigate this chain? Why are you instead penalizing hard-working Alberta pharmacists, hurting both them and their patients?

Ms Hoffman: Well, again, Mr. Speaker, we sat down with the RxA. We brought a budget forward to them, a budget that's very reasonable, a 4.3 per cent increase to account for volume growth and population growth. We said to them that this is a reasonable increase. We know that the Conservatives are pushing for deep cuts. We're not doing that, but we need to have sustainable growth. We sat down with them and we came up with a formula that will ensure that we have that while reducing copays that seniors are paying, while protecting the important services that matter to the people of Alberta. I'm proud that we're investing in health care instead of moving for deep cuts or trying to get rich people richer. We're standing up for ordinary people in this province.

Dr. Starke: Wow. Well, Mr. Speaker, that just shows that this government has shown a consistent pattern of distrust and disdain for various health care professionals, and you can now add pharmacists to that list.

Given that this government's solution to every problem is to nationalize it and bring it under government control and given that the federal NDP has already indicated that a national pharmacare program will be a major plank in their next election platform, to the minister. You've nationalized laundry. You're nationalizing lab services. We know you hate private business. Is it your ultimate goal to nationalize pharmacy services in Alberta?

2:10

Ms Hoffman: Well, let's just back up about a minute and reflect on who it was that was disparaging certain providers in this province. It certainly wasn't me. I'm proud to stand up with the people of this province, including the health care workers. Instead of moving forward with billions of dollars of cuts or instead of laying off people who are working in laundry facilities throughout our province to privatize them and move them into urban centres, Mr. Speaker, I stood up for the people who live in your riding, who work in your hospitals, who want to be able to keep doing those services for the people of Alberta. I'm proud of that, and I welcome all of

you to stand up for important jobs in this province, including front-line health care providers, instead of pushing for deep cuts and calling every day for us to lay off people. On this side of the House we're standing with front-line services, and we're standing with . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Federal Bill C-69
(continued)

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, has the government of Alberta made a submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development with respect to Bill C-69, the environmental impact assessment act?

Ms Hoffman: You know, the Premier has answered this question before, and I'll answer it again. The ministers of Environment and Parks and Energy did make a written submission to the minister of environment. We know that the member opposite likes to spend a lot of time in Ottawa – I get that – and that he wants everybody to spend a lot of time in Ottawa. Here we're focused on Alberta, making sure we get good results for the people of Alberta. We're proud to do that, and we've certainly made our position clear to the minister of environment. We will continue to fight for access to tidewater, and we will succeed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, to correct the hon. the Deputy Premier, the Premier did not answer that question because I didn't ask her that question. The question, just to be clear, is: has the government of Alberta made a submission to the federal House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development with respect to Bill C-69, which, according to the energy industry, may make it virtually impossible for another pipeline to be approved in the future? This is a question of vital economic interest to Albertans and Alberta jobs. The question is: has the government made a submission to the committee studying that bill?

Ms Hoffman: Just to reinforce what we did, the Minister of Energy and the minister of environment wrote a letter to very clearly outline their concerns to the federal government to make sure that the positions of our province and of our industry are taken as the highest priority as we continue to move forward while protecting the environment and protecting good jobs, Mr. Speaker. We're not afraid of staying in Alberta and doing our jobs here. We show up to debate bills, we show up to meet with our constituents, and we want to continue to show up for an industry that we know is so important to this province of Alberta. We will continue to do that. I know that some people miss Ottawa a little bit too much, but we're really proud to be in Alberta.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, the problem is that the government is not showing up to defend Alberta's energy industry from a federal bill that could impose massive damage on it. Given that, my question is: will the government agree to make a submission to the House of Commons committee studying a bill which, according to Alberta's energy industry, may have a massive, damaging, long-term effect on Alberta jobs? If not, why not?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, both the minister of environment and myself have shared our concerns with our counterparts in Ottawa more than once. We have reviewed the process and absolutely have stood up for our energy industry. We

continue to do that. You know, it's something again – we have a robust climate leadership plan which is absolutely part of Canada's goals. If they want to reach those, Alberta is absolutely part of it, and they know that. We stand up for our energy industry every day, something you folks should be doing as well.

Federal Bill C-69
Methane Emission Regulations

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, how is the government standing up for the industry by refusing to even make a simple submission expressing concern about a bill that can impose massive permanent damage on our largest job creator? How is that standing up for Alberta when they can't even send a submission to a committee?

Ms Hoffman: Sorry; I just have to take this first one. How is it standing up for Alberta to hop on an airplane and jaunt off to Ottawa every time you get a chance to meet with a committee when we have ministers right here in this province who are speaking directly with the government of Canada, the ones who are in the position to be a majority government, I might add, to be able to make these changes? Mr. Speaker, we will continue to push at all opportunities to stand up for the people of Alberta. We are doing it in Alberta. We're also making sure that we reach out to people in the public and other jurisdictions. That's why we've got majority support in British Columbia now. The only place that we seem to be struggling with majority support is on the opposition benches. I trust that you guys will get onboard . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Kenney: That's true. We plead guilty to not supporting the government's job-killing policies.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the government of Canada is proposing regulations on methane, which could also be massively damaging to Alberta's largest employers. Has this government received any assurances from Ottawa that the federal government will not impose those federal methane regulations but will allow our province to regulate in that area ourselves?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, when we've been developing the methane regulations, we've worked with industry, environmental groups. We've had talks back and forth with our federal counterparts. Again, our climate leadership plan is crucial to Canada's goals. They know that, and we've had lots of robust talks about that. Our methane plan is going to be crucial to our goals, and we've worked, again, with industry and everybody involved.

Mr. Kenney: So to translate that into plain language, the government is proud of the NDP carbon tax. We already know that.

Mr. Speaker, the question was: has the government received assurances from their federal counterparts that the damaging proposed federal methane regulations will not be imposed on Alberta in a manner that will kill Alberta jobs? Have they sought and received such assurances?

The Speaker: The Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, we've worked on a balanced plan that is a made-in-Alberta plan. We don't want an Ottawa-imposed plan. We've taken steps, again in concert with industry, to look at ways to reduce methane pollution and tackle climate change at the same time. We've had great feedback. The AER has taken the lead, and we've had great feedback from

them. We've absolutely had ongoing conversations with the federal government, and we'll continue to do that.

Mr. Kenney: Well, I guess ongoing discussions means they have received no assurances.

Methane Emission Regulations

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, will the government join with us in calling on Ottawa not to impose federal methane regulations on Alberta that would kill Alberta jobs?

Ms Hoffman: You know what would kill Alberta jobs, Mr. Speaker? Failing to move forward with our climate leadership plan, a climate leadership plan that is investing in many sectors of the energy industry in the province of Alberta. You know what would kill Alberta jobs? Pulling that opportunity for us to say that we are global leaders. We are going to stop at nothing to ensure that everyone is proud to have Alberta energy products flowing through Alberta pipelines to Canadian tidewaters or Canadian pipelines to Canadian tidewaters. It's important for us that we stand together and united on ensuring that we have a strong environmental reputation because environment and jobs go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other. You guys tried. It didn't work out. We've got other people making the decisions now.

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, nobody is fooled by a word salad of talking points. The question was very simple. Will the government join with us in calling on their federal counterparts not to impose the proposed federal methane regulations, that would kill Alberta jobs? This is a pretty simple question. I think the only right answer here is yes. Will the government commit to join with us in opposing the imposition of such damaging federal regulations?

Ms Hoffman: The government of Alberta has brought forward a climate leadership plan for Alberta, a climate leadership plan that's a made-in-Alberta solution, not a made-in-Ottawa solution. You don't need to always turn to Ottawa to tell you what to do. In Alberta we came forward, working with industry, working with environmentalists, and working with leaders from throughout our province, and came up with an Alberta plan. We want that Alberta plan to succeed.

Instead of making grandstanding political gestures that you're going to pull it – you know what? Your colleague in Manitoba, who you used to sit in the House of Commons with, said that if we do nothing, we get Trudeau; if we do something, we get our own plan. Mr. Speaker, we're proud to have our own plan, and we're going to keep moving forward with it.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, Premier Pallister also said that he'll see Justin Trudeau in court if he tries to raise the carbon tax, unlike the NDP, that said: we'll happily increase it by 67 per cent. They want to punish Albertans for heating their homes because Justin Trudeau asked them to.

But, Mr. Speaker, the whole point here is not to be dictated to by Ottawa in the field of our jurisdiction, environmental regulation. Why is it so difficult for the NDP to stand up for Alberta and say no to Ottawa's threat to kill Alberta jobs through the federal methane regulations?

2:20

Ms Hoffman: You know, it's interesting, the comments that were made yesterday about going high. That's an interesting tone, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, I have to say that that isn't what I saw when I was reading the newspaper today. I saw somebody who was going

very low and was very shallow in his criticism. We are working to make sure that the Alberta plan, the Alberta climate leadership plan, something that has gotten us the approval of two pipelines, moves forward and that the federal government sees that we have the ability to lead, that we don't need to always turn to them and then ask them what direction we should go in. Albertans are leaders, Albertans are innovators, Albertans have a plan that will work, and it's about time the opposition got onboard.

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

Government Spending

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The previous Conservative government had a habit of using taxpayer funds to finance their lavish lifestyle. With my constituents' tax dollars the government financed private planes, a sky palace, and a \$45,000 trip to South Africa. Now, given that the previous government had runaway travel and hospitality expenses, can the Minister of Treasury Board and Finance tell me how this current government stacks up in terms of travel and hospitality expenses?

The Speaker: The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The entitlement of the Conservatives across the way was most evident when it came to boondoggles and travel expenses. Millions of taxpayer dollars were wasted on the sky palace and lavish trips. Since our government was elected, we have done away with all that Conservative waste. Travel expenses were cut to one-sixth of what they were under the previous government. This is only one of the ways we have cut wasteful spending and found \$750 million in savings last year.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is this government doing to ensure that expenses are kept low and that the budget priorities are right?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the biggest thing we can do is not follow the lead of the previous government. Under their leadership salaries for executives were out of control, private health care and golf club memberships were handed out like candy, all on the taxpayers' dime. Albertans rightfully rejected that. We got rid of all that and brought salaries of the highest paid public servants back to where they should have always been.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the previous government, when the price of oil was high, spent vast amounts of money and, when the price of oil was low, made drastic cuts to spending, to the same minister: how is this government ensuring that we do not have these drastic and volatile spending swings?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was and remains a top priority. The previous government had wild spending increases when times were good, often upwards of 10 per cent year over year, but then they would cut drastically in bad times because of their poor planning. Unlike members opposite, we believe that funding for our kids' classrooms and our loved ones' health care should not be dependent on the price of oil. That's why we have invested in

those services while responsibly limiting spending growth. Budget 2018 sets out a plan to continue providing that stable funding while avoiding wild spending swings. The members opposite have prioritized the flat tax.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

Gasoline Prices

Mr. Loewen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Almost daily Albertans ask me why we pay so much for gasoline when the oil comes out of the ground literally beneath our feet. People in this province understand that oil is sold on the world market and that there are refinery costs. However, this government continually shows that it doesn't have the backs of Albertans and, in fact, rides on the backs of Albertans, making things even worse. You see, the carbon tax presently adds almost 7 cents per litre to the cost of gasoline. The provincial gas tax is 13 cents a litre. That's roughly 20 cents a litre of provincial taxes on gasoline. To the minister: isn't the carbon tax on everyday Albertans unreasonable, and why wasn't 13 cents a litre enough for this tax-hungry NDP government?

Mr. Ceci: Mr. Speaker, our taxes on things like gasoline are on par with all other provincial governments. We're not exploiting Albertans in that regard. We do know that if there are taxes, there are decisions made by people to reduce their use of things and to cut emissions. We are doing these things because they're, really, following through with the government's plan to make life more affordable, to make life better for Albertans and reduce emissions, and to bring in a carbon levy that works for everybody.

Mr. Loewen: Given that that's their definition of making life more affordable and that the federal gas tax is 10 cents per litre plus the 5 per cent GST calculated on the fuel and on the other taxes also and given that removing all taxes from, let's say, \$1.30-a-litre gasoline would leave the price at 94 cents a litre – wouldn't that be nice? – Minister, don't Albertans pay enough tax on gasoline? Do you really need to increase the carbon tax another 4 and a half cents per litre because Justin Trudeau asked you to?

Mr. Ceci: Mr. Speaker, you know, news flash to the member opposite: gas prices rise in the summer. It happens every year, and it's not because of the carbon levy in any one year. It has everything to do with the rising demand we see at this time of year and refinery issues. We can't control when refineries go down or when demand spikes in the summer, and we can't control the price of oil. What we can control is how we support families through tough economic times. We've done it. They would cut them loose.

Mr. Loewen: News flash, Minister: we're talking about taxes here. Given that this means that at \$1.30 per litre almost 30 per cent of that price of \$1.30-a-litre gas is taxes and given that Albertans have had enough with the constant tax hikes of the NDP and their ally Justin Trudeau and given that the NDP could cancel the carbon tax tomorrow and join Saskatchewan in standing up to the Trudeau Liberals in Ottawa, will this government finally cut Albertans a break and cancel the carbon tax and for once defend Albertans from Justin Trudeau's Liberals?

Mr. Ceci: Referring to taxes, Mr. Speaker, there is no sales tax, there is no payroll tax, and there are no health care premiums. Albertans still pay the lowest overall taxes in the country by \$11.2 billion. I don't think that side would be happy if it was zero taxes that Albertans paid, but that's not the way government runs.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Education Funding

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Red Deer public board passed a budget with a deficit of slightly more than half a million dollars. They identified a number of fiscal issues that I'm concerned about. Almost half of this deficit is the result of a shortfall in their transportation budget. The government's continued insistence on supporting last session's Bill 1 was identified as a factor in this budget shortfall, and the carbon tax makes these issues even worse. To the Minister of Education: what are you doing to work with school boards like Red Deer public who are experiencing budgetary stress as a result of your policy changes?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, I work with all school boards across the province to ensure that we're providing excellent education and that our students are being looked after in the broadest possible way. You know what I did to begin with and for the last four budgets? I built a budget, together with this fine caucus, that funded for enrolment, funded for growth, something that the members opposite were not going to do. That's part of the reason they lost the last election.

Mr. Smith: Interesting answer, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, given that at one point or another, including today, this session the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Advanced Education, and now the Minister of Education have all stated that their government is funding for enrolment growth and given that the Red Deer public school board noted that per-pupil funding is an issue for them, with officials saying that enrolment growth takes place every year but that they have not received a funding increase from the province in the last five to seven years, to the minister: who is telling the truth? You or the Red Deer public school board?

Mr. Eggen: Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, I think the truth lies somewhere betwixt the two. In fact, Red Deer has been working with us very closely every step of the way and working with the enrolment increases that we have given them. Certainly, we're happy to be financing what is a growing city and a growing school board, but I think the hon. member opposite might have some math issues that he would like to work out in terms of how that all adds up. Certainly, we are in total congress between myself and Red Deer public and working very well.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that I've repeatedly raised the issue of the seemingly never-ending negotiations between the ATA and local school boards and given that the current deal expires on August 31 and that various boards continue to contest the deal, with some even seeking resolution through the Labour Relations Board, and given that the Red Deer public board presented the expiring ATA contract as a medium to long-term risk to their operations and decision-making, again to the minister: when will the current deal be fully completed, and how are you going to prevent this from happening during the next round of negotiations?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, as it happens, we resolved the wage issue around teachers for the collective agreement here quite a few months ago, and I think

perhaps he's referring to local bargaining, which is continuing on, as it should. We, I think, did a great service to not only teachers but for certainty for our budget as well by starting provincial negotiations with teachers in terms of wages. That's what we did with Bill 8 a few years ago, and it's been going very well. We've had excellent bargaining in good faith, and we will continue to do so.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

2:30 Economic Competitiveness

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Speaker, Nancy Southern is one of Alberta's most prominent business leaders, whose family has contributed so much to this great province. Yesterday at the ATCO annual meeting she took Justin Trudeau to task for his lack of leadership on Canada's economic competitiveness. She went as far as to say that Canada's decline was heartbreaking. To the minister of economic development: have you raised this competitiveness issue with your close allies in the Trudeau government?

Ms Jansen: You know, Mr. Speaker, it appears that the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, occupies a lot of rent-free space in the heads of the members of the opposition. I would suggest that the next time the Leader of the Official Opposition is in Ottawa, which I'm sure is any day now, he can ask for some of that money, and we can put it towards the deficit.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A great response for those allies out in Ottawa.

Given that this government is very fond of referring to guidance received from David Dodge and given that David Dodge has stated that Canada is doing a number of things to shoot themselves in the foot when it comes to economic competitiveness, again to the minister. The federal government continues to fail Alberta. What specific changes have you requested from your Trudeau Liberal allies to ensure that Alberta is not left in the dust as a result of their and your damaging policies?

Ms Jansen: You know, Mr. Speaker, when we circled back with David Dodge, the former Bank of Canada governor, to have a conversation, certainly, about our capital plan and about a lot of details around our budget, one of the things he said to us was that the most important thing we could do was remove the impediments to growth in Alberta, and that's what we did. That was the lens through which we viewed our capital plan and all of the work we do in our ministries. That is something that is extremely important to us. David Dodge and his comments are important to the work we do. We continue to listen to him, and certainly when it comes to . . .

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

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Time to switch feet or learn a new dance, I think.

Mr. Speaker, given that Suncor CEO Steve Williams, in talking about the investment exodus, stated – and I quote – that he thinks we're running out of companies to leave in a sense, that the big guys have already exercised some of their options, and given that he went on to say that generally around the world there's been an off-Canada signal and given that this is yet another example of you and your ally Justin Trudeau failing Albertans, again to the minister: if the PM won't step up, what specific policy and regulatory changes,

including scrapping the carbon tax, will you make to improve our economic competitiveness?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, one of the things we have done to keep Alberta competitive is having the lowest overall taxes of any province in the country by \$11.2 billion. That's not trivial. As a result, GDP growth last year was up 4.9 per cent. Manufacturing is up in this province. Exports are up. Small business confidence is up. I can go on and on and on. Cities like Calgary were doing better last year, and of the cities in the prairie provinces they'll do the best again this year. We're on the right path.

The Speaker: Thank you.

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

Health Care Concerns

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we heard the Minister of Health claim that her office is accessible, welcoming, and happy to deal with concerns. Indeed, I did meet with the minister a month ago regarding the lack of psychiatric hospital beds at the St. Therese health centre, and that's an issue I've brought up several times in the House. AHS designated this health centre as a psychiatric hub for the northeast area, yet they continue to be underresourced. As the minister seemed very eager to fix this issue, can the minister give us an update, please?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member. I was proud to welcome him and other stakeholders from the community to my office to discuss this very issue, and certainly it is a complex matter. I think we all agree that we want to increase capacity to support people living with mental health challenges. One of the big things that was mentioned more than once in that meeting was the desire to have supports for wraparound services like homelessness, to make sure that we're not discharging people from hospital into homelessness, that we should be investing more in these areas. Certainly, we're investing more in these areas. I wish the member opposite would have voted for that budget. We certainly welcome him to revisit his position . . .

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Hanson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: given that I continue to hear concerns from some hospital patients in the area and outside of my area as well regarding the quality of pre-prepared off-site foods, will the minister agree to mandate freshly prepared food on-site so that all Alberta patients get the same good quality of food in their centres?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker, for the question. What we have been able to do is provide significant improvement in terms of the number of meals. We prioritize first long-term care, of course, because patients are going to be in those facilities the longest. It's their home, and that's where they plan on living. And we've increased previous percentages of foods that were prepared on-site significantly. I think we're close to the 90 per cent mark now Alberta-wide. That is certainly the highest priority.

I know that I appreciate having fresh, locally made food. We want people to get out of the hospital as quickly as possible. We

know that long-term care residents will be there a little bit longer, so that's where we've put our focus at this time.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Hanson: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again to the same minister: given that yesterday I made her aware of the cancellation of a very popular front-line service in St. Paul, Minister, have you made the call to reinstate the mobile collection services to Sunnyside lodge?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We did receive the correspondence from your office yesterday evening, so we thank you for that. I'm good, but I'm not quite that good. We certainly did commit to following up with Alberta Health Services, and we are proud to do that. We certainly welcome you – again, my number is 427.3665 – anytime you have concerns like this. Please do reach out to us. It's certainly the fastest way to be able to address local issues.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Wildfire Update

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dry conditions throughout the province have resulted in a number of major wildfires, including one that is burning in Strathcona county. This week the Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park and myself had the opportunity to experience the challenges our firefighters face by spending a day in their shoes. It is an exhausting and demanding occupation. To the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry: can you please provide an update on the wildfires near my constituency?

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

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Wildfires are always scary. We empathize with community members who have been impacted by the recent spate of wildfires that have happened over the last few days. On May 12 two wildfires near Bruderheim spread rapidly, with one of them growing to an estimated 500 hectares. The Lamont county fire is now under control as of Tuesday. The Strathcona county fire has stabilized, and the fire is being held as of May 15. The Fort Saskatchewan fire department remains on standby to assist with any incoming calls in the area, and Alberta Wildfire will continue to assist as deemed necessary.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: how is the province supporting the fight against these fires?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is committed to protecting Albertans and their communities from the threat of wildfire and to ensuring that the necessary resources are in place to fight fires when they happen. Because these fires are outside of the forest protection area, the municipalities are the lead agencies, but the province has been assisting with air support and other resources. So far the province has provided as many as 45 firefighters and support staff, three helicopters, and heavy equipment to help build fireguards. Even though things appear to

be settling down, with the fire now being held, we'll be ready to provide further support if necessary.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the mayor of Bruderheim, whom I spoke with this morning, would be very happy to know about the support of the province for the fire near his constituency.

Then, Mr. Speaker, as we head into the long weekend, thousands of Albertans will be heading out to camp, to enjoy the outdoors, and to work on their farms and ranches. What precautions is the government taking to prevent the outbreak of more fires?

The Speaker: Hon. member, before you answer that, just let me tell both sides of the House that preambles are continuing to go on. I've reminded you so many times. On both sides I heard several questions today that had preambles after question 4, so please be conscious of that.

The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the very important question. The member has identified one of the most important parts of fighting wildfires in this province: preventing them in the first place. So far this year almost all of the wildfires have started because of human behaviour. We're telling Albertans to be smart and safe while enjoying our wildlands. We've instituted penalties for risky behaviour, like using incendiary targets and leaving campfires unattended, and ramped up campaigns to make sure Albertans understand wildfire risks.

Just yesterday I helped unveil a new fire ban app that will help folks heading out for the long weekend to know where there's an increased risk of a wildfire . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

2:40

Pro-pipeline Advertising Carbon Levy

Mrs. Pitt: Mr. Speaker, just days ago the Alberta government announced that billboards are now on display across British Columbia to highlight the benefits of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. The opposition agrees that Canada needs this pipeline, but we're only 15 days away from Kinder Morgan's deadline, the date when the company requires certainty that the project will actually proceed. Minister, we can't help but wonder: does your last-minute pro-pipeline advertising campaign mean that you admit that your expensive carbon tax on Alberta families, businesses, and nonprofits hasn't actually gotten us the so-called social licence for Trans Mountain?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to talk again about how our government has been fighting for Alberta's strong environmental standards, for Alberta's strong oil and gas industry, and for Alberta to have access to tidewater. This has been a big push of our government, and that's why we've got two pipeline approvals. We also are at the table working diligently to ensure that we get the barriers out of the way to have that pipeline construction begin this summer. That's also why we have the majority support of Canadians, including people living in British Columbia, now on the side of this government for the pipeline.

Mrs. Pitt: Mr. Speaker, given that the Premier said in support of their advertising campaign, “It is important that Canadians understand what’s at stake . . . it is putting the national climate plan at risk,” is the only reason this NDP government wants this pipeline to go through because their carbon tax is at risk?

The Speaker: The Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, since day one we have been fighting for not just this pipeline but other pipelines because market access is so critical. It continuously astonishes me that the opposition here doesn’t want to support Albertans, they don’t want to support Alberta workers, and they don’t want to support the industry. They just continually cheer for us to fail. But you know what? On this side of the House we’re standing up for all of those people, and we’re standing up for this project. If advertising on billboards in B.C. is what it takes, that’s what we’re going to do.

Mrs. Pitt: Mr. Speaker, I sure hope it works.

Given that the Trudeau Liberal government has failed to deliver on their promise for legislation to assert federal jurisdiction and given that the B.C. NDP government has failed to back down from their opposition to the pipeline and that this government’s federal allies have done nothing to deter their obstruction, it’s clear that the carbon tax failed to secure anything more than a paper approval. Mr. Speaker, a simple question: why is the NDP government agreeing to a 67 per cent hike in the carbon tax instead of scrapping it altogether?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, what we’re agreeing to is that our climate leadership plan got two approvals for pipelines, and we continue to support those pipelines. Again, it’s something that the opposition should have done both federally and when they were in power, and they didn’t. They failed to do their job. On this side of the House we’re not failing. This pipeline will be built, and it will be built soon.

The Speaker: In 30 seconds we will continue, hon. members.

Members’ Statements

(continued)

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-St. Albert.

Economic Recovery

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about something on all of our minds and likely on the minds of every Albertan, and that is the economy. Alberta is recovering from one of the worst recessions this province has seen. On the doors and in the community the concerns of Albertans about the future of our province are clear, but so are their hopes.

Mr. Speaker, Albertans envision an economy that leads across the board, not just in resource extraction or primary agricultural production. Albertans see a future where we are world leaders in all parts of the energy sector, from refining to renewables to research. Albertans see a future where value-added products are just as much a part of the agricultural sector as sun and rain. And they see Alberta becoming the Silicon Valley of the north and a destination for software engineers and programmers.

Everywhere I go in Spruce Grove or St. Albert, I hear about these hopes and dreams. I see it in the faces of our schoolchildren who

are going to new schools funded by our government. I can hear it in the voices of young mothers who are accessing the \$25-a-day daycare funded by our government. I can feel it in the new-found confidence of minimum-wage earners who can finally afford to feed themselves while working full-time without relying on the food bank.

Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we listen to the voices of everybody in our province and are doing everything we can to build a recovery and a future that includes all Albertans. On that side of the House they don’t care about the voices of everyday Albertans. They would rather give a tax break to the wealthiest 1.2 per cent of Alberta taxpayers and make the rest of the province pay for it. They are so busy looking to the Alberta of the past that they’re forgetting the Alberta of the future. That’s not a vision we can support because that’s not a vision Albertans want.

Thank you.

Mental Health Initiatives in Airdrie

Mrs. Pitt: Mr. Speaker, silence is not always golden, and I am pleased to see the shift towards increasingly open discussions about mental health even after Mental Health Week has concluded. Airdrie is taking action, and great mental health initiatives are taking root. The Airdrie Mental Health Task Force was recently launched. The idea came from the Thumbs Up Foundation and the Airdrie and area health co-op. It’s to be a citizen-driven initiative that will examine what the current pathways are for mental health treatment and mental health prevention, and then it will make recommendations to improve the pathways and related services.

I encourage constituents to go online and participate in the survey found on the Thumbs Up Facebook page. Many agencies are getting onboard and are willing to collaborate. The Thumbs Up Foundation also recently piloted a peer support group for families with a loved one facing mental health issues. The results were overwhelmingly positive, and a new session is beginning this month.

This foundation was started by the Titus family, who lost their beloved son Braden to suicide in 2015. Braden fell through the cracks, and other Canadians are also falling through the cracks when it comes to mental health.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Titus family for their work and their advocacy, which has already made a difference in so many lives. Airdrie residents and Albertans are also very fortunate to have access to the services of the Foundation for Addiction and Mental Health, or FAMH, and members of their team are here in the gallery today.

Mr. Speaker, mental health issues are dark clouds that hover over individuals and their loved ones, but I’m optimistic that we are seeing some sunlight breaking through these dark clouds because of organizations such as these.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

Wild Mountain Music Festival in Hinton

Mr. Rosendahl: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Come to the original Crossroads near Hinton and join us for three days of bliss, the Wild Mountain Music Festival, July 13, 14, and 15, at the historic Entrance Ranch just off highway 40. This year’s lineup includes an impressive array of Juno award winners, nominees as well as local up-and-coming groups and artists from across Alberta and Canada.

Wild Mountain has the best beer tent ever, with a great view of both performance stages. Camping is included with every weekend

pass, but the field is rustic, so bring everything you need. Wild Mountain is a family-friendly event with a full schedule of performers and events for the children at the children's tent. But sorry; no pets allowed.

Wild Mountain will run a shuttle for three drop-off/pick-up spots in Hinton to the site. The shuttle will get you to the show prior to the start of the music and they will run well after the music ends, so you can ride the shuttle and not miss any of the fun.

We expect to attract 9,000 visitors to our region, which will make a major contribution to the economy and bring a unique arts event to West Yellowhead.

For more information search under the website Wild Mountain Music Festival 2018. The Wild Mountain Music Festival started in 2007, and this one hundred per cent community-owned and volunteer-run initiative has relied on sponsors to grow into one of the province's most important artistic events.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many individuals and organizations without whom this event would not exist. I look forward to seeing you in Hinton in July.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

2:50 **Tabling Returns and Reports**

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present the requisite number of copies of an article that I referred to in my questions during question period titled Red Deer Public School Board Passes 'Another Tight Budget' for 2018-19.

Thank you.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

Bill 12

Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act

[Debate adjourned May 10: Ms McKittrick speaking]

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure and pride to rise and speak very briefly to Bill 12, Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act. This is a bill, I think, that emphasizes, in fact, that Alberta's prosperity is Canada's prosperity and builds on the principle that has been established and fought for by Peter Lougheed and others that Alberta has control over its own resources and has a right to defend its ownership of those resources to ensure that Albertans get the full value for them and that they can move freely to markets.

We've seen a number of developments that cause the government very great concern, you know, in terms of actions taken by the British Columbia government which are, in our view, potentially unconstitutional. It is important, I think, that some tools be added to our tool box in order to make sure that we can in fact get full value for the resources that all of us Albertans own together, Mr. Speaker. That's really important. This resource belongs to Albertans, and Albertans know that to the very fibre of their being. That's why there is such intense interest in this.

Now, I want to deal a little bit with the opposition and how they've been handling it. Mr. Speaker, they've been spending a lot of time trying to criticize the government's actions on this file. Furthermore, they focus a great deal of attention – in fact, I would dare say they

seem almost obsessed – on the current Prime Minister, Mr. Trudeau, and the federal government. It seems to me that their focus is there as much as it's here. Their focus is in Ottawa as much as it is here in Alberta. While it's important that we take into account what the federal government is doing and we hold the federal government accountable to protect its own constitutional authorities and to protect the rights of people of our province, I think it's important to remember that it's here in Alberta that we need to focus. Right now we need to focus on overcoming the activities of another provincial government that would restrict and restrain us from exercising our authority over our own resources and receiving the full value.

The opposition, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, is a tail that keeps trying to wag the dog. They're not the government. They keep saying, "Will you follow us in taking these actions?" when in fact the government of Alberta has a very carefully considered strategy, which the opposition attempts to disregard and to try and run the show, as it were, drive the bus from the back seat. That's not how it works.

You know, we've seen the opposition make a great deal of fuss about this bill and why it wasn't passed sooner. Well, Mr. Speaker, we wanted to make sure that all Albertans had a chance to know what the Legislature has under consideration, and I think we've achieved that. I'm very hopeful that we can pass the bill now in a very quick fashion.

But just to deal with the opposition activities a little bit more, Mr. Speaker. This is something they really don't understand. Just because you make sure that you have an additional tool in your tool box, it doesn't mean that it is advisable to use that tool right away. For example, you might be building a house or a fence, and you go out and you get a hammer. You already have a saw. The opposition would like us to start hammering before we've sawed the boards that we need to build the fence. That's exactly what they're doing.

Let's be clear, Mr. Speaker. If we want to restrict exports of Alberta's natural resources to British Columbia, then this is a tool that this bill gives us, but it is not something that we want to do at all. You know, it's sometimes better to speak softly and carry a large club. I think there was an American President that said that. It might have been Teddy Roosevelt. I'm not sure. You don't have to go in swinging, but that's what the opposition wants. It's what the opposition leader keeps wanting to do. He has belligerent language for leaders of other jurisdictions, provinces, and federal government with whom he disagrees politically, and he has aspirations to be Premier. I certainly hope that never comes to pass, Mr. Speaker. Can you imagine a Premier trying to lead this province who has offended his neighbours, his colleagues across the country, the Prime Minister, other Premiers? Who knows what other politicians he has denigrated and attacked on a regular basis?

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I know from this place is that while you have strong political differences, it's very helpful to have relationships across the aisle with the other political parties because, you know, ultimately, disagree or not, we're all here to work for the same end, which is to improve the lives of Albertans. That's a lesson I think that the Leader of the Official Opposition could learn because his partisanship on this matter is, I think, very detrimental to Alberta's case and I think really undermines his claim to some leadership on this file.

I don't think that we can trust the Leader of the Official Opposition on this issue because he is too hotheaded, Mr. Speaker. He's too antagonistic and belligerent. He stands in this House day after day attacking political leaders of other jurisdictions within Canada with whom he disagrees, and that's not an effective way to get things done. We can take on opponents, we can be tough, and we can be effective in our strategies, but in the end we're all part of the same country, and we have to have those relationships in order

to make this country work. That's something that has eluded the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition.

So, Mr. Speaker, this bill does give the government more tools, very strong and effective tools, and it's my hope that by passing this bill, by giving those tools to us, we'll send a message to those who want to stand in the way of Albertans' right to sell their resources, sell their products in the world market. It will mean that they'll get it. This is a hope, not a prediction, that we will not have to use this particular tool in the tool box. I dearly hope that we don't. We don't want to inflict harm or pain on anyone, but we do want to make sure that we have the capacity to effectively stand up for our rights as a province and as a people. For those reasons, I think this is an extremely well-advised piece of legislation, something that will strengthen Alberta's position and will help us.

3:00

What doesn't help us is attempting to demand that we use the hammer when we have a lot of sawing to do ahead of us. That's what the opposition is doing. They're out of sync. They don't have a sense of the strategy that needs to be followed and the fine touch. I'll use another analogy, Mr. Speaker, and it's playing pool. Now, I did spend some time in my youth, when I should have been maybe somewhere else, in a bit of a pool hall. One of the things that you've got to learn in pool is that sometimes to sink a ball that might be right near the corner pocket, for example, you have to use a really light touch. If you fire that cue ball across the table at 90 miles an hour, you know what's going to happen? You're not going to sink the ball. In fact, both balls are going to end up on the floor.

That's the approach that the Official Opposition is taking. They're like some kind of a rookie pool player on steroids. They just want to fire that pool ball in any direction and think it's going to go into the pocket, and it's not. You need a little bit of spin, maybe a little bit of backspin. You've got to be able to bank it, you know. And this eludes them. I think they approach the game of pool as if it was a game of dodge ball, and I don't think that it's particularly effective.

You know, having said that, Mr. Speaker, I do hope that we will have unanimous support for this bill. It is something that I think all Albertans want to see. All Albertans are watching this debate. They want our government to succeed, and I wish that the opposition would show through their actions that they also want us to succeed, because that has not been apparent from their behaviour and from their approach in question period.

It's time to pull together, Mr. Speaker. It's time for unity in our province. This bill is one example of what we can do if we work together. But we need to employ it after it's passed in a judicious manner because the object of the exercise is to sink the ball.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I don't think there's 29(2)(a) yet. I'm the first speaker in third reading.

The Speaker: I think we have – is this the second speaker?

Mr. Nixon: I'll go under 29(2)(a). Sure. Happy to, Mr. Speaker. I thought there was no 29(2)(a) at this stage, after the first speaker. It was interesting to hear the Government House Leader's comments on this legislation. I'll probably have more to say when I speak to the main bill.

First, I'm not too surprised to hear that the hon. Government House Leader in his younger days spent a little bit of time in the pool hall. I don't think that surprised you either, Mr. Speaker. It may not surprise you either that in my younger days I played a little

bit of football. In fact, when I arrived in high school – I still remember that, in fact, our late good friend Manmeet Bhullar and I used to play football together. I remember arriving in high school, and the very first thing the coach did – my high school in Calgary went from grade 9 to grade 12. The coach of the senior football team took a beeline across that high school when he saw me arrive and said, "Do you like football?" and then offered that I could play, and I said: "Well, I'm in grade 9. I can't play on the senior team." He said, "Oh, we've got to try to figure a way around that." And then I would go on to play high school football.

The reason I bring that up, Mr. Speaker, is because the analogy that the Government House Leader is trying to use is kind of ridiculous, and I'll show you why. When I played high school football as the largest person, probably, in the league, definitely a threat and a tool for our football team – in fact, they often would not let me off even for water breaks; I had to stay on and play both lines – it would make no sense if the coach then announced, "Hey, we have this six-foot-eight, 290-pound kid playing for us, but we're not necessarily going to put him in the game" or indicated that there was a possibility that we're not going to put him on the bus and bring him to the game, that we may hold that tool back.

What the Government House Leader fails to acknowledge or just glosses right over is the fact that that is exactly what his government did during this process. Our leader and the United Conservative Party have been abundantly clear that this should be the last resort. In fact, he has been calling on this government to take action for well over a year, and they have not. Now, you know, with the clock ticking and in an urgent situation, we have to rush through decisions. That's unfortunate. They should have listened at that time to the opposition leader's advice.

But what the opposition leader has made clear is that you don't tell the other side that you won't use the hammer. You don't tell the other side that. That is what this Premier and this NDP government have done since the start, which is why the opposition has been concerned and trying to get this bill to the floor. The question I have for the Government House Leader is: why did his leader and his government, the first time that they met with B.C.'s now Premier, Mr. Horgan – he was in opposition at the time – not even bother to try to persuade him on pipelines? Why did his leader bring in a wine ban and then declare victory in this House when there was no victory and then pull back that wine ban? Why did his leader travel to Ottawa – travel to Ottawa – and meet with the Premier of B.C. and the Prime Minister of this country and then tell the Premier of B.C. that she probably would not even use this legislation? Why did his leader do that?

The reality is this, Mr. Speaker. The opposition has been clear: last resort, but we have to have that tool in our tool box. All that this government has done is to indicate to B.C. that they will not use it. That's silly. Again, you know, we're in Edmonton. Do you think it would be smart, during the heyday of the Edmonton Oilers, that in the Stanley Cup finals they indicated that they may not bring Wayne Gretzky to the game? Doesn't make any sense. "We're going to put him on the bench. Don't worry." That's what this government has done, and it's unfortunately done.

The other thing that has to be clarified from his comment is that the opposition has not led the way on this file. The hon. Government House Leader's leader made fun of the Leader of the Opposition before he was even the Leader of the Opposition when he raised doing exactly what we are here to talk about today. This government is asking for support from the opposition for exactly what the hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed suggested they do, and at the time, Mr. Speaker, they made fun of him. They tried to compare him to the American presidential candidate.

The Speaker: Just checking, hon. member: do you have . . .

Mr. Nixon: I understand, Mr. Speaker, that you don't want me to continue, but in the House what's been happening lately is that the other side has been going for five minutes.

The Speaker: I just wanted to know if you wanted to give him an answer.

Mr. Nixon: Well, I have some questions I still want to talk to him about, Mr. Speaker.

The reality of this is that. So whether the tail was wagging the dog, which is the analogy that he wanted to talk about, I can tell you that I don't care how we got there at the end of the day. The point of it is that we have to get here because Albertans are depending on us. So if the NDP want to come in here and say, "Oh, this was all our idea from the beginning and not the Leader of the Opposition's," so be it. The record is clear.

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

Dr. Swann: Speaking to the bill, Mr. Speaker. Speaking to the bill.

The Speaker: Yes.

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise on third reading of Bill 12, Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act. As everyone knows, third reading is about the implementation. We have spoken in support, in principle, of developing tools to ensure that our energy industry has a viable future and that the rights of all Albertans and Canadians are respected with respect to the national interest, our oil industry, and an approval that has been a long time in the works.

But in terms of implementation we have grave concerns that this bill grants extreme powers to the NDP government that will allow them to unilaterally force the energy industry to reduce exports without any accountability. It breaches the democracy that we, I think, all adhere to, something that most Albertans, I think, would have great difficulty with and would find disconcerting, especially as it entails a commitment by this government to buy the pipeline if necessary. That's one of many concerns that we will raise.

3:10

The Energy minister will have the authority to grant and renew, suspend, revoke, and amend export licences. If companies or individuals want to appeal this decision, their only option will be to plead their case back to the same Energy minister. Why is there no independent, arm's-length appeal process? The oil and gas industry is understandably concerned about this new power. Indeed, it will be fined up to \$10 million a day for breaches of this new, arbitrary power.

Most important, the bill lacks any details, which is disturbing, giving itself extraordinary powers to interfere with the oil and gas industry but not providing any specifics or limitations on those powers. The bill needs to be supplemented by clear regulations and limits before it can be effectively implemented. Mr. Speaker, the devil is indeed in the details.

This is a divisive strategy that has the potential to result in job losses, economic downturn as well as a costly blank cheque, which this province, this Premier appear to want us to give her in this Legislature, billions and billions of dollars. Beginning when? Ending when? And what are the checks and balances and accountabilities to Albertans? As a strategy there's no guarantee that pushing the price of gasoline to \$2 a litre in B.C. will actually get the Trans Mountain pipeline built. What's most certain,

however, is that it will result in a backlash, indeed, divisions exacerbated across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I have great concerns about these new and unfettered powers that this government is seeking. It may be politically convenient legislation, but this is not necessarily good legislation for Albertans. It could well have a backlash against Alberta that would reverse our growing economy by restricting exports. We may well be shooting ourselves in the foot, as they say. Providing these extreme and unilateral powers without accountability is not in the interests of my constituents.

We in the Alberta Liberal caucus cannot support this at this time without more details, accountability, and an appeal process that is recognized and independent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Questions or comments to the Member for Calgary-Mountain View under 29(2)(a)? The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to begin by thanking the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood and Minister of Transportation for his excellent comments. Some of my comments will follow, I think, in the same vein, not exactly because we don't agree on everything.

I rise today in support of Bill 12, Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act, and I do so for a number of reasons. First, Alberta's gas and oil industry has been – and I will quote Her Excellency the Right Honourable Governor General Julie Payette from yesterday – the economic thrust in our country for many years. It is so in terms of employment, sale of resources, and spinoffs from that industry, to name a few. Much of that spinoff, much of that industry is right here in Alberta. It's in British Columbia and, in fact, right across the country. Many have said: when Alberta works, Canada works. I believe that that's true.

The second reason for supporting this is because it ties directly to our taking steps with respect to climate change. A phrase that has been used many times was: we received social licence. I have been a proponent of renewables for virtually all of my adult life. I recognize that to eventually get there, a dynamic process has to be in place, and it is. This process has begun and taken some significant strides forward.

My colleague in Lethbridge-West, the minister of environment, has along with our government put forward our climate change plan, a plan to reduce drastically our carbon footprint. I also see that oil and gas have recognized that they have to do things differently if they are going to sustain themselves. They are investing in renewables and doing their business, specifically gas and oil, in a more environmentally friendly manner, that respects and protects our environment. Our government has and is supporting green energy, innovations, and technology, which are all steps to improving our climate now and into the future.

The third reason. I will use an example. I recently saw – it was either on Facebook or Twitter – a video which gives a visual of the impact of stopping oil cold turkey. If you haven't seen it, let me give you a visual. There is a young man sitting on a couch about to watch the Winnipeg Jets game in the playoffs. He's pretty excited, probably because it's been a long time since Canada was in this position. He picks up the remote control, and – poof – it disappears. He is taken aback. He attempts to adjust his glasses to see what happened, and – poof – his glasses are gone. Then the big-screen TV disappears, the covering on the couch, and he's left sitting on a wooden frame. The camera pans to the right. You see through the window the body of his crew cab, the interior upholstery, and the tires disappear as the frame lands on the driveway. Are you getting the picture?

Oil isn't just about transportation. Your car or your truck, your flight to someplace warm during the winter, or even keeping your house warm, especially this winter, all use oil re transportation.

Is your house sided? An oil-based product. Are any of your blankets a plush product? If so, that's an oil-based product. How about your toothbrush or your hairbrush? Oil-based products. Oil is not disappearing for quite some time. Anyone who says that we could just stop production is daydreaming in technicolour or some altered-reality haze.

The fourth reason. Currently oil and gas resources, that belong to all Albertans, are being sold at a discounted price. This is because our neighbour to the south is now our biggest competitor. We have to get our resources to tidewater because we have to be able to supply other customers. This impacts us dramatically here in Alberta but also in the rest of the country. Our economic thrust here and in the country is dependent on getting our resources to tidewater. Our Premier has said over and over again: this pipeline will be built. This bill, I would say, is a key piece to getting that done.

I particularly liked the comments of the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood when he said that, you know, we have a big stick. This is our big stick, but we don't go into the fight throwing that big stick around our head. We go in to have a discussion and to treat the other party with some respect. They know we have the big stick, they know that we can use it, but we have to have the big stick if we want to go and have that conversation.

3:20

I don't think there is anyone here or in your constituency who is not impacted by oil, oil by-products, or jobs that are directly or indirectly related to the oil industry. Every one of us can pick a relative or several relatives whose employment is directly impacted by the oil industry. In fact, last night at the welders' event I spoke to a welder from Lethbridge who said: are we going to get it done? His job depends on our getting that pipeline completed.

So I expect you to vote for this bill. If you don't, I believe that you are showing your true colours of nonsupport for this province and this country, just like you did this week when it came to women's reproductive health choices, and that is beyond shameful. It is not doing your job, not representing your constituents, Albertans, Canadians. Vote for this bill.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Under 29(2)(a), questions to the Member for Lethbridge-East?

The Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Dr. Starke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to stand and talk on Bill 12 in third reading. I want to start, from the outset, by saying that I will be supporting Bill 12 but that I do so with reservations. You know, a lot of my reservations about Bill 12 were actually very well articulated by the Member for Calgary-Mountain View. I have significant concerns about the powers that Bill 12 imparts, and some of those powers haven't even been clearly defined because they will be left up to the regulations, that are still to be developed. I'm certainly very concerned.

But I want to just back up a little bit. You know, Bill 12 really is talking about, if you like, if you want to sort of really précis it, turning off the taps, right? This is a narrative or at least a phrase that we've heard a lot over the last number of months, that Alberta should turn off the taps, and there's usually a reference back to Peter Lougheed and the actions that he took in the 1980s. I remember when it was first articulated, and then when the Premier took up that call as well and when it was mentioned in the throne speech, I

thought to myself: I don't believe that Alberta has the power to do that. The circumstances that were faced by our province in the 1980s were really quite different than what they are today, so I did some checking with some authorities on this. In fact, they said: well, not under the present framework, no. Alberta does not have the power to simply turn off the taps unless some legislation enabling the province to do that is passed, and indeed that has been the genesis of Bill 12.

But I guess my concern with regard to Bill 12 is that it confers a series of very significant powers to the Energy minister and, in a broader sense, to cabinet with regard to restricting both oil and gas and refined products and their export from our jurisdiction. In talking to people who are involved in the oil and gas industry, they have expressed a great deal of concern about that to me as well. We know that there are already many oil and gas producers who have expressed concerns about the stability of the situation with investing here in Alberta. We know that some of that is because of uncertainty on a number of issues. My concern with Bill 12, quite frankly, is that it adds to that uncertainty. Bill 12 allows the government, in its purview, to place restrictions on the export of oil, gas, and refined products.

If I'm a producer and I'm considering making a large-scale investment in an oil and gas facility or some other means of producing oil and gas, while those resources are, in fact, the property of the people of Alberta, considerable energy, considerable costs, capital costs and otherwise, are going to be invested in ensuring that those resources can then be extracted. Yet I know throughout this that the government has the possibility of restricting my ability to provide my customers with those products, on which I will probably have contractual obligations. In fact, I would say that almost certainly I will have contractual obligations to provide that product to those customers and that the government could interrupt that. That would cause me concern, Mr. Speaker. That would cause me a great deal of concern.

One of the first things that I thought to myself when I heard about this piece of legislation was: well, at the very least, there needs to be a limitation on the length of time that this measure could be used, that this bill would be enforced. We're hoping, at least, that this bill is being brought in as a response to the very specific situation that we find ourselves in currently, and because the current laws don't allow the powers we require to, as we say, turn off the taps, that's why Bill 12 has been brought in. But it is, hopefully, a temporary situation. It is, hopefully, a situation that will not be perpetuated over a long period of time. When I first heard about it, I said: "Well, is there a sunset clause here? Is there some limitation here?" As we know, there wasn't.

Now, I know that during the committee stage an expiry or sunset clause was brought in and was passed as an amendment. I think that's a truly important limitation on this bill and in many ways is part of the reason why now I've got at least some comfort to vote in favour of the bill as opposed to opposing it. Mark my words, Mr. Speaker. I want our province to succeed, I want our nation to succeed, and I know full well that the success of both our province and our nation is dependent on getting our products to tidewater.

I also want to talk a little bit here about what I'm seeing, even during third reading, as being an extremely polarized argument. Now, the speakers that we've heard so far from both the government and – we haven't heard a great deal from the opposition yet, but I'm sure we will. There's a lot of back and forth and finger pointing and blaming and that sort of thing. It's frustrating, Mr. Speaker, because this is a critically important issue to Albertans. It is not one that should be used to score political points.

You know, I have to say that I find it interesting when NDP members lament the fact that they feel that their government, their

Premier are not getting the credit they deserve for defending the oil and gas industry and for taking up the fight on pipelines. Well, I will tell you that there's a very simple reason why that is happening, and that is that this government has a deficit. This government has a deficit in credibility. It's not a dollar – well, they have a dollar-and-cents deficit as well. They have a credibility deficit, and that credibility deficit, Mr. Speaker, has been built up over a long time. It didn't just happen overnight.

It is not only because they have shown in the very recent past that they were opposed to pipeline development, that in the very recent past they were opposed to the oil and gas industry itself, but their cohorts in other provinces – in fact, the government that is opposing the Trans Mountain pipeline is the NDP in British Columbia – are opposed to the oil and gas industry. The national NDP is similarly opposed to the oil and gas industry and opposed to pipelines. At the not-so-long-ago convention of the national NDP, here in Edmonton, despite what I understand was an impassioned speech by the Premier saying why the Leap Manifesto would be bad for Alberta and bad for Canada, the national NDP proceeded with it anyway.

So, Mr. Speaker, whether you like it or not, whether you care to admit it or not, you folks have a credibility deficit, and the people in the oil and gas industry simply don't trust you. Now, they may come around to trusting you someday, but at least right now they don't trust you. The reason they don't trust you is because supporting oil and gas is not in your nature, and what we mean by that is that it's not part of your past history. It's not in your nature.

You know, there's a fable, Mr. Speaker, and you can probably appreciate that, coming from me, it's an animal fable. It's been around since the mid-50s. It's the fable of the scorpion and the frog, and it applies here. The fable goes like this. One day a frog and a scorpion found themselves at the side of a river that they both wished to cross. The frog, of course, is able to swim, but the scorpion is not. So the scorpion says to the frog, "Would you allow me to ride on your back to the other side while you swim across the river?" The frog, who is suspicious of this arrangement, says to the scorpion, "Yes, but what if you sting me?" And the scorpion says, "Well, if I sting you, then we both shall die, so why would I do that?" So the frog somewhat reluctantly allows the scorpion to climb on its back and starts swimming across the torrent. About halfway across the frog feels a sharp, stabbing pain in his back and then starts to feel the effects of the scorpion's paralyzing venom in his body. As the frog is sinking below the surface of the water, with his dying breath the frog turns to the scorpion and says, "Why?" And the scorpion with his dying breath says, "It's in my nature."

3:30

If you're wondering what the correlation here is, the oil and gas industry is the frog, and you folks are the scorpion. That is what we have in Alberta. We have an industry that is trying to trust the current government, an industry that in many ways has no choice but to trust the current government because it has to work with that current government, yet it knows that at any time the scorpion could return to what is in its nature.

When I talk to oil and gas people, certainly in my constituency and around the province, the oil and gas industry folks that I talk to tell me that at least at this point they simply do not trust this government – and neither do most Albertans – on the issue of oil and gas and promoting pipelines. That's not to say that the efforts that have been put forward, by the Premier especially, haven't been appreciated. I think those efforts have been acknowledged – and they should be – by Albertans right across the province.

Certainly, a great deal of effort has been put in, but the problem that you've got and the reason that you're having so much trouble

convincing people is because of your credibility deficit, and making up that credibility deficit is incredibly difficult. Make no mistake; those credibility deficits work a number of different ways, and you folks exploit them just the same way. You folks exploit them against people on this side of the Chamber whenever you need to make a political point, and it is every bit as unfair going either way.

I think of one instance in particular, when the Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills was elected as the interim leader of the United Conservative Party. He received a great deal of ridicule and criticism because 10 years previously he had participated in a radio program that espoused some very controversial views. He said very simply and plainly that in 10 years his views had changed and that he has learned a lot and that he's a different person today, yet that didn't get him any credit at all, none, not a bit, because it was more convenient for you folks – and it was easier for your narrative – to continue to brand him in a way that you felt was politically beneficial.

That's part of what is blocking good political dialogue in this province, Mr. Speaker. We are not acknowledging that people can and do change. We're not acknowledging that people can see a better way; for example, the NDP. I have no doubt that this government today is trying to support the oil and gas industry, but if they weren't in government, if they were over here, as they were a little over three years ago, I suspect they would be every bit as hard on the oil and gas industry as they always have been. But they finally acknowledged that, sitting over there in government, they don't have that luxury, that they must govern on behalf of all Albertans, and that includes our main economic driver.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote in favour of Bill 12. I think it is important that the government has this tool, but I think it's extremely important that this tool is used very judiciously. You know, the Government House Leader talked about a hammer. Well, this bill is a power nailer. The only thing we've done to reduce the potential use of it is to put a time limit on it, and I think that's a very important improvement. But I am certainly concerned about this government using this bill. If I was an oil and gas investor, I would also be very concerned and hoping that at some point this bill could potentially be repealed if the conditions change.

In the meantime I say to the government that the oil and gas industry is the frog from my fable, and the oil and gas industry is ever watchful for the scorpion and ever wary of its sting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. members, are there any questions under 29(2)(a) to the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster?

The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to be able to rise to speak to Bill 12, an act to preserve Canada's economic prosperity. I'm very pleased to be able to speak to it today in third reading. First, let me begin by offering my thanks to all Albertans for the support and the solidarity that they have shown each other over the last few months. Our fight to build a pipeline to Canada's coast for the most part on most days transcends partisan politics. It unites us in the conviction that we can achieve great things for our province if we work together, and it shows that when Albertans think big, big change is possible.

Mr. Speaker, before I speak directly to Bill 12, let me set the context and speak about how far we've come and the moment that we are at today. The economic arguments in favour of building a pipeline to the coast are well understood by Albertans. We are an energy-literate province, to say the least, so I won't restate those arguments in great detail. But for the record and as I have repeated countless times to countless Canadians, a strong Alberta means a

strong Canada. Every school, hospital, road, bus, bike lane, or port in the country owes something to Alberta's energy industry. So when Alberta is forced to sell our country's most valuable commodity to one customer at a discounted price, Canada is not at its best.

Lack of pipeline capacity is costing our economy, by some estimates, \$40 million a day. That means that our schools and our hospitals are just not as good as they could be and that working people have fewer opportunities than they should have and that our country's economy is not as competitive or productive as it must be. Every dollar that evaporates into thin air because we wilfully handcuff our economy represents a lost opportunity to build a better Alberta and a better Canada.

When my government was elected, we were determined to change that, determined to overcome decades of failure and frustration, determined to not repeat the mistakes of the past and to change our approach because – let's face it, Mr. Speaker – overall what we were doing before just wasn't working. Albertans elected this government to shake up the failing and out-of-touch status quo. Where former governments ignored climate change and ignored the need for environmental sustainability, leaving Alberta's number one industry exposed to attack, we took on the issue head-on; where former governments just pointed fingers and demonized everyone who had questions and concerns, we listened; and where former governments were content to talk to themselves, we hit the road and talked to Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, a funny thing happened along the way. Frustration started to give way to hope. Albertans from all walks of life – industry, First Nations, environmental leaders, and everyday working families – worked together on solutions, and in short order change started to happen. Alberta's environmental laws were modernized with the climate leadership plan, the most comprehensive response to climate change anywhere in North America. It's a made-in-Alberta plan that fundamentally changes the game on old-style pipeline politics, that were failing the province before.

For too long the choice between our economy and our environment was framed as a trade-off, a zero-sum choice that led to zero results for our economy and for our environment. The climate leadership plan blew that thinking apart because it can't be one or the other. If it is, it is failure on both. It must be a plan that builds our economy and protects our environment for future generations. So in addition to reducing methane emissions, phasing out coal, and pricing carbon, the plan capped emissions. This is critical. In capping emissions, Alberta delinked pipelines from climate change once and for all, a breakthrough that reframed the debate about the economy and the environment.

3:40

Mr. Speaker, soon after the climate leadership plan was introduced, Ottawa adopted it as the model for a national plan. And they did something else, too. Ottawa approved the Trans Mountain pipeline, another breakthrough for our province and for our country, proof that when we change our approach, when we don't pit people against one another, when we unite around common aims and shared values, change is possible.

But, of course, the story does not end there. Our job was far from done. A former federal government approved Northern Gateway and didn't do a thing to support the decision. Mr. Speaker, we weren't going to make that mistake, so we hit the road to talk to Canadians in rooms of supporters and opponents. In Toronto I spoke to leading environmental organizations about why a pipeline is key to Canada's climate plan and meeting our international commitments. In Montreal I spoke to thousands of union members

about why action on the environment and the economy is possible. On Bay Street I spoke to business leaders. I said to them: there is no escaping what is at stake for our national economy. They can't sit on the sidelines anymore.

In B.C. I spoke to the Vancouver board of trade, among others, and I told them that Albertans cherish our coastline and how proud we were that the decision to approve Trans Mountain was paired with a \$1.5 billion oceans protection plan, that will improve safety for all shipping along our west coast. I asked them to stand up and make their voices heard, and as I mentioned earlier today, I'm pleased to say that tomorrow the Vancouver board of trade is coming to Edmonton to do just that, a powerful and welcome gesture, fellow Canadians supporting each other for a larger, national goal.

In Ottawa I carried a message to Canada's national party leaders. To those in my own party who oppose the pipeline, I said that it's time to smarten up, and quite frankly I still say that. We cannot build a more equal, more prosperous Canada if we write working people out of the formula for climate action. To the federal Conservatives I said: it's time to listen up. We are not going to make more progress on pipelines if we dismiss Canadians' real concerns about the environment. That strategy, if you want to even call it that, got exactly zero pipelines to tidewater built. And to the federal Liberals I said: step up. The pipeline approval is in the national interest. The decision was made for the right reasons, so it is now time to forcefully back that decision.

But as important as it is for us to speak to national, political, and economic leaders about Trans Mountain, the most important conversations are happening on shop floors, in hockey rinks, soccer fields, and over kitchen tables, Canadians speaking to Canadians. Albertans from all walks of life have stepped up to this task. Tens of thousands of people have signed our petition calling for action. Tens of thousands more have reached out to their friends, neighbours, and families. My government has done everything it can to arm Albertans with the facts and to take those facts to Canadians. To those who may be listening today, I still say: visit keepcanadaworking.ca to learn everything you need to know about why Trans Mountain is so important to our future, and while you're there, sign the petition.

Drive into Victoria from the airport or walk down Robson Street in Vancouver and you'll see billboards reminding everyone that Trans Mountain is about more than getting oil to the coast; it is about those good schools, good hospitals, and good infrastructure. Click onto Facebook or Twitter and you will no doubt see social media posts promoting the benefits of the pipeline. It's the largest social media campaign ever undertaken by the government of Alberta.

Friends, all of these efforts – the climate action plan, the outreach, the information campaigns, and the one-on-one conversations – are working. Canadians from coast to coast to coast support Trans Mountain in large numbers, and public support is the most effective tool that we have in winning this fight. And, yes, that public support includes our neighbours and friends in British Columbia. In B.C.'s rugged and beautiful interior, in the bustling Lower Mainland, and on Vancouver Island, polling shows that a growing majority of British Columbians back Alberta because they know, like we know, that a strong economy and a clean environment are possible. They know, like we know, that we can't tackle climate change if we write working people out. And they know, like we know, that we can't build a modern economy that works for working people if we turn our backs on the environment. This is the emerging Canadian consensus, Mr. Speaker, and I'm proud to say that Alberta is at the forefront of that consensus. Now, of course, as I said before, there

is no celebrating until the job is done, and we know it is not done and that, in fact, hurdles remain.

British Columbians and Canadians may back us, but we know, as everyone knows now, that the new minority government in B.C. does not. Of course, that is their right. But on January 30 of this year the B.C. government did something that they have no right to do. They took direct and unconstitutional action aimed at harming Alberta's economy, claiming they would restrict the flow of Alberta's resources across their border, what is now known as point 5. To call point 5 a provocation is an understatement. Point 5 undermined the very nature of our Confederation and our economic union, and it's triggered the events that lead us to this day.

Mr. Speaker, from the moment B.C. took its action, Albertans have stood together, and we've executed a careful strategy to protect our jobs, our industry, and the pipeline. We banned B.C. wine and got B.C. to back off its imminent and immediate threat. We established the Market Access Task Force made up of prominent Canadians from around the country to help Alberta win. We continued our court interventions. We increased our outreach to Canadians to win the battle of hearts and minds. Alberta is winning in the courts, where we have won every case brought against the pipeline so far. In the court of public opinion, as I have talked about, more Canadians are with us than ever before. On the national stage we have the backing of many fellow Premiers and the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, as I speak, the federal government is fully engaged with Kinder Morgan and Alberta to ensure that this pipeline is built. As I've said before, I'm optimistic that these discussions will be successful. I'm aware, as well, that the leader of the federal Conservatives as well as the Leader of the Opposition here in this House are fighting against federal support, but let me just say this. When the Leader of the Opposition was in Ottawa, he helped write a \$9 billion cheque to bail out the auto industry, and I simply can't understand why, after first supporting my call for federal help, he would now so forcefully oppose Ottawa backstopping a project that will add tens of billions of dollars to the Alberta economy alone.

Mr. Speaker, now is not actually the time to grandstand. Now is not the time to chase headlines. Now is not the time to score cheap short-term political points. This is a critical moment in our history. Now is the time to stand with and for Albertans, and I encourage the leader of the UCP to put Alberta first – there will be lots of time for politics later – because our first and only focus must be to get as much value from our resources as possible using all the tools that we have at our disposal.

This is where we come to Bill 12, Mr. Speaker. Alberta's energy resources belong to Albertans. They are our natural inheritance upon which we have built this province. In Alberta we have the right to maximize the value of those resources in our interests. With pipeline capacity stretched to a limit, we have the right to choose how our energy is shipped so that Alberta gets the best possible return. Bill 12 gives us that power. With a price differential on our oil taking billions out of our economy, Alberta has the right to act in the public interest to reduce the cost to the treasury and to the economy. Bill 12 gives us that power. With the B.C. government seeking to limit what energy products can flow across provincial borders, we have the right to make that decision in terms of exporting for ourselves. Bill 12 gives us that power. Make no mistake; we will not hesitate to use the powers Bill 12 provides to ensure Albertans get the best return possible for a product that fuels Canada's economy because we Albertans have come too far to ever turn back.

Alberta's energy industry is the bedrock of Alberta's economy. It's defined our past, and it's critical to our future. That's why this government and all Albertans are fighting so hard to defend Albertans' interests. It's why, upon being elected, we chose to set aside the failures of the past and charted a new and better course. With the climate leadership plan we've helped bridge divides that have held us back in the past. No one can ever say that it's the economy or the environment. Alberta has shown that we can lead on both. With the approval of the Trans Mountain pipeline we're closer than ever to breaking the land lock, opening up new markets, and securing our economy for a new generation.

3:50

It hasn't been easy. Important things seldom are super easy, Mr. Speaker. The critics and the naysayers want us to fail. Proving that we can do things differently is a threat to some people, and the promise of change must be joined to the practicalities of politics in a very complex and a very diverse country. But we are closer than ever to the results we need.

At the end of the day, only results will matter. That's what we've been focused on from the very start, drawing on the hard work and ingenuity of this province with a plan to secure a better future. Today our renewed advantage is clear. We are young, we are diverse, and we are confident. We Albertans aim to have the most educated and skilled workforce anywhere in the world. We Albertans aim to ensure that every child, no matter what their circumstance, can achieve their full potential without limit. We Albertans aim to be at the forefront of energy and environmental leadership at exactly the same time. We Albertans aim for the inclusive society that welcomes the world, and we Albertans aim to build a modern, diverse economy that works for the many – the many – not just the few.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, the Trans Mountain pipeline is a means to these many larger ends. We will get there together, and we will do what it takes to make all of this happen. That's why I encourage all members of this House to stand together and vote in favour of Bill 12.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. members, are there any questions or comments to the Premier under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing and hearing none, are there any other members? The Member for Stony Plain.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker [applause].

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be one of the cosponsors of this bill. Unfortunately, I've missed quite a bit of the lively debate that I've heard is going on in this House. But I'm also very proud, as I've stated many times in this House, to be from a family in the oil and gas and to be a pipeliner's daughter. This bill is about protecting the jobs and livelihoods of thousands of Albertans and our ability to keep Canada working. It's simple. When Alberta works, Canada works.

It continues to be the greatest honour to be able to sit in this House to represent the people of Stony Plain, and I can state that on this side of the House we know – I know, Mr. Speaker – how important it is to come to work to do the jobs that we've been elected to do and to engage in fulsome debate in the effort to make Alberta stronger.

We did not start this fight, but let there be no doubt that we will do whatever it takes to build this pipeline, and we will get top dollar in return for the oil and gas products that are owned by every

Albertans, whether they're oil and gas families, health care families, or families that are in education.

While we're standing up for Alberta and a healthy Canadian energy sector, this is for the long-term benefit of all Canadians. We're taking simple steps to defend our workers, our economy, and our progress on climate action, things that we are so proud of having worked on for the last three years on this side of the House. We're giving ourselves the greatest range of tools that we can use as we go forward. A pipeliner is only one step in building a pipeline. This legislation is about having maximum flexibility and leverage in the event of future efforts to delay or block construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline. Mr. Speaker, it's going to be a fantastic day, the day after May 31.

Albertans have been clear: get this pipeline built. We listen to our communities on this side of the House, so we have heard them. Albertans are right because this pipeline must be built. Alberta is prepared to do whatever it takes to get this pipeline built. Every day that it's delayed, the national economy, let alone Alberta's economy, loses millions and millions of dollars. We are barricaded and prevented from moving forward with the economic recovery that so many Albertan families are looking forward to and need so heavily.

In my riding of Stony Plain, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of families that have been affected by the downturn that happened, and there are a number of families that haven't seen the results of the recession being turned around yet. Those families and those constituents of mine in my communities need to see this pipeline built.

Ground zero for this pipeline is in Wabamun. We have seen the investment from Kinder Morgan in Wabamun already. They put money towards a town square that makes it more viable for the tourist industry to come into Wabamun and be part of that community. These are things that wouldn't happen if we didn't have the Trans Mountain pipeline. We know that they're also supporting Enoch, where they put down land for a lay-down yard. Those things are supporting the local economies in the region to the west of the city here, and they wouldn't be happening if this pipeline wasn't going to be built. We recognize the importance of oil and gas.

I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for oil and gas. I wouldn't have the education I have without the oil and gas sector in this province. You know, my father was one of the early retired under the previous government in 2015, when the oil and gas sector tanked. It was a very difficult thing for him to have to deal with. Mr. Speaker, I have to say that he sat and he watched the first budget presentation that our minister put forward. He had all this time; he was on the couch. He called me. My father was up in Fort McMurray for many, many years. He was a member of the PC Party at one point. He was blue through and through. He called me, and he said: "Erin, your family, your caucus, what you are putting forward, this is exactly what Alberta needs today. This is exactly what Alberta needs to go forward." I said to my father: "But why did it take you this long to figure it out?" And he said: "Because we were making money hand over fist. We didn't care. We didn't care that we weren't making what we should be making. We weren't caring that Albertans weren't getting the supports they needed because we were getting money hand over fist." He said: "I've had time to read now for the first time in 40 years, and you're doing it right."

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that for somebody who is a blue-and-blue Conservative to have turned a corner to understand the long-term goals of what we're trying to accomplish in this House and for all Albertans is an amazing thing for me to hear. I think that there are many Albertans who have a similar story, who hear what we're

trying to accomplish and understand that it's for all Albertans because we can't be successful if everybody's not successful.

Mr. Speaker, I am really proud of this bill. I'm really proud of being able to have these tools at our disposal so that we can move this forward in a thoughtful way instead of yelling like children. I will say very clearly that I hope every colleague of mine in this House supports this bill at this reading.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville, on 29(2)(a)?

Mrs. Littlewood: No. Not on 29(2)(a).

The Speaker: Not on 29(2)(a). Please proceed.

Mrs. Littlewood: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to Bill 9, a bill that of course is in the interest of getting the Trans Mountain – oh, Bill 12, not Bill 9. Bill 12, a bill that would see the expansion of the Trans Mountain line into B.C. As another MLA that represents a region where we have a lot of oil and gas industry and a lot of the workers that work in that industry, this is a bill that's really important to me to make sure that I'm representing those voices.

4:00

I've heard a lot from constituents across where I live that are asking, you know: "What are you doing? What is your government doing? When are you going to be passing this legislation?" And it's because they have a feeling of frustration. I think it's tough when you've become accustomed to this boom-bust over a couple of generations, and it makes you concerned for your family, and rightly so. You're not sure when that next cycle is going to hit.

It's an area that has a long history, you know, of being worried about things like the national energy plan, being worried about politicians with the last name of Trudeau. It's a long history that has created a lot of people who are circumspect when government tries to do things that they know, that they believe are in their best interests, but they're suspect.

This is one thing that I think is really important to show people, that we are endeavouring to put all the tools at our disposal that we can, tools that we don't know if we'll have to use or not. But we have to ensure that those tools are at our availability.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

You know, it's my honour to be able to fight in the interests of families and workers and labour groups and industry, all that falls inside of Alberta's Industrial Heartland. We have seen more progress on this file in the last two and a half years than we saw in the previous 44, quite frankly. This pipeline was built back in the 1950s, and the capacity has been reached. The capacity needs to be expanded, and it's not in Alberta's interests to not be able to work with other jurisdictions. That is part of the reason why we have been ending up land locked with a lot of our resources, having to move it by rail, something that's less safe, more expensive. Those were the options that were left to industry.

That wasn't as pressing an issue when oil was at \$140 a barrel, but now, when we saw, of course, a massive dip in the world market prices for oil and gas, we know how important it is to actually make sure that we have the most efficient means of transportation that is also safe and why it is that important to open up our markets and not have to ship billions of dollars and thousands of jobs down to the Gulf coast. That's not in the interests of Alberta, and it's not in the interests of Canada.

Of course, you know, we see the benefits of our oil and gas industry on a day-to-day basis. In my constituency having a job there means being able to own a home. It means being able to put your kids in hockey. It means being able to send your kids to postsecondary, university or college, or getting them into the trades and taking on, potentially, their parents' trade. It means having money in your pocket, hard-earned dollars that you can actually put back into nonprofit organizations, back into your community.

You know, you see some of those direct large-scale impacts because of having these industry partners. In Fort Saskatchewan we have the Dow Centennial Centre. It's not just a rec centre; it's for dance, theatre, recreation, gallery space. We have a hospital where the wing is named for Sherritt International. It's a place where you take your family for world-class health care in Alberta. There are more partners, of course, because it is such a hub of oil and gas activity. We have initiatives like technology purchases that are made by Shell Scotford for local high schools. Dow provides scholarships in the STEM fields and looks at ways to make sure that we are bringing more women into those industries.

The opportunities that have opened up for Alberta have been huge, but they've also been opened up for the rest of Canada. I know that in the city of Fort Saskatchewan we had a pub opened up by people that came from the east coast. People are, you know, opening up different restaurants and pubs with the themes of where they came from because we have so many people of diverse backgrounds come here to make a life for themselves. These opportunities can only be afforded if we actually demand a fair price for those resources.

In continuing to have our economy being held hostage by one customer, the United States, and one price, it causes us to lose billions of dollars and thousands of jobs. You know, now we are seeing that stranglehold on our economy by the B.C. government. That is why we will not hesitate – and we have said that since the Speech from the Throne – to take bold action on this file, the same bold action that Premier Peter Lougheed had taken when our energy economy was attacked in the past.

You know, we cannot be treated as a landlocked country. That is not the point of having a federation of provinces. The point is that we're supposed to be able to work together for a mutually shared benefit. We see the rest of the country. Quebec has \$2 billion worth of their GDP linked into our oil sands. That's why that interprovincial jurisdiction is controlled by the federal government.

We are proud, Madam Speaker, to be identified as Albertans, but we must hold paramount our identity as Canadians. Without access across our provincial boundaries by pipeline or by rail, we would not be able to grow our economies. We stand as a country right now with three coasts. It's not fair that the provinces that enjoy having those coasts directly at their service, so to speak, should make us suffer economically. That's why we have a country that is supposed to be united. Of course, we don't have to look far in the world to see what detrimental effects it has on nations when they are landlocked. That's the problem that we are facing right now. Canada's decade-long inability to diversify our markets and diversify our customers holds our entire country back. That's why I am proud of the actions of our Premier and our government. They have continued to fight on behalf of our province but also on behalf of our entire country.

Burnaby tried to block the Kinder Morgan pipeline in court. That's why we intervened. That's why the Premier intervened. As a result, Trans Mountain was granted an injunction against those same blockades at two terminals. When B.C. tried to limit what could go through an interprovincial pipeline, something they had no right to do, we shut down talks that would have meant \$500 million per year in electricity sales. To put that into perspective,

Madam Speaker, B.C. had fought to get \$20 million a year from Kinder Morgan as part of their previous agreement – \$20 million a year – and we were talking about \$500 million in sales of electricity.

When B.C. threatened the livelihood of 4.3 million Albertans by restricting the flow of our resources, we responded by banning B.C. wine, and I don't believe that that was arrived at easily. We share with B.C. our value of protecting working people. But they had attacked every single Albertan, and our government could not let that stand. This action of banning B.C. wine was applauded by Jim Carter, former president of Syncrude and a member of our new task force that is continuing to look for options that would be available to our government to get the TMX built.

Of course, this pipeline must get built. Alberta has the best regulated oil and gas industry in the world, and we must demand a better price for the resource owners of Alberta. Our government has been able to take that leadership role because we have been the most responsible in taking a stand on climate change. We have capped emissions. We have passed laws that allow coal plants to be converted to natural gas.

4:10

We've decided to expand on the previous Conservative government's action in 2009 that priced carbon from heavy emitters, and we made that market-wide. The specified gas emitters regulation, a carbon tax levied by the previous Conservatives, recognized the impacts of carbon dioxide and applied a price for clean tech and efficiency development. Making this price market-wide allows each Albertan to play a role in our economy while raising the revenue needed to retrain workers, help coal-affected communities develop and build on their strengths, and continue to have their own long-term economic success. Also, it can build greener infrastructure, and it will help companies that are interested in developing technologies. It can recover bitumen, clean tailings ponds, and help Albertans invest in energy efficiency in their own homes.

The Leader of the Opposition should be supporting these efforts. His record under the Harper Conservatives committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent by 2030, down from 2005 levels. Even their friends at the conservative think tank the Manning centre are telling them that carbon pricing is the right thing to do. They also agreed with G7 nations to phase out fossil fuel by 2100, which sounds, Madam Speaker, a little extreme to me, but we should remain responsible developers of those resources.

That is why we developed a plan that is made in Alberta, a plan that leads a path to balancing the economy with the environment, without having a plan imposed on us by the federal government. That is why our province continues to add jobs, 90,000 jobs over 2017. We led the country in GDP growth last year, and we will tie, at least, for growth this year again. Our plan is working. Our plan received approvals from the federal government for two pipelines, and it's helping fund the cleanup of orphan wells and has also expanded employment income eligibility for Albertans that have been hit the hardest during the downturn that we all have seen and felt. As our economy turns around, we will continue to hear good news. Earnings will continue to go up. Investment is increasing. Drilling activity has gone up. Manufacturing has also been on an upswing.

But that doesn't mean that every family has felt it. That's why we know that we are doing the right thing, Madam Speaker. We need to diversify our energy sector. We need to move to where the world's energy economy is moving so that we're not left behind. Right now we need the opportunities that this pipeline, the Trans Mountain expansion, will afford us in the present and in the near future.

Thank you very much for allowing me to speak to this bill. I look forward to supporting it.

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

Seeing none, any other members wishing to speak to the bill? Edmonton-Centre.

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to have the opportunity to rise today to speak to Bill 12, Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act. You know, I have to admit that I have not had a lot of personal history of involvement in the energy or resource industry in the province of Alberta. Though I have lived in this province all my life, probably the closest that I personally got to working with oil and gas were the summers that I spent manning the tar tank and shoveling and raking asphalt with road crews with the city of Edmonton. But, indeed, I recognize that the energy and resource industry in Alberta has been the lifeblood of our province for many, many years.

Indeed, Madam Speaker, it had great benefit, I know, for my own family. You know, my father came to Canada from Trinidad in 1967. He'd taken some training in Trinidad, and when he arrived here, he earned his ticket as an electrician, and he began working in that field. My father was just starting to work during the late '60s, into the early '70s, around about the time that we were starting up with the work in the oil sands. We were first beginning to see the results and benefits of government investment to get that industry started, recognizing, of course, that it was investment by the government which laid the foundations for that industry, which private industry has now built on so successfully and to the benefit of our province.

My father had many years of good work as an electrician. He worked on a number of construction projects across the province, and we recognize that it was royalties that came from the development of that energy industry that were helping to fuel a lot of that construction, that was allowing people to have good jobs. It allowed them to build good homes. We know this was part of what helped my father work because when we had the drop in prices, the economic recession that came in the early '80s, that had an impact on my father's ability to work.

Throughout the mid-80s, as Alberta was struggling with that recession, my father struggled to find work. I remember that he had to go far afield. He would spend weeks away from home working up in the Northwest Territories, northern Alberta, other places. That was the only place work was available. There would be long periods where I wouldn't get to see my dad. Eventually he went on and went back to school. He became an electronics technician, and he was able to work very well in a public service job for the remainder of his career.

He worked repairing equipment at the Royal Alex hospital. I think that is every bit as honourable a job as he had before but, also, work that was, we recognize, fuelled in part by the royalties which were taken in by the government of Alberta, which then allowed us to pay for those public services, which included being able to hire my father to maintain the equipment, which in turn maintained the health of many Albertans at the Royal Alex hospital. So I recognize, Madam Speaker, that the ability for our province to get the best possible price for the resources which we proudly produce is essential to the well-being of Albertans and the Alberta economy.

Indeed, as many speakers before me have noted, it's not just the Alberta economy. Alberta makes incredible contributions to the Canadian economy because of the strength of our resource industry. As people have said, when Alberta does well, Canada does well. Indeed, we've had our discussions in this House about equalization.

We've had members that have expressed their concerns about that formula. But we recognize that the reason Albertans contribute so much to that is because Albertans have done so well, generating a lot of federal tax, which has then gone to the federal government, who then divides that up for equalization payments, as I know all members are aware, although they don't always quite express them in terms quite that accurate.

All that to say, Madam Speaker, that Alberta is an essential part of the Canadian Confederation in what we offer, in what we provide, and the support that we give to the rest of Canada. That's why I'm very happy to speak in support of this bill, a bill to help ensure a pipeline which will help Alberta get our resources to tidewater, where we can access a much better price. Even setting aside any opportunity for further expansion of the oil sands, simply the opportunity to actually send our product to a market where we are not trying to sell to our largest competitor, where we can instead sell it to Asian markets and others who will pay us a better price for what we have: how could I not support a bill that was going to help support that?

Pipelines have been a difficult conversation for Canadians for some time, Madam Speaker. You know, I started watching politics in Canada around 2008. I'm not quite sure exactly what triggered that. But under the government of Prime Minister Harper, I guess, that was about when he got his first – well, there was an election that year, I believe, and the Conservatives had perhaps their first majority. I could be quite mistaken. But I recall that that point is when I first began to watch federal politics. It was of interest to me to watch the way that we communicated and to watch the way the federal government worked with provinces.

Indeed, I watched with some interest as we began to have the discussion around the Northern Gateway pipeline. I recall in January 2012, when one day ahead of the hearings that were going to take place on the Northern Gateway pipeline, at that time Minister Joe Oliver took the opportunity to issue a letter. It was a fairly strongly worded and harsh letter warning that he felt projects were taking far too long to get off the ground and targeting for that specifically what he considered to be environmental radical groups. It took a very particular tone, Madam Speaker, one which someone could read as somewhat antagonistic. I could understand. Again, we understand the importance of this infrastructure for Alberta and indeed for Canada, and I understand that for that particular government it was a particular issue that they wanted to see happen.

4:20

They chose to strike a particular kind of tone in how they approached this. It was an antagonistic tone. It was a very aggressive tone in some respects. In that letter he warned of "environmental and other radical groups," including "jet-setting celebrities" funded by foreign special interests, who "threaten to hijack our regulatory system to achieve their radical ideological agenda." That's not unfamiliar language, Madam Speaker. Certainly, it sounds like language we've heard from particular leaders, leaders of the opposition and others, who think this may be the best approach and best way to get a pipeline built.

But, Madam Speaker, when I look back, I recall what happened with that pipeline. Certainly, that sort of aggressive language and posturing in many ways, I think, just grew stronger opposition. We saw the results of the work of that particular government and the way that they approached trying to get a pipeline built, that sort of belligerence that they brought to their attempts to take another approach with the regulatory system, to take another approach with the consultation, to try to take steps that they felt, in their view, would be able to get that pipeline built faster.

In the end what ended up happening is that even though they provided the approval for that project, subject to 209 conditions, the Federal Court of Appeal ended up ruling that they had failed on the consultation piece. So in their zeal and their zest to try to get things done so quickly, to try to move things along without taking due time, care, and attention, without working with all parties involved, they had significantly failed on that particular piece.

Indeed, the judges said, “The inadequacies – more than just a handful and more than mere imperfections – left entire subjects of central interest to the affected First Nations . . . entirely ignored.” They pointed out that this was not a difficult thing to do. They said: “It would have taken Canada little time and little organizational effort to engage in meaningful dialogue on these and other subjects of prime importance to Aboriginal peoples. But this did not happen.”

Madam Speaker, I bring that up because we need to be careful about how we approach this. We’ve heard numerous accusations from our colleagues across the aisle about the manner in which our Premier and indeed our ministers have gone about advocating for this pipeline. They have expressed a desire to see much more belligerence in the tone, to add much more aggression in how we go about it. They did not like the strategy of the conversation that the Premier continued to have.

Now, Madam Speaker, we know that the Leader of the Official Opposition understands a few things about strategy and building relationships. The evidence of that lies just across this aisle, the fact that he successfully merged these two conservative parties together with a surprisingly minimal loss of members, sitting members, in this House.

Dr. Starke: We didn’t all like it.

Mr. Shepherd: Indeed. Indeed.

But it shows that he had at least some understanding that you don’t have all your conversations in public, that you don’t find all your success by standing and yelling or posturing, that sometimes you sit down and you have conversations with people and you talk out your differences. You discuss what aspects of policy you may or may not agree on, and you find common ground. Much in the same way he has made a public commitment, in fact, to improving the tone of debate in our Legislature, and he’s been largely successful with that, with perhaps some occasional failures, like we saw this morning. But on the whole, again, he has recognized that at times it is appropriate to have a reasonable dialogue and try to maintain a more even tone.

Now, Madam Speaker, I deeply appreciate the work that our Premier has done and her advocacy on this issue. Indeed, when I go out and I knock on doors in my constituency, when I go to various events with people from all sorts of industry and all walks of life, even people who say, “I do not like your party and your policies,” tell me that they like how our Premier has stood up for this pipeline and this project, and that is by using a range of tools, by maintaining a number of conversations, by not discussing all of those conversations publicly but keeping private conversations where they need to belong.

But, also, Madam Speaker, by bringing forward steps like this, not in a belligerent way, not at a time when she had not yet had the opportunity to sit down and talk with our partners in industry and the people who this would also affect – to ensure that we had their support and understanding in moving forward with this, she waited until such a time as it was appropriate, when they had drawn it up in such a way that it would be able to provide the results that we are looking for. And she has been very clear that if the province of B.C. continues to use tools to delay and frustrate the construction of this

project, Bill 12, which we hopefully will have the opportunity to pass today, will be ready and waiting and will be deployed.

Again, Madam Speaker, we want to maintain a good tone. We would love to be able to have this conversation with the province of B.C. and have them work with us and work under the Constitution of this country and under the jurisdiction of the federal government to build this federally approved infrastructure. However, they have shown on multiple occasions that they are not willing to do that in good faith. Indeed, the Premier of B.C. seems to have a penchant for misrepresenting the Premier’s remarks, for trying to paint things in as good a light for himself as he can, and members of our opposition seem to delight in taking him at his word, though they don’t on many other factors.

I will say that this legislation is going to provide us with one of the further tools that we may need. The Premier continues to have conversations with Kinder Morgan, continues to work with the federal government, as does the Minister of Energy and other partners within our government. But we are taking prudent steps to ensure that we have the tools available that we need to work with Kinder Morgan to ensure that the Trans Mountain pipeline is built, that we have the opportunity to move our resources to the best markets, where we can get the best price for the benefit of all Albertans.

As other colleagues have noted, Madam Speaker, we are doing that while also addressing the issue of climate change. Indeed, I do have constituents who come and talk to me, and they express concerns about the ecological costs, the possible environmental costs of continuing to expand the oil sands. It’s been my pleasure to have some great conversations with them. Many of them come to understand much better when we’re done.

Some aren’t quite convinced, but I explain to them the work that we have done in our climate leadership plan by placing that cap on emissions from the oil sands, that will allow for further expansion but, along with the carbon levy, is incenting companies to find ways to reduce the amount of carbon in the barrel. Indeed, Alberta companies, being the entrepreneurs and innovators that they are, are doing that work with this continued investment that comes from the funds that come in from the carbon levy, from investments from the federal government, from the opportunities they have and will have once we get this pipeline built to get a better price for their product.

Alberta is going to lead the way in the world in terms of being a green energy producing, resource-extracting jurisdiction. That is due to the leadership of this Premier, Madam Speaker, and the leadership of our Minister of Environment and Parks, who have worked with industry, who have worked with partners across this country, indeed, have worked with our federal government to . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Under 29(2)(a), the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Loyola: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was so intrigued and so, I’ve got to say, enthralled by the amount of knowledge that the Member for Edmonton-Centre was sharing with us, and I’d like to give him the opportunity to just wrap up his comments if he doesn’t mind.

The Deputy Speaker: Edmonton-Centre.

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I’ll be brief.

All that to say that I am proud of the work that our government has done. I’m proud of the work that we continue to do in what, as I described, has been an incredibly challenging and difficult endeavour for multiple governments in this country, both Conservative and Liberal and indeed now the Alberta NDP. But I am confident in the work that our Premier is doing. I am confident

that with the work of our ministers and the conversations that they continue to have, we will see this pipeline built, we will move Alberta's resource industry forward, and we will do it in a responsible way that will allow us both to support new industries here in the province of Alberta, renewable energy and many other things, and allow us to reduce our emissions and continue to provide the well-paying jobs that allow Alberta families to thrive.

With that in mind, Madam Speaker, I will be proud to vote in favour of Bill 12. Thank you.

4:30

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

Seeing none, any other members wishing to speak to the bill? Edmonton-McClung.

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm really pleased today to rise to speak to Bill 12, Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act. All members I think recognize that we are at a very momentous occasion in our Confederation, actually, when we are considering getting this pipeline built to tidewater. Bill 12 is a pretty serious and powerful tool, and members across the way have recognized this. The Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster has expressed satisfaction that there would be some limitations by means of an expiration date on the powers contained in this bill because he recognizes how strong they are. And strong they must be because if indeed we don't have the ability to get our products to tidewater, if this country has the ability for one province to prevent another from building such a pipeline, then our country is not functioning as a federation and we've reached an impasse. This is the reason, I say, for the seriousness of the situation.

We have a real responsibility to approach the mechanisms for fixing the situation very, very carefully with respect to the long-term consequences for our federation and knowing that there will be long-term consequences one way or the other. The option, of course, is to fail. It can't happen that way, Madam Speaker. The pipeline to tidewater is a responsibility of not only provincial governments but the federal government to ensure that it happens. This is about protecting the jobs and livelihoods of thousands of Albertans and our ability to keep Canada working. It's simple. When Alberta works, Canada works.

You know, I was talking to other members of my caucus, many of whom have had some experience working, as a result of oil field money, in good-paying jobs over the years. I for one did many years in the real estate industry, and we saw the ups and downs in the economic cycles as a result of the price of oil dictating how our economy reacted.

I also in my earlier years worked directly in the oil industry. I actually know the smell of crude oil quite well because I've been covered head to toe in crude oil, working on a service rig just north of Edmonton, in a Redwater oil field in the St. Paul area. So I know exactly what it's like to be directly involved in the oil industry and know what it's like to experience an economy that's on fire as a result of a huge demand for oil and high prices for the product. Now we're not looking at necessarily that type of an on-fire economy because the situation has changed since that time in the '80s, when I was working in the oil patch as a fairly recent high school graduate.

I do remember when former Premier Peter Lougheed actually made his fireside chat speech to the country. I watched that broadcast, and it wasn't a happy day for Confederation in this country. It was something where we were, I think, as a nation very saddened to know that we'd gotten to and reached that point. What Premier Lougheed did at that time, of course, was to empower the

province to reduce exports of oil to Ontario by 15 per cent, thus causing an increase in price and securing the principle that Alberta controls its own resources. This is what Bill 12 will also do in making sure that we tell not necessarily the population of British Columbia – because the enemy in this situation isn't the people of British Columbia; it's the position of the B.C. government. Unlike the situation that happened in the '80s with Premier Lougheed, where the fight was with the federal government, the federal government and the B.C. government are really the combatants, and we're caught in the middle of the situation.

It's a political pickle that nobody could have predicted, but right now that's what we face. The situation is one where we need to arm ourselves with all of the tools necessary in order to show that there are consequences for the position that the B.C. government is taking and that consequences will result in higher prices for petroleum products in British Columbia, thus keeping momentum on the current increase in support for this pipeline in British Columbia.

That momentum is expressed and that sentiment is expressed in calls I've received from former real estate agents that I worked with who are now living in Victoria. Many people, of course, move from Alberta to British Columbia and the island for different reasons, for retirement but also because they like the lifestyle and always wanted to go to British Columbia, to the coast and so forth. They're phoning me and saying: "Right on. Tell Premier Notley and tell the rest of your government caucus that we like what you're doing. We're living here. We've got a constituency of people who are telling us as we're getting together for coffee and we're talking about it that that's what the provincial government in Alberta should be doing because we support that pipeline and we realize that it's a national requirement for our country to be able to move its products to export." That's not something that right now the British Columbia government is purporting to allow.

I remember in younger years when we would go on trips. There were six kids in my family, and we'd go on trips with my grandfather. He'd take two or three of us, and he loved going where new projects were being built. There was a new highway. He loved to take the Yellowhead before it was actually fully complete. He took three of us one year – it would have been probably 1966, something like that, '65 – up to the Bennett dam when it was under construction. This was an exciting thing because, you know, it was something that we heralded, a major project. It was going to be, in that case, hydroelectricity. Back then not as many concerns were expressed or we didn't really look at the side of the equation of where the environment was valued. We would joyfully herald the new construction of a dam, and then when the oil sands were later being developed, we would be very, very happy about that and know that our Alberta technology had triumphed over the difficulty we had in figuring out how to get the bitumen out of the sand and make a viable product. The environment wasn't necessarily in the equation.

Well, that story has changed now, Madam Speaker. It is in the equation, and that's the reason that we have to be responsible stewards of the environment as well as making sure that the resources that we have are developed to our economic benefit. It behooves me – and I'm very, very curious. I'm not sure how many studies have been done on this, but I mean, we should have had extra capacity to tidewater for decades, long before now. To get to this point, where we're at a choke point, when we don't have pipeline capacity to tidewater to match our export capacity, is really a shameful situation to be in. Previous governments, of course, are to blame for that.

We relied upon the U.S. market as a sole market. We were taking a discount on our product for decades by simply relying on the U.S.

market and not developing export capacity and pipelines to tidewater. That situation has cost us billions. As has been mentioned before today by previous speakers, up to \$40 million a day is being lost in economic opportunity because we can't get our product to tidewater. That is a mind-boggling number, \$40 million a day, that we would be able to spend on schools and hospitals and public services and actually build a long-lasting heritage savings trust fund, which we could use as a sovereign wealth investment fund if we can get our product to tidewater and receive full market value for it, full world price for those products.

This bill is, I guess, one more chapter in the story that's being written about Alberta's oil and petrochemical industry. It's one where, hopefully, we'll finally correct a long-standing situation and get this particular pipeline built and ensure that our product gets to tidewater and receives the world price. In the situation that we're in right now, it's difficult to imagine that, you know, we've let it come to this over the decades, but it has happened.

4:40

Now, members opposite have accused this government of perhaps not reacting vociferously enough or, you know, not bashing the federal government and not coming out like gangbusters to attack the federal government for not dealing more harshly with British Columbia. In fact, it's not a strategy that would necessarily have the right effect. It may sound good coming from the opposition benches, but it doesn't necessarily make a winning strategy. Fed bashing as a party policy maybe works well for the opposition, but it's not necessarily good public policy for a government such as ours here in Alberta, that wants to ensure that we have a long-standing relationship not only with British Columbia and the federal government but with all other provinces as well because there are going to be situations that arise in the future where other provinces wish to transport commodities across provincial boundaries and into other international markets where this will be seen as a precedent.

That's one other element that I think we have to be careful about, Madam Speaker, to concern ourselves with the precedent we're setting for our federation constitutionally as far as the ability of provinces to transport across interprovincial boundaries and to international markets commodities such as petroleum – it could be other commodities as well down the road – which there may be interprovincial disputes around. What we're doing here we have to be very, very careful with and keep an eye to the precedent that we're setting. It is one that, hopefully, will be seen as a way or a pattern or a method or a behaviour of solving disputes interprovincially that is reflective of what used to be called co-operative federalism, a collaboration of different levels of government that show examples of how this federation can work.

To attack the federation, to attack the federal government when there are jurisdictional disputes or where there's a situation such as we're in right now doesn't necessarily bode well for the future of the federation. I think the tactics, the strategies that we have taken, and the federal government as well, as we approach the fulcrum of this issue have been demonstrably the right ones to have taken. We see that there are possibilities of success coming forward, and we know that the probability of this pipeline actually getting built is pretty, pretty high. We'll do everything necessary to make sure it actually happens because every MLA in this House has constituents whose livelihoods depend upon the petroleum industry.

The Kinder Morgan pipeline runs through my riding, and I look forward to the day when a secondary line by Kinder Morgan will be running through that constituency, taking all kinds of products to the coast: petroleum products, bitumen, and – who knows? – maybe even some diesel fuel. I expect that that situation, with the pipeline still being a single pipeline, will be finally solved in the not-too-distant

future, but it will be solved by people actually getting together. No matter what dispute a person is involved in or our governments are involved in, ultimately, whether you're bashing each other, if you're going to get it solved, you have to sit down and talk to each other reasonably. To start out that way is probably the way to go forward from the beginning. I don't see the benefit, as the Leader of the Official Opposition suggests, of basically going to war with the federal government when, in fact, I think it can be shown that they have been pretty diligently covering . . .

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

Ms Fitzpatrick: I was quite interested in what the member had to say, in particular about collaboration between federal and provincial, if you'd like to say a little more about that.

The Deputy Speaker: Go ahead.

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's always pained me in this country – and I've been a student of politics for a very, very long time here – when we find that different levels of government or provinces end up at loggerheads with each other over whatever type of dispute may be in the offing on the particular day in question. As I mentioned before, once a dispute happens, in order to resolve it, ultimately people climb down from their platforms and negotiate in good faith and with respect and actually get the job done and solve the issue at hand.

This one, this issue, getting this pipeline to tidewater, is a particularly tricky situation. I don't think anybody could have predicted or even would have thought of the various different marbles that are in the air politically that happened to land in the places they did in Canada. The fact is that we are where we are. We have a B.C. provincial government that is under threat of losing power if they don't meet the demands of the three members of the Green Party there. That dictates some of their behaviour, and that of course has to be taken into account. It's a reality. I don't tend to speak in analogies because I think they can get twisted and turned although they are sometimes quite humorous. Our Government House Leader is one of the best at turning a good analogy.

But I know that with the situation that we have right now, the reality of it is, I think, strong enough to deal with as far as looking at a story of what lays before us rather than depending upon analogies. The fact is that the B.C. government is going to have to accede to the reality of the situation, that we have a Confederation that allows us to get that product to tidewater. We've had 14 court decisions that say that.

I look forward to our government's continuing strategy of respectfully but very forcefully making it known that we have the right – and the willingness to enforce that right – to get our products to tidewater, to get this approved pipeline built. Madam Speaker, the intention of this government in bringing forward Bill 12 is to ensure that the British Columbia government knows full well that we're prepared to use this legislation if indeed we have to.

Premier Lougheed in the 1980s was not pleased that it had come to the situation where he ended up having to act on the powers that he had at his disposal then to ensure that this provincial resource was demonstrably controlled by the province. In this case many years later, Madam Speaker, we are with different circumstances showing British Columbia, showing Canada, showing this whole federation that we will do what we need to do to protect our rights as a provincial government to control the flow and movement of our resource products across provincial boundaries to our national tidewater.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Seeing none, any other members wishing to speak to the bill? The hon. Minister of Finance.

4:50

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to stand up and to speak to Bill 12, Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act, and to say how proud I am of the Minister of Energy and the Premier for bringing this bill to our attention in this House. Another way of thinking about this bill, as some have called it, is the Shutting Off the Taps bill. It is evident, if you read the bill, that right under section 2(3) it talks about that any shipper, any company exporting natural gas, crude oil, or refined products must obtain a licence first, and there'll be a decision made about whether, in granting that licence, it is in the public interest of Alberta to do so. That's how serious this is.

We know that the public interest in Alberta and indeed Canada is not upheld if the important natural resources, that are part of this province's great legacy – they're lawfully produced, lawfully created – are not allowed to get to market. Unfortunately, for far too long we've had those constraints in this province.

We can know that Budget 2018 lays out before us a whole section on the importance of market access. That market access of a lawfully produced product is the right of companies, and it's the right of this province to receive the benefit from that product by way of royalties and other taxes. Unfortunately, there are some who choose not to behave in the way that all Canadians need to behave, which is to respect the laws of this land. So the actions that we are initiating today lay the groundwork for actions that may need to be taken, and our Minister of Energy, under the direction of the Premier of this province, will do what's in the best interest of the public in Alberta each and every time a licence is applied for. We have to ensure that both this province and this country are seen by the rest of the world as states they can count on in terms of lawful behaviour, and when we can't count on that, we do ourselves a lot of harm.

I was flipping through Budget 2018 and looking at the number of places where we've had to make forecasts kind of trying to understand, make assumptions on what the future will be. Madam Speaker, those assumptions, those forecasts are made way more difficult because we cannot count on the lawful activities of another province.

We are in a difficult situation as a province as a result of the oil price crash in late 2014 and 2015, which carried on through 2016 and 2017, and only now are we seeing some lightening of that whole situation. You know, we're four months, five months into 2018, and the whole idea of lower for longer in terms of oil price forecasts have been realized but are made doubly more difficult because companies want to continue to produce and are doing it in better and better ways. We know that, looking out, there will be production gains in this province as a result of the oil sands producers doing even better in terms of their efficiencies, and those gains are troublingly constrained in this province. If they can't make sure they get to international prices, notably tidewater access, then, frankly, we're underachieving as a province, and we're underachieving as a country. My colleagues here have laid out quite convincingly what that lack of being able to address our real capacity will mean for this province, will mean for this country.

Madam Speaker, we don't want to constrain this country and this province. We want to achieve the best value for a nonrenewable resource. That's the right and proper thing, knowing that you can't make any more oil in the ground. When you exploit it in a lawful way, you should be able to get the highest price for it.

We're doing other things in Budget 2018 to try and redress that by looking at incentivizing private companies to do partial upgrading, but that's not the kind of thing that'll happen quickly. It'll be years and years before that is achieved in this province. That's really the direction that Albertans want to go, and they often ask the question: why has that not happened earlier in this province's history? There are probably some good reasons, but it's not an excuse to not take another look at it, to try and do it right this time, Madam Speaker. We know that there's a partial upgrader under development now. It's in the testing phases, and it'll be ramping up into higher and higher production in the future. It being joined by other partial upgraders is probably a good thing for this province to get a higher value for this nonrenewable resource.

But the things we can do today are encompassed in Bill 12. Bill 12 is significant to the extent that the Minister of Energy has been in consultation with producers of oil in this province, energy companies. She has their support. She wanted to make sure that there are no surprises in any of these actions that are identified in Bill 12, and there are no surprises because she's met with these producers. She's met with them and talked about the actions government could take and will take and is taking. They're onside as well. We know that there are a growing number of Albertans and Canadians who support this action.

We need to always reflect. You know, these are actions that are important. We need to reflect. We need to be sober and think about these things. My colleagues have done that. They're ready to pass this bill because then we can begin to show the rest of the country, particularly those who would take unlawful actions, that this is how you move things forward, that this is how you stand up and say: I need to be counted because I'm taking actions that are within our purview. We're not doing anything a person or a company wouldn't do who was lawfully following the rules of this country and looking for the proper redresses for their activities.

As a group we're in a place, you know, we wish we wouldn't have to be in, but frankly we've been pushed as a Legislature into these actions. We're taking them because it's the right thing to do not just for us, not just for Albertans today, but it's the right thing to do for the future of this province going forward.

Thank you very much.

5:00

The Deputy Speaker: Any members wishing to comment under Standing Order 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, any other members wishing to speak to the bill? The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-St. Albert.

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's an honour to rise today and talk on this bill although it's not one that I am particularly excited that we've had to bring forward. You know, I've been reflecting on this bill a lot in the past weeks and thinking about what it means for the province, for the country, and why I ultimately support it.

Before I really get into that, I want to first take a moment to talk a little bit about a piece of my childhood. We had a spot out at Lac La Nonne that we went to every weekend. Most weekends we were out there we spent fishing, and occasionally we'd go berry-picking and such. There were, you know, many days in Alberta, having the unpredictable weather that we do, that we would end up being rained out so that, instead, we would end up sitting around the kitchen table, often playing cards.

Now, I bring this up because anybody who has played cards knows the importance of a trump card. This is a card that you don't want to waste, that you want to be very careful with. Now, there are some that will often play it at the first opportunity they can, and

they'll get really excited because they've played their trump card and they've won that round. You know, two or three rounds later they go to play that trump card, but they've already played it, and now they're not doing as well as they could have if they had played a bit smarter earlier.

Madam Speaker, I think that's a very similar situation that we could have found ourselves in today, and that is a situation indeed that we were in for far too long with a Conservative government here in Alberta and a Conservative government in Ottawa, where instead of trying to work co-operatively and collaboratively and really listen to everybody and play strategically, as it were, there was a tendency to immediately stomp your feet and hold a press conference, where anybody who's critical of anything to do with oil and gas was anti-Alberta. Thinking back to the trump card, it sounds a lot like some of the rhetoric we hear down south.

But there's a very important change in strategy that we took when we formed government, and that was to try to work more collaboratively with all of our stakeholders. You know, we had the climate leadership plan, where we had industry and indigenous groups and environmental groups all collaborating on: how can we as a province move forward and try to advance on some of those criticisms that we were facing? Now, members of not just the Official Opposition but indeed some of the smaller parties that are represented in this House have criticized the climate leadership plan in a lot of ways. That is their right, but it is also very concerning that there is a continued tendency to try to ignore some of the criticisms that we're facing. So I was very proud to see that we took that shift and we tried to work collaboratively to address some of the concerns that we are faced with.

Now Alberta is situated to become one of the greenest oil-producing economies anywhere in the world, and I'm very proud of that. But the fact that we are creating a greener economy is currently being hamstrung by the fact that that oil we produce, that is the source of the economic activity for so many in this province – indeed, thinking back to the lake, there was a family just down from us that was from Fort McMurray. They, of course, had a much longer drive. We drove an hour; they drove several every weekend to be there.

It's very concerning that for the barrel that we sell, we are seeing a massive price difference. For the same barrel produced down south from the same type of extraction, we're seeing a \$15 to \$20, sometimes higher, price difference between what we can sell our product for and what an American source can sell for. Now, historically that wasn't as big a concern. There wasn't too much activity. There was activity but not as much in the States. They certainly weren't producing as much oil as they were consuming, so we sold oil anyway. That led to our booming economy. Indeed, it was fairly good for us. But then fracking came along, and the Americans expanded their extraction. Now the group who used to be our biggest customer is our biggest competitor. They've prided themselves on becoming an energy exporter. You know, I can't blame them for that. That's fair enough, but it's something that we have to respond to.

Now, many people would say: well, we should simply refine all of our oil here. Indeed, I think that that is something that is good for us to look at, how we can refine our oil. But that's Bill 1; this is Bill 12.

I'm very happy to see that we're working towards a pipeline to the west, but I'm very, very concerned that our neighbours to the west are trying to block that. I have heard some people raise concerns, when I talk to some of the few contacts I have in B.C., about: "Well, how would you feel if the pipeline ran through your community? How would you feel if this was your backyard that you're talking about?" Now, I don't believe that you've been to my

office, Madam Speaker, but I have a map of Spruce Grove on my office wall. On it I have marked where Trans Mountain runs through my community. So in response to that criticism, I am very happy to see that we have oil in every community in this province. We are impacted by it in every community in this province, and that is why I am so especially concerned that we have had our neighbours to the west trying to block our industry.

That gets me to why I support this bill, although hesitantly. I would have hoped that it wouldn't have been necessary, but I hope that all members in this Assembly can support this bill and get our product to market.

Thank you.

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

Seeing none, any other speakers? The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's an honour to speak to Bill 12 here at third reading. I along with my Alberta Party colleagues will proudly be supporting this bill, but I think it's important that we understand the context that got us to this point. I will say that it is a terrible shame that it has come to this, that in the great Confederation of Canada we need to be in a position where we pass legislation in this Assembly that could have the impact of hurting our neighbours. It's unfortunate because the reason that we need to do that is that our neighbours have chosen to take actions that hurt the people of Alberta. It's a real shame that it got to this point.

5:10

When I reflect on how it is that we got to this place and why it is that we find ourselves in this position, I can't help but think what it is that this government could have done sooner to ensure that we were in a better position, to ensure that it didn't come to this. This is a government that's moved forward very aggressively with an environmental platform, with what they call their climate leadership plan, and I truly think that they believe that by simply having a carbon tax in the province of Alberta, the majority of the people of British Columbia and the government of B.C. would go: "You know, good enough. I'll accept that grand bargain. I see that Alberta is taking action on climate change, so those of us in B.C. will accept the pipeline." I think that was meant to be this grand bargain, this great trade-off. But, of course, here we are. It obviously hasn't worked out that way.

The issue of climate change is a defining issue of our time. It's an issue that the people of Alberta and the people of B.C., certainly the government of Alberta and the government of B.C., both being New Democrat governments, ought to be aligned on. Alberta has taken action to reduce carbon emissions, to stimulate investment and innovation that's going to not only address carbon emissions, water use, land use, environmental impacts of oil and gas production in the province of Alberta, but those technologies are going to be the next generation that's going to diversify our economy. That's the idea behind what this government has been pushing. What is such a shame is that that aspect has not been shared with the people of British Columbia. The environmental benefits of shipping Alberta crude through British Columbia to world markets have not been aggressively marketed by this government, certainly not until recently. I would even argue that the environmental case has never really properly been made by this government to the people of British Columbia.

Sure, they talk about the economic benefits, and those are real. Those are real to the people of British Columbia. Those are real to

indigenous communities all along the route, both in British Columbia and in Alberta. There is real, genuine partnership with indigenous peoples. Kinder Morgan did a remarkable thing in the work that they did with consultation with indigenous communities, and good on them. I think they've set a standard for what that consultation can and should look like. Is support unanimous? Of course it's not. I don't think you'll ever get unanimity on really any issue, certainly not an issue as contentious as this one, but I do think the process has been very good in terms of how indigenous peoples have been consulted. Again, that is not something this government has done much work to really emphasize.

Instead of talking up the environmental benefits of this pipeline, instead of talking up Alberta's track record as a responsible producer of oil and gas, as a responsible regulator – in fact, our regulator is world renowned. Alberta exports its regulatory expertise all around the world. This is something that we should be shouting from the rooftops, that Alberta should be the shining example that the rest of the world aspires to. Well, the good news is that Alberta is the shining example that the rest of the world aspires to. Our regulatory structure is far, far more advanced than the United States even and certainly in comparison to the countries whose crude we will be displacing on the market with Alberta oil sands crude, places like Venezuela, Nigeria. Their track records are abysmal. Their human rights records are just abhorrent. Alberta has the most environmentally responsible, the most socially responsible oil and gas industry in the whole world, and that is something we ought to be fiercely proud of in this province.

Unfortunately, it's not a story that's been told loudly enough or often enough by this government. As a result, we are in this position where British Columbia is retaliating against Alberta crude and, I guess, a pipeline that, by the way, has gone through I think one of if not the most extensive regulatory review processes in the history of these sorts of projects. The 157 conditions that were placed on the project I think speak to the comprehensive nature of that environmental review. We have gone through a review. The project has been approved by the national regulator, the National Energy Board. It has been approved by the federal government, and it should go ahead.

But for political reasons in terms of saving their own political hide, in terms of the fact that the B.C. NDP find themselves in a position to be propped up by just three lonely Green Party MLAs, we are in a position of having to potentially take action to make sure we maximize return to Albertans from our natural resources. That's what this bill is all about. That is why while I certainly do not wish that producers would need to suffer from having the powers that are invested in this bill be used, if that's what it comes to, well, so be it. That's what has to happen. But if that is what it comes to, I think it's very important that this government think very hard about what compensation industry would receive.

Now, I've talked with many, many people in industry, both in my constituency, just walking down the street, and talking formally with advocacy groups, part of the energy industry, and they have said to me in general terms: "We are supportive of Bill 12. We're onboard with this. We'd really rather it didn't have to come to this, but here we are." But there is some concern about whether there would be compensation paid should the government of Alberta dictate to whom and when and where and in which volumes Alberta product is shipped.

There's concern about the impact on existing shipper agreements. Would the companies, the shippers perhaps be exposed to legal liability? Certainly, there's a financial liability. Again, there's an understanding that we're in this thing together as Albertans and as Albertan companies and that if this is what it takes to get a pipeline built in the best interests of our province, well, so be it. That's what

it takes. I would have liked to see in this bill or at least hear more definitively from the Minister of Energy or from the Premier specifically what the plan would be for compensation. We haven't heard that. I have heard more generalities, that perhaps, maybe, possibly something might happen, but I would have liked to have seen more specific detail on that.

The other piece is that when you have a piece of legislation as powerful as this, this power ought to be limited in some way. That is why I was so pleased that the government did in fact accept the Alberta Party amendment brought forward by the Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill – and thank you very much to her for stewarding that amendment through the Assembly – that added a sunset clause to this bill.

This bill will expire unless further renewed by the Legislative Assembly, and I believe that has given industry some assurance that these dramatic powers will not exist in perpetuity unless there is a legitimate need for them. We are in extreme times, and desperate and extreme times call for desperate measures. That's what this bill is. So it is good that we have been able to limit the power of government to exercise such powers to a relatively short period of time, until hopefully we bridge and get past this point that we find ourselves in and these powers are no longer needed. But to the degree that they would be, they're there and can be exercised.

We'll certainly be supporting this bill, especially given the acceptance of the government – and thank you again for working collaboratively across the aisle – to build in that sunset clause to improve the bill. I look forward to voting for Bill 12 at third reading.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Does anyone have any questions or comments under Standing Order 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, any other members wishing to speak to the bill? The hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased and honoured to speak to support this very important bill for our province. Like many Albertans, I had a long career in the energy industry. I started, actually, as a receptionist for an oil company, a little one called Petrocorp. Like many oil companies, it expanded, changed its name.

I was really fortunate to meet a lot of very good people throughout my career. I moved from being a receptionist into business development, and that helped me parlay the rest of my career. I've been really lucky to work in many areas of the energy industry – drilling, operations, accounting, land management, even the oil sands – and the energy industry made my life better, like it has for many others in the province. Bill 12 is necessary to ensure that our energy products can reach their markets and that Albertans can continue to have careers that provide a good standard of living.

Bill 12 was introduced because we're dealing with a set of extraordinary circumstances in Alberta's history and Canada's history. The situation we want to solve with this bill will hopefully be resolved very quickly. In conversations with industry stakeholders there's wide support for the bill and the temporary actions it enables to ensure that Albertans get the maximum return on Alberta's natural resources. We're not getting that now, and it's having a negative impact on both government revenue and investment in our province.

I'm glad that both the government and caucuses in opposition recognize the urgency of acting to resolve our pipeline dispute with B.C. as soon as possible by working together to include a sunset clause amendment to this bill. The power to arbitrarily dictate to whom, where, and when industry can sell their products will only continue so long as the Legislature approves it to continue.

5:20

As a national priority improving Alberta's pipeline access to tidewater strengthens the economic security of our entire country. I'm proud to be part of an Assembly that has set aside partisanship to get this measure passed. This isn't just about one pipeline; it's about the ability of our nation to support provinces when they are contributing to our national prosperity.

In the wake of questions about Canada's commitment to global investment and trade and the measures that some in B.C. have taken to show that not all British Columbians oppose the pipeline, we have to reaffirm our commitment to being open for business in the 21st century. It's crucial to our future. Investor and customer confidence is key to ensuring that Alberta continues to attract capital and growth in oil and gas, renewable energy, and other sectors more broadly.

We have to simultaneously show that we are committed to our established energy industry and that we are continuing to innovate and diversify. Showing that Alberta is committed for the long run to defending our exports, whether in energy or other forms, will become increasingly critical to our ability to attract and retain investments in renewable energy, in artificial intelligence, in rural connectivity, and in other emerging infrastructures and sectors for future economic growth.

This bill is a prudent bipartisan measure, which I'm proud to support.

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

Seeing none, I will recognize the hon. Member for Calgary-Shaw.

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before I begin, I do want to open with some of the comments that came from the Member for Calgary-Elbow about the three lonely Green MLAs. While I strongly disagree with the policies that come from the B.C. Green Party, don't be so hard on a three-person caucus. [laughter] That got a laugh out of him.

Nonetheless, you know, the one thing I've reflected on during this session of the House is, really, the history of the NDP and where we've come from as a legacy. When I look back at 1932, when our party was founded under the previous banner of the CCF in Calgary, my hometown, in a uniting of the UFA and Labour, it was really coming with the heat of the Great Depression and a focus on sustainable resource development, whether that's growing off the land or it's mining or extracting our natural resources or our nonrenewable resources. It was always focused on very sustainable ways. When I think back to J.S. Woodsworth or M.J. Coldwell or any other previous leaders, like Tommy Douglas, I cannot see any of them standing in the way of this pipeline development.

So I find it unfortunate and very disrespectful to the legacy of our predecessors in this party for the B.C. NDP to be standing in the way of this development. You know, when we go across the country and we talk to our colleagues from the NDP in Saskatchewan or the NDP in Manitoba and hear the support that they have, they recognize the value that this has within the federal landscape and how we all are going to benefit from this.

When I look back at where we came from and the history side of things – you know, I remember when Peter Lougheed passed away. My parents were emotional. My parents are long-time New Democrat supporters, and it comes as far back as my great grandmother, who carried a century club membership because she donated \$10 a year, and that was a lot of money at that time. Nonetheless, they got emotional at that time because Peter Lougheed did a lot of great things for this province. While they

disagreed on some things, when it came to resource development, there was a lot of agreement here.

As we move forward with this policy and many of the policies that our government has done, we really take pride and celebrate the legacy that we got from Peter Lougheed and many of the accomplishments and things that he did. Unfortunately, that government lost its way after his departure. We stopped seeing investment in petrochemical diversification, and we saw a little bit of pullback. We stopped seeing money being put into the heritage savings trust fund. Fortunately, an NDP government came into place, and we've started to restart and kick-start a lot of those programs, including investing in petrochemicals, trying to diversify the economy in that way, investing in other sectors while recognizing the value of our oil and gas sector.

The one thing that I have to comment on. You know, we talk about our climate leadership plan and the initiatives that we've launched to really try to achieve social licence. When people say that it hasn't worked, that could not be further from the truth. The fact of the matter is that we had a lot of challenges with the narrative when we got into government. We saw previous governments that were not consulting with people across this country in the appropriate ways and sharing the story appropriately. While we were having a lot of our oil and gas companies like Kinder Morgan sharing the story in a very sustainable way, we saw a lot of bullying coming from previous governments. We didn't see the right message, and we weren't celebrating the leadership that we were seeing from our energy companies at that time.

The reality of it is that if you look at the national narrative on it, the narrative that we were getting from the previous Conservative governments around pipeline development was why they lost the last federal election, because Canadians rejected that narrative. And it's one of the reasons why we gained this election, because the previous government was not sharing the story appropriately.

If you look at the polls right now, every single news media – I hear about polls in relation to pipeline development and support for the pipeline – is saying that public opinion continues to go up. The reality of it is that it's because we have a government that is taking the environment seriously while developing resources. We have a government that understands the importance of social programs and social licences, who does amazing initiatives that were overlooked for many years, whether it's basically trying to solve the challenges we're having around payday lending or private members who are bringing forward legislation to allow women who are in domestic violence to break their leases.

The fact of the matter is that we have a government who cares about people and their well-being and is going to put policies in place while bringing policies in place to protect the environment while supporting resource development. People are taking our message very seriously, and that is why across this country we are continuing to see the polls go up and why the narrative is starting to shift.

The fact of the matter is that we have this very strong enabling piece of legislation, that I am very proud to support, that will continue to drive that narrative. If we have to use this, if we have to enact it, we will have a tremendous amount of support that's coming from across this country. The people of B.C. are going to look at this and say: this government, the Alberta government, has done so much for the environment, and our government has continued to stand in their way. That's why I'm proud to stand here and support this legislation, because I think it's a final tool. If we have to use it, we can.

You can already start seeing the narrative shift in B.C., and I really hope, if the B.C. government and their members are watching this, that they recognize that their people, the people in B.C., know

this is important for them. They know that pipeline development is going to benefit jobs, that the First Nations are behind it, and that, you know, if we have to reluctantly go down a path to ensure that all Canadians can prosper from our resources, we will.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments under Standing Order 29(2)(a)? The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

Mr. Loewen: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Now, I just wanted to, I guess, talk a little bit about this and maybe ask the member a couple of questions here. We're sitting here on May 16, I guess, and we're about to pass this Bill 12 that the government has been working on. This bill was brought forward on April 16. We've been sitting on this bill for a month now. Obviously, this is a bill of extreme importance. Obviously, I think everybody in here at least says that they believe that this pipeline is important to Alberta and important to Canada. This government, of course, brings this bill forward only a month ago, and we spend a month here, and we work on lots of other things. This bill could have been passed long ago, so I'm kind of wondering if the member could maybe explain a little bit along those lines as far as: why?

Of course, we had the Speech from the Throne on March 8. We started in the Legislature here on March 12. So there was even a month before that that we were sitting in this Legislature where we could have been working on this bill. We could have had this bill passed, probably, by March 14 had the government brought it forward, but of course here we are, sitting here on May 16, two weeks from the deadline that Kinder Morgan has put on this pipeline decision. If this bill is that important that we could actually use this to encourage British Columbia to stop their plan to, you know, stop this pipeline, then why wouldn't we be working on this two months ago? Why would we not have this passed already? Why would we not already be able to use this to work on this pipeline?

5:30

Now, I know that some other members on the government side have suggested that we have belligerent words on our side and that this needed to be handled differently. Of course, we remember here not too long ago a dispute that we had with Saskatchewan regarding licence plates on work sites. Now, just reading from a couple of news articles, as I said: on Thursday Alberta again threw down the gauntlet, saying that Saskatchewan has until next week to reverse the decision. The Minister of Economic Development and Trade warned about other unnamed consequences. He also went on to say that Brad Wall needs to smarten up. So this government sits here and says that we use harsh words on this side of the House, which isn't even true, and then we have a situation where when it comes to dealing with Saskatchewan over the licence plates issue, this government made all sorts of threats. They made all sorts of accusations and, you know, called people names. Of course, you know what happened one month later? The problem was solved.

But when it comes to dealing with their friends and allies in British Columbia, the NDP government there, and their friends and allies in Ottawa, the Liberal government there, it seems like they've got velvet gloves on and they just can't say anything or do anything to offend them. Of course, when it comes to Saskatchewan, there's no problem. There's probably been no province that's been a greater ally on the pipeline dispute than Saskatchewan.

I just want the member to kind of explain a little bit of the thought process that goes on over there when they say that they really care about this pipeline issue. We've been sitting here for over two

months in this Legislature, and we're in the process here now where we might be actually getting to pass this bill today. All I can say is: about time. About time.

Now, another thing is that when we're talking about harsh words – we heard multiple times the government talking about inflicting pain on the people of B.C. with this turn-off-the-taps legislation. That sounds pretty harsh, those kinds of words: inflicting pain on the people of B.C. But the problem is that it isn't the people of B.C. that's the problem; it's the government of B.C. that's the problem, the NDP government of B.C. It's not the people of B.C. Those are our friends and neighbours, but we have a government there that's doing everything it can to obstruct what's best for Alberta and for Canada. Of course, we also have a Prime Minister in Ottawa that has the power to make this go through, and he's doing nothing for us.

Madam Speaker, I just wanted to have the opportunity to have the hon. member respond to some of these things as far as why we're sitting here two months after we started the Legislature. We're finally passing this legislation. We're two weeks before the deadline that Kinder Morgan has put out. I don't understand why we've delayed this long with something so important. Again, it's about time. Let's get this thing done and get this thing passed and then see what we can do about getting this pipeline to happen.

Thank you.

Mrs. Schreiner: Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise and speak today regarding my support for the Trans Mountain project, that would benefit my constituency of Red Deer-North immensely. Fellow members, my city of Red Deer engages many of the support aspects for our oil and gas industry. With a population of over 100,000 this pipeline would mean tremendous growth and breathe a strong sigh of relief for Red Deerians as well as all Albertans. Red Deer has been home to many of the oil and gas service companies for many years. It is our mandate as legislators within this Chamber to strive to support our oil and gas industry as it has provided so much to our great province for decades.

Supporting the Trans Mountain pipeline would result in a stronger economy for Red Deer as well. It means that families can continue to provide the necessities as well as some of the extras for their households. It means that people can breathe easier, embracing the economic recovery that provides peace of mind. This pipeline enables families to put food on their tables and helps regain the momentum that the recent downturn had impeded.

Madam Speaker, a strong economy means that people are working and supporting other industries. When we are in a position of strong economic stance, we see retail and hospitality flourish. The entrepreneurial spirit that our great province was built on becomes alive again and knows no limits. With the recent degree-granting status of our Red Deer College, we will see our future Albertans seeking the education that reinforces the strength of our workforce both within the oil and gas industry as well as the peripheral. This pipeline means growth.

Members, it was three years ago that we initiated the momentum to diversify the Albertan economy. By investing in infrastructure, we created an environment that segued to our current position. The QE II corridor is now safer for our Albertans to travel on and to transport product. The conditions are becoming optimal to stand together as a province and as legislators and to do what we can to bring this pipeline to fruition. Our progress cannot be capped because we do not want to cap the potential for our Albertans, our economy, or the realm of prosperity that this project represents.

While I realize that this speaks to the potential for all Albertans, it is my duty and my privilege to bring to the forefront what the

Trans Mountain pipeline means to my Red Deerians. Madam Speaker, Bill 12, Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act, is about protecting the jobs and livelihoods of thousands of Albertans and Canadians, and we know that when Alberta works, Canada works. Our government will do whatever it takes to build this pipeline and to get top dollar in return for the oil and gas products that are owned by all Albertans.

Madam Speaker, I fully support Bill 12 and hope all in the House support it as well. Thank you.

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

Seeing none, are there any other members wishing to speak to the bill? The hon. Member for Calgary-Northern Hills.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's nice to have an opportunity here this afternoon to speak to Bill 12, Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act. Through Bill 12 our government is demonstrating that we are standing up for Albertans, and by doing that, we are standing up for a healthy Canadian energy sector, including all working women and men that are employed in it.

Historically speaking, our biggest customer for Alberta oil and gas has been the United States, but in recent years it has shifted dramatically. At this point the United States is not only our biggest customer; they're also our biggest competitor. As a result, oil and gas resources that are sold to other markets from this province are being sold at a discount, and the spread between western Canada select and WTI, west Texas intermediate, is costing energy producers in this province, and it is costing the province in potential royalties that we could be collecting. I find this discrepancy unfortunate, and we must find additional ways to get our natural resources to foreign markets.

That is why our government supports the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. We firmly believe that the twinning of this pipeline project will help oil and gas producers get better value for their products and that we as Canadians will all share in the benefits derived from these resources. Passing Bill 12 will ensure that the interests of Albertans are optimized before authorizing the export of natural gas, crude oil, or refined fuels from Alberta. This legislation would give our government authority, if necessary, to require any company exporting energy products from Alberta to require a licence. It is legislation that is centred on making sure that government has a series of mechanisms, if necessary, to protect the best interests of Albertans.

5:40

I'd like to take a moment to talk about some of the feedback that I've heard from constituents in Calgary-Northern Hills. Through my travels, events, and door-knocking this topic has turned up frequently in conversations. In fact, I can think of a few constituents specifically keenly interested in shutting off the taps and sending a message to other areas of the country that oil and gas resources are important and that we all depend on them to heat our houses, to fuel our vehicles, and to power our aircraft. Then there are the petrochemicals and plastic products we use every day. Madam Speaker, I've tried to go a day without using a plastic cup or plastic cutlery, wearing polyester clothes. It's not easy. These products are literally everywhere.

Bill 12 has not only received the endorsement of many constituents in Calgary-Northern Hills, but I'd like to take a moment to read an endorsement from the mayor of Calgary, Mayor Naheed Nenshi. He said:

I'm strongly behind Premier Notley on whatever she does to push this. I'm also calling on the federal government and their

jurisdiction in this matter and ensure that we don't hold up the economy of all of Canada –
to make sure that we have
... safe, clean Canadian energy – for political reasons in our province.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is about being prepared for action should it be necessary. As many have said before me, the power of this legislation should not be taken lightly. We must defend our rights under the British North America Act to ensure the best possible value for our resources. These are resources that belong to all Albertans. We need to defend the public services that all working families have come to rely on.

With that, I'll be supporting Bill 12 and hope that every member of this Assembly will join me in their support. Thank you.

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

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

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Obviously, we are running a bit short on time, so my comment will be simply to say that I couldn't be gladder that this is a step that our government is taking and a tool that we're willing to give ourselves.

With that, I think I will just request unanimous consent from the House to move to one-minute bells.

[Unanimous consent denied]

The Deputy Speaker: Any other speakers to the bill? The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's indeed my pleasure to rise and close debate at third reading of Bill 12, Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act. I want to start by thanking members on all sides of this Assembly who have spoken in favour of this bill. It's never a great day when you have to bring legislation like this forward, when you're forced to defend workers and families across Alberta and indeed Canada from unfair and misinformed attacks aimed at their industry and the jobs that so many Canadians depend on. It's a sad state of affairs that even though we followed the rules and have led the way for Canada on climate change and responsible development, those who choose to ignore the rules and ignore the facts can continue to harass and obstruct responsible energy development that is so vital to Canada. It's heartening to see that as representatives of the people of Alberta we are all on the same page, that defending the interests of Albertans and Canadians is more important than partisan politics.

I think we can agree that Alberta needs to have this legislation ready in its tool box in the event that it's needed, and I think we can all agree that we hope it is not needed because we all know that it may cause some temporary hardship for industry, for the workers they employ, and for the communities where they are based here in Alberta. But as I've said before, we've been in discussions with industry from the beginning. They understand its importance and how it can help ensure the long-term well-being of the energy industry not just here in Alberta but in Canada. We are all aware of the continued obstructionist tactics, and we are also aware that we are losing significant dollars every day into our economy here in Canada. With the passing of Bill 12, we will have a powerful tool at the ready that will ensure that the interests of Albertans are optimized.

Once again, let me be clear. This would give the government authority to only if necessary require anyone exporting energy products from Alberta to acquire a licence. Companies will not

automatically be required to apply for an export licence. They will only be required to do so if I as Minister of Energy determine it is in the public interest. The criteria we've discussed over and over in the bill, and it is quite clear. We've outlined in earlier debate the terms and conditions for export licences that would be established. It's also been established that there is some leeway in setting those terms and conditions. This would be necessary in dealing with a wide variety of potential situations in a timely manner. The Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act also outlines the steps that would be taken if anyone fails to comply with the requirements of this act and future regulations or terms of the conditions of a licence.

If we do have to use this legislation, we will have strong measures to enforce it. But as I've said to many industry members – they've told us that they support the objectives of this legislation and want to comply with any export regulations should restrictive measures become necessary because they know, as we all know, that this is for the greater good of our industry.

I want to again thank the members for taking part in discussing this legislation in a constructive debate and for suggesting

amendments for a sunset clause. As I said during Committee of the Whole, this looks reasonable to me, the amendment, and we're happy to move on and vote for this bill today. It's not just about one pipeline or exports in one direction. This legislation is about being prepared to take action in all directions should it be necessary to defend Albertans, our resources, and the economic future of Canada.

With that, Madam Speaker, I would like to close debate on Bill 12.

[Motion carried; Bill 12 read a third time]

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

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Seeing as we have passed a very important bill and made some good progress today, I would move that we call it 6 o'clock and adjourn until 7:30 this evening.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 5:48 p.m.]

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