



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, May 31, 2018

Day 36

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

Fourth Session

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

Aheer, Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Rocky View (UCP),
Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition
Anderson, Hon. Shaye, Leduc-Beaumont (NDP)
Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (UCP)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (NDP)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)
Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (NDP)
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (NDP)
Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (NDP)
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP),
Alberta Party Opposition House Leader
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawthorn (NDP)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (NDP)
Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP)
Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (NDP),
Government Whip
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake (UCP)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (NDP)
Drever, Deborah, Calgary-Bow (NDP)
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UCP)
Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (NDP)
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (UCP)
Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP),
Deputy Government House Leader
Fildebrandt, Derek Gerhard, Strathmore-Brooks (IC)
Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (NDP)
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (AP)
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (NDP),
Deputy Government House Leader
Gill, Prab, Calgary-Greenway (UCP),
Official Opposition Deputy Whip
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)
Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)
Gray, Hon. Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)
Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (UCP)
Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (NDP)
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)
Horne, Trevor A.R., Spruce Grove-St. Albert (NDP)
Hunter, Grant R., Cardston-Taber-Warner (UCP)
Jansen, Hon. Sandra, Calgary-North West (NDP)
Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (NDP)
Kenney, Hon. Jason, PC, Calgary-Lougheed (UCP),
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Kleinstueber, Jamie, Calgary-Northern Hills (NDP)
Larivee, Hon. Danielle, Lesser Slave Lake (NDP),
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Littlewood, Jessica, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (NDP)

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

Party standings:

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

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Hanson	Rosendahl
Kazim	Schreiner
Kleinsteuber	

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 31, 2018

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

Statements by the Speaker

Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms' Retirement

The Speaker: I have a couple of announcements I would like to make before we commence our usual business today. I would request that the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms please join me up here at the dais, if you might.

As many of you are probably already aware, one of our Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms, Gareth Scott, will be retiring following the end of this session, and he's hoping that might be very soon. Prior to his service with the Assembly, Gareth served for 25 years with the Edmonton Police Service after emigrating from London, England, in 1985. While serving in the Edmonton Police Service, he worked in a number of areas, including the patrol/response division, as a school resource officer at Bonnie Doon high, as well as serving with the tactical team from 2001 to 2007, where he specialized in executive protection of notable individuals, including three Prime Ministers and Her Majesty the Queen during her visit in 2005.

Following his retirement from the EPS, Gareth joined the Legislative Assembly security service in March 2013 and was appointed Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms in August 2016. Gareth's tireless efforts and dedication to the Assembly have been evident to all, and he as well as his colourful sense of humour will be missed.

I will personally look back fondly on the three outreach trips on which he accompanied me throughout the province as the protector of our Mace. I will particularly remember – and I know that it was with him as well – that our Mace was smudged. It was quite an event for the two of us.

Following the end of session, Gareth and his wife, Heike, are off to Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island to start enjoying a new phase of their life. I want the members to know that I have advised him that he should consider getting a B.C. licence plate before he departs.

On behalf of all members of this Assembly and all of the Legislative Assembly Office staff I would like to express my appreciation for your committed service to this House and wish you all the best in your retirement.

I would also now invite our Deputy Speaker to present Gareth with a small token of our appreciation. [Standing ovation]

Flag of Alberta 50th Anniversary

The Speaker: Hon. members, I do also have another announcement I'd like to say today. I want to take this opportunity to make a statement to recognize that tomorrow, June 1, will be the 50th anniversary of the provincial flag of Alberta, which was adopted by this Legislature in 1968. After much debate about whether Alberta should have its own flag in the years leading up to Canada's centennial, a banner was commissioned in 1967.

The following year the flag act was passed by the Alberta Legislature, making the banner our province's official flag, which according to the legislation may be used by citizens of the province and others in a manner befitting its dignity and importance, but no other banner or flag that includes the Alberta arms may be assumed or used.

The Alberta flag shows the provincial shield of Alberta on a blue background. The shield features azure in a range of snow-capped mountains with green hills, prairie, and a wheat field in front, capturing – and I know you'll all agree with me on this – the natural beauty of our province with one of our provincial symbols.

I think they did a pretty good job. You will find on your desks a lapel pin to commemorate this occasion.

Introduction of Guests

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

Mr. Piquette: Thank you. M. le Président, c'est avec fierté que je me lève à la Chambre aujourd'hui pour introduire immersion grade 6 students from beautiful Landing Trail intermediate school. Les étudiants sont accompagnés par leurs enseignantes, Mme Jennifer Jones et Mme Janet Kamelchuk, ainsi que par leur chaperon, Mme Dawn Safar. I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Little Bow.

Mr. Schneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my distinct pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a remarkable group of grade 6 students from the town of Vauxhall, which resides in the southeast corner of the Little Bow riding. I had the privilege of meeting with this impressive group of young minds, their teacher, and the chaperones that accompanied the group while we were getting our picture taken out on the steps that lead to the Chamber. They completed the mock Legislature this morning, and two gentlemen got to wear the chapeau, or hat, that you generally wear into the Assembly. I'm not sure what you call it, sir. I'm sorry about that.

They're looking forward to watching part of our question period today, and then they're on their way back home. They are behind me in the members' gallery. As I say your name, I ask that you would please rise, and please forgive my pronunciations in advance: Mrs. Leslie Wolowidnyk-Vogel, teacher; Mr. Dale Cummings, the principal; Mr. Matt Hawke, teacher; along with chaperones Mr. Kerby Redekop, Mrs. Lori Van Hal, Mrs. Annie Klassen, Dr. Sara Klassen, Mrs. Betty Wall, Mrs. Eva Bergen, Mr. Daniel Loewen, Mr. Curtis Cawley, Mr. Jaarno van der Wielen, and Mrs. Emmie Rijkens. I ask that the class now please rise as well and that you all receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I believe I have two school groups here today. The first is from Edmonton-Glenora – actually, my apologies; a couple of sheets here. They're from Aurora charter school, which is also in Edmonton-Glenora. Part of their class was here yesterday, and the remainder is here today. This is a group of smart, hard-working students who taught me a little bit about the solar panels on the roof of their school when I was there for a visit last year. They're accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Duncan Charlton, and chaperones Mrs. Senait and Mrs. Saba. I ask that they along with the students please rise and receive the warm welcome of our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Was there a second introduction? No.

The hon. Member for Peace River.

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my great pleasure to introduce today the second half of my group from my constituency from Ridgeview central school in La Crête. I had the honour of spending some time with both of these groups this week, and I can share with the Assembly that these kids are brilliant. They also have wonderful teachers, amazingly supportive parents, and a really strong community, so I know that together these kids are going to do some fabulous things in the future. I'm going to first of all introduce their teacher, Mr. Fred Kirby, and the parent chaperones who've come along: Mr. Ernie Wall, Mr. Herman Doerksen, Mr. Glenn Peters, Mr. George Neustaeter, Mrs. Katherine Martens, Mrs. Vanessa Wiebe, Mrs. Barb Martens, and Mr. Jake Janzen. I'd like them all to rise and please receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

1:40

The Speaker: Welcome.

I'm told, hon. members, that we do have a number of introductions today, so let us all be conscious of the time.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For several years the Legislative Assembly has supported the Edmonton Regional Heritage Fair, which provides an opportunity for students in Edmonton and the surrounding area to research and present projects celebrating Canada's heritage. The Legislative Assembly Office recognizes one outstanding presentation that significantly relates to history, politics, or governance. It is my pleasure to introduce this year's award winners: Raqiya Kulmie, Yasmin Irobe, and Hayat Ali, grade 7 students at Londonderry junior high school. Their presentation, entitled Black Female Freedom Fighters, was well researched and delivered in a clear and captivating manner. While Hayat is not able to join them today, Raqiya and Yasmin join us with their teacher, Colleen Fraser; their mothers, Keyf Farah and Nadifa Omar; and Yasmin's older sister, Asha. They are seated in your gallery, and I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

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

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do have three introductions today. It's my pleasure first to rise and introduce to you and through you a number of friends and leaders from Alberta's business and industry community. Tomorrow, June 1, new occupational health and safety regulations come into effect, and on Monday these guests stood with me as leaders to show how together we can make sure all of Alberta's workplaces are safe for all. Thank you to my guests for coming today, sharing your story with us and the media, and leading by example. I'd ask you to please rise as I say your name: the project manager for Key-May, Tara Chahl; the safety manager for Key-May, Jeff Prodahl; the owner of the Empress Ale House, Sue Kiernan; and the Empress manager, Thea Bowering. I'd like to now give you the warm welcome of the Assembly. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, it is also my pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House members of the Public Works Association, Alberta chapter. Last week I met with Patty Podoborzny here in the Legislature to declare May 20 to 26 National Public Works Week. This declaration recognizes the important work of the APWA. Thank you to the APWA for all you do, and congratulations on your well-deserved declaration. Please stand as I say your name to receive the warm welcome of the House: President Peter McDowell, Past-president Patty Podoborzny,

Executive Director Jeannette Austin, and directors Mike Haanen, Joe Guido, and Risha Rushton.

Mr. Speaker, finally, it is my honour to introduce to you and through you to the rest of the members of the Assembly Maya Azocar, who attends kindergarten at John Paul I in the fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Mill Woods. Maya likes cats, her favourite superhero is Wonder Woman, she loves Rachel Notley, and she told me her favourite word is "feminist." I ask that she please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the entire Assembly Mr. Umang Taneja, a teacher from India who is visiting our fine province. Being from India, he's visiting Alberta and connecting with the local Indian Canadian community. Accompanying him today is my good friend Mr. Jarnail Basota, anchor of *Focus Punjabi* on OMNI Television as well as a host of Radio South Asia. Also joining Mr. Basota are local community members Navjeen Kaberwal, Akash Sharma, Kanwaljeet Dhillon, and another very good friend of mine, Jagdish Nischal. I ask that they all rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Nielsen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. With your indulgence I have two introductions today. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Mr. Thomas Greenlaw, operations warrant officer with the 3rd Canadian Division Training Centre in Edmonton. Thomas joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1990. He has served on seven operational tours overseas, including two tours in Afghanistan. In Canada he has served on domestic operations such as the Manitoba flood of the century, the Quebec ice storm, and the Vancouver Olympic Games. Currently he is responsible for organizing training requirements and assets for courses that the training centre conducts. Thomas and his wife, Lisa, and their three children are proud to call Edmonton-Decore home, and I'm pleased that he could be here today to see how the political process works here in Alberta. I ask that he now please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Nielsen: Also, Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly some very special superheroes that I will be speaking more about in my member's statement. Please rise and remain standing as I call your name: from Edmonton fire rescue, Cole Chapelsky, Kyle Wilkinson, Brian Wilfert; from Dickinsfield Amity House, Tracy Patience, Ursula Jayasuriya, Michelle Yang, and Kaiden Kalyunchuck. Also joining them today is my daughter Marissa. I would ask that they now please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Shaw.

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to introduce to you and through you to all members a couple of constituents of mine who have been advocating for angel cradles – I'll be

presenting a petition that they provided me later today in the Assembly; this is in light of the recent incident that happened in Bowness just last Christmas Eve – Jaden Barager, who was the valedictorian at St. Mary’s University this year, and Trisha McIntosh, who is a mother of four and a strong advocate for her community. Trisha is accompanied by her father, Gary McIntosh. I’d ask that they rise and please receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s my pleasure to introduce a number of paramedics from across the province as we celebrate Paramedic Services Week. They are seated in the members’ gallery. I want them and all members to know that we are so proud of the work that paramedics and all EMS professionals do every day providing high-quality, life-saving care to Albertans. I ask that they rise as I say their names: Nate, Tia, Thomas, Crystal, April, Kenton, Todd, Keegan, Adrienne, Melanie, Patrick, Carey, and Debbie. If I missed any others, please join them in rising and receiving our warm welcome to this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms Hoffman: I also have the pleasure of introducing members who are here today from the Canadian Liver Foundation, Alberta chapter, who are also seated in the members’ gallery. They work to improve the quality of life for those living with liver disease through education, patient support, life-saving research, and public awareness. Thank you for your advocacy and partnership. I now invite Tracy Patience, who is the president, as well as Georgina Macintyre, Deb Troppmann, and Tyler Wiebe to please rise and receive the warm welcome of our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

Mr. Rosendahl: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s my absolute pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Mr. Mike Janeczko and his daughter Ali. Mike is a long-time family friend and supporter of the New Democratic Party. For many years he served as the president and secretary-treasurer of the West Yellowhead NDP riding association. I want to take this opportunity to thank him for his support and his hard work over the years. I really appreciate it. I ask Mike and his daughter – they’re standing already – to receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Any other introductions, hon. members? The Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Schmidt: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s a bit of a surprise to me, but I spy with my little eye in the gallery a good friend of mine who has made the long trip from Alberta’s most humble constituency, Edmonton-Gold Bar, to visit us today, Ms Jennifer Klimek. Jennifer has been a long-time friend and supporter, and I’m very glad to see her in the gallery this afternoon. If I could ask my hon. colleagues to give her the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

1:50

The Speaker: Welcome.

Point of Order

Allegations against a Nonmember

The Speaker: Hon. members, if the table would hold the clock, I would like to now give a ruling on the matter that was in the House yesterday during Oral Question Period. The Government House Leader raised a point of order relating to comments made by the Leader of the Official Opposition. This exchange can be found on page 1344 of yesterday’s *Hansard*. In the questions giving rise to the point of order, the Leader of the Official Opposition raised concerns regarding an employee of the offices of the Minister of Energy and the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance and that employee’s work outside of the province and separate from his duties in those offices. The Leader of the Official Opposition asked whether the individual had engaged in lobbying of cabinet ministers.

The Government House Leader argued that these questions were an attempt to “smear an individual whose contract is public” and further stated that they violated the rule found on page 622 of the *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, third edition, which provides that “Members are discouraged from referring by name to persons who are not Members of Parliament and who do not enjoy parliamentary immunity, except in extraordinary circumstances when the national interest calls for this.”

On November 17, 2011, at page 3224 of the *House of Commons Debates* the then Speaker cited this same passage from *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* and noted that he was cognizant both of this fundamental principle as well as the fact that there is no rule that prohibits mentioning individuals by name in the House.

On June 25, 2015, at page 288 of *Hansard* for that day I made a ruling concerning a point of order also raised on the topic of reflections on nonmembers. While recognizing the freedom of speech that all members enjoy in the Assembly, I also commented that in exercising this privilege, members must be responsible for their remarks and bear in mind that they reflect on the institution as a whole. In that ruling I did not find a point of order but did question whether the topic raised at the time was truly a matter relating to the government’s actions or policies.

In this circumstance I find that the questions were more closely related to the activities of the government. While maybe unnecessary I do not find that the comments relating to a person outside the Assembly do in this case give rise to a point of order. However, as I did on June 25, 2015, I would encourage all members to tread carefully when making comments about individuals outside the Assembly and to recall that any allegations or assertions made in relation to those individuals will form a part of the public record without an opportunity for the individual to respond. As Speaker Fraser of the House of Commons ruled on May 5, 1987, the freedom of speech that members of the House enjoy is “awesome and far-reaching . . . Such a privilege confers grave responsibilities on those who are protected by it.”

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Trans Mountain Pipeline Public Purchase

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two days ago Kinder Morgan walked away and cashed out at the expense of taxpayers from the Kinder Morgan pipeline because the uncertainty that has been created on that project in B.C. made it too risky for their investors. They have now transferred that risk, essentially, to the taxpayers of

this country and of this province. That means that the taxpayers of Canada and Alberta are now ultimately on the hook for that same uncertainty that Kinder Morgan was facing. What is being done right now to be able to actually address that uncertainty that is still facing this project?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, we pushed to secure a pipeline to Canadian tidewater, the first since 1953. For the children in the gallery, that's the same time the first colour TV went on sale, the same time the first climbers reached the summit of Mount Everest. It's been far too long, 65 years, and the Conservatives were in power for 44 of those. They didn't get the job done, but because our Premier did, 15,000 people will be able to pick up their tools and get to work on this pipeline. We will never stop fighting for the hard-working people of this province.

Mr. Nixon: The rhetoric of the Deputy Premier, while interesting and sometimes amusing to watch, is not helpful to the taxpayers of this country and this province, who are now ultimately responsible for the same risk that just a few short days ago Kinder Morgan's shareholders were responsible for. We all want this pipeline built. The question now is this. Alberta taxpayers, Canadian taxpayers are now the ones who have that risk. What is being done to deal with the uncertainty that is being created by B.C., who is illegally blocking this pipeline, and the environmental activists that are standing with them?

Ms Hoffman: On Tuesday the opposition leader had one position; he supported the pipeline and congratulated the Premier on the deal that she got for the people of this province. On Wednesday not so much. On Thursday, well, I guess we can see where this hon. member is standing on this issue. Mr. Speaker, one day they support the pipeline deal; the next day they don't. Perhaps they should start making up their own mind. Instead of looking to Ottawa for leadership, look at Alberta. We've seen it. One order of government can't sue another order of government. This pipeline is moving forward. That's why we're so proud of our Premier and the fact that she got real results for the people of Alberta.

Mr. Nixon: Well, Mr. Speaker, this side of the House and the Leader of the Opposition certainly support the Kinder Morgan pipeline, the Trans Mountain pipeline. We want it built. That's not the question that is being discussed. We're not discussing the details of the deal though I know that the Deputy Premier wants us to ask it. We're asking what her government is doing to deal with the uncertainty that was so significant that private investors walked away from this pipeline. This pipeline is now the responsibility of taxpayers, so what are you doing to clear up that uncertainty? At this point it looks like you're doing absolutely nothing on that file except for standing up and grandstanding. What are you doing?

Ms Hoffman: What we're doing is getting real results, Mr. Speaker. That's exactly what happened on Tuesday, when we got this project secured, the investment on behalf of the people of Canada. I know that the member opposite was fine with investing \$9 billion in the Ontario auto industry. This is an investment in the people of Alberta. Again, the federal government has taken ownership of this project. The provincial government can't sue the federal government. This project is going to move forward. This pipeline will get our product to tidewater for the first time in many, many years. This is good news for Alberta. Certainly, talking about risks when we've been able to address those isn't helpful.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
The Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

Physicians' Disciplinary Policies

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans are outraged that the College of Physicians & Surgeons has failed to revoke a doctor's licence after he was convicted of sexually assaulting a patient and a nurse. When the situation was called to the minister's attention, she responded by saying that she would look at the legislation to provide the college with more teeth. Section 82(1)(iv) of the Health Professions Act, however, does give the college the ability to revoke Dr. Taher's licence. Minister, you could have simply used your authority to direct the college to review Dr. Taher's case. Why didn't you do that?

Ms Hoffman: Well, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the member is asking the question. Certainly, as a woman and as a concerned citizen I want to ensure that every single Albertan can go to their doctor's office with confidence that they are in safe hands. That's why we reached out immediately to the college. That's why we've looked at the legislation we have here in Alberta. While I appreciate her reading of it, the lawyers who are deeply connected to this case are working with us to make sure that we can update legislation to ensure that we can protect every single person, that we can expand the notification periods and so forth. I appreciate your advice, but we do need to work with the professionals to make sure that we get this right.

Mrs. Aheer: This isn't advice. These are actual pieces that exist already.

The college has announced that it actually will now look at stricter sanctions, including revoking a medical licence when a doctor is convicted of a sexual offence. The new principle of "no tolerance" amounts to an admission that the college was not dealing appropriately with sexual abuse. Minister, why was this oversight on this self-regulated body so lacking that you did not know that it was handling sexual assault in such a dismissive manner?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, I have to say that the articulation of this situation doesn't reflect the reality. The college takes this matter very seriously. They are working within the confines of the current legislation. We are also working with them to ensure that we can have legislation that reflects the values and the practices that all Albertans should be able to experience, which is having full confidence that when they go as a patient or as another staff member to any health care provider, they have the assurance that they aren't dealing with somebody who has a history of assault. We're working with the college to ensure that that's the case, and we certainly appreciate the member's passion on this issue.

2:00

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a reality here. There is a doctor who is a sexual predator who can continue to see patients. That is the reality. The act actually allows the minister to give direction to the college in matters of public interest. In this case it would be public trust. To the minister. You are responsible for upholding the trust for the bodies that function under your ministry, and leading by example is imperative. What are you going to do to ensure that no patient is ever subjected to this type of abuse ever again?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, there was certainly an incident, and there was a decision that was made through the courts on that matter. The college today doesn't believe they have

the right tools with regard to this one specific case. That's why we need to pick up tools, including those from other jurisdictions, to help us ensure that the college has the proper conditions to be able to remove licences as quickly as possible should they feel that that's in the public interest. We take our responsibility very seriously, and we look forward to being able to present something to this House that will be able to help us give them the proper tools.

Premier's Former Chief of Staff's Consulting Contract

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, this government has continued to double down on their secretive dealings with former chief of staff John Heaney. Let's quickly review the facts. August 31 the Premier announces that Mr. Heaney will be resigning as the chief of staff on October 6. October 9, three days later, Mr. Heaney is immediately retitled as the executive adviser to the Minister of Finance. January 2018 Mr. Heaney registers as a lobbyist in B.C. On February 7 the Premier's office signs off on a lobbying exemption. To the Premier: do you not see a problem that the exemption was granted after he began lobbying?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our government consulted the Ethics Commissioner as we transitioned Mr. Heaney from chief of staff to an executive adviser. He played an integral role in the pipeline that we secured last week, a deal that will put 15,000 people to work and will generate \$15 billion for our national economy. This is the first pipeline to tidewater in 65 years. That side had 44 years to do it; they couldn't. I think Mr. Heaney worked well with us.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, we're talking about this government's ethics, not pipelines. This week they continued to refuse to come clean to Albertans about their secretive dealings with the former chief of staff to the Premier. Mr. Heaney left the office on Friday to return to B.C. and was immediately retitled on Monday. He then registered as a pot lobbyist a full month before he was issued an exemption from the Premier's office, was enabled to lobby one government while being employed by another. To the Premier: on what date did you first become aware of this glaring conflict of interest?

Mr. Ceci: Mr. Speaker, I've already said that we consulted the Ethics Commissioner with regard to the transitioning of Mr. Heaney from the Premier's chief of staff to the executive adviser. There was some discussion about how best to structure that contract based on the advice from the Ethics Commissioner, and we wanted to make sure we took the time to get it right. Once it was signed, it immediately went up online. Mr. Heaney is on contract with the government of Alberta. As such, he's not permitted to lobby government or employees of Alberta.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, there are many misfacts in that answer. The contract did not go up online immediately because your office confirmed that it went online in May. At every turn this government is scrambling. Yesterday they finally admitted that it was the Premier's chief of staff that issued the exemption and not the Ethics Commissioner. The question is simple. To the minister: is it acceptable for your closest advisers to act first and then ask or receive or grant themselves permission later?

Mr. Ceci: Mr. Speaker, I've already said that the Ethics Commissioner was consulted with regard to the exemption, and

when it was signed, the contract went up online immediately. We're doing the things that we need to do to be clear about this. Mr. Heaney has played an integral role in getting that pipeline secured. Fifteen thousand jobs, \$15 billion for the economy: we think that's good value for Mr. Heaney's time.

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

Trans Mountain Pipeline Public Purchase (continued)

Mr. Clark: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, Tuesday's announcement that the federal government will purchase the Kinder Morgan pipeline had the NDP celebrating – we saw them trot out dozens of staffers to stand triumphantly behind the Premier – but Tuesday was just one step on a very, very long road. The NDP should be careful about taking a victory lap too early. There are so many unanswered questions about this project, and I'm going to ask some of them right now. Now that Alberta is investing in a pipeline, what will you do to win over B.C. and those who will use any means to block this pipeline?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thanks, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I do want to say very clearly that we absolutely believe it's good news that this project is moving forward. Construction is beginning within days, and that is certainly very good news for the 15,000 people who are going to be working on this pipeline, 15,000 men and women who are going to be literally building this pipeline, the first one to tidewater in over 50 years. This is good news, and there is reason to celebrate the construction moving forward. Of course, we will not let down our pressure on B.C. We continue to have public awareness campaigns there, and we continue to reserve the right to use Bill 12 should we need it.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Clark: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much want to see that pipeline built, but that \$2 billion investment is still very much shrouded in mystery. We don't know under what unforeseen conditions this money will be triggered, we don't know if the investment will be transparent, and, most importantly, we don't know if any Alberta taxpayer dollars will go directly to the B.C. government as part of their revenue-sharing agreement. These are the sorts of questions that would be answered by a fairness opinion prepared by neutral financial experts, which happens to be exactly what Kinder Morgan and the federal government have done. To the Premier: will you ask the Auditor General to prepare a fairness assessment so the people of Alberta know exactly what we might be getting ourselves into?

Ms Hoffman: Well, let me clarify right here. What we do know is that no money will be invested by the people of Alberta until the project is complete, Mr. Speaker. When money is invested, it will be an investment. There will be the opportunity for equity to be returned to the people of Alberta. In the meantime we have 15,000 people hard at work, having jobs, ensuring that when that pipeline is completed and we do get our product to tidewater, we can get the very best price on the international market. This is a win-win-win, and we certainly are proud of the success our Premier has seen with regard to this pipeline.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Clark: Why, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, it seems that the plan is for the federal government to get this project through the uncertainty caused by the multiple lawsuits Kinder Morgan is facing and then sell it back to private investors. Now, that creates an opportunity to include some of the growing number of indigenous businesses in this project. To the Premier: what specifically will you do to push for indigenous participation in the ultimate end result of this project, and will you make any investment that Alberta would make conditional on ensuring indigenous participation going forward?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again for the question. This is a project that's in the national interest. To no surprise, there are many indigenous communities and leaders who want to be a part of that project as well, and we certainly are excited about that opportunity. The Minister of Energy from Alberta has definitely been in conversations with the ministry of energy for Canada around that very aspect. This is good news for the indigenous people of this country. The Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain project is one of those critical components to ensure that Alberta and Canada remain competitive in getting their products to market. We thank the Premier for her courage on this project, and so does Gale Katchur, the chief of Alberta's Industrial Heartland.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Deputy Premier.

Workplace Safety Legislation

Mr. Westhead: Mr. Speaker, only a few weeks ago there was a gas-and-dash incident resulting in a car accident at Ghost station, just west of Cochrane. These situations can too easily become dangerous for workers and innocent bystanders, which is why we passed legislation last fall to keep them safe. To the Minister of Labour: given that this act comes into force tomorrow, can you please provide the House with an update on these changes?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to my colleague for the question. I'm very pleased to say that I was at a Husky gas station this morning, reminding Albertans that as of tomorrow, June 1, there will be prepaying for fuel and it will be mandatory. At that announcement, Edmonton Police Service was able to share that they've seen a 26 per cent decrease in gas-and-dash incidents this year as stations have already started implementing prepay measures at their stations. This is good news for Albertans. We will be able to save lives, having put in this legislation.

2:10

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Westhead: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is indeed some good news.

Last fall we also passed An Act to Protect the Health and Well-being of Working Albertans, which updated the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the workers' compensation system. What has the ministry been doing to implement these changes since the legislation was passed?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. An improved occupational health and safety system comes into effect June 1. Our

ministry has been working with employers, employees, stakeholders across the province to ensure that they have the supports they need to implement these changes effectively. In addition, there are supports available online, but I would encourage all those interested to sign up for the online bulletins. As well, you can reach out to Labour. We will provide in-person presentations. We have delivered more than 100 to more than 5,000 participants, both in person and online, prerecorded and live webinars.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Westhead: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister and her department for working so hard on that legislation. I've heard a lot about what these changes mean for employees, but what do they mean for employers? Isn't this just a burden on them?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our government has the backs of all working people and business owners. We are focused on keeping workers safe as well as making sure that we're not creating unnecessary burdens for employers. What I heard during consultations was that our employers here in Alberta care deeply about their employees, care deeply about making sure that everyone comes home safe at the end of the day, and have been welcoming of many of these changes. Making sure we have strong health and safety laws prevents injury and death, and that is something that all Albertans can get behind.

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

Premier's Former Chief of Staff's Consulting Contract (continued)

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Finance minister originally said that the Premier's former chief of staff John Heaney is not lobbying his ministry about cannabis on behalf of his clients in his current role with the government of Alberta, but he is lobbying in B.C. on behalf of this client while also working for Alberta taxpayers here. Minister, please tell Albertans how it is not a conflict of interest to simultaneously work for the Alberta government and a private company which could have a commercial interest in Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Heaney is on contract with the government of Alberta. As such, he's not permitted to lobby government members and employees in Alberta. He was working and is working with us with regard to advice on the pipeline, with regard to energy and other files. He's not working on the cannabis file. That's something he's doing outside of this work, and that's something that there is an exemption for, that the Ethics Commissioner assisted with in consulting her.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that he is a government employee, Minister, and given that the Leader of the Opposition asked the Deputy Premier yesterday to confirm that Mr. Heaney has not spoken to a single minister on behalf of his clients and given that the Deputy Premier promised to consult with her colleagues so she could answer that question, Deputy Premier, my question is for

you. Now that you have had time to consult, can you please provide a definitive answer to that important question?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will confirm, but again my experience is that this has not been a matter that's been brought up. It hasn't been brought up with me and, I don't believe, anyone else who's connected in any way to any of these topics. I understand that there is a desire to create some fog and accusations in this regard, but this has not been our experience. We're certainly happy to discuss government policy in this House, and our government policy is that we are moving forward on the 15,000 jobs. That got this pipeline, and this is one of the pieces that Mr. Heaney was hired to help us work on.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this government claims that the carbon tax and this Premier got the pipeline built and that now, all of a sudden, Mr. Heaney single-handedly got the pipeline built, the real question is this: on behalf of Alberta taxpayers, do you think the optics here are good? Can you please explain the optics here, and can you justify this to Albertans?

Ms Hoffman: Let me tell you about what happened on Tuesday, Mr. Speaker. On Tuesday we got the clarity that the folks opposite have been rallying for for so long. Let's make sure this pipeline moves forward. Guess what? On Tuesday our Premier led us to that point, and we couldn't be prouder. As a result, 15,000 people will have jobs directly working on that pipeline; \$15 billion will be inserted back into the Canadian economy. We are incredibly proud of the work of this government under the leadership of our Premier, and we will not apologize for that. This is good news.

Carbon Levy and Pipeline Development

Mr. Loewen: When this government came to office and introduced the largest tax increase in Alberta's history, the job-killing carbon tax, that was mentioned nowhere in their election platform, their excuse was that it was needed to buy social licence to build pipelines and gain expanded market access. Here we stand three years later, and what are the results? The approved Northern Gateway pipeline was cancelled, the Energy East pipeline has been killed, Keystone XL was vetoed, and despite the announcement of its nationalization the Trans Mountain project faces major obstacles to construction, all this under the watch of the NDP and their Trudeau Liberal allies. Will the government finally stand up and admit to Albertans that the carbon tax and their myth of social licence were a pipe dream?

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

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the opposition was just waiting for this day, hoping that they could laugh in our faces and cheer that we didn't get the pipeline, but you know what? We got the pipeline another step forward on Tuesday, and we got that pipeline because of the climate leadership plan. There wouldn't have been a pipeline to argue about had we not had a robust climate leadership plan because we wouldn't have gotten the approval from the Prime Minister and the federal cabinet.

Mr. Loewen: Given that the minister said that it was because of the carbon leadership plan and that we just heard that it was Mr. Heaney that got the pipeline and that we've heard previously that it was the

Premier that got the pipeline and given that since the government came to the private realization that the social licence myth would not come to fruition, they have taken other steps to try to get the construction of Trans Mountain and given that they've been no more successful in gaining ground with the wine boycott, bowing to the Trudeau carbon tax, and the turn-off-the-taps legislation, that they've all but said they'll never use, will the government commit to doing what actually needs to be done to convince their ally Justin Trudeau to use the full weight of his constitutional authority to enforce the rule of law and get this pipeline built?

The Speaker: Hon. member, I thought I heard several preambles in there. I had difficulty actually finding where the question was but, I think, right at the end. You do have a second supplemental, that will soon be up, but I want to be assured that you will not repeat a preamble yet again when you take that.

The Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Okay. Despite the lack of a question – the Conservative leader and the opposition “can't have it both ways.” That's not me talking; that's the *Edmonton Journal*. Their columnist wrote that it would be “difficult, if not impossible, to imagine” any pipeline being approved under his so-called plan. He described their leader as performing a contortionist act. Trust me, Mr. Speaker. Albertans are buying tickets to watch that.

Mr. Loewen: Given the contortionist act of this government trying to give credit to everybody for this pipeline – Heaney, the Premier, the carbon tax – and given that in recent days the NDP has been celebrating the flight of billions in private capital from the Trans Mountain project and as last resort needed to have Ottawa nationalize a critical part of our energy infrastructure and given that we are still in an uncertain situation regarding a pipeline in our vital economic interests and that the opponents of progress are no less determined to stop the construction of this energy infrastructure project of critical national importance, with the Premier of British Columbia promising to continue his obstruction and radical environmentalists threatening . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member. Hon. member, I'd just have a higher level of assurance that you understood what I was asking you not to do. Did you understand that?

Mr. Loewen: You might not be hearing me, but we can go to *Hansard* if you'd like.

The Speaker: I'm sorry; I didn't hear what you said. Yes or no?

Mr. Loewen: Mr. Speaker, I did my best to follow your directions.

The Speaker: You might want to work on that, then.
The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know what? Let the numbers speak for themselves. Over the past year, because of our government supporting the private sector and industry and entrepreneurs, jobs are up, 90,000 new full-time jobs, mostly in the private sector. GDP is up, manufacturing is up, exports are up, wages are up, retail is up, wholesale is up, housing construction is up, building permits are up, new vehicle sales are up, businesses and corporations are up, restaurant receipts are up, ATB's profits are up, EI numbers are down, and a pipeline is about to begin construction.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

2:20 Chronic Wasting Disease Testing Timelines

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the ag minister. Ranchland Meats in Lacombe is a bison and elk processing facility. The elk market is seasonal. Their goal is to harvest 40 to 60 animals a week over the next couple of months, but the CWD inspection facility in Edmonton is putting that in jeopardy. The lab first required a three-day turnaround, which is workable, but now they say that it's up to seven days, which is not reasonable. Minister, would you look into this and broker a solution, as I believe you successfully did last year?

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

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the Member for Lacombe-Ponoka very much for bringing up this real question. It is a concern. He's absolutely right. You know, the CWD process: the regime that we have in Alberta now is quite robust. I'm happy with what we're doing. All cases of farmed elk, deer, and reindeer older than one year are tested. Because of that, we have had an opportunity to stop the very few cases of CWD we had. Carcasses are held as the results are received. Now, out of the letter of understanding with Ranchland – we're working for another this year.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Orr: Thank you to the minister. Given that Ranchland processes elk from both Alberta and Saskatchewan and given that the Saskatchewan lab returns the results to Ranchland within 24 hours, why does it take four to seven days in Alberta for a test that Saskatchewan provides in 24 hours?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I can't speak on the protocols for Saskatchewan. I know that ours have been very successful and continue to be so. My understanding from the letter of understanding from last year is that the lab would guarantee results within 72 hours. The new letter of understanding this year will be something very, very similar. Even last year some of those results were returned in 60, even 48 hours, so I think, you know, that the new letter of understanding will be very helpful to Ranchland and be acceptable to them.

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Minister, for that work on that.

Food safety is of utmost importance, but the regulatory delays are driving business out of Alberta or potentially. Given that producers ship elk to the U.S. without time-delaying CWD inspections – hence, most of the elk that should be processed in Canada are actually shipped to the U.S. – and that processing here in Alberta would be more efficient than Saskatchewan and that we are driving some business to diversify regulatory risk out of the province, Minister, what will you be able to do to ensure this industry survives and is not another casualty of regulatory delays?

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for his questions and concerns. The animal health and assurance branch and food safety branch of Agriculture and Forestry are doing a good job. I'm very thankful for their technical expertise on this matter. I'm looking forward to them, again, working with Ranchland and other producers right across the province to do what they can to ensure that our products continue to be safe. I think that we have one of the most robust CWD detection protocols on the continent,

and it continues to be so. I'm happy with that. Food safety, without a doubt, is a concern, as is market access.

Connect Care Clinical Information System

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, the 2017 government rollout of the clinical data system, connect care, saw a \$1.6 billion investment for the integration of health records, but the flaw is that doctors, the gatekeepers of our health care system, were not included. The Auditor General says that the benefits are undetermined due to the exclusion of family physicians. They are key personnel in our health system, and they're being shut out from opining on the software being developed by Epic. Could the minister please explain why physicians were not a part of the software development?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just to reiterate the way the different pieces within the health care system work, there are the AHS components, and then there are, of course, private offices that are run by physicians. We do have Netcare, and we are now developing connect care, and it is about integrating those two pieces. But first we need to address the 1,500 different software systems we have within AHS because of all the fragmentation and breakdown in silos that there were in Alberta for many, many years. That's step one. We are very proud of that, and we've worked with many physicians on connect care.

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, physicians dictate what medical tests we get, what diagnostic imaging we use. We even rely on physicians to access the primary care networks. Stateside, where the Epic software is prominent, physicians have expressed their discontent with the usability of this software. Does this Health minister not understand that physicians are a key part of our health care system and need to be part of the discussions? They may be contractors, but quite honestly they're the only physicians we have. Do you understand the importance of ensuring that these physicians are part of the software development rollout?

Ms Hoffman: I wish my critic had a greater understanding of the way the health care system works, Mr. Speaker, is what I really do wish. What I am very proud of is the fact that we are, after many, many years of failure to invest in systems – the IT system that is at the Royal Alex hospital, for example, is as old as I am. That is not fair. That is not contemporary. I get why Conservatives failed to invest in this year after year after year. You can't cut a fancy ribbon on an IT system. But it's fundamental to good, safe operations for the people of Alberta, and that's why we are going to move forward on ensuring that we can connect patients, providers, including physicians, and health care facilities to the right information to get the right care.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, despite the concerns expressed by other users of this product, this government still chose the software and didn't include family physicians while they customized it for Alberta. Not only that, but the initial investment was supposed to be for half a billion dollars. In Public Accounts this government mentioned a \$1.6 billion investment. Can you clarify the cost of the software, and what assurances do Albertans have that this software will be ready on time and on budget?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Again, this is a massive project, and the reason why is because for longer than I've been alive, the previous government failed to invest in these types of systems to ensure that patients, no matter where they were in the province, could have their information travel with them and make sure that their health care providers could get the right information to support them in their care. Fifteen hundred different systems merging into one is very complex. It is the right place, though, to make sure that we're moving forward to give patients the very best information to their providers so that they can have the very best outcomes.

Again, the member tries to take one year's line item and then say that projects have run over, Mr. Speaker. That's not true. He knows so. I'm proud to defend our investment.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Shaw.

Child Abandonment and Neglect

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a newborn infant is abandoned, it sends shock waves across the community and this province. It impacts those who find the infant, first responders, and also causes risk to the life of the mother if she has just given birth. Currently there are angel cradles at the Grey Nuns and Misericordia hospitals here in Edmonton, where parents can safely leave an infant they can't care for. Can the Minister of Health update the House on how many babies have been dropped off at these cradles?

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for this important question. The situation where a baby was found in December in Calgary is absolutely tragic. I want to thank the member and his constituents for raising their concerns. We want every mother, every parent to feel that they can make the safest choice for themselves and for their baby. Since the angel cradles opened in Edmonton, about five years ago, one baby has been received, and that was at the Grey Nuns hospital.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that there are no angel cradles in Calgary and given that we have seen a safe recovery in Edmonton and also in provinces like B.C. and given that there are many reasons that can leave a woman in desperate circumstances, can the Minister of Health please tell the House what they're doing to support vulnerable women in Calgary?

Ms Hoffman: Thanks again for the question. Mr. Speaker, we know that someone who feels that they are in a position where they need to abandon their infant is in a very desperate state, and they deserve compassion and care as well. That's why we're working to improve education and support resources for women earlier in their pregnancies. Much of the work in Calgary happens at the sexual and reproductive health clinic at the Chumir. Vulnerable women can go to this clinic to get comprehensive, no-judgment care as well as counselling and support on the options available to them and their babies, or anywhere in Alberta you can call 811.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the recent Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention recognized that child abandonment and neglect can be caused by several underlying root causes that the mother has faced, to the Minister of Health: can you

update the House on what resources are available for new mothers who could be at risk?

Ms Hoffman: The health and safety of children and families is a top priority for this government, and that's why we support programs like the Alberta Vulnerable Infant Response Team, which works with public health nurses, caseworkers, and police services to work regularly with families who may be at greater risk. We've also supported organizations like the Calgary Catholic Family Service, who provides mental health supports for pregnant and parenting teens, Mr. Speaker. Our government is dedicated to making sure that vulnerable Albertans have the supports they need to live safe and healthy lives.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Long-term Care and Supportive Living Spaces

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks for the nice pin, too. The need for supportive living in long-term care beds for aging seniors is growing year after year. I give credit to the government for directing additional funding toward building these much-needed facilities. However, I'm concerned that the additional funding is being eaten up by skyrocketing per-bed costs, with current projects costing up to six times as much per bed. This means that additional funding could well not result in additional beds. To the Minister of Health: what is the average per-bed cost of the government's most recently announced facilities, and how does this compare to past facilities?

2:30

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We're making an important investment in Alberta's continuing care system, and we're on track to build 2,000 long-term care and dementia care spaces by 2019. Since coming into government, we approved 3,002 net new long-term and dementia spaces. That includes beds beyond the 2019 commitment. Those are different types of beds, with different types of support, so the costs are varying. We want to ensure that no matter where you live in the province, no matter what the economics are for the functioning of that system, you have the ability to have the right care in the right place, where you are best supported.

Ms McPherson: Given that nonprofit and private-sector organizations have reduced costs and improved services through innovation and given that their facilities have always been constructed to the same high standard required of all long-term care and supportive living facilities and given that industry experts have said – and I quote – that the government cannot build the needed beds at a cost of \$650,000 per bed; this is not sustainable, to the same minister: why is the private sector being excluded from RFPs for long-term care and supportive living facilities?

Ms Hoffman: Well, again, Mr. Speaker, the assertion that's just been levied there isn't factual. We have worked with a number of different organizations to expand opportunities to serve families and those who are in need of greater care, including in Fort McMurray, for example, where, yes, even though it costs more to bring in supplies, even though the costs of labour are higher, we believe that it's about time that Fort McMurray got a long-term care facility. I'm not going to say that that was a bad investment because it's an improvement investment for the people who live in Fort McMurray. We're proud of it, and we are going to make sure that that long-overdue facility gets built.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Ms McPherson: Given that older facilities will have to be upgraded or replaced to accommodate the ever-increasing number of seniors in our province requiring supportive living and long-term care and given that in light of this it is simply not sustainable if costs continue to be so much higher than necessary per bed, to the same minister: what is the plan for reducing the cost per bed so that the province can adequately respond to increasing demand for supportive living and long-term care beds?

Ms Hoffman: Well, I'll tell you what our plan won't be. That's the plan that was put in place by that member's now leader, which was about finding ways to sign sweetheart contracts with folks who weren't necessarily going to be able to provide the right levels of care. We've worked with all providers to ensure that where there is need, we brought it up to the highest level of care, Mr. Speaker. We're keeping the patient at the centre, not pushing for seniors to be paying exorbitant costs for drug copays or for private operators to have additional opportunities to make profits. We're keeping patients at the centre, and I'm proud of that.

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

Seniors' Mobile Blood Collection Service Long-term Care Facility Food Service

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Last week I brought forward concerns about the cancellation of a very convenient and efficient use of mobile lab services at the Sunnyside Manor in St. Paul. I've heard that as many as 15 to 20 patients are processed in less than an hour there. I now find that this efficient service for seniors is being cancelled at facilities province-wide. Minister, why are seniors being targeted by your government and forced to go to hospital ERs to get a service that has been efficiently supplied on-site up until now?

Ms Hoffman: Well, Mr. Speaker, again the members are trying to contort facts. What is happening is that for those folks who are living independently, if their doctor believes they need to get the service provided to them in their home, with the doctor's direction, the service will continue to be provided in their home. But for folks who are living independently who are able to go to the lab site, they're asked to do so. I did look into the specific community, and it is about a two-minute drive. We appreciate that that is different than somebody coming into your home, but we also want to ensure that instead of moving for rash, ideological cuts like the members opposite are doing – we want a sustainable system.

Mr. Hanson: I'd like to thank the minister for confirming that that service has been cut.

Given that although AHS management claims that no service has been cut, a service has been cut, and seniors that do not have a special requisition will have to find transportation to and from the ER and expose themselves and all the residents they come home to to whatever virus is in the ER that day, Minister, why are you allowing AHS to force our seniors living in long-term care facilities to have to bundle up, pay out of their limited funds, and risk exposure for themselves and other residents?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, again, for patients that are deemed as being in need of having the service come to them, it will continue, but for those who are able to go to the lab itself, which, again, is about a two-minute drive, we do ask them to do that to ensure that

there are the resources available for all who need to access these services.

Mr. Speaker, I'm really proud of the fact that we've been able to sit down and work with members, including the member opposite who's asking this very question, to do things in communities like expand dialysis services in the community of Lac La Biche or the new long-term care facility in Fort McMurray. I'm very willing to sit down and work through these challenges. Gotcha politics isn't the way to do it.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Hanson: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that on May 16 I asked the Health minister a question regarding the quality of food in seniors' facilities and given that her response indicated that long-term care, of course, is a priority and given that I was actually referring to a long-term care facility that is still serving preprepared, not on-site, meals that a lot of people here probably wouldn't want to eat, Minister, why does it appear that your department and AHS are targeting seniors in this province? Don't they deserve the best care possible?

Ms Hoffman: We are very proud of the fact that we're investing in things that seniors care about, investing in things like reversing the kinds of cuts that were proposed by the members opposite, investing in building 2,000 new long-term care spaces, investing in ensuring that they have health care providers who are available to provide those services. Instead of pushing for rash ideological cuts like the members opposite continue to do, we're investing in the things that keep seniors safe, well, and independent as long as possible, including home care, Mr. Speaker. This side of the House is investing in seniors in our communities. If there are specific questions that the hon. member would like to ask, I encourage him to approach my office. I think I've proven that we get good results when you approach me in a respectful way.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Backcountry Land Use

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Environment and Parks has repeatedly stated that her decision impacting changes to land use across Alberta, including the Castle parks and Livingstone-Porcupine Hills areas, was based on science, as were decisions about the Bighorn area. Stakeholders have raised concerns that the data being used by the minister is taken from out-of-country studies which do not accurately capture the geography of Alberta. To the minister: what relevant, Alberta-based scientific data is being used to drive these decisions, and will it be provided to the public?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The question is somewhere in the neighbourhood of about six or seven months late because the scientific studies that underpinned some of the analysis around the headwater protection that we brought in for the Castle region were released by the two scientists in December and have been available publicly since that time.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that it seems as though decisions made by the government under the guise of science are really being driven by ideology influenced by foreign-funded

environmental groups as opposed to members of the public who responsibly enjoy the backcountry and given that these environmental groups are pushing for the systematic removal of human activity from Alberta's backcountry, again to the minister: when will you personally meet with the general public in order to capture a balanced vision of what kind of backcountry access Albertans want?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, the dozens of scientists who contributed to the analysis that underpinned many of our decisions in the Castle area will be pleased to learn that the folks across the way dismiss their life's work as somehow being tainted or ideological. I'll be clipping this *Hansard* and sending it to all of them because it is just beyond the pale to undermine our professionals in this province who contribute every day to what we know about science, what we know about ecology, what we know about the world around us. It's not surprising at all given that these folks . . .

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

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the minister seems to be playing favourites again by promoting certain types of camping while restricting access for other types of camping and given that motorized access provides an excellent opportunity for families to include everyone in the backcountry experience, including those who may have physical disabilities or mobility issues, again to the minister: will the minister commit to reviewing her plans and decisions to provide fairness and balance for all types of backcountry use?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, there are ecological limits. Certainly, we've invested in our campgrounds and our trails and so on to manage those limits, but there are also limits with respect to the patience of the neighbours. In particular, ranchers in Livingstone-Porcupine Hills came to me and said: please, could you do some planning in these areas? And we did that. We delivered for those Conservative constituents. On this side of the House we listen to communities when they ask us to do something, and then we take action.

2:40 Property Assessed Clean Energy Program

Mr. Stier: Mr. Speaker, recently the NDP government introduced legislation that would enable Alberta municipalities to create a property assessed clean energy program, called PACE. It's a financing tool whereby property owners pay for energy upgrades through their property taxes. Since California adopted PACE in 2007, though, it has experienced legal problems, class-action lawsuits, and homeowners losing their homes. To the minister: why would the NDP propose a program in Alberta that has been so problematic and controversial that it has resulted in horrendous legal actions in other jurisdictions?

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

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. PACE has been used in multiple jurisdictions with very positive results. It provides an opportunity for everyday Albertans to make the kind of energy efficiency upgrades that they want for their homes so that they can save money and reduce emissions. Once again, this provides an

opportunity and empowers municipalities to establish a PACE program, to work with their residents to ensure that this can happen. The bottom line is that PACE is good news for Albertans.

Mr. Stier: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't agree.

Given that in Alberta there are already a number of financing options for property owners who want to install energy upgrades that require the borrower to undergo a credit check and given that Alberta's PACE legislation appears to intentionally circumvent this industry best practice altogether, to the minister again: why are you proposing that Alberta municipalities become primary lenders that don't require that a borrower's creditworthiness be confirmed as a prerequisite to obtain financing?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's talk about the PACE program. Increased demand for energy efficient upgrades means more opportunities in Alberta's green jobs sector. Alberta's building and development community is very excited about the legislation and expect to see increased economic activity as a result of PACE. Similar programs across the U.S. have resulted in nearly \$6 billion in economic activity, and I'm so looking forward to seeing how these programs impact our economy here in Alberta.

Mr. Stier: Mr. Speaker, despite what was said, given that existing PACE programs in the U.S. have resulted in class-action lawsuits, homeowners losing their homes due to foreclosures, and that in Alberta's proposed legislation there doesn't appear to be any requirement for borrowers to undergo even a basic credit check, to the minister again: why hasn't the legislation that you're proposing included safeguards to ensure that Alberta's PACE program doesn't experience the same disastrous results it met elsewhere?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Larivee: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Again, this is empowering legislation supporting municipalities to establish a PACE program within their communities, should their residents want it, in order to give those Albertans access to financing to cover the cost of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Our municipalities play a key role in advancing Alberta's climate leadership roles, and this will empower them to take further actions. As it's a voluntary program, again, the municipalities will need to pass a PACE bylaw before the program becomes available. I cannot state strongly enough that PACE is good news for Albertans . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
The Member for Edmonton-Manning.

North Saskatchewan Heavy Load River Crossing

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to be part of a government that supports the oil and gas industry and the need to reach new markets for our products while also recognizing the importance of the agricultural industry and rural Alberta as important contributors to Alberta's economy. I've received many positive comments from members of both of these industries in my riding due to the recent announcement by the government. The Vinca Bridge, northeast of Edmonton, will be upgraded and will provide a critical link to the areas to the north of the city. To the Minister of Transportation: can you please tell the Legislature how this project will support the energy industry?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member. The Vinca Bridge will provide a critical link over the North Saskatchewan River for heavy and oversized loads. Once it's complete, the bridge will be able to handle heavy loads that will service the Industrial Heartland near Fort Saskatchewan or on to the oil sands. The bridge will allow industry to trim 200 kilometres off the route that currently has to be used. This will save companies time and money and will provide for a much more efficient and strategic route for these projects.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Producers in the agricultural industry are concerned about the preservation of prime farmland for their businesses and the economic future of their families. To the same minister: can you inform the House about how the Vinca Bridge supports these projects and agricultural land?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, the selection of this particular site for the bridge negates the need to build another bridge location that was under study that would have destroyed some of the best remaining agricultural land in the Edmonton region and would have deprived a number of farmers and greenhouse operators of their livelihoods. It's a better route for industry, but it certainly takes the pressure off our farmers and preserves vitally needed agricultural land.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This project is significant in the support of the expansion of the Industrial Heartland while supporting the agricultural producers and rural Alberta. To the same minister: can you please update the Legislature on the timeline and details around the bridge upgrade?

Mr. Mason: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to do so. Design work will get under way this year, preliminary construction will be started in 2020, and it will take about three years to complete. Ninety million dollars was included in Budget 2018, and almost 500 direct and indirect jobs will be created. I want to thank this member and other members from the region for their support of this project, which is so essential to our oil and gas industry and which protects valuable farmland.

The Speaker: We'll proceed in 30 seconds.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Banff-Cochrane.

Indigenous History Month

Mr. Westhead: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to speak today about National Indigenous History Month in Canada. June is National Indigenous History Month, and it is the perfect opportunity for all of us to learn more about the history of this province and the people who lived here long before European settlers arrived.

As we focus on a renewed relationship with indigenous peoples, one based on reconciliation, mutual respect, and co-operation, it is essential that we understand the past and our role in it. Facing up to the wrongs we have committed or have enabled to continue is a necessary part of constructing a better relationship.

This is also the time to celebrate the rich and diverse culture of indigenous peoples living in this province: the vibrant art and music, the brilliant dances and regalia, and the rich tradition of storytelling. We can also celebrate a culture based on community, friendship, connection, and wisdom.

This month I encourage all Albertans to take the opportunity to learn about and experience the rich indigenous culture present in our province. Talk to your neighbours and community members, attend a local powwow or celebration, or visit a native friendship centre or a local library and learn more. And please join your fellow Albertans in the celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day on Thursday, June 21. Alberta is made stronger and more beautiful when indigenous history and identity is recognized, and that is something we can all support.

Thank you.

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

Trans Mountain Pipeline Public Purchase

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My grandmother Smith was a very practical, no-nonsense teacher and farm wife. She understood that life could be hard, so quit your complaining, figure out your options, and move towards a solution. As a teacher and a farm wife she also didn't suffer fools lightly and expected people to take responsibility for their actions. So it's not surprising that some of my grandmother's approach to life has rubbed off and affected my response to the Kinder Morgan fiasco.

We are in this position because of a lack of political leadership of epic proportions, both provincially and federally. The combined poor decisions of the present provincial and federal governments have made the purchase of the pipeline the only option left on the table. While we continue to support the much-needed Trans Mountain project, it should never have come this far.

2:50

The withdrawal of Kinder Morgan continues to send a negative message to the world that Canada cannot defend the rule of law and that special-interest groups funded from the United States will continue to disrupt our economy. Even with the purchase of the pipeline project and infrastructure, the way forward is uncertain. The same scenario that paralyzed the provincial and federal governments is still there. If the federal government was unwilling to deal with a so-called war in the woods before, it has not gone away. If Prime Minister Trudeau was unwilling to uphold the rule of law and jeopardize votes and seats in B.C. in the national interest, there is no reason to believe that buying the pipeline has changed that political reality.

Purchasing Trans Mountain thankfully ensured that the expansion was not permanently cancelled. However, there are a number of actions that the federal government can take to better ensure certainty for the project, and the time to act is now. At least, that is how the many no-nonsense farmers and businesspeople that think like my grandmother see it.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Alberta Party Achievements

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The time we spend together here as legislators to debate Albertans' concerns is so important to the people who we are elected to serve. I'm very proud of the work my Alberta Party caucus colleagues and I have done here in the last three months.

We listened to the most vulnerable Albertans. We brought the choking game to parents' attention. We pushed to increase protection and support for AISH recipients and a PDD review. We brought critical home-care gaps to light. We represented concerns of those relying on assisted reproductive technology when support was withdrawn. We highlighted barriers to accessing free naloxone kits. We brought forward concerns by people with rare diseases that had been previously overlooked. We proudly showed up to debate safe access to abortion services.

We supported innovative Albertans and highlighted rural Internet access as key to economic and social development. We brought attention to the carbon trunk line, which is critical to new business.

We reminded the government of its overdue antiracism strategy, and we sought modernization in paramedics' scope of practice.

We called for support for a coal innovation cluster to provide our coal workforce with something to transition to. In fact, we recognized the importance of keeping Alberta's rural and remote communities vital by proposing \$100 million more for economic diversification and education in our shadow budget. Oh, yeah. We produced a shadow budget.

I don't have enough time to list all of the good work we've done in three months. We listen to and stand with everyday Albertans, whose daily challenges do not have partisan labels. We are proud to have addressed and advocated for positive change for Albertans all across the province as the third party.

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

Accessibility and Inclusion

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May 27 to June 2 is National AccessAbility Week in Canada, a time to celebrate the important contributions of people with disabilities and a time to celebrate communities and workplaces that actively remove barriers for people with disabilities. Inclusion requires action. It requires intentional planning, investment, and vigilance. I'd like to thank the Rick Hansen Foundation for their work around universal access and the development of a rating certification program.

We have many people and organizations in Alberta that deserve recognition and celebration, but today I'd like to celebrate two that have affected me personally. My friend Jonathan Hamilton recently celebrated 30 years of employment with McDonald's in St. Albert. He plays the piano, he volunteers, he climbed Kilimanjaro a few years ago to raise money for a charity, and he's a deeply religious man, involved in his church community. He loves his home and St. Albert, and he's one of the most informed voters I've ever met. He has a developmental disability. By simply living his life in his community, he's taught many people about how great diversity is.

Yesterday I attended a funeral for a young man, Steven Irsheid, who I'd known and supported since he was about 17 years old. His early life in care and the many barriers placed in his way because of his disability could have defined his life, but they did not. My friend Steven lived his short life to its fullest, having all kinds of adventures he had only dreamed of. He also graduated from Bible college, another dream. Most important of all, he was loved, included, and appreciated. He created awareness about the beauty of diversity and inclusion by living his best life.

I'm very proud that here in our own Legislative Assembly we're home to the associate page program, that creates a unique opportunity for inclusion.

I challenge each and every one of you to think about what you can do in your community to support people and organizations working to ensure access and inclusion.

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

Super Hero Day in Edmonton-Decore

Mr. Nielsen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to speak about an event that will take place in the super-fantastic riding of Edmonton-Decore on June 10, the second annual Super Hero Day. The event is being organized by Dickinsfield Amity House and Northmount Community League with the participation of my constituency office.

Amity House is truly a home of humble superheroes who have been working to support residents in the area for over 45 years. Northmount Community League was established in 1971 and has been providing a super venue and support to the community since that time. Last year Northmount Community League park was filled with a whole bunch of other superheroes from all types of comic books. A fun-filled afternoon of super activities was held, complete with a free super barbecue.

This year's event will be super bigger and super better. In fact, it will also include some of our real-life superheroes. On a daily basis members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Edmonton Police Service, Edmonton fire rescue, and emergency medical services put their lives on the line to keep every one of us safe. They are our true superheroes. So for this year's event we are pleased to have Edmonton fire rescue station 14, EMS, and EPS participate in this event.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our real-life heroes for their outstanding work each and every day. As it is Paramedic Services Week I would like to extend a special thank you to all the EMS in the Legislature today for their dedication to their work and for helping numerous Albertans on a daily basis.

Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to attend this super event June 10, 1 to 4 p.m., at Northmount Community League. All ages of superheroes are welcome, and I hope to see you there.

Official Opposition Voting Practices

Mr. Fildebrandt: The single most important qualities for elected office are principle and consistency. It means sticking to your guns even when you're outgunned. It means making the right choice, not always the easy choice. I wake up on the right side of the bed every morning. But many career politicians tend to toss and turn all day long, blowing in the wind, making their decisions rooted in tactics and political strategy and not in what they just feel is right. There are many good and principled conservatives who sit in this House today, and I feel genuinely sorry for them when I see them bridled, muzzled, and whipped from speaking their minds and voting their conscience.

I know the hearts of my conservative colleagues. I know that you have been forced to vote for legislation that you oppose, abstain from votes that you care about, and stay silent on issues that are contrary to your core beliefs. You have been forced to stay silent and flee the House on 15 different votes on a bill that attacks freedom of speech. You have been whipped to vote with the NDP to support race and gender quotas for the entire private sector on five separate occasions. You've been forced to vote with the NDP against the 5 per cent pay cut for MLAs. And you've been forced to side with Trudeau and the NDP in support of taxpayers buying a pipeline.

I don't know what happened to the party that I believed we were founding a year ago. I don't know what happened to the promise of principled conservatism, of open nominations, of grassroots guarantees. But I do know where I stand. I will show up for work

every day. I will not bend when the wind blows. I will not give the socialists an inch. I will fight until I have no more to give, and I will do it every day until the job is done. [some applause] Stop doing that. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order.
The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice to the House now under Standing Order 7(8) that the Routine shall be extended beyond 3 p.m.

3:00 Presenting Petitions

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-Shaw.

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to present two petitions today that have been approved by Parliamentary Counsel. The petitions are on angel cradles, which are safe, anonymous drop-off spots where babies can be left when no one is able to care for them. The first petition prayer states:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government to adopt a policy to ensure that all new hospitals are required to provide Angel Cradles.

The second petition prayer states:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government to establish at least one Angel Cradle in a central hospital in Calgary.

I want to thank my guests and congratulate them on their hard work. They met with the ministry earlier today to discuss this item as well.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

Bill 207 Municipal Government (Legion Tax Exemption) Amendment Act, 2018

Mr. Rosendahl: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to request leave to introduce Bill 207, the Municipal Government (Legion Tax Exemption) Amendment Act, 2018.

Mr. Speaker, legions have a long history in Canada, and our veterans deserve our support and respect. Bill 207 will support legions and the good work they do in our communities by exempting them from property taxes. I will be consulting with legions and others in Alberta this summer to gather feedback on this important bill, and I look forward to debating this bill with my colleagues in the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 207 read a first time]

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Banff-Cochrane.

Bill 208 Public Recreation Areas Consultation Act

Mr. Westhead: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a great pleasure today to request leave to introduce Bill 208, the Public Recreation Areas Consultation Act.

Recreation areas on public land are important environmental and economic assets, to be enjoyed by all Albertans. Community stewards play an integral role in the development, maintenance, and protection of these recreation areas throughout the province. If

passed, this bill will ensure that community stewards, who often invest significant time and money into the creation and enhancements of these recreational assets, can file a consultative notation on those lands and that they will be consulted when land-use changes related to that public land are considered.

I have heard loud and clear from constituents and from Albertans across the province that they want to have a seat at the table to ensure their hard work is taken into consideration when making land-use decisions. I would like to thank all those who provided ideas and suggestions as I drafted Bill 208, and I look forward to consulting further over the next several months. It is my hope that it will create a process that works in everybody's best interests.

Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 208 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table five copies of a letter written by Brigitte Sakaluk, CAO of the MD of St. Paul Foundation, to Wendy Corbiere, the director of laboratory services, north zone, regarding the cancellation of on-site lab collection services to our seniors.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

Bill 5 An Act to Strengthen Financial Security for Persons with Disabilities

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to move third reading of Bill 5, An Act to Strengthen Financial Security for Persons with Disabilities.

The intent of this bill is to ensure families are able to plan for their children's future and that Albertans with disabilities have access to financial security, as all Albertans do. This legislation ensures Albertans can establish trusts for family members and loved ones who are receiving AISH benefits without impacting their AISH eligibility. It also provides a one-year grace period, if someone receives a large payment, to make thoughtful decisions and plans. It has been incredible to hear the overwhelming positive response to this bill. Self-advocates, families, workers, organizations, and community leaders have said that this is a long-overdue change that they have been calling for for years.

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

I want to recognize the MLA for Calgary-Currie for his great leadership and work on this bill. He has been a true champion for this issue. He consulted with hundreds of self-advocates, families, and organizations across this province. Individuals and families shared their stories and hopes and said that this change would make a meaningful difference in their lives. That is why we are here today. We are here because we are listening to the community and want to make life better for Albertans with disabilities and their families. We are here because we want to correct a wrong, a wrong that occurred when the previous government disallowed trusts. Because of this bill, parents and guardians will be able to make thoughtful decisions to plan for the long-term care of their children and loved ones who have disabilities.

Albertans who count on AISH will not have to deplete their savings to continue to receive benefits, including health benefits. This bill corrects an injustice against people with disabilities and their families. Our government's commitment to correcting injustices and making life better underpins much of our work. We stopped the PDD safety standards, we removed the supports intensity scale, and we have refused to make reckless cuts. We have established a new relationship with the community, one that is based on listening and working collaboratively together instead of imposing changes on the community.

Once again, I want to thank every self-advocate, family member, worker, Albertan, organization, and community member that shared their support for this change. I encourage every member of this House to join with them and support this bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, I rise to speak to Bill 5, An Act to Strengthen Financial Security for Persons with Disabilities. This is an important piece of legislation that will exempt discretionary and nondiscretionary trusts as assets when determining AISH eligibility. As well, it will provide a one-year grace period for AISH recipients who receive an inheritance or a lump-sum payment to give them an opportunity to take advantage of discretionary trusts.

I think this is important because, quite honestly, family members care deeply when one of their own is severely handicapped. They often love them with even a more intense love. They have a loyalty and honour to care for their own, to stick with them and look after them, and government policy should actually support that, not dissuade family participation and family ability to care for their own and should not make it, really, a discrimination against the person who needs support and help. Rather, we should have legislation that actually enhances family support and treats those with disabilities with full equality before the law and full fairness before the law.

3:10

Most of all, the most important thing, I think, is that AISH recipients should not be disenfranchised from the rights of family inheritance, family property. They should not be cut off, as it were, from family support. There are already a number of exemptions for AISH recipients so that their AISH payments are not disqualified. I'll just list some of those AISH exemptions: a home or a quarter section that they live on, a vehicle, a second vehicle adapted for disability, clothing, reasonable household items, a registered disability fund. What this bill does is that it simply adds the additional item of discretionary and nondiscretionary trusts to that list of exempted funds or exempted inheritances and rights. I think that's important because it treats them, then, with fairness and equality before the law.

The value of AISH is already very minimal on a monthly basis for people to live on. In fact, I received a call just this morning from a husband and wife receiving the \$1,588 a month. By the time they pay their rent of \$1,000, food at \$600, the cost of rapidly rising utilities, they're struggling. For families to be able to backstop them, for families to be able to engage with them and support them and be partners with them is not a bad thing. It's a good thing. The goal really should be not to exclude family support but to actually enhance it and support it. We don't want to keep AISH recipients on a poverty line deliberately. We don't want to put them in a

position where the only supports they can find are from government supports. I think that's important.

I'd like to just tell a brief story about a gentleman in my riding that I've had very close experience with. I count him, actually, as a close friend. A few years ago – well, let me back up. He was born with some developmental disabilities and lived with his parents as long as he could. They had a house at the time, an interesting house, actually, built in about the 1920s, I think. It had been many different things in the community over the years. But when they passed on, they willed to him this house as a place to live. He's lived in that same house since he was born. Thankfully, a home, as I just read a moment ago, is included in that list of exemptions. Otherwise, he would have lost a place to live and/or he would have lost his AISH payments, which he depends on for his monthly living.

I think it's a great boon and a great gift that he has been able to have both a place to live and a means of support monthly throughout his lifetime. The very important part of this here is that his parents, as they became older and then eventually passed away, had the anxiety and the worry and the concern about how their son is going to be looked after after they pass away, how he is going to survive after they pass away. It's something that many families truly, truly agonize over. This is one of the things that I think will help them to be able to have the assurance that their son or daughter will be cared for, will be able to survive, will have what they need for an adequate and a reasonable life in this world.

The gentleman that I've been speaking about is well known in his community. Everybody likes him. A few years ago that house he was living in was getting very tired, as you can imagine. He's been living in it his entire life, as I said, built about the 1920s. I was very proud to be able to lead a community effort to do, basically, about a \$25,000 home makeover project for him in the community, to completely redo the interior and some of the exterior of his house, put a new roof on it, new windows in it, make sure the furnace was safe, reinforce the foundation to a very old house. Again, it continues to be a place where he can live safely, live with security and without fear and anxiety.

In his case, because they were able to give him the house that he lived in, it worked out well. For other people, they don't have the house to give them. For other people, they put together a trust. They may have the money in a different format, and they would like to ensure that their son or daughter has some means of additional support, so they go and put together a trust. It's much the same as for this gentleman a house.

But I do think it's extremely important that we show the dignity and the respect of allowing families to participate and to contribute and to create that kind of economic security for their family member, that may struggle otherwise and not be able to find employment. It just gives them peace of mind to be able to leave an inheritance, that they have worked hard for, that they have earned, that they've probably scrimped and saved for, in order to provide something for their son or daughter. To assure them that they will not be disqualified from AISH I think is extremely important. The one-year grace period for those who receive funds that are not protected or secured I think is also important so that there's time for that to happen.

I am a little bit concerned, though, for folks who may be cognitively impaired who receive those kinds of funds and don't have the knowledge or the ability to put them into a safe, legal vehicle. I trust that there will be some kind of support, some kind of advocacy on their behalf, that they will not lose this benefit simply because they are not aware or do not know how to proceed with those kinds of complicated details of setting up a trust.

I really believe the government should not treat people differently based on their family situation. It's not always their choice. It's

never their choice, in fact. We ought to support them, we ought to inform them, we ought to encourage them, and, above all, we ought not to treat them as being less than human.

I fully support this bill and encourage the rest of the House to do so. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the bill? The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd also like to thank the member who spoke before me. He certainly did a good job of addressing the issues that are identified and addressed through this bill. I rise in support of this bill, An Act to Strengthen Financial Security for Persons with Disabilities, and I do so for a number of reasons. I was a single parent for a long time in my life, and I worried about my children, what would happen as they grew older. In fact, one of my daughters has some medical issues right now and, in fact, may eventually have to depend on AISH.

Even before I was elected and I had notified that I was interested in running, a number of people came to see me, who turned out to be constituents of mine. They met me to discuss their concerns around AISH, and one of the issues that came up over and over and over again was just this issue in terms of the Henson trust, as my colleague had brought forward for his private member's bill. In this area, when families are making such decisions, normally you wouldn't have to consider how you would leave an inheritance to your children. If you have two children, you could divide it in half. If you have five, they all get a fifth of it. But in the case of a disability this would have made a difference if that child or that adult child had a disability and was receiving AISH. The people who came to see me, the constituents, said: why should that child be treated any differently than the other children in my family?

In the fall session my colleague from Calgary-Currie brought forward his private member's bill, and it addressed that issue. The constituents who had spoken to me were over the moon. They were so happy that he had brought it forward. In fact, he came down to Lethbridge, and he did a session on what the bill was going to do. I don't remember exactly how many people were there, but certainly the room was packed. They listened to the presentation. Suffice to say that at the end of the presentation, no one in the room opposed that proposed bill. When the bill died on the floor, however, they came to my office, and they expressed their disappointment and their concerns about this bill dying. And I have to say that I shared that disappointment.

3:20

I was, however, very pleased to hear when the minister introduced his bill. Certainly, when they heard it, I had visits in my office again because they were pretty happy it came forward. If this bill passes, and I certainly hope that it will, it will provide persons with disabilities the same opportunities as those without disabilities in terms of their financial stability within their families.

Currently if a person with a disability who is receiving AISH were to receive an inheritance, as my colleague across the floor has said, they may well lose their eligibility to receive AISH. AISH does provide benefits to help persons with disabilities with things like their daily needs and health-related supports. An inheritance might well put them over the threshold, and they would possibly lose those supports for a period of time until the inheritance had been exhausted. This person would then have to reapply to again establish their eligibility for AISH. Depending on when it was exhausted, that may mean having to wait months before they meet the threshold of an annual income.

Before my children were born, as I said, I began planning for their futures, and as a single parent that planning really played on me in terms of: what would happen if I died, and how would my kids be taken care of? They're adults now, but it still plays on my mind. I thought about what they needed for now but also for the future. I didn't have much, but I put away a little or as much as I could. I bought insurance policies just in case, God forbid, anything should happen to me or happen to them. I didn't have enough money to bury them, so I made sure I had insurance policies that would cover the cost of a burial if either one of my kids died. All of those things played in my mind as a parent.

Certainly, this bill is a bill that I wish had been around when my kids were little so that I wouldn't have been real worried about them and certainly when I realized that my daughter had some issues that may put her in this position.

When I talk to other parents, many – and probably many of you in this room have done the same thing. You've worried about your kids. You've gotten the insurance policy. You got an insurance policy on your house so that if you died, the house is paid for, all of those little things, everything you can do to protect your children. This particular bill I think takes some of that worry away from parents, not all of it, but it certainly takes a big portion of that worry away from the parents. It doesn't mean that, you know, they won't continue to love and protect their kids, because they will do that until the day they die.

My question about this is: why has this not always been in place? I know that there was something in place before, and then it was changed, and I was kind of shocked that it had changed. Why should someone who is disabled be treated any differently than someone who isn't disabled or, I should say, maybe ably challenged? If a parent is in a position to be able to leave something for their children, why shouldn't it be divided equally between them?

On that note, I am supporting this bill because it is the right thing to do. I am representing my constituents who have spoken to me about fixing this issue. Now, there are many other issues that also came up, and every single one of them I've brought forward to the minister. I am really happy that this piece can move forward, and I certainly hope everybody in this House is going to support this bill.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the bill?

Seeing none, would the hon. minister like to close debate?

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to everyone who participated in the discussion of Bill 5. I will really briefly address the concern raised by the Member for Lacombe-Ponoka around cognitively disabled individuals and family members. I think similar concerns were raised by the Member for Chestermere-Rocky View and the Member for Calgary-Greenway. Under the Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act there are different mechanisms available, and those protections are available. They can appoint a trustee, and the trustee will have oversight by the court, specifically if they are dealing with financial matters. If there is no one available to act as a trustee, the Public Trustee can be served the notice, and the Public Trustee can be appointed to deal with those matters.

Another question raised was around: if cognitively impaired Albertans receive funds in inheritance, what protection will be available to them? In that regard, I think the personal representative of the deceased's estate is required under the Estate Administration Act to ensure that a cognitively impaired individual is properly represented. They would have to notify the court, in the application to become the representative, of that concern. Under different

statutes there are protections that are afforded to cognitively disabled Albertans.

With that, again I thank each and every one who participated in the debate, and I close debate on Bill 5.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

[Motion carried; Bill 5 read a third time]

Bill 14

An Act to Empower Utility Consumers

The Acting Speaker: Is there a member wishing to speak to Bill 14? The hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to rise and move third reading of Bill 14, An Act to Empower Utility Consumers, on behalf of the Minister of Service Alberta and Status of Women.

I would like to speak one last time about Bill 14 and the provision related to the dissemination of information related to utility providers. We have heard from Albertans that more information needs to be shared about utility providers in order to educate consumers about services provided to them. The Utilities Consumer Advocate is ideally positioned to provide this service as they have both the expertise in this area and the means to make this information publicly available. Having compliance and service-quality information available for public review will motivate businesses to improve their practices in order to attract and retain consumers. Where consumers become aware of providers, retailers, or distributors that are frequently receiving complaints under the Consumer Protection Act or other legislation, they can take steps to protect themselves. This will be particularly useful in a utilities context, where some information is highly technical and can be made more user friendly by the UCA.

To conclude, this government has heard from Albertans that they want greater transparency in the electricity and natural gas sector. I believe that was originally in Bill 208 to help meet this demand, and I am delighted to see that what I proposed last fall is being carried forward.

3:30

Lastly, I'm very proud that the mandate of the Utilities Consumer Advocate will now include mediation for water services. This means that Albertans will not be alone and will have somewhere to turn if they have questions about their water bill, and it means that they can rely on the trusted expertise of the Utilities Consumer Advocate to help them address concerns or resolve a dispute. As a result, this increased transparency and the inclusion of water in the UCA's mandate will empower Albertans when interacting with their electricity, natural gas, and water utilities.

I have no doubt that Albertans stand to benefit, and I'm looking forward to seeing this bill implemented. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the bill? The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Mr. Cyr: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate that. I will speak on Bill 14. I am looking forward to supporting this bill. This is a good piece of legislation that has been put forward by the Minister of Service Alberta.

During my last couple of speeches I used an example of a wonderful woman in Calgary that had a \$2,700 bill. She couldn't seem to get through that there was an error. I also had another example where a local businessman in my constituency had a

decimal point out on the meter that he had, and he had excessively high bills that also weren't addressed by that municipality. So we have water bills that are being put forward by municipalities that seem to have no mechanism to be able to facilitate a good dialogue on, if you will.

The only thing that I will say that I'm very disappointed on with this government is that I put forward an amendment that said: let's bring some clarity to the reporting of what exactly is put in a bill; that is, the charges, the fees, the levies. What we need to do is to be able to have an explanation of exactly what those charges are for.

I gave examples of the city of Edmonton, for instance. This is not a water example; this is a new home example. New homes in Edmonton were charged an administration fee that was meant for creating efficiency within the city of Edmonton to be able to accelerate new homes through the system. What we ended up seeing was a system where it became a slush fund for the city of Edmonton. Clearly, that wasn't the intent. Clearly, that's wrong.

But other than that, other than the minister and the NDP caucus voting down a reasonable amendment, I will support this bill, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the bill?

Seeing none, hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose, would you like to close debate?

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, I would like to bring the debate on Bill 14 to a close. Thank you to the opposition for your support of this bill. Thank you to the Minister of Service Alberta for championing consumer protection. It is an honour to have my private member's bill, Bill 208, come to fruition.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

[Motion carried; Bill 14 read a third time]

Bill 16

Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Statutes Amendment Act, 2018

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

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's an honour to rise today and on behalf of the Minister of Labour move third reading of Bill 16, the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Statutes Amendment Act, 2018.

Now, the minister asked me to convey her thanks to the members of the House for their comments on the bill. They've been extensive and indeed colourful.

I'd like to take this opportunity to address a few concerns that were raised during Committee of the Whole. Bill 16 will guarantee a level playing field by ensuring that parties that are closely connected be subject to a single spending limit. It will also increase transparency by enhancing reporting requirements. Our government continues to act on our commitment to ensure that our electoral system is fair, accountable, and transparent. Elections, after all, should be decided by ideas and not money, which is what Albertans expect. These amendments preserve the fairness and integrity of Alberta's democratic electoral system.

In regard to spending limits the intent of our amendments is electoral fairness. Bill 16 requires that associated parties be subject to the spending limit of a single party. Concerns have been expressed to this House that the definition of associated parties may be a bit too broad. Well, when determining whether or not a party

is associated, the Election Commissioner must consider multiple criteria. Those criteria would include whether the parties have common leadership, political programs, or policy statements; whether one party controls another; whether parties have the same advertising material and branding; and the nature of agreements or interactions that might exist between the parties.

The Election Commissioner will have the authority to consider all relevant information. This approach provides an appropriate level, I believe, of guidance in terms of how to interpret the amendments while at the same time it does not hinder the normal interaction or discussions between parties. We believe this provides a workable and a fair process that will apply to all parties now and in the future.

In regard to government advertising another concern that was raised was whether there will be restrictions on government spending in advertising. Now, we kept our promise that public dollars cannot be used for electioneering. That's why we addressed government advertising in Bill 32, An Act to Strengthen and Protect Democracy in Alberta, which passed last fall. It's imperative that the public service be able to provide Albertans with the information they need even during an election, and Bill 32 contained provisions that prohibit taxpayer money from being used in ways that could influence elections while preventing a total shutdown of all government communication with the public.

During the election period the following types of advertisements and publications would still be allowed: those required by law, those required for procurement or employment purposes, important public health or safety messages, and continuing advertising about an ongoing program. Albertans can be reassured that they will have access to important nonpartisan public information and that they will hear from the government when it comes to essential information on health and safety and continuing advertising about ongoing programs.

These amendments would enhance transparency and protect fairness in election spending. Fair elections depend on all parties and candidates having a level playing field so ideas and not money decide who wins. Bill 16 is another step to preserve the fairness and integrity of all future elections within our province.

I look forward to the continued high quality of debate on this bill. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

Mr. van Dijken: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to speak to Bill 16, Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Statutes Amendment Act, 2018. Here we are again dealing with another bill to deal with election finance law. Bill 16 deals with a lot of little things, little things that probably should have been looked after in Bill 32. But that's okay. Here we are dealing with them now. I think if the NDP would have in fact conducted proper consultation and done good consultation before introducing Bill 32, we maybe would have been able to skirt this process, but we're where we're at now. When it comes to issues of democracy and accountability, which the NDP are infamous for standing up to defend, it is incredibly ironic that the NDP can't seem to get this basic consultation correct yet.

We see where implications of Bill 32 have caused Elections Alberta to now request an additional just about \$9 million this year

to cover off the expenses of implementing that legislation. The door-to-door enumerations do cost money. The UCP did let the NDP know that this was a concern, but I guess they didn't listen. It was not even included in the 2018 budget. So we look at this and start to wonder: well, are the NDP even listening?

3:40

Under Bill 16 the newly appointed Election Commissioner would be able to initiate an investigation of their own at the request of the Chief Electoral Officer or at the request of an elector or registered party in order to determine if two or more registered parties are associated. If two parties are found to be associated, they must share the \$2 million spending limit for a single party.

I would suggest that, clearly, this legislation is targeted at the United Conservative Party, the NDP concern that the United Conservative Party would possibly stretch the rules and use the legacy parties – the legacy PC Party, the legacy Wildrose Party, and also the United Conservative Party – to be able to spend \$2 million. But, you know, we're going to comply. Our legacy PC Party and the legacy Wildrose Party outlined in their unity agreement, in their agreement in principle that established our United Conservative Party, that that would be the case, so I think we were one step ahead of the game even on what's being proposed in this bill.

Bill 16 has some positive housekeeping measures such as increasing the fines for registered parties, registered candidates, registered nomination contestants, and the chief financial officers of these entities who exceed spending limits. I believe that the current fines were too small to really be any kind of an incentive for those who wish to take advantage of the law to not do so. So I believe that's a good move, to increase those penalties.

The legislation will also mean that election advertising period rules will now also apply to by-elections, which will bring advertising done by third parties during a by-election under election rules as opposed to political advertising, where they currently fall. Election advertising rules apply starting December 1 prior to an election year and end on polling day whereas political advertising is year-round.

Madam Speaker, if the NDP had done their job right the first time and listened to the UCP opposition, the Chief Electoral Officer, and others, Bill 16 would not be needed, but here we are again. Bill 16 is filled with small fixes and could have been handled much better earlier.

I will support Bill 16 and vote in favour. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the bill?

Is there anybody wishing to close debate?

All right. Seeing none, I will now call the question.

[Motion carried; Bill 16 read a third time]

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. That is indeed wonderful news, and I want to congratulate the House on the great progress that we've made this afternoon. It's been a long week, and I am glad to say that it is now coming to an end. I will move that we adjourn the House until 1:30 on Monday afternoon, and I would like to wish all members a safe trip home.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:44 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, May 31, 2018

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

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

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

Bill 1 — Energy Diversification Act (McCuaig-Boyd)

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

Second Reading — 50-51 (*Mar. 13, 2018 morn.*), 184-87 (*Mar. 15, 2018 aft.*), 233-43 (*Mar. 20, 2018 aft.*), 301-08 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft.*), 919-27 (*May 9, 2018 morn.*), 981-84 (*May 9, 2018 eve.*), 1054-59 (*May 14, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1280-87 (*May 29, 2018 aft.*), (*May 29, 2018 aft.*), (*May 29, 2018 eve.*), 1311-18 (*May 29, 2018 eve., passed*)

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

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

Second Reading — 243-46 (*Mar. 20, 2018 morn.*), 294-96 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft.*), 314-25 (*Mar. 22, 2018 morn.*), 411-12 (*Apr. 4, 2018 aft.*), 702-05 (*May 1, 2018 eve.*), 928-33 (*May 9, 2018 morn.*), 1061-68 (*May 15, 2018 morn.*), 1101-04 (*May 15, 2018 eve.*), 1163-67 (*May 16, 2018 eve.*), 1202-06 (*May 17, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1253-58 (*May 29, 2018 morn.*), 1288-97 (*May 29, 2018 aft.*), (*May 29, 2018 eve.*), 1379-82 (*May 30, 2018 eve., passed*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Reading — 360-62 (*Apr. 3, 2018 morn.*), 482-87 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 847-54 (*May 7, 2018 eve.*), 1084-88 (*May 15, 2018 aft.*), 1361-64 (*May 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1418-21 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

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

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

Second Reading — 533-34 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft.*), 669-79 (*May 1, 2018 aft.*), 1010-13 (*May 10, 2018 aft.*), 1101 (*May 15, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1158-63 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1360-61 (*May 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

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

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

Second Reading — 491-97 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft.*), 534-36 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft.*), 679-83 (*May 1, 2018 aft.*), 908-09 (*May 8, 2018 eve.*), 913-14 (*May 8, 2018 eve.*), 1097-98 (*May 15, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1299-1311 (*May 29, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1365-74 (*May 30, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

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

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

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

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

Second Reading — 497-502 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft.*), 785-93 (*May 3, 2018 morn.*), 775-76 (*May 3, 2018 morn.*), 807-08 (*May 3, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 909-13 (*May 8, 2018 eve.*), 957-61 (*May 9, 2018 aft.*), 992-94 (*May 10, 2018 morn.*), 1088-96 (*May 15, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1352-60 (*May 30, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

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

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

Second Reading — 611-12 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft.*), 643-50 (*May 1, 2018 morn.*), 761-72 (*May 2, 2018 eve.*), 973-81 (*May 9, 2018 eve.*), 1049-54 (*May 14, 2018 eve.*), 1180-87 (*May 17, 2018 morn.*), 1242-47 (*May 28, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1287-88 (*May 29, 2018 aft.*), (*May 29, 2018 eve.*), 1374-79 (*May 30, 2018 eve., passed with amendments*)

Bill 11 — Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2018 (Gray)

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

Second Reading — 612-13 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft.*), 650-56 (*May 1, 2018 morn.*), 772-74 (*May 2, 2018 eve.*), 967-73 (*May 9, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1157 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1382-86 (*May 30, 2018 eve., passed*)

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

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

Second Reading — 736-46 (*May 2, 2018 aft.*), 854-55 (*May 7, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 961-65 (*May 9, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 994-96 (*May 10, 2018 morn.*), 1135-54 (*May 16, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 18, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2018 c P-21.5]

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

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

Second Reading — 746-53 (*May 2, 2018 aft.*), 808-16 (*May 3, 2018 aft.*), 855-64 (*May 7, 2018 eve.*), 947-57 (*May 9, 2018 aft.*), 1169-80 (*May 17, 2018 morn.*), 1247-50 (*May 28, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1322-34 (*May 30, 2018 morn.*), 1397-1404 (*May 31, 2018 morn., adjourned on amendment*)

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

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

Second Reading — 718-24 (*May 2, 2018 morn.*), 915-19 (*May 9, 2018 morn.*), 1098-1101 (*May 15, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1319-22 (*May 30, 2018 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1421 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

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

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

Second Reading — 683-89 (*May 1, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 753-56 (*May 2, 2018 aft.*), 757-60 (*May 2, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 776-85 (*May 3, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 14, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 14, 2018; SA 2018 c3]

Bill 16 — Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Gray)

First Reading — 879 (*May 8, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1010-13 (*May 10, 2018 aft.*), 1105-22 (*May 16, 2018 morn.*), 1155-57 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1258-64 (*May 29, 2018 morn.*), 1299 (*May 29, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1421-22 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 17 — Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Ceci)

First Reading — 806 (*May 3, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 864-65 (*May 7, 2018 eve.*), 1014-15 (*May 10, 2018 aft.*), 1058-59 (*May 14, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1157 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1364 (*May 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 18 — Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Mason)

First Reading — 1201 (*May 17, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1251-52 (*May 28, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1387-97 (*May 31, 2018 morn., passed*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bill 203 — Long Term Care Information Act (Schreiner)

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

Second Reading — 632-40 (*Apr. 30, 2018 aft.*), 829-33 (*May 7, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — (*May 28, 2018 aft., passed*)

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

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

Second Reading — 833-41 (*May 7, 2018 aft., adjourned*), 1031-37 (*May 14, 2018 aft., reasoned amendment agreed to*)

Bill 205 — Supporting Accessible Mental Health Services Act (Jabbour)

First Reading — 1008 (*May 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1037 (*May 14, 2018 aft., deferred to Monday, October 29, 2018*)

Bill 206 — Societies (Preventing the Promotion of Hate) Amendment Act, 2018 (Coolahan)

First Reading — 1008-09 (*May 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1037 (*May 14, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 207 — Municipal Government (Legion Tax Exemption) Amendment Act, 2018 (Rosendahl)

First Reading — 1418 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 208 — Public Recreation Areas Consultation Act (Westhead)

First Reading — 1418 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

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