



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, June 7, 2018

Day 40

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 29th Legislature

Fourth Session

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

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Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition
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Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (UCP)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (NDP)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)
Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (NDP)
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (NDP)
Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (NDP)
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP),
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Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (NDP),
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Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (NDP)
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Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (NDP)
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Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP),
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Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (AP)
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Gray, Hon. Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)
Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (UCP)
Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (NDP)
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Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)
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Vacant, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

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

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 7, 2018

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon. I truly mean good afternoon. Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Miranda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all the members of the Assembly some special guests. Mr. Luis Enrique Cruz Mora is the executive director of Fundacco, a charity in Nicaragua that works in some of the poorest neighbourhoods in the country of my birth to help with health needs and to set up co-op units to improve the local economy. Unfortunately, the current situation in Nicaragua is very similar to when I was forced to leave, and peaceful protests have been met by violent reprisals, leaving many civilians hurt, jailed, disappeared, or killed. It is my hope that peace returns soon to this country and that justice prevails. Fundacco, of course, could not be doing their important work without the help from a local Alberta organization, the Roots of Change Foundation. Joining us today from the Roots of Change are Jocelyne Durocher and Cindie LeBlanc. I thank you all for supporting this much-needed international work in community development, and I ask all my colleagues to give them the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly someone I think many of us know by sight, Mr. Doug Brinkman. He is a citizen journalist with the Citizen Free News. I know many of us probably chatted with him on the way into the House. I'd ask Mr. Brinkman to please rise now and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you and [remarks in Tagalog], Mr. Speaker. This past weekend I was honoured to proclaim June as Philippine Heritage Month in Alberta, as you may have heard. I want to recognize that Filipinos across the world are known for their hospitality, for their values of compassion, and for taking care of one another. Today I'm honoured to introduce a group of Filipinos who take care of the members in this Chamber every day. They're here from the staff in facilities and maintenance at the Legislature and at the Federal Building. I ask that my guests rise as we say their names. They're enthusiastic. I like it. My smaller but distinguished Ate Nimfa as well as Limuel, Geofrey, Nathaniel, Reynaldo, Jesu, and Erwin. [Remarks in Tagalog] to all of you, and thank you so much for taking care of us all year long. Colleagues, please join me in extending our gratitude.

The Speaker: Welcome.

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

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the

United Conservative Party intern team that has been with us this late part of the session and will be with us for the remainder of the summer. The hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills has taken to affectionately calling them tiny Tories. I think that, well, the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills is probably a tiny Tory himself, so that probably makes sense. They're doing a great job, and I'm looking forward to working with them for the rest of the summer. As I say their names, I'd like it if they would stand: Ethan Williams, Justin Laurence, Andrea Farmer, Kyle Paterson, MaryAnne Spiess, Quinn Hironaka, Cline Borle, and Arsh Singh. I'd ask that they receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Mrs. Littlewood: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly a guest from Futurpreneur Canada, a unique nonprofit which supports young entrepreneurs through financing, mentoring, and other support tools. Here we have today with us Ismail Attitalla, the owner of Edmonton Brewery Tours. It was an absolute pleasure to meet with Ismail earlier today and hear about how Futurpreneur has helped him in starting his own business, which was born out of a passion of his own family's business. Our government is an enthusiastic and proud supporter of Futurpreneur and indeed all young Alberta entrepreneurs like Ismail. I ask him to now rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, are there any other introductions? Calgary-Mountain View.

Dr. Swann: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'm very glad to introduce to you and through you to the House at least a couple of Liberals from both the Calgary and Edmonton constituencies. Actually, I'm waiting for the leader to arrive. Could I possibly delay this introduction? He's just held up briefly. Would that be acceptable to you?

The Speaker: Only because it's today, but you'll have to test the House at some point.

Dr. Swann: Thank you. That's very gracious of you.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River.

Farmer's Day

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bacon and eggs for breakfast; mixed salad greens, assorted cheese, and fresh vegetables for lunch; steak and baby potatoes for dinner: we eat meals like these every day. But where do they come from? Many Albertans have never seen the process of farm to fork.

Agriculture is one of Alberta's most important industries, and we are the second-largest agriculture producer in Canada. We lead the nation in beef production and are one of the largest producers of honey. Grains, pulses, poultry, eggs, dairy products, berries, and much more are all produced in this province. Our value-added food and beverage industry is worth over \$5 billion. In the north we have over 30 per cent of Alberta's agriculture community, including many smaller family farms. I'm proud to represent a constituency where agriculture plays a key role.

Farmer's Day was established in 1951 after the United Farmers of Alberta, or UFA, passed a resolution urging the Alberta

government to declare the day a provincial holiday. For more than 20 years the second Friday in June was a provincial holiday; schools were closed, and communities across the province celebrated the importance of agriculture. In 2010 the tradition of Farmer's Day was resurrected by the UFA, and the event continues to recognize and celebrate the men and women who tirelessly drive our agriculture industry. These are farmers like my grandparents, who came to Alberta for new opportunities, to break ground and grow food to meet the needs of an expanding population.

My constituency is one of the last parts of the province where new agricultural land is available. Hard-working farmers continue to clear the land and plant crops in the north. Because the soil has not been previously cultivated, it is ideal for organic farming, which is one of the reasons the Peace River constituency has the largest number of organic farms in the province.

There are so many reasons to celebrate our farmers, so I encourage everyone to reflect on the meaning of Farmer's Day, take time to learn about where your food comes from, and thank a farmer. Knowing that your meal was grown or produced right here in rural Alberta will make it that much tastier.

Official Opposition Policies

Mr. Loewen: There's a reason why we call question period question period. Well, we can't call it answer period as the government almost never answers questions but, instead, uses question period to spew partisan rhetoric that never resembles reality.

Let's review some of this bizarre commentary. They say that we would cut taxes only for the rich, not ordinary Albertans. The fact is that the NDP raised taxes on every Albertan. We would cut taxes for everyone by just repealing the carbon tax alone.

They claim that we cheer for the failure of pipelines. Nothing is more absurd. We have never wavered in our support for all pipelines. Back when NDP members were protesting every pipeline proposal, we were in steadfast support. No one even believes they support pipelines now, only that they want to be re-elected.

They say that we want to fire teachers, nurses, and doctors. This is absolutely untrue. We want to protect front-line workers while making government more efficient and responsive to the needs of Albertans.

They say that the UCP doesn't care about the environment. The reality is that we can protect the environment without destroying our economy.

They say that a vote against the budget is a vote against the valuable and worthwhile functions of government, but they conveniently forget that when they were in opposition, they voted against every budget every year.

They even claim that the previous government blew up hospitals, when actually it was the demolition of an old hospital that was replaced with a brand new medical facility. They ignore the reality that some of the newest and most advanced hospitals in this province were built by Conservatives. Meanwhile under their watch they have closed multiple seniors' centres in the Peace Country alone.

I guess that when you're 30 points behind in the polls, you get desperate and use hyperbole and misdirection at every opportunity. Frankly, this NDP government seems a little confused when it comes to reality, and on top of that, they certainly have an interesting relationship with the truth. Mr. Speaker, with all of this, the biggest mistake the government members make is thinking that Albertans buy what they're saying. Saying it over and over again doesn't make it true. On this side of the House we know that the people of this province are wise and that they see right through this

government and will have the opportunity to send a message loud and clear in election 2019.

1:40

Indigenous Relations

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to stand today and call our attention to the 22nd anniversary of National Indigenous Peoples Day, celebrated every June 21. This day calls on all Canadians to celebrate and learn about the unique histories, diverse cultures, and significant contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people all over Turtle Island.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the privilege of participating in ceremonies with indigenous people around the province, including the Dene, Cree, and Blackfoot. We have so much to learn from these nations, but for far too long they were oppressed by previous governments. We have so much more to do to correct the historical injustices of the past, but I'm proud that our government has made a commitment to developing meaningful and ongoing relationships with indigenous people.

To that end, our government has committed to ensuring that all Alberta students will learn about the history of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people, including the history and legacy of residential schools. We know that learning about the past is only one aspect of a renewed relationship. We're also committed to working with indigenous leaders to implement the objectives of the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.

As the youngest and fastest growing segment of our population, indigenous people will help lead Alberta forward. Together we'll build an inclusive society, where indigenous people are full participants in the social, economic, and cultural life of this province.

Throughout June communities across Canada host events to celebrate indigenous people. On June 20 Alberta will host a National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at Edmonton City Centre mall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., and I encourage all members and members of our communities to attend. Let us take this day and every day to celebrate the heritage, contributions, and cultures of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities across Canada. Let us all look forward to a future that is richer because of our increased understanding of indigenous cultures and stronger because of a renewed, respectful relationship with indigenous people.

Thank you.

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

Crime Prevention

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Crime is on the rise in Alberta. Yesterday we heard some sobering statistics about spikes in domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault in Calgary, and last night the Alberta Party team held a large round-table meeting with rural Albertans to discuss the rural crime epidemic. Rural Albertans all too often face the very real fear that comes from unauthorized access to their property, often when they're home, by emboldened criminals who don't seem to fear any consequences.

Now, the Alberta Party voted in favour of the Justice budget because we agree that more needs to be done and that more resources need to be committed. We need more officers in communities to respond to criminal activity, and especially in rural Alberta we need more police to reduce response times that can be 45 minutes or more. The Alberta Party knows that we need more

police to catch criminals and keep communities safe, but we also know that spending more money isn't the only answer. The roots of crime are complex, and we will never deal with the problem if we don't tackle those roots. The opioid crisis has had a devastating impact on communities in rural and urban Alberta. We heard last night that cannabis legalization is impacting property owners who are adjacent to cannabis production facilities. But the single biggest reason for rising crime rates is the poor economy. If people are able to make a good living, to provide for their families, to have a stake in society, they are far less likely to commit a crime of any kind.

There's absolutely no excuse for any criminal activity. It is never okay to assault someone or to steal their property, but until we tackle the root cause of crime, we will never address it. The job of government is to provide the law enforcement resources needed to protect communities, and it is also government's job to enable the innovation needed to fix this problem. We need to invest in prevention programs to address the opioid crisis, we need to empower front-line workers to work differently, we need to invest in technology and in social supports, but more than anything, we need to improve Alberta's economy to ensure more good jobs are available for more people. It is on this last and most important point that this government has let Albertans down.

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

Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society

Ms Kazim: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to rise in the House today to congratulate the Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society for being one of the finalists for the 2018 Alberta Emerald awards. The Emerald awards have been recognizing and celebrating environmental excellence across all sectors of the Alberta economy for 27 years.

On Tuesday night I attended the award ceremony with volunteers of the Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society to support the tremendous work they do. This organization has been active for over 20 years in the preservation of three parks that surround the Glenmore reservoir, and they run outdoor educational programs attended by 4,000 schoolchildren and 400 adults in Calgary every year.

I would like to thank the Emerald awards for acknowledging and recognizing our amazing environmentalists in Alberta at this ceremony. It was excellent to see the Minister of Environment and Parks sponsoring and presenting the awards on behalf of the government. It was fantastic to see the support of the energy industry for environmental stewardship side by side with awards given out to grassroots environmental groups and educational institutions.

What I did not see or hear, Mr. Speaker, was anyone complaining about the carbon levy or bringing up ridiculous arguments against programs which will help Albertans save energy and protect the environment. What I did not see was people like the members opposite, who question the influence of human activity on climate change. What I saw were citizens, schools, governments, and businesses working together to help preserve our precious environment.

As a very inspiring American businesswoman said, "We are each other's destiny." I'm hopeful, Mr. Speaker, when I think about our common environmental destiny being in the hands of groups like those recognized at the Emerald awards. I'm terrified when I think about our common environmental destiny being in the hands of the United Conservative Party.

Thank you.

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

Dr. Swann: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for indulging me in an introduction. I presume that's what you're inviting me to do?

The Speaker: No. You have two minutes, and then we'll go to the introduction.

Cannabis Legalization

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our legal cannabis experiment is nearly a reality in Canada, with the twin goals of reducing illegal sale and protecting public health. It's clear that the business of producing and selling cannabis, especially in Alberta, is extremely attractive, but we have a critical role in ensuring health and safety, especially among children and youth. The ND government has addressed some issues, but there is much more to be done in relation to public health notwithstanding the clear benefits of cannabis in medical conditions.

In Canada about 30 per cent of 11- to 15-year-olds reported using cannabis in the past year, the highest rate in the developed world. Public health risks are widely recognized, especially in the younger generation, where most evidence of problems occurs in the developing brain. There are also risks in relation to public safety, and both areas deserve a higher priority in planning and policies at our schools, institutions, community gatherings, and workplaces.

We don't have all the answers now, but we need to ensure that we provide to the public what we do know, monitor impacts, and prepare to research answers to key questions going forward. How will cannabis use and impacts be monitored, for example, in mental illness rates, emergency room visits, school attendance and achievement, injury rates, and deaths? What research will assess the short- and long-term impacts on individual and community well-being? What health expertise exists in the AGLCC to provide timely updates and evidence on which to base changes in policy? With incredible claims already emerging from the business marketers, how will dubious marketing claims be handled? What is the public understanding of risks and benefits currently, and how will public education reach into rural and remote communities? With every municipality setting its own bylaws related to safe use and enforcement, how can we reduce conflicting policies and enforcement practices?

Time is running out. Let's ensure we establish a body of experts with the best evidence so that public health is a consistent priority and not private profits or government tax revenue.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. members, unanimous consent has been requested for an introduction.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Introduction of Guests (continued)

The Speaker: Calgary-Mountain View.

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A real pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you our now well-known and well-respected leader, David Khan, with a couple of colleagues, one from Edmonton and one from Calgary. David will be one of the grand marshals in the upcoming Edmonton Pride Parade on Saturday. With him is Gwyneth Midgley, the Liberal Party

executive director and an advocate for environmental and educational issues in Alberta; also Kerrie Johnston, a Liberal organizer in Edmonton-McClung and a university administrator fiercely committed to fiscal responsibility and equality of opportunity. As a political leader David Khan is unrivalled in his commitment to freedom, equality of opportunity, and fairness to future generations. I'll ask them to rise, and we'll give them the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

1:50

Oral Question Period

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

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this will be our last day of the spring session, I wish all members, particularly our Premier, a productive summer ahead.

Calgary Crime Rate

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I raised the growing problem of crime in our communities. I cited statistics about a 42 per cent increase in sexual offences in Calgary and a 34 per cent increase in assault crimes in that city. The Premier undertook to look at these statistics. I would like to ask if she's had a chance to do so and whether she has any further ideas about policy responses either through advocacy with the federal government's Criminal Code authority or with provincial enforcement responsibility.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, and thank you to the member for that question. You know, as I said yesterday – and I think it bears repeating – we are always very concerned to hear about the kinds of increases in crime, violent crime in particular, understanding, of course, what it means to the families and the communities who are affected by it. Of course, we have to redouble our efforts to ensure that we combat crime at every level. I think that, having had a chance to look at this, what we know is that in the course of presenting those statistics, the chief of police in Calgary identified that we have a broad range of concerns arising from things that I will talk about in . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

First supplemental.

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the Premier. In particular, we've seen a significant increase in the number of auto thefts: in Calgary over the past five years a 54 per cent increase in vehicle thefts, 1,800 incidents in the first quarter of this year alone, and in Edmonton the police report that there are 12 to 15 cars stolen each day in this city. Does the Premier share my concern about this growing pattern of auto thefts, and what policy response does the government have to this serious problem?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just to go back to the last point, I think what's really important to understand is that we have to redouble our efforts to focus on job creation and economic stimulation, because we do know that there is a very clear link between the significant difficulties experienced, in particular in Calgary and by families in Calgary, as a result of the unprecedented

drop in the price of oil. That's something that our government has been focused on all along.

With respect to auto theft we know that there is a gang element in that, and that's why we have increased resources to focus on that kind of crime prevention activity.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Second supplemental.

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I concur with the Premier on her points that economic growth must be the priority to address some of these deep social problems we're experiencing and that there is a gang element in auto thefts. Indeed, the Edmonton police say that they believe that 70 per cent of auto thefts are related to organized crime. Will the Premier join with me in calling on the federal Attorney General to use their authority to strengthen criminal penalties for those found guilty of being involved in organized crime, particularly the auto thefts?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. For one thing, what I'd like to do is to correct a bit of the impression that was left yesterday. The changes that the federal government is contemplating making to the Criminal Code have not even come into effect. In fact, they would not necessarily have been linked to the statistical increases that the member opposite described yesterday or today.

With respect to organized crime activity one of the things that we know we need to do is to invest in the kinds of programs, like ALERT, which actually focus on stopping gang activity. That's one of the things that was actually cut under the former federal government and something that we . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Government Policies

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, since the Premier has raised it, Bill C-75, before the federal Parliament, reduces criminal penalties for a number of offences. In fact, it moves a number of offences from potential imprisonment to merely summary conviction, including impaired driving causing bodily harm, abduction of a person under the age of 14, administering a noxious substance, et cetera. The federal minister says that she has the support of the government of Alberta and all of the Attorneys General for weakening these criminal offences. Why is this government supporting a weakening of criminal penalties when we have a crime wave in this province?

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What we need to do is to focus the issue of penalties on the most serious and violent of crimes. Meanwhile what we have to be able to do is to focus our resources on crime prevention and, in particular, supporting our police, which is something that our government has done. Since we were elected, we've increased, just in Calgary alone, roughly \$80 million to almost \$100 million in resources to the Calgary Police Service. These were increases that were actually voted against by the members opposite each time they were brought forward as part of our budget, and these kinds of investments are what are going to reduce crime.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, of course, the opposition voted against the government budget, just as the NDP voted against increases in

funding in a number of areas when they were in opposition, because of the overall fiscal disaster of the government, headed to a \$100 billion debt.

Since we're closing out the session, let me ask the Premier whether or not she's happy to have as a potential legacy a \$65 billion debt, headed to a \$96 billion Alberta public debt.

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, I mean, I know the member opposite would have some familiarity with those kinds of legacies given that the Conservative government left a \$145 billion debt at the end of their term and, in fact, ran six consecutive deficit budgets. We took over at an unprecedented time, an unprecedented drop in the price of oil, and since we've been managing the economy, we've seen 90,000 jobs return to the province of Alberta because that's the way we address those kinds of crises.

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, unemployment is higher today than it was in 2014, the provincial economy is smaller today than it was in 2014, the debt has gone from \$13 billion to \$56 billion, headed to \$96 billion, but today is also the second anniversary of the NDP's adoption of the carbon tax. They promised that 100 per cent of those carbon tax revenues would go towards dedicated environmental funding. Now we know that with the increased carbon tax, that is no longer the case. I'll ask again as we close out today: why has the government broken its promise to Albertans about the dedicated nature of carbon tax revenues?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the full amount of the carbon levy that the government of Alberta has introduced is in fact focused on efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. That's exactly what we said we would do, and that's exactly what we've done.

But, moreover, you know, when we're talking about anniversaries, it's interesting. It's, for instance, almost 23 months since the Leader of the Opposition was fined \$5,000 by his own party for breaking campaign rules, a two-month anniversary since the entire UCP opposition walked out on a bill to protect women's health issues, a 35-day anniversary . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, there was a little sleight of hand there in the Premier's response when she said that the carbon tax revenues have been dedicated to notional environmental spending. The problem is that she's forgotten the proposed 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax, the revenues for which are baked into their budget, zero dollars of which are dedicated to environmental funding, and there is a zero increase in the rebate for Alberta taxpayers. So why did the NDP break their promise to Albertans about the rebates and green funding coming from the carbon tax?

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the additional amounts that the member opposite is referring to are the additional amounts that were subsequently introduced by the federal government. When we talked about the carbon levy, we talked about the \$30 that the government of Alberta introduced, and that still applies.

But on the issue of, you know, anniversaries, I just want to say that it's about the six-month anniversary since the members opposite released their plan to give a \$750 million tax break to the

top 1 per cent. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to anniversaries, I will say that we're proud of ours. The members opposite should not be of theirs.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, the 67 per cent increase in the NDP carbon tax, that's baked into their budget, was proposed before the federal government even introduced legislation on this, legislation which the government of Saskatchewan is now challenging in court. The question is simply this. Since that revenue will be raised by the Alberta government for Alberta purposes, why won't Alberta taxpayers get a rebate when the NDP carbon tax goes from \$30 to \$50 a tonne? Why are they breaking their word on the rebates for the 67 per cent increase in their carbon tax?

2:00

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Ms Notley: Again, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the \$30 per tonne price on carbon we are following through on exactly every element that we committed to Albertans when we introduced the plan. In addition, what we are doing is that we are part of a larger pan-Canadian framework, the result of which has resulted in the federal government approving a pipeline to tidewater, which is actually going to increase revenues to the province of Alberta, increase jobs for Albertans, and increase money in our overall economy. Getting a pipeline to tidewater: nine years, couldn't get it done; three years, we're on our way.

Mr. Kenney: Well, it's sad to see the hon. the Premier continuing her victory lap to celebrate the withdrawal of billions of dollars of investment from a private corporation after tens of billions of dollars have already fled this province under NDP mismanagement. Mr. Speaker, the Premier never addresses this, but is she the least bit concerned that nearly \$40 billion of investment in our energy sector has moved from Alberta to other jurisdictions at the same prices? It's clearly not because of price; it's the same price. It's because of policy. Is she happy to have helped drive nearly \$40 billion of investment capital out of this province?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, what I'm happy to do is something that the member opposite and his party could not do when they were in Ottawa for nine years or, frankly, the previous Conservative government, their legacy party, couldn't do for 44 years, which is get a pipeline from Alberta to Canadian tidewater. It's been over 60 years. We've been in charge for three years. We're going to get that pipeline done. It's going to bring back investment, it's going to grow money into our economy, it's going to grow jobs, it's going to grow revenue, and it is long, long, long overdue.

The Speaker: Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Rural Crime Prevention

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't imagine how frightening it must feel to be a mom at home with preschoolers, alone without neighbours around for miles, and have someone drive into your yard, look in your shed and your barn, and watch them take your equipment and drive away. I listened to a woman describe this experience last night, and I wondered why the government has not delivered a plan to deal with the realities of rural crime. To the Minister of Justice: how many of the seven stages of the rural crime reduction strategy announced in March have been executed?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's precisely because we have been out there listening to stories exactly like the one the member described that we've taken action to ensure that Albertans can feel safe in their homes. Many of those employees are already in place. Obviously, the RCMP has direct jurisdiction over deployment. When it comes to this strategy, we're already starting to see the effects of those rural crime reduction units, and that will have the effect of making Albertans feel safe in their homes.

Ms McPherson: I also heard reports of farmers going to great lengths to prevent their property from being stolen, triple-locking tools in Sea-Cans and installing gates in places they never needed to fence off before, and it's clear that a determined thief with an angle grinder can get through pretty much anything. Farmers are often told that their security camera footage cannot be used in court, so cameras aren't deterring thieves either. To the same minister: when will you expand education to address crimes in progress rather than just prevention? How are you improving prosecutors' understanding of the impacts and constraints rural Albertans are facing?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I've said many times, the impacts of Alberta's geography on policing mean that sometimes RCMP have to travel longer distances. We can't change Alberta's geography, but what we can do is work with our RCMP partners to ensure that we're putting in place effective strategies to deal with these issues. That's why we've rolled out a crime prevention strategy that focuses on proactive policing, targeting those offenders that offend over and over again to ensure that we can get them behind bars where they belong.

Ms McPherson: Another woman I spoke to described how a recently approved cannabis production facility near Fort Saskatchewan, which hasn't been built yet, meant that her family had to install gates to prevent people from crossing their property to get to the cannabis facility site and how farmers adjacent to the Cremona cannabis plant are dealing with employees from that facility trespassing on their land to smoke pot during their breaks. To the Minister of Justice: have you worked with rural municipalities, property owners, and cannabis producers to plan and ensure that new facilities do not generate or attract crime?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Again, as we move forward in ensuring that we're addressing not only current crime but potentially future trends, I think it's important to continue to invest in those proactive policing strategies, and our police partners absolutely agree with us. When it comes specifically to the location of facilities in terms of production of cannabis, that's in the jurisdiction of the federal government and municipal governments. Our government has been working to ensure that we're providing support to municipalities so that they understand their roles and what their powers are, and we will continue to do that going forward.

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

Liquor Service Regulations

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Football, or soccer as it's known in North America, is the most popular sport in the world, with

hundreds of millions of fans. The beautiful game requires only a ball, which allows a good majority of people to play. Being originally from South America, I'm a huge soccer fan and excited for the World Cup, which begins next week. My constituency of Edmonton-Ellerslie is incredibly diverse and full of soccer fans. One constituent, James Aubrey of Summerside, would like to enjoy a cold one while watching games at his local pub. Given that many games will be played in the morning local time, will the Minister of Finance allow for bars to open and serve early to accommodate this world-wide event?

Mr. Ceci: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie for bringing this forward. This member is as good at advocating for his constituents as Cristiano Ronaldo at free kicks. You know, I had thought about this, but I figured that no one would be watching without the best team in the world, Italia, being in it. I will commit to explore this idea with the AGLC and will follow up with this member. We won't Messi around.

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While being able to go and enjoy a beer while watching some great soccer makes sense, we must also ensure that people do so responsibly. How will the AGLC ensure that minors are not served and that people do not overconsume, Minister?

Mr. Ceci: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Extension of liquor law hours has been previously done for Olympic hockey games and other events. The only thing that changes in those cases is the hours of service. The World Cup would be no different should hour extensions occur. Everything else remains in place, like restrictions on serving minors and overconsumption. Should we move forward with this, I will have full confidence in the AGLC folks and our business owners in Alberta that this will be done in a socially responsible manner.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Loyola: Thank you. Can the minister speak to the work our government has done in partnership with the AGLC to modernize liquor rules in our province?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you – and good luck, Iceland – Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for this question. Our government has overseen the largest increase in craft brewing in Alberta's history, with the industry tripling in three years. On top of that, we have made it easier for bars and restaurants to have a patio, allowed for the sale of great Alberta liquor products at farmers' markets, and cut the markup on our province's distillers. All the while we have ensured that the highest standards of social responsibility through the DrinkSense and Bar None programs remain.

Thank you.

Carbon Levy

Mr. van Dijken: Mr. Speaker, not a week goes by that I don't receive another letter or hear another story about a business or a nonprofit struggling because of this NDP's carbon tax. The carbon tax is draining their limited resources, and my constituents are not seeing any benefits from paying into it. The NDP's carbon tax is obviously not putting people first. People are being forced to pay for someone else's ideological agenda. Minister, why won't you repeal the carbon tax, that is hurting our communities and killing jobs?

The Speaker: The Minister of Environment and Parks.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, our carbon levy is designed for the Alberta economy. That's why it has two-thirds of Albertans receiving a rebate. That's why we have the programs for nonprofits, for churches, institutions, and others. That's why we have \$1.4 billion worth of investment in clean tech to lower the carbon in the barrel. If it wasn't this plan, it would be Justin Trudeau's plan, and we know that the Conservatives prefer that, but on this side of the House we prefer a plan that is designed by and for Albertans.

Mr. van Dijken: Given that today marks two years since the NDP passed their carbon tax legislation in this House and given that over the past two years the carbon tax has been shown to do nothing more than to make life, business, and charitable efforts more expensive for everyday Albertans and given that the carbon tax did not even give us a so-called social licence, with two cancelled pipelines and a third pipeline just bought by taxpayers to prevent it from being cancelled, Minister, would you at least acknowledge that your carbon tax isn't all it's cracked up to be but, in fact, is having a negative impact on real Albertans' lives?

2:10

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we put in place our climate leadership plan so that one would not be imposed on us by Ottawa. This matter has been examined by the courts. The province of Manitoba asked the courts to examine this, and here's what the Premier of Manitoba said in response to that court decision. He said: it's either our plan or one that comes from Ottawa. So these matters have been settled. I know that the members opposite are interested in make-work projects for lawyers. On this side of the House we're interested in rolling up our sleeves, having a climate leadership plan that leads to two pipelines, and getting 15,000 people to work. That's the priority on this side of the House.

Mr. van Dijken: Mr. Speaker, given that the Premier of Manitoba has stated that he'll see Trudeau in court for raising the carbon tax, I do not believe that he is as fully on board as the minister expects, but given that Albertans are leaders when it comes to environmental stewardship and we have been proud of our record long before the NDP formed government in Alberta and called us the embarrassing cousin that no one wants to talk about, Minister, will you admit that the NDP government was wrong to introduce a carbon tax they didn't campaign on, or will you continue with tone-deaf grandstanding?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just yesterday we heard from the CEO of Canada's largest oil producer. He called on the carpet Conservatives and their studied opposition to the fact that climate change is real, the fact that this matter has been politicized as it has been by Canadian Conservatives, and how regrettable that is to Canada's reputation as a responsible energy leader. It is these Conservatives that drove us into the dead end of not having market access, of having one product, one market. That's not the way forward for this province.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Premier's Former Chief of Staff's Consulting Contract

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, the NDP has been playing fast and loose with the facts when it comes to the Premier's former chief of staff John Heaney. In August they announced that he was resigning to return to B.C., only to be retitled and rehired the very next Monday. Then they claimed that the Ethics Commissioner issued an exemption for Mr. Heaney to be a B.C. lobbyist while advising the Minister of Finance here. Then they changed their tune and said: well, the exemption actually came from the Premier's chief of staff. We have seen nothing but dishonesty from this government on this issue. What do the NDP have to say to Albertans who expect transparency and accountability from this . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Mr. Ceci: Mr. Speaker, with regard to Mr. Heaney, of course, the former chief of staff to the Premier of Alberta, he is now an executive adviser. We have consulted with the Ethics Commissioner with regard to that transition that he played from going from the chief of staff to being an adviser. He's played a role in the Trans Mountain pipeline, in the path to balance in Treasury Board and Finance, and in other matters. He's done good work for us, and we're happy with his service.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, don't worry if he's unethical; he's done good work. It makes no sense. On May 31 the Finance minister said in this House, "When it was signed, the contract went up online immediately." Mr. Heaney's contract was not posted online. It was posted online in May. To the minister: why are you not telling the truth?

Mr. Ceci: Mr. Speaker, there had been discussions with the Ethics Commissioner. The consultation gave some directions in terms of what that exemption would look like. There was time taken to make sure it was right, and when it was right, it was put online.

The Speaker: Hon. member, you're a very experienced member of this Assembly, and you know the boundaries as to when comments and accusations are made, so I would hope that as you make your second supplemental, you are conscious of that. Thank you. Please proceed.

Mr. Cooper: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that the minister said one thing on May 31 in this House that was in fact not honest because since then his office has confirmed that the contract was not posted immediately but was posted on May 15, to the minister: who is telling the truth, you or your office?

Mr. Ceci: Mr. Speaker, you know, the kings of questionable contracts are sitting on that side of the House: things like golf club memberships, limo rides, salaries, the palace over there that they wanted to install their Premier in. [interjections] We have done the job of making sure that we've got pipeline access to tidewater. We've had consultants helping us in that regard. We got feedback from the Ethics Commissioner about how to structure that contract. I'll stand behind all of that.

The Speaker: Just a few more minutes, folks, just a few more minutes.

The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Wheat Varietal Classification Changes

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In February 2015 the Canadian Grain Commission announced the Canadian wheat class modernization process. Later that year the CGC announced the creation of the Canada northern hard red and the Canada western special purpose wheat classes. To the minister of agriculture: what have you done to ensure that Alberta ag producers are aware of and ready for this classification change?

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

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the very good technical question. Our office continues working with producers, cereal and oilseed producers, right across the province on discussions on any changes the federal government proposes. There are a number of changes as well, not just in seed grading. So we're continuing that good work with the producers. They're well aware, well versed, and well trained, some of the best producers in the world, as you know. We'll continue working with them as we go through these regulatory changes.

Mr. Strankman: Mr. Speaker, given that Alberta farmers are already experiencing a backlog from full elevators and a looming hopper car shortage and given that the federal government has already said, and I quote, that the CGC is not allowing any grace period for producers after the July 31 deadline, unquote, minister: what plans, if any, are in place if farmers aren't able to get their grains shipped regardless of whether they have had their wheat varieties reclassified or not?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do really appreciate the question. It allows me the opportunity to update the House on changes that have been made. Recently the federal government has passed changes to the Canada Transportation Act that will go a long ways. It's one more tool in the tool box for producers to be able to get their products to market. As well, we've had good news in the past few weeks. Both of the large carriers, CN and CP, have announced a thousand new hopper cars each, that they're going to buy, so that's 2,000 brand new hopper cars that are going to be online there shortly. As well, CN has announced a large number of new locomotives they're going to be hiring, infrastructure, you know, changes as well with sidetracking, and new terminals . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Strankman: Mr. Speaker, given that producers who have a delivery date after August 1 for transitioning varieties should be already contacting their grain buyer to ensure that their grain will be accepted as Canada western red spring or prairie spring red and given that wheat varieties classified as Canada northern hard red are expected to sell at a discount, again to the minister: are there any programs available for these farmers as they transition to these new classes of wheat given the possible negative financial ramifications?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Just yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with representatives from GrainsConnect and Viterro on the new facilities that they're building across the prairies, including in Alberta. There are many reasons to feel optimistic about farming in Alberta. Last year was one of the best years on record on cash

receipts. I'm looking forward to working with producers, working with processors, marketers, and transport companies as we continue the good work we do here in agriculture.

Health Care in Fort McMurray

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, a by-election is around the corner in Fort McMurray, and with that are the government's conveniently timed announcements on spending, not to mention visits from the front bench. But there was radio silence about the concerns of residents who must continue to commute to Edmonton for dialysis treatment, and we've also seen no improvements in accessing pediatricians. Minister, it's been three years, and these vital issues have not been addressed. Will this government be dealing with these issues in the north, and how?

2:20

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. It certainly is my honour to be part of a government that even during one of the most difficult economic downturns in our province's history chose to invest. We chose to build and hire instead of cut and fire, and we're seeing the results of that in Fort McMurray right now. I certainly won't apologize for investing in long-term care in Fort McMurray and mental health in Fort McMurray and making sure that we have the right supports to support our communities as they continue to recover from a devastating wildfire. We're proud of the work we've done in Fort McMurray, and we're proud to serve those folks.

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, the question was about pediatric care in Fort McMurray.

The Stollery foundation is willing to work in partnership with Fort McMurray to help get access to pediatricians through teleconferencing. Not only would this option be cost-effective, but it would contribute to improving overall health outcomes by expanding access to pediatric care in the very underserved region of Fort McMurray, where demand vastly exceeds service. Will this government consider facilitating this sensible option as opposed to a total shortage of pediatric care?

Ms Hoffman: Well, Mr. Speaker, we absolutely have continued to expand telehealth opportunities. We also recruited 10 new doctors in 2017 to Fort McMurray, including pediatricians, anesthesiologists, family physicians practising low-risk obstetrics, and psychiatrists. These are important investments. We're going to continue to move forward on investing in the folks of Fort McMurray and in health care. The members opposite talk about 20 per cent cuts. That would devastate communities. Instead, what Albertans are telling us is that they want to see improved access and improved supports, and that's what they're getting from this government rather than the deep cuts being proposed by the opposition.

Mr. Yao: Even if you did actually fill all of those positions, we still wouldn't be in the same state as the rest of the province.

Mr. Speaker, using technology such as teleconferencing to allow patients to access specialists would be exceptionally useful in rural regions, where long commutes are often necessary to get specialized medical attention. To this day the only place that AHS utilizes teleconferencing is in their boardrooms. To the Minister of Health: why is teleconferencing of health specialists not being done to increase the accessibility of health care for all Albertans?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, let me repeat that we have absolutely invested in increased capacity and in the telehealth system. But what we've also done is that we have recruited 10 physicians to Fort McMurray, hon. member. Those aren't positions; those are people. These are people who are practising in a number of areas in Fort McMurray, including, again, pediatricians, anesthesiologists, family physicians practising low-risk obstetrics, and psychiatrists. We have on-call pediatric care 24/7.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm so proud that this side of the House invested in Willow Square. We know that the PCs bungled the project for years. We know that the Wildrose criticized them for that, and now they're sitting as dance partners on the opposite side of the House. This side of the House . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Taber Pride Flag Raising

Ms Goehring: Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, on June 2, the LGBTQ2S folks in the town of Taber celebrated pride. As members of the House must know, the Taber Equality Alliance has endured significant harassment at previous celebrations, with their rainbow flag being stolen and vandalized. To the Minister of Infrastructure: can you tell the House how the pride flag came to be raised on a flagpole outside the Taber professional building?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Infrastructure.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member. You know, in January I received a phone call at about 6 a.m. from the Minister of Environment and Parks. I always answer those phone calls; she's a very insistent minister. She told me that the town of Taber had voted against raising the pride flag. So after everything that the Taber Equality Alliance had gone through with their flag last year, it was a no-brainer that the province had to step in. We were delighted to do that. Alberta Infrastructure was delighted to have the pride flag raised at the Taber Provincial Building to show our support for the Taber Equality Alliance.

Ms Goehring: Thank you to both ministers for your swift response and for being head and shoulders above in your support for pride in Taber.

Again to the Minister of Infrastructure: why was it a priority to make sure that the flag was raised on a provincial building?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, our government is going to continue to stand up for the LGBTQ2S community and continue to ensure that they are treated with respect. In many parts of the world raising the rainbow flag is still a provocative act. We want the LGBTQ2S community in Alberta to feel safe and proud of who they are. We want them to know that this government is here for them to fight for their rights.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, why is the pride flag such an important symbol at this time?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has never been a more important time to recognize how important the pride flag is as a symbol. Not only are the opposition parties intent on removing the rights of LGBTQ2S citizens, but they are also intent on putting

young people in harm's way. What a shame. The powerful act of flying a pride flag over a government building tells the community and its allies that we support them and that we will ensure that they are safe.

LGBTQ2S Rights

Mr. Fraser: Well, Mr. Speaker, what kind of session would it be without me getting a little verklempt or misty eyed? I want to talk about my oldest son, Carson, who's incredibly brave. He's one of the strongest people that I know. It's for people like him that we raise the pride flag. It's because of the other brave people who paved the way for him to come out to the world. Because of him and those other brave people, they changed me. They inspired people like me to show us that God created us in His image, and He doesn't make mistakes. Premier, how is your government protecting people like my son and trying to bring people together on the issues of gay rights rather than drive them apart for political benefit?

The Speaker: The Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Miranda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to commend the member. I have known him for three years now, and before that, we've had the opportunity to converse. I know that he has come a long way himself in understanding and embracing and ensuring that not only his son but every single LGBTQ Albertan feels safe and secure, and for that, I thank him very much. I will say to the member that the members on this side of the House have always and will always continue to fight for every single LGBTQ Albertan and ensure that their rights are never taken away from them despite what others would like to see.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, as a family of faith we raised our kids not to subscribe to organized religion but to find their faith in Christ and develop a relationship with Him that's not based on traditions or boundaries. We taught our kids to love one another. I want to thank those in the government caucus, the United Conservative caucus, my independent friends, and the Alberta Party caucus that have supported my son and my family. And for those in this House that aren't there yet, I hope that you get there. Like I said, I taught my kids to love one another. Premier, what is your government doing to bridge the political divides so that gay rights can flourish across the political spectrum?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Miranda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. You know, we have spent a lot of time going throughout this province and meeting Albertans in every single opportunity where pride celebrations are taking place but also ensuring that they feel safe in their schools, and that's something that is extremely important. Unfortunately, what we have seen is the politicization of the issue of having GSAs in schools, for example, and that doesn't help. We will not stand for that. What we will do is ensure that every single student in this province can feel safe when they go to school, and we're going to make sure that any . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Fraser: Happy Pride Month to all Albertans, especially to the brave ones who are teaching us about love and acceptance; to my precious son Carson, my wife, Mishelle, my son Thaine, who loves and defends his brother; and to all proud families.

How does this government support families that are out and the ones that just need a little help getting there?

Miranda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the member for his very brave question. One of the things that we have been very clear about is that we will not stand for kids to be outed before they are ready. Everybody goes through a journey, and when they get there, some of us will struggle, absolutely, and may not be able to have these kinds of discussions. But what doesn't help is having people in political power not having the conversations, not even wanting to have face-to-face meetings with the community. We understand the needs of these young people because we ourselves, from my own experience and that of a couple of my colleagues, have seen it first-hand.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

2:30

Union Certification

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, an employee was fired for habitual tardiness. When that same employee complained to the Alberta Labour Relations Board, it found no direct evidence that the employer terminated the employee because of his union activities. However, the ALRB inferred that the employer's decision was tainted, and a remedial certification order was issued, immediately unionizing that company. No employee vote was needed, just the ALRB ruling. Does the minister think it's fair and democratic that a labour board can decide who is unionized and who isn't?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud of the work that our government has done to update workplace legislation laws, laws that hadn't been updated in 40 years, 30 years, including our labour relations laws. What we've done is to make sure that we have brought Alberta into the Canadian mainstream using items like remedial certification, which exists in other jurisdictions and deters both parties from playing games or treating workers unfairly when they try to use their Supreme Court protected right to join a union.

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, given that we have also heard of situations where union officials harassed new immigrants and used trickery to get them to sign union certification cards, does the minister condone these heavy-handed tactics, and was this the intent of her union bill?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member wants to talk about harassment and intimidation – let's talk about it – after their caucus colleague fired a mom who was sexually harassed when the harasser asked him to, without so much as a peep from their leader. It really doesn't get much more shameful than that. We know that workers experience harassment and intimidation in many forms. Our government has updated workplace legislation to protect workers in this province. It is a priority for us, and it should be for you.

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, given that the minister said that she was moving the labour laws in line with the rest of Canada, wouldn't the minister say that harassing and tricking vulnerable workers who do not have a good grasp on the English language is taking a step in the wrong direction?

Ms Gray: Again, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite and his party should look in the mirror when they want to talk about bullying and harassing.

What we have done is that we've brought in balanced labour relations laws that return some of the proper responsibility and power to the Labour Relations Board. When employers are abusing the system and harassing their workers, the Labour Relations Board has remediation for that. When unions perhaps are bullying and harassing, the Labour Relations Board has remediation for that. They are the arbitrators. This is a fair and balanced system. This is what the Supreme Court guarantees Canadians because they have the right to join or leave a union.

Environmental Assessments and Project Approvals

Mr. Loewen: Mr. Speaker, there's a chronic problem in Environment and Parks when it comes to issuing permits for projects, and this has consequences. Fort McMurray has been unable to open a new gravel pit in order to make up for the imminent closure of the current pit at Susan Lake. This threatens the supply of gravel in the area, and that is the beating heart of our primary industry. This is a problem caused by the inability of government to officially approve permits. Will the minister take action now to ensure that Fort McMurray has the gravel supply that it needs and review the Alberta Environment permitting process to slash needless red tape?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We've been in touch with the regional municipality of Wood Buffalo and a number of the affected folks with respect to this aggregate issue in Fort McMurray, and the department is working on a resolution to this matter.

As to the broader matter of regulatory approvals I am sure I will get to it in the supplementals.

Mr. Loewen: Given that this problem with overregulation is far from an isolated incident, impeding job-creating private industry around our province every day, and given that in my constituency we have seen an example of this where Fox Creek has been trying for six years to obtain adjacent land from the province for their business park and given that it takes six years to get something like this off the ground, impeding the growth of Alberta communities, can the minister explain to the House why the government sees the need to stand in the way of this kind of wealth-creating local development?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, around the Water Act absolutely no regulations have changed since this government took office, so if the hon. member has a quarrel with the way that the Water Act was written or with its associated regulations or policy, I suggest that he bring it up with his new colleagues, the folks that he ran against in the 2015 election, because it's actually that framework that's in place here for that.

As for processing approvals, we are working on making sure that there are enough resources for that matter, Mr. Speaker. I take it from the hon. member that it's a spend day over on the other side of the House.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Loewen: Given that the bizarre answers continue and given that the problem of red tape is ingrained and pervasive throughout

this government and given that this government piles on more and more regulations every day, inhibiting economic progress, and given that south of Grande Prairie industry has been hampered from developing in the Industrial Heartland due to lengthy approval processes and given that we know that it is possible to get projects built promptly – when the CN train bridge burned at Mayerthorpe, they had a replacement built and ready in 20 days – will this government finally take steps to kick the habit of overregulating everything and take our advice to develop a detailed strategy for red tape reduction?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the issue here with respect to timeliness of approvals – and I will grant the hon. member this: we do hear from municipalities on this, and that's why we've streamlined a number of these things. We've done blitz approvals. We've worked with municipalities. We've been hearing from them. But there weren't enough resources in Environment and Parks due to the serial cuts that came from the folks across the way. Now, we have tried to work within our existing budgets to make sure we've got the resources in place. We'll have more to say about that over the coming months. The fact of the matter is that we are focused on getting this economy . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

FOIP Request Wait Times

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week when the Minister of Justice answered questions about unacceptable delays with FOIP requests, she told this House that the problems were due to backlogs and insufficient staffing left by the past government. I thought this was confusing because in 2015 and 2016 in the main estimates the same question from me was answered by the minister, and her quote was: yes, we believe it's appropriately staffed. To the minister: which is it, staffing issues that you refused to address two years ago or a failure of the ministry to manage FOIP under your watch today?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta.

Ms McLean: Thank you for the question, Mr. Speaker. We believe that information should be open and transparent, and access to information is an important issue that we all take seriously. There's certainly more work to do, but we have improved turnaround times for FOIP requests and are proactively sharing more information than the government of Alberta ever has before. We're hiring more people to clear the backlog. This is necessary in many of the departments. In Justice we've increased the number of full-time FOIP employees to 18, and Executive Council has two more staff seconded from other departments.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that if the minister is having trouble deciding, I would be willing to provide her a copy of *Hansard* and given that during the very next estimates the minister implied that any delays to FOIP requests were due to normal circumstances such as vacancies and people who went off due to illness or maternity leave, I have a simple question. To the minister: are these inconsistencies proof that you refused to address FOIP delays within your ministry, and will you commit today to correcting this?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McLean: Thank you very much for the question, Mr. Speaker. Under the past government FOIP was not a priority. Transparency was not a priority. We've seen this time and time again. When the people of Alberta elected this government, they elected a more transparent and honest government. That's why we are proactively disclosing more information than has ever been disclosed before. Each week we're feeding the open government portal with new data that Albertans would not previously have had access to without having to file a FOIP request. We're adding additional people. In addition to better turnaround times, we're taking action in a number of areas, posting all sole-sourced contracts over \$10,000 online. We opened up the ABC appointment process to all . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Second supplemental.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the minister simply wasted the time of my colleague from Grande Prairie-Smoky by playing politics and refusing to answer addressed questions about transparency and access to information and given that this is something Albertans genuinely care about, can the minister stop throwing her staff under the bus and articulate a coherent plan to process FOIP requests in a timely manner to get Albertans the information they require?

2:40

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There's so much in there that it's hard to address in the amount of time allotted. We've seen a 154 per cent increase in requests coming into the Ministry of Justice over the last several years. That's exactly why we took action and put in additional employees. We increased that from 10 employees to 18 employees. The members opposite voted against that funding. It's clearly this side of the House that's committed to transparency.

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The Minister of Children's Services.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I will table the requisite five copies of outstanding questions from the Children's Services consideration of main estimates.

The Speaker: Any other tablings, hon. members?

Mr. Loewen: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the 2018 Bighorn Backcountry Recreational Survey, that was done by a group called Love Your Trails. It shows that they surveyed people that actually use the Bighorn backcountry about what they felt about what was happening as far as the Bighorn backcountry being made into a wildland park.

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I am rising to advise the Assembly that the business of the day and of the sitting is now complete. [some applause] Thank you. As such, I move that the House adjourn until Monday, October 29.

The Speaker: Hon. members, if I might, with your indulgence, I would on your behalf show compliments and thanks to the staff, many of whom you see in this room on a constant basis but many, many more whom you do not see. [Standing ovation]

I also want you to know that Roger, as I've affectionately been

told to say, has the endurance that multiplies by all of us together.
He is always there. He never leaves. [applause]

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 2:44 p.m. pursuant to
Standing Order 3(4)]

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

Activity to Thursday, June 7, 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 Sittings.

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*)

Third Reading — 1488-92 (*Jun. 5, 2018 morn.*), 1523-24 (*Jun. 5, 2018 aft.*), 1525-41 (*Jun. 6, 2018 morn., 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*)

Third Reading — 1492-94 (*Jun. 5, 2018 morn.*), 1510-23 (*Jun. 5, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

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*)

Third Reading — 1555-71 (*Jun. 6, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

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.*), 1449-79 (*Jun. 4, 2018 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1573-92 (*Jun. 7, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

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*)

Third Reading — 1481-88 (*Jun. 5, 2018 morn.*), 1507-10 (*Jun. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

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

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

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

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

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

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*)

Third Reading — (*Jun. 4, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

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.*), (*Jun. 4, 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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