
Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

# Alberta Hansard

Monday afternoon, October 29, 2018

Day 41

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-Ste. Anne (NDP)
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (NDP)
Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (NDP)
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP), Alberta Party Opposition House Leader
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (NDP)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (NDP)
Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP)
Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (NDP), Government Whip
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake (UCP)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (NDP)
Dreeshen, Devin, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UCP)
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 (FCP)
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 (Ind)
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)
Goodridge, Laila, Fort McMurray-Conklin (UCP)
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), Official Opposition Deputy Whip
Jansen, Hon. Sandra, Calgary-North West (NDP)
Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (NDP)
Kenney, Hon. Jason, PC, Calgary-Lougheed (UCP), Leader of the Official Opposition
Kleinsteuber, Jamie, Calgary-Northern Hills (NDP)
Larivee, Hon. Danielle, Lesser Slave Lake (NDP), Deputy Government House Leader
Littlewood, Jessica, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (NDP)
Loewen, Todd, Grande Prairie-Smoky (UCP)
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (NDP)
Luff, Robyn, Calgary-East (NDP)
Malkinson, Hon. Brian, Calgary-Currie (NDP)
Mason, Hon. Brian, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP), Government House Leader
McCuaig-Boyd, Hon. Margaret, Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley (NDP)
McIver, Ric, Calgary-Hays (UCP), Official Opposition Whip
McKitrick, Annie, Sherwood Park (NDP)
McLean, 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), Premier
Orr, Ronald, Lacombe-Ponoka (UCP)
Panda, Prasad, Calgary-Foothills (UCP)
Payne, 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)

**Party standings:**
New Democratic: 54 United Conservative: 26 Alberta Party: 3 Alberta Liberal: 1 Freedom Conservative: 1 Progressive Conservative: 1 Independent: 1

**Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly**

Shannon Dean, Law Clerk and Executive Director of House Services, and Acting Clerk, Procedure
Stephanie LeBlanc, Senior Parliamentary Counsel
Trafton Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel
Philip Massolin, Manager of Research and Committee Services
Nancy Robert, Research Officer
Janet Schwegel, Managing Editor of *Alberta Hansard*
Brian G. Hodgson, Sergeant-at-Arms
Chris Caughell, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms
Tom Bell, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Paul Link, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

## Executive Council

| | |
|---|---|
| Rachel Notley | Premier, President of Executive Council |
| Sarah Hoffman | Deputy Premier, Minister of Health |
| Shaye Anderson | Minister of Municipal Affairs |
| Deron Bilous | Minister of Economic Development and Trade |
| Oneil Carlier | Minister of Agriculture and Forestry |
| Joe Ceci | President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance |
| David Eggen | Minister of Education |
| Richard Feehan | Minister of Indigenous Relations |
| Kathleen T. Ganley | Minister of Justice and Solicitor General |
| Christina Gray | Minister of Labour,<br>Minister Responsible for Democratic Renewal |
| Sandra Jansen | Minister of Infrastructure |
| Danielle Larivee | Minister of Children's Services and Status of Women |
| Brian Malkinson | Minister of Service Alberta |
| Brian Mason | Minister of Transportation |
| Margaret McCuaig-Boyd | Minister of Energy |
| Ricardo Miranda | Minister of Culture and Tourism |
| Shannon Phillips | Minister of Environment and Parks,<br>Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office |
| Irfan Sabir | Minister of Community and Social Services |
| Marlin Schmidt | Minister of Advanced Education |
| Lori Sigurdson | Minister of Seniors and Housing |

## Parliamentary Secretaries

| | |
|---|---|
| Jessica Littlewood | Economic Development and Trade for Small Business |
| Annie McKitrick | Education |

## STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

### Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Coolahan
Deputy Chair: Mrs. Schreiner

Cyr
Dang
Ellis
Horne
Luff
McPherson
Turner

### Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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

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

### Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Ms Goehring
Deputy Chair: Mr. Smith

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

### Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Shepherd
Deputy Chair: Mr. Malkinson

Aheer
Gill
Horne
Kleinsteuber
Littlewood
McKitrick
Pitt
van Dijken
Woollard

### Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

Chair: Mr. Wanner
Deputy Chair: Cortes-Vargas

Babcock
Cooper
Dang
Drever
McIver
Nixon
Piquette
Pitt
Westhead

### Standing Committee on Private Bills

Chair: Ms Kazim
Deputy Chair: Connolly

Anderson, W.
Babcock
Drever
Drysdale
Hinkley
Kleinsteuber
McKitrick
Orr
Rosendahl
Stier
Strankman
Sucha
Taylor

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

Chair: Ms Fitzpatrick
Deputy Chair: Ms Babcock

Carson
Coolahan
Cooper
Goehring
Gotfried
Hanson
Kazim
Loyola
Miller
Nielsen
Nixon
Pitt
van Dijken

### Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Mr. Cyr
Deputy Chair: Mr. Dach

Barnes
Carson
Clark
Gotfried
Hunter
Littlewood
Luff
Malkinson
Miller
Nielsen
Panda
Renaud
Turner

### Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Chair: Loyola
Deputy Chair: Mr. Drysdale

Babcock
Clark
Dang
Fildebrandt
Hanson
Kazim
Kleinsteuber
Loewen
Malkinson
Nielsen
Panda
Rosendahl
Schreiner

# Legislative Assembly of Alberta

**1:30 p.m. Monday, October 29, 2018**

[The Speaker in the chair]

## Prayers

**The Speaker:** Good afternoon. Welcome back.

Let us reflect or pray, each in our own way. We have to remind ourselves that the vast majority of the population, the people who we are elected to serve, don't live in this political world. They live in the real world. They live in a world where all conversation does not turn to confrontation, where common solutions are sought, where there is give-and-take, and where plans are made.

Hon. members, as is our custom, we pay tribute on the first day to members and former members of this Assembly who have passed away since we last met.

### Mr. Thomas W. Chambers
### July 7, 1928, to June 23, 2018

**The Speaker:** Mr. Thomas William Chambers was elected as the Progressive Conservative Member for Edmonton-Calder for four consecutive terms, from 1971 to 1986. After graduating from the University of Toronto, Mr. Chambers came to Alberta to commence his career as a petroleum engineer in 1952. From 1978 until 1982 Mr. Chambers served as minister of housing and public works and from 1982 until 1986 as minister of public works, supply, and services. As minister Mr. Chambers worked toward affordable housing for all Albertans and oversaw the development of the Kananaskis Country. Mr. Chambers passed away on June 23, 2018, at the age of 89.

In a moment of silent prayer and reflection I ask that each of you reflect upon the contributions of those members who have served before us.

## Statement by the Speaker

### Gordon Munk
### Jacqueline Marie Breault

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, it is with sadness that I stand before you today to share the sense of sadness felt by the Legislative Assembly Office following the deaths of two highly respected, genuinely kind, and truly wonderful people who were more than simply colleagues to those who worked with them side by side every day. They were in fact dedicated public servants who made this province and this Assembly effective.

Mr. Gordon Munk joined the Legislative Assembly security service in February 2000, after having spent 30 years with the Edmonton Police Service. He served as the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms from 2009 to 2016. During his tenure Gordon served six different Legislatures through five elections. Gord discharged his duties with the utmost proficiency and professionalism. He embodied the dignity and esteem that this place commands. He had the deep and abiding respect of his peers, the members, and his colleagues within the Legislative Assembly Office. More importantly, he was a kind and caring man.

One other dedicated public servant, Jacqueline Marie Breault, who passed away on September 7 at the age of 52, had spent more than half her life working at the LAO. She started out as a summer student in 1987 and worked hard over the course of her service to become the manager of corporate services and senior records officer with finance. She, quite simply, was the person everybody went to when they wanted to know the story behind the corporate history. It was more than her work ethic that endeared her to people. It was her light, her generosity, and her warmth that drew others to her. She had a sense of humour and a zest for life that we all wish could have graced us for many more years.

Could I ask, hon. members, if you would just take a moment to honour and reflect upon these two dedicated public servants.

Thank you, hon. members. We will now be led in the singing of our national anthem by Mr. R.J. Chambers. I would invite all to participate in the language of their choice.

**Hon. Members**:

O Canada, our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Please be seated.

### Presentation to the Assembly of Ms Laila Goodridge
### Member for Fort McMurray-Conklin

**The Speaker:** I would now invite the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition to proceed to the main doors of the Chamber.

Hon. members, I have received from the chief electoral office of Alberta the report of the returning officer for the constituency of Fort McMurray-Conklin containing the results of the by-election conducted on July 12, 2018, which states that a by-election was conducted in the constituency of Fort McMurray-Conklin and that Ms Laila Goodridge was duly elected as the Member for Fort McMurray-Conklin.

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Kenney escorted Ms Goodridge to the Mace]

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Ms Laila Goodridge, the new Member for Fort McMurray-Conklin, who has taken the oath as a member of this Assembly, has inscribed the roll, and now claims the right to take her seat.

**The Speaker:** Let the hon. member take her seat.

### Presentation to the Assembly of Mr. Devin Dreeshen
### Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I have received from the chief electoral office of Alberta the report of the returning officer for the constituency of Innisfail-Sylvan Lake containing the results of the by-election conducted on July 12, 2018, which states that a by-election was conducted in the constituency of Innisfail-Sylvan Lake and that Mr. Devin Dreeshen was duly elected as the Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Kenney escorted Mr. Dreeshen to the Mace]

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Mr. Devin Dreeshen, the new Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, who has taken the oath as a member of the Assembly, has inscribed the roll, and now claims the right to take his seat.

**The Speaker:** Let the hon. member take his seat.

## *1:40* Introduction of Visitors

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, with our admiration and respect there is gratitude to members of the families who share the burdens of public office and public service. I would like to welcome members of the Chambers, Munk, and Breault families who are present in the Speaker's gallery. I would call upon the Member for Peace River to call the names.

**Ms Jabbour:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's certainly an honour and a privilege to introduce the families of Jacqueline and Gord. I had the privilege and the honour of working with both of these individuals, and it was wonderful to have known them.

I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the family of former Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Gordon Munk: Gord's wife, Cecilia Munk; Gord's daughter Tracey Neufeld, and her husband, Cody; and Gord's grandsons Austin and Ethan Neufeld. I'd ask that they please rise, as they have, and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

As well, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the family of Jacqueline Breault, who was the manager of FMAS at the Legislative Assembly Office: Jacqueline's mother, Elaine Breault, and Jacqueline's LAO colleagues and long-time friends Elsie Yeremiy and Colleen Smith. Would you please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** I would also like to invite the members of the Chambers family to please rise: Andrea and Hannah Robb, Colin Robb, Susan Peachment, Rhys Webster, and Kevin Malinowski. Welcome. Thank you for your service to this province.

The Member for Calgary-Hawkwood.

**Connolly:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you Arne Lietz, Member of the European Parliament from Germany. Arne is a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, a member of the Committee on Development, and a substitute on the Subcommittee on Security and Defence. He is currently touring Canada with the Friedrich Ebert foundation to discover more about Canada. I also want to introduce Raoul Gebert, who is the project manager for Canada with the Friedrich Ebert foundation. He was also the chief of staff to former NDP leader Tom Mulcair. If the Chamber can give them a warm welcome today.

**The Speaker**: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

**Ms Sweet:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On your behalf I'd like to introduce two of your guests who are seated in the Speaker's gallery. I'd ask that they please rise when I call their names. As the MLA for Medicine Hat during the 28th Alberta Legislature Blake Pedersen preceded you in your home riding and served the city with pride. Blake continues to serve the people of Medicine Hat in a number of capacities, including president of the board of directors of the Medicine Hat Community Housing Society, vice-chair of the Palliser Triangle health region, and Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede parade committee member. Blake is joined by his long-time partner, Angela Kolody, who continues her work in southeastern Alberta as a real estate agent. I'd ask the House to please give your guests the traditional warm welcome of the House.

## Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, did you also have a school group?

**Ms Sweet:** I do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to introduce to you and through you 37 students from the McLeod elementary school. The students are accompanied by their teacher, Kercelyn Pasternak, along with their chaperones Joseph Kolacz, Kiersten Jackman, and Kelsey Quinney. If they could all please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** I'm still readjusting a little to the pace around here. I'm sure that none of you are suffering from that.

The hon. Minister of Education.

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly 10 teachers who are now working to help build the curriculum for the Department of Education. I have Robyn Boisvert, Aaron Chute, Pearl Wielki, Vilma Irasga, Derrik DeGagne, Rhonda Stangeland, Bill Jacobsen, Ash Bhasin, Kristel Zapanta, Lori Whillier, and Leslie Campbell. If they could all stand, please, and receive the warm welcome of the Legislature.

**The Speaker**: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow.

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two separate introductions today. I'd like to introduce to you and through you a group of four very keen Alberta Party supporters, and I will ask them, the four of them, to please rise as I say their names. Serena Moar is a very, very keen volunteer who does a tremendous amount of work in the city of Calgary. She was a Legislature page, goes to the University of Calgary, studying political science and women's and gender studies. Gurjot Mand is a student at Mount Royal University, in the beautiful constituency of Calgary-Elbow, studying athletic therapy. Griffin Brown is a graduate of the University of Lethbridge, also a very keen member of the Alberta Party's provincial board. Last and absolutely not least is the next Member of the Legislative Assembly for Calgary-Lougheed, Rachel Timmermans. Rachel is a MRU policy studies student and is also the nominated Alberta Party candidate in Calgary-Lougheed. If the four of them please could rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker**: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View – do you have another?

**Mr. Clark:** I do, Mr. Speaker, briefly. Thank you very much. I'd like to introduce to you and through you two members of the leadership team of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary. Mr. Jeff Dyer is the CEO, and Nicole Jackson is manager of research and evaluation. For over 75 years the Boys & Girls Clubs have served over 10,000 vulnerable children and youth every year in the city of Calgary. They are an important part of ensuring a bright future for children in our city. I'd ask the two of them to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** I wonder if the Government House Leader might entertain a motion for unanimous consent to go past 1:50, if you would consider that?

**Mr. Mason:** Mr. Speaker, that's a wonderful idea, and I so move.

[Unanimous consent granted]

**The Speaker:** Now the Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back to everyone in the House today. It's my great pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly some of the strongest citizen advocates I've known in my 15 years in politics. Jenn Thompson is a leading community activist with the Serious Spectrum Sensory Support Group who once again rallied Albertans on the steps of the Legislature to push for much-needed change to the use of seclusion rooms in our public schools in this province. With Jenn are some fellow activists who joined her at today's rally – if they could stand as I mention their names – Angela McNair, Claire Wilde, Shannon Childers. Their advocacy on this issue of seclusion rooms is a true credit to our children and to this province. With them today is Leah McRorie, a lifelong activist for persons with disabilities, passionate about creating a more inclusive society that promotes equality of opportunity for all Albertans. Please join me first in welcoming them to the Legislature.

**The Speaker**: Welcome.

***1:50***

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure to rise today and introduce to you again and to all the Legislature a prominent group of Liberals building our party and providing Albertans with a moderate, forward-thinking option for the next election. Among them is our incredible leader, David Khan, a powerful voice for social justice and fiscal responsibility in our province, who I'm confident will be taking my place in the next Legislature in Alberta. Accompanying David is Edmonton-Mill Woods Liberal candidate Abdi Bakal and Alberta Liberal Party president Graeme Maitland as well as former Liberal candidate for Edmonton-Gold Bar Ron Brochu. Let's give them the warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker**: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Seniors and Housing.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Before I introduce my special guests, I just wanted to thank the members of the Assembly on both sides. Since my diagnosis earlier this year with leukemia I've received so much tremendous support from the House. I am so grateful to everybody, and I just want to thank them so much and, certainly, thank all Albertans who sent me so many cards and gifts and support. I'm so grateful. I just want to let you all know that my prognosis is great and my treatment continues. [Standing ovation] Yes. Thank you so much.

Today I have the great pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Parviz Walji and Betty Zapata. Parviz is a small-business owner, and she runs Hands Feet & Face, an aesthetics business here in Edmonton. Betty has cared for me lovingly over the years, and I always feel like a million bucks after I finish with her services. I'm glad you've risen. I'd ask you to please join me in giving them the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** To the members of the gallery, I think that statement of one of our peers speaks to the importance and respect that exists across the House. Our best to have you back.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you a promising and inspiring young Albertan from the constituency of Calgary-Fish Creek. Matthew Melbourn is a second-year student at the University of Alberta, pursuing an honours degree in history and political science. Matthew is currently part of a leadership team and is the events co-ordinator for the United Conservatives at the University of Alberta. Matthew spent this past summer working in the nonprofit sector for the Terry Fox Foundation, aiding in donor relations and organizing a number of annual Terry Fox runs throughout the province. He's active with the UCP in Calgary-Fish Creek and across the province in promoting engagement of young Albertans in the democratic process. I would ask – he's already risen here – all members of the Assembly to join me in extending the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly to Matthew on his first visit to this House.

**The Speaker**: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions, both in the members' gallery. First, it's my pleasure to introduce Barb Furler and Dr. Marc Moreau, who are seated in the gallery. Barb works as a physical therapist at the Glenrose rehabilitation hospital, and Marc is a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon at the Stollery children's hospital and a founding member of the Canadian Association of Medical Teams Abroad. They work with a team of volunteers to provide orthopaedic surgeries, education, and therapy for people in Ecuador who would otherwise be unable to receive medical care. We are so proud to honour your work, and thank you for being here today. Colleagues, please join me in extending the warm welcome of the Assembly.

My second is members from the Society of Alberta Occupational Therapists who are seated in the members' gallery. October is dedicated to occupational therapists as they have dedicated their careers to the well-being of others. OTs work to help enable and empower Albertans to care for themselves and have active, inclusive, fulfilling lives. I'd ask that Caryn George, Lauren Barrett, and Robin Telasky please rise and receive the warm welcome of our Assembly and our gratitude.

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

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I have the pleasure of introducing to you and through you three constituents and community leaders from the fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Mill Woods. Born and raised in Pakistan, Chand Gul's passion for human rights and giving a voice to those who have faced oppression and discrimination is truly from her heart and her own personal journey. She is the founder and president of the Alberta Pashtoon Association, on the board of the Pakistan Canada Association of Edmonton, and was a community connector with the immigrant women's integration network. She is a strong supporter of Minister Sohi, and I'm so pleased she is also contributing her expertise and passion to my team in Edmonton-Mill Woods. I was very pleased to spend time with her at the NDP convention this weekend, and she's one of the newest members of our brand new race equity caucus in our party.

Parvin Sedighi came to Canada with her family as a refugee from Afghanistan more than a decade ago. She is now the president of the students' association of MacEwan University as well as a writer for the student newspaper, *The Griff*. Parvin is also the VP of communications at the Alberta Muslim Public Affairs Council. Finally, Cynthia Luna-Pasagui is an active member of Edmonton's Filipino community. She works with the Filipino Retirees' Association, can often be found performing with her local choir and band at the Mill Woods seniors activity centre and volunteering in my office. Thank you, ladies, for rising. I would now like to ask everyone to extend the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Now I would invite the Member for Fort McMurray-Conklin.

**Ms Goodridge:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly two important guests that I have seated up in the gallery, Iris Kirschner and her grandson William Gordon. Iris has been introduced countless times in this House, but it's truly an honour to be able to introduce her today. She has played such a monumental role in getting me to where I am right now, and I want to sincerely thank her. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker**: Welcome.

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

**Mr. Cooper:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today and introduce two outstanding constituents from the outstanding constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. Both of these fine folks are young, passionate Conservatives, part of a new generation of leadership in the Conservative Party. They are Ashley Stevenson, who serves as the vice-president, membership on the United Conservative Party Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills Constituency Association, and Shaun Holtby, who is also a director at large of that constituency association. I'd invite them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker**: Welcome.

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce a set of other guests that are not quite as outstanding because they're not from the outstanding constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, but they are incredible in their own right. Recently these three individuals were influential in putting on the Energy Relaunch conference in the city of Calgary, a conference that brought people together from all walks of life and backgrounds, including the Minister of Economic Development and Trade, the Premier of Saskatchewan, and the leaders of the Official Opposition both federally and provincially here in Alberta. They are with New West Public Affairs. Many of you will know Matt Solberg, his brother Mike – I'm sure he couldn't be more proud right now – and their colleague Sonia Kont. I'd invite them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Ms Larivee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this first day back in session it's my honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly three guests from the most outstanding constituency in the province, Lesser Slave Lake, who make it possible for me to do the critical work that I get to do here. I'd ask my guests to please rise as I say their names: my inspiration, my role model, my support network, who also happens to be my mom, Marilyn Larivee; the membership secretary for the Lesser Slave Lake constituency association and friend, Val Marshall; and member at large of the Lesser Slave Lake constituency association and also a friend, Lloyd Marshall. Thank you for supporting the work that I do, the work that our government does, and our fight for everyday families. Please accept the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

***2:00***

**The Speaker**: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Education.

**Mr. Eggen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have the pleasure of introducing Marcy Oakes, Allison Pike, and Kristi Rouse, parents who are serving on the working group on the use of isolation and seclusion rooms and physical restraints in schools. Last week I met with Marcy, who shared with me about the urgency of this work, and quite frankly I couldn't agree more. As a parent and as a teacher myself I was very disturbed by many of the things that we have been learning about families' experiences with seclusion rooms in Alberta schools, and we can and must and will do better for the sake of our kids. The status quo is simply unacceptable, and all children's safety is paramount. Allison, Kristi, and Marcy are seated in the members' gallery, and I would ask that they now please stand. Please, everyone join me in giving them the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker**: Welcome.

Hon. members, are there any other guests for introduction? The Minister of Advanced Education.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Introductions seem to be the latest in the renewable resources industry of Alberta. I rise today to introduce to you and through you many of Alberta's postsecondary student leaders. They've joined me here today to witness the introduction of Bill 19, An Act to Improve the Affordability and Accessibility of Post-secondary Education, which I will be tabling later today. Over the past couple of years I've had the pleasure of meeting and working with students from across the province, and I'm proud that our work together has led to legislation that reflects the priorities and protects students.

I ask that they please rise as I state their names. With us today are Marc Waddingham, Sasha van der Klein, Lindsay McNena, Nicole van Kuppeveld, Mostafa Sakr, Jon Mastel, Kera Forbes, Alysson Torres-Gillett, Brandon Vollweiter, Jonas Bystrom, Chaise Combs, Naomi Pela, Garrett Koehler, Andrew Preiss, Shifrah Gadamsetti, Adam Brown, Reed Larsen, Sagar Grewal, Anayat Sidhu, Parvin Sedighi, Victoria Schindler, Andrew Bieman, and Amanda LeBlanc. I ask that all of my colleagues give them the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker**: Welcome.

Edmonton-Decore.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With your permission, I have two introductions today. It's an honour to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a group of individuals representing the Sierra Leone Association of Alberta. Today we have Kemoh Mansaray, president, and he's joined by his wife, Iyesatu Jalloh. They are also joined by Theresa Goba, secretary general; Kai Ngegba, assistant secretary general; and community member Aly Kamara. I would ask that they now please rise to receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

It's also very exciting to introduce to you and through you today to all members of the Assembly Sandra Stemmer. Sandra is the newly appointed executive director for the North Edmonton Business Association. NEBA is a membership-based organization looking to create opportunities and interactions and engagement between entrepreneurs, businesses, communities, and government, and I would like to thank NEBA for strengthening the partnerships between those businesses, professionals, communities, and government and for creating business opportunities in the vibrant community of north Edmonton. I would now ask that she please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker**: Welcome.

## Ministerial Statements

### Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting

**Miranda:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our government to offer our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and all those affected by the synagogue shooting, the horrific murder of 11 Americans in Pittsburgh on the weekend, said to be the worst attack on Jews in the history of the United States. Our hearts break for the Jewish community in Pittsburgh, and we stand united with Jewish people around the world.

Let it be said that no one should have to worry about their safety when they go to their place of worship. No family should have to worry that their loved ones might not make it home because of where or how they pray. When a community of family and friends gathers to celebrate a bris, they should not have to look over their shoulders in fear. As a father and a member of the Jewish faith, I am utterly heartbroken by this vile, unconscionable act.

To the Jewish community of Alberta, my sisters and brothers: I stand with you. Our government and, I know, everyone in this House stands with you as we all grieve. We must not allow hate and intolerance to divide us. Our government will not allow the rise of anti-Semitism, that we have seen elsewhere in the world, to flourish in Alberta. The fact that this has to be said in this day and age is deeply troubling. All of us must continue to denounce hate. As the Premier said yesterday: anti-Semitism is a dark reality that must be confronted directly; it has no place in a civil society.

We must continue to ensure that Alberta is a place of welcome for all people and all faiths where there is no room for hatred. We will continue to ensure that Alberta is a place where our Jewish community, who have helped to build this province, can go about their daily lives and can practise their faith in safety and in solidarity with their fellow Albertans.

Mr. Speaker and all of us in this House today, as we reaffirm our commitment to stand up against hate and in standing with Alberta's Jewish community and the Jewish communities around the world, I now ask you all to please stand as I recite the Kaddish, the traditional Jewish prayer for the dead, followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of those killed at the Tree of Life synagogue. [Remarks in Aramaic and Hebrew] Amen.

> Glorified and sanctified be God's great name throughout the world, which He has created according to His will. May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and during your days, and within the life of the entire house of Israel, speedily and soon; and say, amen.
>
> May His great name be blessed forever and to all eternity. Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored, adored and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed be He, beyond al the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations that are ever spoken in the world; and say, amen.
>
> May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and for all Israel; and say, amen.
>
> He who creates peace in His celestial heights, may He create peace for us and for all Israel; and say, amen. [As submitted]

Thank you.

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the hon. minister for those profound words and especially for offering the Mourner's Kaddish for this Assembly on behalf of the victims of the odious act of anti-Semitic violence in Pittsburgh this weekend, when 11 elderly American Jews were murdered in cold blood for the crime of being Jewish, in what was an expression of the most ancient and pernicious form of hatred in human history, anti-Semitism.

Mr. Speaker, it is disturbing to imagine that amongst the victims were those who saw the Holocaust, that during the Second World War nearly obliterated the Jewish population of Europe.

The alleged shooter, murderer, of the Tree of Life synagogue attack said that, quote, he wanted all Jews to die. Mr. Speaker, this is the perverted, dystopian dream of anti-Semites all through human history.

I've stood at the ravine of Babi Yar near Kiev, where Nazis, the Einsatzgruppen, mowed down 30,000 Jews, motivated by this same ancient hatred. I stood at the Chabad house in Mumbai just weeks after terrorists killed Rabi Gavriel Holtzberg and his family for the crime of being Jewish. I stood outside a pizzeria in Ben Yehuda in Jerusalem just days after a suicide bomb was planted to kill Jews. That was exactly the same hatred that invaded the Tree of Life shul during Chabad services this weekend in Pittsburgh.

While we denounce this particular crime, we more profoundly, all of us as Albertans and Canadians, denounce this singular hatred which underscores it. Elie Wiesel, the great chronicler of the Holocaust, said: we must always take sides. And so we do so in denouncing anti-Semitism in all of its forms.

***2:10***

I would like to read into the record the names of those whose lives were taken this weekend: Joyce Fienberg, Richard Gottfried, Rose Mallinger, Jerry Rabinowitz, Cecil and David Rosenthal, Bernice and Sylvan Simon, Daniel Stein, Melvin Wax, Irving Younger.

Mr. Speaker, in the face of this and the sad history of anti-Semitism, the Jewish people always respond with their devotion to the Covenant and to the dignity of the human person. So let us say that the haters, the anti-Semites, never win. [Remarks in Hebrew] The people of Israel live. And as it says in the English translation of the Mourner's Kaddish: may the one who creates harmony on high bring peace to us and to all Israel, to which we say amen.

**Mr. Mason:** Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to ask the House for unanimous consent to allow a representative of the Alberta Party to respond. I have not received notes from any of the other independents, so I presume that that will be all.

Thank you.

[Unanimous consent granted]

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

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Alberta Party opposition and our leader, Stephen Mandel, to commemorate the victims of the terrible attack this past Sabbath morning in Pittsburgh. I'd like to thank my colleagues the hon. Minister of Culture and Tourism and the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition for their heartfelt remarks.

I want Alberta's Jewish community to know that we stand with you. We denounce in no uncertain terms this horrific crime and the anti-Semitism that caused it. This serves to remind us that anti-Semitism and hatred continue to plague our society, and by all accounts it is getting worse. This horrific incident has left a hole in the Jewish community and has ripped the illusion of peace away from Jewish communities all over the world and here in Alberta.

Tonight the Edmonton Jewish community will be hosting a memorial for those who were slain or injured in order to stand with the community in Pittsburgh, and the Alberta Party will be there with you. Our hearts ache at the loss of innocent lives. Today we remember those who were injured and those who were lost. Among those who were slain were Holocaust survivors, professionals, an

HIV specialist, and too many people who left us suddenly and far too soon.

Like many parents, I'm left wondering how I talk about this with my daughters. How can we ensure that the world they inherit is free from hatred, a world where anti-Semitism no longer exists? The answer, at least in part, is to be vigilant, to call out anti-Semitism wherever we see it, to build community, to build bridges, and to educate, and as leaders we must remember that it is us who set the tone.

Today we wish a full recovery to those who were injured in the attack, including the police who ran towards danger, and we mourn the loss of 11 innocent lives. May their memories be forever a blessing.

**Mr. Mason:** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 7(8) I wish to inform the House that we will be extending Orders of the Day past 3 o'clock until its completion.

**The Speaker**: Thank you.

## Statement by the Speaker

### Rotation of Questions and Members' Statements

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, before we proceed to Oral Question Period, I'd like to inform all hon. members about changes to both the Oral Question Period and the Members' Statements rotations. My office received a signed House leaders' agreement on October 24, 2018. After reviewing the document and the changes proposed in it, I've decided to accept it. I have noted the agreement and the rotations in the memorandums that I sent to all members on October 26, 2018.

The changes to the Oral Question Period rotation, indicated in the agreement, as compared to the rotation used during the spring sitting of the Fourth Session in the 29th Legislature, are as follows. The Member for Calgary-Greenway may ask question 6 on days 3 and 7 of the eight-day rotation. These questions were previously allocated to the Official Opposition.

The House leaders' agreement has also added a question 17 to the rotation. The question has been evenly allocated between the Official Opposition and the government caucus, with each caucus receiving four questions total on alternating days, starting on day 1 with the Official Opposition.

Turning to the Members' Statements rotation, the House leaders' agreement stipulates that the Member for Calgary-Greenway receives one member's statement every three weeks on a Thursday, starting on November 8, 2018.

I've asked that copies of both the Oral Question Period rotation and the projected sitting days calendar which contains the Members' Statements rotation, among other things, be placed on members' desks. Please consult these documents for further information about the rotation.

Also note that as the Assembly commences the fall sitting today, members are on day 8 of the Oral Question Period rotation and week 2 of the Members' Statements rotation.

## Oral Question Period

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

**Mr. Kenney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to, through you, wish all members back to the House. I hope they've had a productive time in their constituencies, and I hope our friends opposite in particular enjoyed their party convention this weekend.

### Carbon Levy Increase

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, does the planned 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax continue to be embedded in the government's fiscal plan?

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

**Ms Notley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to welcome everybody back to the Legislature. It should be a very interesting few weeks: two very different versions of, I think, and two very different visions for the province of Alberta, one that works for all Albertans and one that works for the top 1 per cent.

In answer to the member's question, as he knows full well, we have indicated that until we see a definitive conclusion to the pipeline issue that was disrupted by the Federal Court of Appeal decision, the additional changes to the climate leadership plan . . .

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

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, in the government's spring budget it projected a balanced budget in 2023 based on a 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax. In his quarterly fiscal update the Finance minister confirmed that the government was on track with the same fiscal plan. This was after the Premier indicated that she does not intend to proceed with the increase in the carbon tax, so there is an apparent contradiction here. I invite the Premier to clarify this. Does the government's fiscal plan continue to count on additional revenues from raising the carbon tax from $30 to $50 a tonne?

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

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, we have not yet had the opportunity to release our revised path to balance, but I can assure the member opposite that we still plan to meet our targets with respect to the path to balance. We do not currently have a path to balance which incorporates additional revenues coming as a result of signing on to the federal government's additions to the carbon levy, for the reasons I've already outlined, because we are focused on getting a pipeline built. Until that happens, we're not part of the plan.

**The Speaker**: Thank you.

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, Albertans would understandably be confused trying to understand that answer because the NDP's projected 67 per cent increase in the carbon tax would generate about 2 billion additional tax dollars per year, which was the basis of their claim to have a balanced budget in 2023. If it's not 2 billion extra dollars from an increase in the carbon tax, what other tax are they planning to increase in order to maintain their fiscal plan?

***2:20***

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

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the member opposite – let me be very clear so there's no opportunity for sort of misrepresentations to occur – that there is absolutely no plan to bring in any other kind of tax. We are fully on target to meet our path-to-balance commitments that were introduced in the last budget, and of course the people of Alberta will see that in the next budget. What we won't do is blow a $700 million hole in the budget to give a tax break to the top 1 per cent of Albertans like the member opposite seems to think is . . .

**The Speaker:** Second main question.

**Mr. Kenney:** Well, you would forgive Albertans, Mr. Speaker, for being skeptical about that answer given that the NDP imposed a job-killing carbon tax on Albertans without having mentioned it in the last election. We have a huge hole in the NDP's fiscal plan, which is either being met by an increase in the carbon tax, that they're now pretending not to do, or by another tax increase. I'll be interested to find out which it is.

### Federal Bill C-69 and Pipeline Construction

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, in the spring the opposition proposed a motion calling on the government to join us in calling on the federal government to withdraw the no-more-pipelines bill, Bill C-69. The NDP defeated that motion. Why?

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite knows full well, our government has been fully committed to standing up for Alberta's energy industry on matters of development, including, of course, getting a pipeline to tidewater and ensuring that the new legislation that comes forward facilitates that and doesn't bar it. That's why we've been engaging in a year and half of advocacy with respect to the federal government, up to and including just last week, when our minister of environment went and met with copious numbers of federal officials to outline the clear problems with Bill C-69 because we are standing up for Alberta's energy.

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, in the spring, when I suggested that the government send ministers to Ottawa to speak out against the no-more-pipelines act, they mocked and ridiculed us for that suggestion. The Deputy Premier said, "How is it standing up for Alberta to hop on an airplane and jaunt off to Ottawa?" Why didn't the government accept our constructive advice then to intervene against the no-more-pipelines law when it was before the House of Commons energy committee? Why did they wait five months to finally act on our advice?

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

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I said before, our government has been standing up with respect to Bill C-69 for a year and a half, so the member opposite once again is taking some liberty with the facts. What I will say, however, is that we are not going to take advice on how to stand up for Alberta, Alberta's energy industry, and Alberta pipelines from someone who actually, when in Ottawa, said that no pipeline is a national priority. That's the member opposite's record. Our record is clear. It's out there. We're going to continue fighting for Albertans, and I suggest that he join us.

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, in August the energy ministers of all the provinces and the federal government came together, and they issued a communiqué. Two provinces resiled from that communiqué with a minority communiqué. They said that, quote, the no-more-pipelines law of the Trudeau government effectively hinders natural resource related economic development within the country and could erode Canada's economic competitiveness. Close quote. Alberta was not one of those two provinces. Why didn't Alberta sign on to this statement against Bill C-69 with Saskatchewan and Ontario?

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, as I've said very clearly, our ministers have very definitively advocated on behalf of Alberta's energy industry. The federal government is fully aware of our position on Bill C-69. We have talked to them about how, while we support the intention of Bill C-69 to create greater clarity for everybody and to ensure that we instill confidence on all Canadians' parts, what they have proposed is not acceptable to Albertans. We will continue to push forward, and we will get results.

**The Speaker:** Third main question.

**Mr. Kenney:** Well, the truth is that they failed to lead. They let the opposition, the governments of Saskatchewan and Ontario lead the fight against a bill which they still do not oppose, Mr. Speaker. Ottawa is not clear because they will not express their clear – this government will not call on the federal government to kill the bill, so I will invite the Premier to stand here in the Legislative Assembly and clarify for all Albertans: is it the position of her government that the federal government should withdraw the no-more-pipelines act, Bill C-69?

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, again I will be very clear. We have said that Bill C-69 in its current form is absolutely unacceptable to this government and it will not support Alberta's energy industry, something that we are focused on doing. I literally cannot take advice from someone who sat in Ottawa for well over 10 years, with a Conservative government here, a Conservative government in B.C., a Conservative government in Ottawa, that didn't get a pipeline built. You know what? We're going to continue doing the work that we're doing, and we are going to get the pipeline done.

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, the Premier literally does take my advice. The no-more-pipelines law that I proposed in July of last year she mocked and ridiculed, and then she made it Alberta government policy this spring. The suggestion that we fight Bill C-69: they mocked and ridiculed the idea of sending ministers to Ottawa to combat it, and now she's followed our lead. When we said, "Stop the increase in the carbon tax," they mocked and ridiculed the idea. Now they claim that they're going to stop the increase in the carbon tax. Instead of following, why doesn't this government lead in fighting for Alberta jobs and resources?

**Ms Notley:** Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is absolutely entitled to his own opinions, but he is absolutely not entitled to his own facts. The facts are that our government has been fighting with respect to Bill C-69 for well over a year. The facts are that since we've been elected, we have done nothing but advocate for the Trans Mountain pipeline, for KXL, for line 3. You know what? We've got 2 of 3, and we are very close on the third one. Meanwhile the member opposite has nothing but failure on his resumé. Thank goodness we're the ones that are going to get it done.

**Mr. Kenney:** Well, Mr. Speaker, it's rather ungrateful of the Premier not to thank the opposition for providing her government with its agenda on these issues. Now maybe she could explain. If, in fact, we just didn't understand, why did she mock and ridicule our suggestion that we be prepared to turn off the taps to British Columbia in response to its obstructionism? Why did she mock and ridicule the idea that we send ministers down to Ottawa to oppose Bill C-69? Why did she mock and ridicule the idea that we freeze the carbon tax rather than increasing it in the face of the federal government's failure to lead on pipelines? Why is this government following and not leading in the fight for Alberta?

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, again, the member opposite has a very creative understanding of history. Perhaps when he's sitting around with his friends in his room, they talk to each other and they rewrite history. That's very lovely, but what he's describing didn't happen. What, in fact, did happen is that since our government has been elected, we have worked hard to get a pipeline to tidewater, and –

you know what? – we're succeeding. When our government came into power, there was not a lot of support for this, but as a result of the work that we have done, talking about the importance to our energy industry and to Alberta workers of a pipeline, in B.C., in Ottawa, in the Maritimes . . .

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

### Bitumen Upgrading and Refining

**Mr. Fraser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans are facing a per-barrel discount of $50, trying to sell our raw product to the United States. We desperately need pipeline capacity and pipelines capable of delivering that product to other international customers. In the meantime we need to be smart about getting the most value from the pipeline space we do have. Upgraded products such as diesel not only deliver much more value per barrel; it also doesn't require shipping diluent along with it. To the Minister of Energy: with the failure to secure expanded pipeline access, will you commit to doing more to support upgrading and refining in this province, where it makes sense for taxpayers?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, the differential lately has highlighted absolutely the need for pipelines, the need for more rail, but it also has highlighted that we need to keep value here in Alberta for the resources that Albertans own. We're doing that. Last year we had Bill 1, that provides support to industry who wants to build here for things like upgrading, straddle plants, more petrochemical diversification, because we know that that's what matters to Albertans.

**Mr. Fraser:** Our caucus recently had the opportunity to visit the North West refinery, and some of the good news that we heard: progress has been made on the carbon trunk line. This means that the refinery will be able to significantly reduce its carbon footprint, but the line also has the capacity to transport even more than that one facility can produce. To the same minister: with the carbon trunk line on the way and the North West refinery nearing completion, when can we expect your government to finally make a decision on phase 2 of this project?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, again, we're working very hard every day for Albertans, for those good Alberta jobs that are provided by the energy and the diversification that keeping value here in Alberta will provide. We're fighting for pipelines. We're looking at all projects that will keep value here in Alberta for our industry to get a better price. This was a vision that long ago Peter Lougheed had. It was dropped for whatever reason over a number of years and – you know what? – as this government is doing, we're picking up that vision, and we're running with it.

***2:30***

**Mr. Fraser:** With increasing global demand for less carbon-intensive fuels there's an opportunity here for Alberta, but we must be innovative. For example, the international marine organization has mandated that marine fuel must have a sulphur content less than .5 per cent by 2020, a standard that we'll be meeting in Alberta thanks to the North West refinery. If we're forward-thinking about the world's energy needs, we can create more demand for our products and continue to grow our energy industry. To the same minister: have you done any work to identify any new opportunities and energy products that Alberta can take advantage of? If not, would you please explain to this House why not?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the hon. member for the question. It is true that there are new marine sulphur guidelines coming in on the international level, which speaks to the fact that Alberta must remain competitive not only within our own national emissions and pollutions controls but also the international protocols governing those things. That's why, for example, we're investing in clean tech and in innovation. Of that $1.4 billion that we committed to reinvestment into clean tech in oil and gas, part of that was a test project just over here in Fort Saskatchewan that manufactures that low-sulphur diesel to solve exactly the problem that the hon. member has described.

Thank you.

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

### H.A. Kostash School in Smoky Lake

**Mr. Piquette:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to be part of a government that has built and modernized more schools than any other administration in Alberta's history. However, much still needs to be done and nowhere as much as in the community of Smoky Lake, whose K to 12 school has outlived its usefulness and faces a multitude of serious issues. To the Minister of Education: is he aware of the present state of H.A. Kostash school?

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

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thanks for the question. Yes, I am very much aware of the situation in Smoky Lake. In fact, I met a student just last week that goes to this school at the public school board student voice meeting, and he laid out in no uncertain terms exactly how the school was definitely needing some help. You know, there are many schools like this across the province. To date our government has funded 240 school projects across the province, the biggest infrastructure build in the history of this fine province. Again, this example from Smoky Lake . . .

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

**Mr. Piquette:** Thank you. To the same minister. Local parents have organized a letter-writing campaign to advocate for a replacement school. Can the minister comment on the types of concerns parents have raised with his ministry?

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

**Mr. Eggen:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, I am aware of the state of the school, and I'm really glad for his advocacy to make sure that we're getting a clear picture of what capital project priorities are across the province. We've been building across the province. We've been doing renovations across the province, and we will continue to do so. You need to invest in education because our population is growing. You can't cut and fire; you need to hire and build more schools.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Piquette:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: considering the issues with this school, is the minister looking at approving a new school for Smoky Lake, and if so, when?

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

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we work through a process using the priorities of capital builds from different school boards, and in due process of time that's what we do. We make these decisions together with school boards to make sure that our kids are safe and that we're building something that we can all be proud of here in the province of Alberta.

### Government Policies

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Mr. Speaker, after the last election all members of this House worked together to pass campaign finance reform legislation to get big money out of politics. Nearly every session afterwards, though, the NDP have brought forward changes to that legislation to try and plug holes in their original bill. In the last week the Premier has expressed her indignation that in exchange for political favours, political action committees are campaigning for the Tories: PACs bad. But 4 out of 5 active PACs in Alberta are explicitly backing the NDP: PACs good. Which one is true?

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

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Albertans deserve to know who is trying to influence their opinion, and that is why I'm so proud that we brought forward the strongest third-party legislation system in the country and one that will stand up to court challenges. Now, it's clear from what we've seen lately that the Conservatives are still hell bent on getting around the rules and returning Alberta to the same system of entitlement that Alberta rejected in the last election, but I am very proud of the third-party election system that we have passed and that Albertans have more transparency.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Mr. Speaker, Albertans are looking forward to their chance to scrap the NDP's carbon tax, but the Premier threw a wet blanket on the excitement when she stated that if Alberta scraps her carbon tax, the Trudeau government has the power to just impose his. When a court ruling put the TMX pipeline on ice, the Premier righteously proclaimed that Alberta was pulling out of Trudeau's plan and would therefore not raise the carbon tax from $30 to $40 per tonne. In short, opposition noncompliance with Trudeau: not possible. NDP noncompliance with Trudeau: possible. Which is true?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The issue here is the escalation of price starting in 2021, which we have said we are not doing. Alberta's climate leadership plan will be adequate pending the economic uplift that we can enjoy from market access for our products. Every other piece of our work on climate leadership with respect to efficiency, renewables, growing the economy, broadening the economy will remain in place, but that price escalation will not until we see concrete action from the federal government.

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, I think you have a second supplemental left. Is that right? Just remember to stay close to the first topic that you entered into. It is supplemental to the main question, so if you could keep that in mind.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Mr. Speaker, I assure you that the questions are on topic even if the answers are not.

Mr. Speaker, in the half-dozen or so times that the government has moved back the date of its balanced budget, the Premier and Finance minister have repeatedly stated that there's no need to cut spending because the TMX pipeline will solve everything. It's this one weird secret deficits don't want you to know about. But when the now taxpayer-owned TMX pipeline was kiboshed in court, the government insisted that there would be no effect on the deficit. TMX will balance the budget. TMX will have no impact on the budget. Which one is true?

**Mr. Clark:** Point of order.

**Mr. Ceci:** You know, Mr. Speaker, three different questions on three different topics. On this one I can tell you, though, that we have many savings that have been achieved. We've cut the salaries and perks of the highest paid executives, and that's $33 million. The Conservatives on that side want to continue the culture of entitlement. We won't let them. We're rolling back, and we're saving on all sorts of things. We've strengthened hiring restraint. We have saved $107 million on that since 2015. On that side they just want to give bonuses to their friends and insiders.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow, did I note that you had a point of order?

**Mr. Clark**: Yes.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Noted.

The Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

### Federal Bill C-69 and Pipeline Construction
*(continued)*

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday the Minister of Economic Development and Trade said that the NDP told the federal government that significant changes need to be made to Bill C-69 or it will doom our energy sector. Now, I completely agree and have said so in this House many times. The question to the minister then becomes: why did you and your government not propose these changes before Bill C-69 passed the House despite this side of the House repeatedly warning you that we needed to do that?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll thank the member for the question and for the opportunity to stand up and say that the Premier and my colleagues the ministers of Environment and Parks and of Energy and I along with other ministers have been engaged with the federal government for quite some time, in fact about a year and a half, communicating at every opportunity the implications of C-69 on Alberta's energy sector and, therefore, on the Canadian economy if that bill were to pass in its current state. The reality is that we have been fighting. We've been fighting for Alberta's energy sector and for Alberta workers and companies, and we will continue to fight on their behalf.

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I hope the minister will table those communiqués to this House, but let's talk about what this government has said about this issue. When we were pushing on Bill C-69 earlier this year in the House, the Minister of Energy said: "I am somewhat puzzled why you guys are so obsessed with the federal government and what they're doing." Through you to the minister: Minister, does your government now understand why we need to stand up to your close personal allies Justin Trudeau and the

federal Liberals? Does your government finally understand the significant damage that they're doing to our energy industry and that it is your job to stand up for it?

*2:40*

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

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There have been, in fact, a number of tablings in this House and other ways that we have communicated with the federal government, just to correct the record there.

Mr. Speaker, this is too important to get wrong. We have seen what happens when environmental assessment fails. We saw that with the Federal Court of Appeal decision. CEAA 2012, that the hon. Leader of the Opposition brought in when he was part of government, was part of the rejection of the TMX pipeline. We can't fix a broken system with another broken system. There are specific things that we are looking for to fix this legislation, to work with industry to . . .

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

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, as the Leader of the Opposition asked earlier today in question period or pointed out, the Saskatchewan government and the Ontario government recently put out basically a minority report at a convention, an energy and mines ministry conference, in August. The Alberta government, who should have the most to lose when it comes to Bill C-69, did not side with Ontario and Saskatchewan. Instead, they sided with their close ally Justin Trudeau again. This government continues to prop up Justin Trudeau despite him not coming through for Alberta over and over. Why?

**Ms Phillips:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we have been very clear on the types of changes that we want to see to Bill C-69. We have been for at least 18 months, as long as I can remember, since this conversation began with the first discussion paper in the summer of 2016.

Now, let's talk about who's the ally of Justin Trudeau. The Leader of the Official Opposition has said that he wants to scrap Alberta's climate leadership plan and roll out the red carpet for the Prime Minister to impose his plan on Alberta. That doesn't work for the big projects that would be regulated by C-69 or even the small projects, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't work for Albertans.

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

### Alberta Review Board Decision on Patient Transfer

**Mrs. Pitt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In April of 2014 Matthew de Grood viciously attacked and killed five university students at a house party in Calgary. The Alberta Review Board decided to transfer him from the Alberta forensic psychiatry centre in Calgary to Alberta Hospital Edmonton, where he could be granted supervised visits in the community. Five people, just five years ago. To the Minister of Justice: will you review the decision to put De Grood on the fast track to freedom?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, all Albertans and all Calgarians were moved by this particular case. The losses that those families have suffered are absolutely unimaginable. As the hon. member opposite is well aware, the review board is governed under federal legislation, and I don't have the power to review their decision.

Thank you.

**Mrs. Pitt:** That's not correct, Mr. Speaker.

Given that families of victims are taking this particularly hard and fundamentally disagree with this decision and given that De Grood obviously has manic, violent tendencies, it's hard to believe that he could be walking around on our streets. Minister, are you worried about the message that this decision sends to Albertans?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I've said, everyone was deeply moved by this particular case. I'm aware of the concerns that the families have surrounding this particular process. Again, it is a process that is governed at the federal level. Certainly, I will continue discussions with those families on ways that we can work on that process or work on advocating together to the federal government. As the hon. member well knows, it's out of my jurisdiction to overturn the decision.

**Mrs. Pitt:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice had it in her purview before October 15 to appeal this decision. She let that window close. I would ask the minister why Albertans should feel confident in our justice system and their safety with decisions like this and a minister who refused to act in time to appeal this decision.

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I've said before, the law surrounding this issue is governed at the federal level. Crown prosecutors make decisions on when to appeal cases based on the facts of the case and the law as it stands. Those decisions are made independently to avoid political interference with those types of decisions. I am certainly well aware that the families have concerns around this process. It has been incredibly difficult for them, and we will continue to work as best as we are able to at our level on that.

### Carbon Levy

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Mr. Speaker, due to a difficult harvest farmers across Alberta are using grain dryers day and night to help salvage their crops and to finish before winter. These grain dryers are fuelled by natural gas and propane, both subject to the Trudeau-NDP carbon tax scheme. That works out to about $1.50 a gigajoule for natural gas and over 4 and a half cents for propane. That represents a 50 per cent increase in the NDP's original carbon tax scheme. Given this difficult harvest and counties declaring a state of emergency, what is this government's support for farmers who are paying even more in carbon tax?

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

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. From the implementation of our climate leadership plan farmers have taken the bull by the horns, if you will, and have asked me: what can they do? What can they do to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions? What can they do to take part in the lower carbon economy? And they have. As for the grain drying, most certainly we've had some wet weather this year where they've had to use grain drying, and I'm happy to report that those farmers are much further along in the harvest than they were even a few weeks ago.

Thank you.

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Mr. Speaker, given that it's been estimated that an average 2,000-acre farm will pay roughly $30,000 in carbon taxes and given that the carbon tax is higher than any rebate a farmer

would receive, especially accounting for indirect carbon tax costs on fertilizer, transportation, and equipment, why does this government think it's acceptable to impose a carbon tax on our farmers?

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

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question, a good opportunity to inform the member and others as well about what we have done for farmers to ensure that their operations are sustainable and they're successful, as they have been over the generations. One is to ensure that their marked fuel is exempt from the carbon levy – perhaps the member didn't know that, but he does now – and as well the opportunities we've had from the carbon levy funds, $81 million to help farmers to take advantage of the lower carbon economy, to be able to make their operations more efficient both on energy and financial.

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

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Mr. Speaker, given that there's a growing opposition to the carbon tax as Canadians are realizing its purpose, which is to increase the cost on everything and is just a tax grab by governments, and given that most industries in Alberta compete on a global stage and the carbon tax is a government-imposed economic disadvantage to Alberta businesses and families, can this NDP government commit to repealing their job-killing carbon tax scheme?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll thank the member for his question and welcome him to the Assembly. What I will clarify for the member is that Albertans continue to pay the lowest taxes in the country, $11 billion less than the second-lowest taxed jurisdiction, which is Saskatchewan. Why is that? Well, I'm glad you asked. It's because we don't have a PST. We don't have health care premiums. We don't have a payroll tax. Even with the price on carbon Albertans pay $11 billion less in taxes. What our government is doing is reinvesting the carbon pricing back into the economy, supporting innovation, and supporting our companies to grow the economy.

**The Speaker**: Thank you.
The hon. Member for St. Albert.

### Persons with Disabilities' Workforce Participation

**Ms Renaud:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This year Alberta joined other Canadian provinces and countries around the world to proclaim international Disability Employment Awareness Month for the first time in our history. To the minister: can you please explain how awareness contributes to the promotion of inclusive employment?

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

**Mr. Sabir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. We are very proud to be the first government in Alberta to proclaim Disability Employment Awareness Month. This month and every month we are committed to working with our partners, advocates, and with employers to promote inclusion and break down the barriers for the person with disabilities. Building awareness is important but only part of our work. We have made investments and taken action to improve the services that Albertans with disabilities rely on.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Ms Renaud:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister. Can you please explain what our government is doing to assist people with disabilities to be better prepared and supported to participate in the economy via supported employment?

***2:50***

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

**Mr. Sabir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. We are expanding disability-related employment services to support part-time workers. For instance, this year we announced $600,000 in new funding for inclusive postsecondary, and we are creating jobs through our internship program within the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Instead of making cuts, as that side has suggested, we are investing in supports and services that Albertans with disabilities need and rely on.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Ms Renaud:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all have constituents, friends, family, neighbours with disabilities, and we all know how important it is that we continue to listen and make progress to support this community, particularly related to employment. To the minister: would you please further expand on the work that is being done to support inclusive employment?

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

**Mr. Sabir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Colleague. We know that Albertans with disabilities face multiple barriers to employment, but at the same time we do know that they contribute tremendously to our workforce and to our communities, and we believe that every Albertan should have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. This is why we proclaimed DEAM. It is why instead of making cuts, we have invested in supports and services that make a difference in the lives of the people of Alberta, and Alberta can always count on this government to fight . . .

**The Speaker**: Thank you.
The hon. Member for Calgary-Hays.

### Municipal Sustainability Initiative Funding

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, in the final quarter of 2017-18 the government paid out about $800 million of capital funding for the municipal sustainability initiative. Annual funding was promised at $846 million. Then at the tail end of the year's budget cycle it jumped to $1.65 billion, but the government clawed it back this year, because the amounts to municipalities fell by the same amount in the budget. To the Minister of Finance: would you agree that if those funds had not been prepaid at the end of last year's deficit, last year's deficit would have been $800 million lower than reported and this year's deficit $800 million higher?

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Well, welcome back, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I'm proud to speak about municipal funding to our 342 municipalities across this province, who are the feet on the ground. This government, through the downturn, made sure that they had the money for their big infrastructure projects and small infrastructure projects because we

know it's important to have jobs in our communities. It's important to take care of crumbling infrastructure. It was something that was left by the wayside by the last government. Our government will always be there to support our municipalities across this province.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. McIver:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Given that in August, when releasing the 2018-19 first-quarter fiscal report, the Minister of Finance crowed about the deficit dropping by a billion dollars and given that I will table documents today showing that this, quote, deficit drop was simply a matter of their government slipping money from one budget fiscal year into another, to the Minister of Finance: was the only purpose of shuffling MSI money into an earlier year for the purpose of manufacturing the illusion of a dropping deficit right before an election?

**Mr. Ceci:** Actually, nothing could be further from the truth, Mr. Speaker. We've cut the deficit by $3 billion without firing thousands of teachers and nurses, and we've done that in extremely difficult times. You know, our government was dealt a really tough hand with the collapse of oil prices. We have stabilized spending so that it's reduced from the previous government spending like drunken sailors. When they had money, they spent it; when they didn't, they cut deeply into the programs and services all Albertans count on. We're not manufacturing anything. We are managing a crisis, and we're coming out of that crisis into recovery.

**Mr. McIver:** Well, Mr. Speaker, Albertans deserve a government that makes announcements based on reality, not one that plays shell games designed to hide their gross financial mismanagement.

To the Minister of Finance: since you have been caught declaring a nonexistent deficit decrease, will you now apologize to Albertans for mismanagement so bad that you had to create this smokescreen?

**Mr. Ceci:** Mr. Speaker, you know, we have been fighting for Albertans every step of the way through the deepest recession in two generations. We're in recovery now. We've dropped the deficit $3 billion. We will balance the budget by 2023, something that side couldn't do when oil was a hundred dollars a barrel. We are going to stick up for Albertans. That side wants to continue to make Albertans hurt because that's what Albertans can expect from the Conservatives.

## Labour Legislation and Heavy Construction

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, I've heard from concerned employers and job creators that with winter around the corner and limited time to finish certain roadwork and heavy construction projects, employers in my constituency are concerned. They are concerned about the changes this government has made. Up until this year associations could make applications for member companies and their employees to alter the daily hours and consecutive days of rest rules to accommodate the weather-dependent nature of the road industry work. This has all changed with the new rules. To the Minister of Labour: are you aware of any problems occurring due to the change in this process?

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

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When we came into office, we did inherit a set of labour laws that had not been updated in decades. Workers were being denied the same basic rights as workers in every other province. So I'm very proud of the work that we have done to update and modernize our labour laws. With those updates there is a process for us to work with employers or associations when exemptions or specific adjustments need to be made for those rules, and I'm very pleased to be able to say that my office has been working with the Alberta Roadbuilders as well as others who do need to factor in time of day, temperatures, and seasons.

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

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, given that the Alberta Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association submitted a request for an industry-wide exemption called a minister's variance six months ago now as the last permit issued by the GOA is due to expire on October 31 and given that the association is required to get 51 per cent of the workers to approve, which is about 26,000 signatures to be collected and returned in just two days, how has your office been supporting these companies so that the work can be completed before winter?

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

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As part of the changes to the labour laws we did include a need to make sure that there was employee perspective in all applications, making sure that there was worker support. In the case of the Roadbuilders we have been working with them and asking them for their suggestions on how best to demonstrate that worker support. We do work collaboratively with employers depending on their different situations, and I continue to work with the Roadbuilders and look forward to working with them in the future.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Hunter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, will you commit to work with and come to an agreement on an extension to alleviate some of the burden that these HR professionals are having to deal with at this point?

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

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have been working with the Roadbuilders lo these many months. We continue to work with them. I appreciate very much the member raising these questions here in the Chamber, and I'm happy to tell him that I have been working with the Roadbuilders and will continue to do so.

Thank you.

## Health Care Wait Times

**Mr. Yao:** Mr. Speaker, Alberta Health Services released their annual report that indicated disappointing results. Cataract surgeries, sir, have doubled in wait time from 14 weeks to 29 weeks. Hip replacements have gone up from 42 weeks to 49 weeks. That's almost a two-month increase. Knee replacements, that were 48 weeks, are now 55 weeks. That's almost 14 months now, over a year. These people are all becoming addicted to painkillers. You've been Health minister for three and a half years. What have you done about this? What are you doing about this? Why is the system deteriorating?

**Mr. Mason:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Point of order noted.

The hon. minister.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To any Albertan who is waiting for surgery, certainly any amount of wait is too long. While there is more to do, I am really proud of the fact that we have reduced wait times on hip fracture repair, radiation therapy. Our 17 stroke treatment centres are the best in Canada and the fastest in the world. There is absolutely more to be done on health care, and we're proud to do that. Instead, what the opposition is calling for is a $700 million tax giveaway to the top 1 per cent. What would that mean? Well, the member from the opposition from Lac La Biche said that things would hurt under a UCP government, and absolutely that's the case for people who are waiting for surgeries and demanding health care services.

**Mr. Yao:** It's not just surgical wait times, Mr. Speaker; it's also emergency wait times. Patients at the Royal Alex hospital are waiting an average of three hours or more. The University of Alberta patients are waiting an average of two and a half plus hours. In Calgary the Foothills emergency room wait times run from an hour 45 to two hours this year. Recently overcapacity protocols in the Red Deer emergency department were utilized, another indicator that Alberta Health Services has not been able to address the issue of wait times. To the minister: three and a half years later why has there not been any improvement in these wait times?

***3:00***

**Ms Hoffman:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I certainly have to say for anyone who is waiting for care that we want to improve the health care system. That's why we're doing things like working with family physicians to reduce the wait-list for nonurgent GI treatment by 98 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That's why we have the lowest potentially inappropriate use of antipsychotics in long-term care and the lowest amount of time spent in the emergency department for patients who have been admitted. Absolutely, there is more to be done, but the solution is not to privatize health care. It's not to lay off front-line workers. It's not to cut 20 per cent. The member for Lac La Biche, that caucus member's own colleague, said that if the UCP were elected, things would hurt. On this side of the House . . .

**The Speaker**: Thank you.

**Mr. Yao:** Mr. Speaker, the Health budget has increased during this government's three and a half years by approximately $2 billion, and that doesn't even include your superlab building, which has doubled in cost from $300 million to $600 million. CIHI data shows that the cost in Alberta is $8,100 versus the average stay in any other province, around $6,000, and you've hired about 1,000 additional employees in AHS in your first full year while wait times continue to deteriorate. To the minister: where did you exactly open up positions? In our operating and surgery departments or emergency departments? Can you clarify? How many nurses and doctors did you allocate to these particular areas?

**Ms Hoffman:** Mr. Speaker, we are absolutely investing in front-line services and front-line care, expanding long-term care, expanding emergency services, expanding EMS. What would happen if the Official Opposition was in government? Those people wouldn't be hired, and other people would be fired. On this side of the House we stand up for public health care; we invest in the things that matter to families. On that side of the House they fight for a massive $700 million tax break to the richest 1 per cent. I think I know who's got the right priorities.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

## Grain Drying

**Mr. van Dijken:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Farmers in my constituency and throughout Alberta have been working long hours over the last couple of weeks to try and complete the harvest of 2018. A lot of the grain in my constituency and throughout many parts of Alberta has been harvested in either a tough or damp condition. This excess moisture will cause the grain to rot quickly if not dealt with in a timely manner. Does the minister of agriculture know how much grain is in storage in a tough or damp condition, and do we have the capacity to dry this crop in a timely manner?

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

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the very good question. You know, without a doubt, September was a very troubling, very frustrating month. You know, by many measures it was the coldest month on record. We've had snow right across the province. Troubling because it was basically three Septembers in a row that we've had very unusual weather. This October we've had a turnaround in much better weather. Mother Nature has shone on us, if you will, and has created the opportunity to get a lot of those crops dryer on the ground so there's less grain drying going on. As it progresses, we just know we're close to 80 per cent done in the province. It's varied all over across the province on what the grades are like, but, you know, time will tell. Hopefully, we're going to get even more into the bin.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. van Dijken:** Mr. Speaker, given that Alberta farmers produce food to help feed people all around the world and given that the weather conditions this fall have necessitated the use of grain dryers to prevent grain from rotting in the bins, has the minister developed any plans or programs to ensure that farmers will be able to dry this important food in a cost-effective and timely manner?

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

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and a very, very good question, a very timely question. The Agriculture Financial Services Corporation will take into account any of the costs for drying grain, especially if there's grade downgrade, to ensure that the cost for the grain drying is taken into consideration for their calculation for their payment for their insurance. For sure there's assistance necessary for what looks like a year. In upcoming years there's been a program announced to the Canadian agriculture partnership for upgrading and retrofitting of existing grain drying as well.

**Mr. van Dijken:** Mr. Speaker, given that these powerful grain dryers use natural gas or propane which are subject to a carbon tax at $1.52 per gigajoule and 4.6 cents per litre respectively and given that I hear consistently from producers hurt by the carbon tax's impact not only on grain drying but also on livestock producers, when did the minister of agriculture last meet with farmers hurt by the carbon tax and why has he not been able to convince his government colleagues to exempt all food production from their carbon tax?

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

**Mr. Carlier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I meet very regularly. You know, a few days ago I met with Team Alberta, which represents grain – cereal crops and oilseed crops and pulses – across the province. I just talked to them. We talked about current harvesting conditions as well as the

somewhat tough conditions across the province for excess moisture. That work continues. Like I've said before, the agriculture community has embraced the opportunity to do their part to ensure that the overwhelming financial hardship they'll be in if climate change is allowed to continue – they realize the realities.

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

The hon. Member for Red Deer-South.

### Cardiac Care at Red Deer Regional Hospital

**Ms Miller:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Medical professionals and the central Alberta community have been pushing for stronger cardiac services for the Red Deer regional hospital. Our government reversed the previous government's planned cuts of over a billion dollars and listened to community concerns at the RDRH. AHS recently released the central zone health care plan and the interventional cardiac needs assessment and options analysis. Both made recommendations to enhance cardiac services in Red Deer, including cardiac catheterization. To the Minister of Health: can you inform the House what the process will be going forward?

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much for the important question. We've heard the call from the community that they've been pushing for nearly two decades to strengthen cardiac care services in Red Deer and area. That's why we've asked AHS to work with local physicians and their clinical teams in developing a cardiac care road map as well as an overall central zone health plan for the region, and we now have those, Mr. Speaker. The next steps include completing the needs assessment and a business case, which are necessary for the evidence-based capital planning process.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Ms Miller:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After decades of underfunding and cuts, Budget 2018 committed a million dollars for the Red Deer health capital planning to advance the business case for the redevelopment needs of RDRH. To the same minister: can you please update us on the status of the business case and if a timeline is now in place?

**Ms Hoffman:** I want to begin by thanking our two local Red Deer MLAs for their tremendous advocacy for their community and on this matter, Mr. Speaker. We are working to ensure that the exact needs of the community are itemized. The former Tory government used to make empty promises. Instead, we have no plan of doing that. We want to make sure that we want to move forward with a budget and understanding of what the future demands are, and we want to get this right for central Albertans. I understand that the needs assessment will be completed by the end of this year and that AHS is planning a business case as well.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Ms Miller:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Red Deer and its central Alberta catchment area continue to grow, and the RDRH is the only Alberta hospital that is the sole major referral centre for an entire zone. To the Minister of Health: what are we doing to ensure that the Red Deer regional hospital will be able to keep pace with future population growth in central Alberta?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Red Deer hospital continues to have challenges with overcapacity, which increases stress on our overall health professionals as well as on patients and their families. This is exactly why the AHS team is working with physicians like Dr. Kym Jim as well as the local hospital foundation. I have to say that I think that we are making tremendous strides in moving forward in the three short years we've had. I wish that this project would have been taken care of 20 years ago by the former government. Instead, we're here today. We're moving forward with the community instead of proposing things like deep cuts that we know would cause pain. The UCP members admit themselves that things would hurt if there was a UCP government. We're working to build and support health care across Alberta.

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

Hon. members, we will begin Members' Statements in 30 seconds.

## *3:10* Members' Statements

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

### Small Business Week

**Mr. Nielsen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two weeks ago I had the privilege of attending the North Edmonton Business Association's fourth anniversary celebration. I had a lovely time talking with local entrepreneurs, small-business owners, and others to learn about the terrific work that they are doing in north Edmonton.

Coincidentally, two weeks ago was also Small Business Week. For years Small Business Week events have taken place during the third week of October with the goal of providing opportunities to network, share ideas and best practices, and, of course, celebrate achievements. This annual event was started by the Business Development Bank of Canada almost 40 years ago.

I don't need to tell you about any of the important roles small business plays in Alberta's economy. Almost 96 per cent of businesses in the province are small businesses. As of December 2017 small businesses employ more than 542,000 Albertans. Alberta small businesses have a bigger economic impact per capita than small businesses anywhere else in the country. In addition to providing jobs so hundreds of thousands of Albertans can earn a living for themselves and their families, they inject about $100 billion into our hometowns and neighbourhoods.

Our government is making it easier for businesses to do business. Our government is making sure that small businesses have the supports they need to thrive. That's why we cut the small business tax by 33 per cent, saving business owners more than half a billion dollars over three years. We also listened to small-business owners and created new tax credits that other provinces have enjoyed for decades. There are also significant small-business supports in place to help homegrown businesses through difficult times. For example, more than 260 service providers are available to help Alberta businesses achieve their goals.

Our government will continue to invest in programs that support economic diversification and innovation. Working together, I know that Alberta will continue to be the right place to launch and grow a business long into the future. As we have celebrated Small Business Week, please take time to thank your local businesses for the incredible contributions that they make to Alberta.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Conklin.

### Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project

**Ms Goodridge:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour and a privilege to rise today on behalf of the constituents of Fort McMurray-Conklin. Like many Albertans across our great province, my constituents know the importance of our oil and gas sector.

That's why the unnecessary delay of the Trans Mountain project is so unacceptable. It's devastating to consider what this says about Canada and our country's ability to get much-needed job-creating projects completed.

Today our United Conservative caucus will be putting forward a motion for an emergency debate regarding the Trans Mountain expansion. While the federal government is complacent with no new end date on consultations for Trans Mountain, no new date for when the expansion project will actually be built, we here cannot be complacent. From an ever-growing differential in oil prices to job-creating investments that are fleeing our borders, the current situation requires action. Today's situation is partially the result of two other major coastal pipeline projects that were killed off by the federal government: Energy East and Northern Gateway.

In recent years Canada is developing a reputation of a country that can't get pipelines built. Over the last year my constituents, like so many other Albertans, were repeatedly told that the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion would be built. We were told that there would be shovels in the ground, but verbal assurances and promises alone do not provide dependable, mortgage-paying, family-supporting jobs.

I sincerely hope that all members and colleagues from all parties will support today's motion. It is important that Albertans know that steps are being taken to ensure that this much-needed project will actually be built.

Thank you.

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

## New Democratic Party Convention

**Mr. Dang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, this past weekend I joined my colleagues and Albertans from across the province here in Edmonton for our New Democrat Party convention. The convention was overwhelmed and inspired with new members from all walks of life, who joined because they love Alberta.

We kicked off the weekend with Chief Laboucan and celebrated last week's historic agreement to ensure the Lubicon Lake band receives the lands and treaty benefits that they are entitled to under Treaty 8. We paid tribute to one of our Legislature's longest serving members, the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, who still insists that he's retiring and will not buy any of our attempts to change his mind.

We heard from delegates and speakers who let us know that our work fighting for families has made a real impact, delegates like Amanda Jensen, who was fired after she requested time off to care for her son with leukemia.

Now, Mr. Speaker, all weekend, delegates hashed out the finer points of policy, and we passed resolutions to protect and improve health care, education, create jobs, and strengthen the rights for all Albertans. We made commitments to things like increasing AISH and seniors' benefits to keep up with the cost of living and expanding the $25-a-day child care program.

Mr. Speaker, the highlight of the convention for me was, hands down, when our Premier addressed the entire convention. Her fiery speech laid out a clear choice for Albertans between a government that helps families and working people and one that helps the wealthy and elite political insiders. There is a clear choice for how we build Alberta for the future and for whom that future is built. Is it built for everyday Albertans like workers and families, or is it built for those at the top like elite political insiders and the wealthiest 1 per cent? In Alberta that future is not found; that future is made. Albertans put their trust in us to govern, and we're proud of the work that we've done, but we know that the work is not done. We will keep fighting for Albertans.

Thank you.

## Rural Crime

**Mr. W. Anderson:** Mr. Speaker, there's an epidemic of rural crime. Last week I received a letter from one of my constituents who experienced first-hand the consequences of this problem. Two known criminals in a stolen truck and pursued crashed through a fence on her farm, tore across a hayfield, tossing out packets of drugs. They crashed through another gate before coming to rest against a tensile fence, all the while putting both the farm owner and her livestock at risk. This act cost thousands of dollars of damage, which was borne by the homeowner. But more significant is the emotional damage as a farm owner and a senior living alone now fears for her personal safety. No Albertan should have to fear living in their own home. The unfortunate thing is that the culprits were known offenders to the police. They got off with little more than insignificant punishment.

This constituent's story is one shared by many rural Albertans. I've heard similar stories from my constituents, and many of my colleagues in this House have heard similar stories. These Albertans are all calling on us to act as elected officials to do something to address this problem. The government needs to act. Stop the revolving door on our justice system. Create solutions to protect people and their property.

Last spring our United Conservative caucus released our recommendations to combat rural crime. The recommendations include increasing police response capacity, increasing and improving victims' services, addressing court delays, and educating the public on their rights and responsibilities in defending their own property. These recommendations came after broad consultation with Albertans, and implementation would go a long way to reducing rural crime, giving residents the peace of mind they deserve.

Unfortunately, this government has failed to take any concrete steps to reduce rural crime. Understandably, too many families do not feel safe in their own homes. Rural crime in some communities is up 250 per cent in the last number of years, including an increase in break-ins, vehicle thefts, and property crimes. One of the fundamental roles of a government is to enforce the rule of law and keep citizens safe. All Albertans deserve to feel safe in their own homes. The time to act is now. I call on this government to implement our recommendations and address the epidemic of rural crime.

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

## Domestic Violence

**Drever:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Three years ago I rose in this House to introduce Bill 204, the Residential Tenancies (Safer Spaces for Victims of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2015. Today I also rise and ask members of this House to join me in taking a stand against domestic violence.

Alberta has the third-highest rates of domestic violence in the country. In 2016 the Calgary Women's Emergency 24-hour family violence helpline fielded 12,000 calls and served over 15,000 clients. In Calgary alone charges were laid in 4,083 domestic-related assaults in 2017. Recent data from the Calgary Police Service shows that there's been a 13 per cent increase in domestic violence/conflict calls. A study conducted by the Canadian Women's Foundation reported that 74 per cent of Albertans know

of women who have experienced sexual or physical abuse. The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters found that one-third of all shelter admissions took place in Edmonton or Calgary, one-third in small cities, and one-third in rural communities. The report also found that the rates of indigenous women, immigrant women, refugees, and visible minorities using Alberta's shelters continue to rise.

The Calgary Domestic Violence Collective will host a launch for Family Violence Prevention Month at Mount Royal University on November 1. They have partnered with the Calgary Hitmen to hold a game in the name of family violence prevention on November 2. All levels of government, communities, and agencies need to work collectively to address the issue and support survivors and their families.

I ask everyone here to stand up and speak out, support survivors, listen, believe, validate, educate yourself on domestic violence, donate generously, and wear a pin or purple in November to show support for domestic violence prevention.

Thank you very much.

### *3:20* Trade with India

**Mr. Panda:** Mr. Speaker, in diversifying and growing Alberta's economy over the last three and a half years, the Premier and her trade minister have ignored India, the largest democracy and the fastest growing economy. India has over 700 million people below age 35. That is purchasing power and a market that cannot be ignored. Last year the Alberta NDP angered the government of India when they committed a major diplomatic misstep. This was followed by Prime Minister Trudeau's disastrous tour, causing Canada-India relations to go downhill.

When the Leader of the Opposition and myself were invited by the diplomatic community to visit India, we did not hesitate to reinforce ties and improve relations with India. India currently uses 4.2 million barrels per day of oil and rising: 10 million barrels a day by 2040. Eighty per cent of it is imported. But it's not just about energy. India has a huge market for our pulse and legume crops. We addressed the tariffs imposed on Canadian pulse crops with four senior federal ministers, including the foreign minister and the chief minister of Punjab. We also talked about forestry, minerals, film production, higher and technical education, and telecommunications. Our delegation accomplished more in one week than this NDP government accomplished in three and a half years.

The UCP had a very successful trade mission, but instead of sending their officials to debrief us, the NDP filed a bogus complaint with the Ethics Commissioner, who rightfully saw through the electoral politics at play. Regardless of the NDP's politicking at home, we promoted Alberta and Canada abroad in a positive and constructive way.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

## Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

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

**Mr. Sucha:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future I'm pleased to table the committee's final report on Bill 201, Employment Standards (Firefighter Leave) Amendment Act, 2018, sponsored by the hon. Member for Highwood. This bill was referred to committee on March 19, 2018. We'd like to acknowledge the support provided by staff of the Legislative Assembly Office. Sincere appreciation is also extended to the organizations and individuals who contributed to the committee's review with written and oral submissions.

Mr. Speaker, the committee's final report recommends that Bill 201, Employment Standards (Firefighter Leave) Amendment Act, 2018, not proceed. The report also includes an additional recommendation. This report will be available on the committee's external website. I request concurrence of the Assembly in the final report of Bill 201, Employment Standards (Firefighter Leave) Amendment Act.

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

**Mr. W. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 18(1)(b) I wish to speak to the concurrence on the motion regarding Bill 201.

### Speaker's Ruling
### Debate on Committee Reports

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member, for advising that you do intend to speak to the motion. On occasion when members wish to debate a motion to concur in a committee report, the motion has been called under Orders of the Day and is not debated during the daily Routine. In case of debate on a motion to concur in a committee report concerning a private member's bill, the most appropriate time to debate the motion is during the time allocated for private members' business. Therefore, consistent with what occurred in this Assembly on October 28, 2013, and indeed in this Assembly on October 30, 2017, this motion will be called as the first item under Public Bills and Orders Other than Government Bills and Orders. Hopefully, you will get a chance today.

Speaking times for members will be subject to the time limits for private members' business found in Standing Order 29(3), meaning that members other than the Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition will each have 10 minutes to speak, with the mover having five minutes to close debate. If the Premier or the Leader of the Official Opposition speaks to the motion, they will each have 20 minutes' speaking time.

We now will continue with the daily Routine, and this matter will come back soon.

Are there any other reports from standing or special committees? The hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore.

**Ms Kazim:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a committee member and on behalf of the chair of the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing I'm pleased to inform the Assembly that the committee's report on Motion Other than Government Motion 501 was deposited intersessionally on June 18, 2018, as Sessional Paper 244/2018. Motion 501 was referred to the committee by the Assembly on April 16, 2018, with a reporting deadline of June 19, 2018. The committee is not recommending any changes to the standing orders.

I would like to thank those who provided written submissions for the committee's consideration during this process. The committee's report is available on the Assembly website.

Thank you very much.

## Notices of Motions

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

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide notice that at the appropriate time I will be moving the following motion:

> Pursuant to Standing Order 30 be it resolved that the ordinary business of the Legislative Assembly be adjourned to discuss a

matter of urgent public importance; namely, to discuss what measures must be taken to ensure that construction of the job-creating Trans Mountain expansion project is completed given the recent Federal Court of Appeal ruling and diminished investor confidence in Alberta's energy industry.

## Introduction of Bills

### Bill 19
### An Act to Improve the Affordability and Accessibility of Post-secondary Education

**Mr. Schmidt:** Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce a bill being An Act to Improve the Affordability and Accessibility of Post-secondary Education.

[Motion carried; Bill 19 read a first time]

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

### Bill 20
### Securities Amendment Act, 2018

**Mr. Ceci:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 20, the Securities Amendment Act, 2018.

No doubt, members of the Alberta Securities Commission staff and board are very interested in this and watching it now. The securities regulatory landscape has become more complex, sophisticated, and international in scope and more driven by technology than ever before. The proposed amendments are intended to enhance the protection of Alberta investors and to promote the operation of a fair and effective Alberta capital market. Mr. Speaker, with these amendments we are ensuring that Alberta's securities regulatory system reflects the realities of today's markets and evolves with international standards and global regulatory reform initiatives. These amendments will update and further harmonize Alberta's securities laws with those in other jurisdictions across Canada.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 20 read a first time]

## Tabling Returns and Reports

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling five copies of the written responses to the outstanding questions raised in Alberta Transportation's Committee of Supply on April 11, 2018, which were previously submitted to the Clerk's office.

**The Speaker:** Do any other members have items for tabling? Calgary-Hays.

***3:30***

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three tablings today as I indicated during my question in question period. The first one is the first-quarter highlights from the Alberta government, where they brag about having a billion dollar reduced deficit.

The second one is the CBC reporting on August 31, 2018, where the minister brags about having a billion dollar reduced deficit.

In the third tabling are notes from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, notes to the consolidated financial statements from their annual report, which indicate that they shuffled $800 million from one year to the next, which means that there was no billion-dollar reduction in the deficit as reported by the Minister of Finance.

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

**Mr. Panda:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table a special submission to the *National Post* that ran on October 25, 2018, that's collectively signed by the presidents of Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, Canadian Gas Association, Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of B.C., Explorers and Producers Association of Canada, Chemical Industry Association of Canada, and finally, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. They talk very eloquently about the Bill C-69 and C-48 challenges.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Environment and Parks and climate change.

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the requisite number of copies of letters sent by Alberta business, industry, and indigenous communities with concerns around Bill C-69. I have five copies of a letter written on October 5 to the standing Senate committee from the Calgary Chamber of commerce. I have five copies of the October 12 correspondence sent to the Senate of Canada from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, and the requisite number of copies from the Chiefs Council from the Eagle Spirit Energy corridor, also expressing concerns about Bill C-69. In all three cases the writers of those letters have asked for amendments to this piece of legislation.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, are there any other tablings?

Hon. members, I have four tablings today. The first, I would like to table five copies of the amendment to the Members' Services consolidated orders passed June 21, 2018.

Second, I would like to table five copies of the Health Quality Council of Alberta's 2017-18 annual report, as per the Heath Quality Council of Alberta Act.

Third, I would like to table Health Quality Council of Alberta's annual review which includes a summary of activities, accomplishments, and financials.

Fourth, I would rise to table five copies of the October 26, 2018, memo and attachments to the members: question period and Members' Statements rotations.

Hon. members, I believe we have two points of order. I'll call upon the Member for Calgary-Elbow.

### Point of Order
### Supplementary Questions

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to raise a point of order on the questions asked by the Member for Strathmore-Brooks. Independents get one question a week, and it looked like he was trying to knit together three completely unrelated topics into his one question.

**Mrs. Pitt:** Wonder where he got that from?

**Mr. Clark:** One of my hon. colleagues here is asking: where do you think he learned that from? Well, I will admit to perhaps trying that once in 2016, and to your great credit, Mr. Speaker, you caught me at the time.

If I could just start with a couple of very brief citations. *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, third edition, 2017, page 513, under supplementary questions it says: "By definition, a supplementary question is meant to arise from the information given to the House by a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary in his or her response to the initial question." *Beauchesne's,* sixth edition, page 122, section 414. "The extent to which supplementary questions may be asked is in the discretion of the Speaker," which establishes,

of course, Mr. Speaker, that you have the ability to decide whether or not we hon. members can in fact continue with our questions.

I'll reference you to a ruling you made just last spring, in which you had referenced Speaker Kowalski. Speaker Kowalski on May 12, 2004, page 1390, said that "there's also a tradition we follow here that if an hon. member is recognized, they raise first a question . . . they're allowed two supplementals." And the important part: "has always been understood that supplementals must have something to do with the first question."

The three questions that were asked went to three different ministers. One was about campaign finance reform and PACs, one was about the carbon tax to a different minister, and the third was about balancing the budget to yet a different minister. I would argue, Mr. Speaker, that it's important that we respect the integrity of the question process and that all questions and supplementals relate to the same topic.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The Government House Leader.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, I'll be brief. I agree with the arguments put forward by the hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members. To the Member for Calgary-Elbow, there's even more recent history. I think I dealt with this matter in April earlier this year. Since this is first day, one might have some leniency, but let me allow this as an opportunity to actually consider stepping in before the second question was asked. I give the benefit of doubt to the individual, and I want all members to be aware that I intend to address this matter if it should repeat itself again, but I'm sure that will not happen within this Assembly. So I believe there was a point of order.

Government House Leader, I think we have an additional point of order. Is that correct?

### Point of Order
### Addressing Questions through the Chair

**Mr. Mason:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, during question period today the hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo was asking a series of questions to the Minister of Health and during that group of questions, in a fairly aggressive way, pointing at the minister he referred to as "you." I want to just make a couple of points. In *Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules & Forms,* sixth edition, on page 142, "It is the custom in the House that no Member should refer to another by name. Members should be referred to in the third person as 'the Honourable Member for .....'" or the "Minister is normally designated by the portfolio held." That is the hon. Minister of Health in this case.

Mr. Speaker, in *House of Commons Procedure and Practice,* third edition, 2017, on page 510 under the section dealing with principles and guidelines for oral questions it says very clearly, "Finally, all questions and answers must be directed through the Chair." So this is maybe just a good opportunity to remind all members of this, that when in debate or in question period in particular they should be going through the chair and not referring or going directly to another member.

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

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Government House Leader for pointing out what is, in fact, true in this Assembly. First of all, on behalf of the hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo I will withdraw the direct comment toward the minister, which I do not believe was his intent, which I think the Government House Leader has recognized in those comments, but the procedure is to speak through you, of course.

But I would also ask that while we are on this point of order, then, Mr. Speaker, that in the future the Government House Leader would go out of his way to make sure that his members would do the same. I could pull out reams of *Hansard* of their cabinet ministers across the way answering questions directly to us and making some pretty significant insults along the way. What's good for the goose is also good for gander.

**The Speaker:** I believe we had a notice.

**Mr. Nixon:** I've already withdrawn it.

**The Speaker:** Noted. Thank you for withdrawing. I would underline the point, again, about sensitivity to those kinds of comments by everyone in the House.

## *3:40* Emergency Debate

**The Speaker:** I think we're at the matter of an emergency debate question, and you would speak to that, Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

### Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on my motion, which I've already provided notice of. I will not waste the House's time rereading it. I believe all members of the Assembly now have a copy of it that has been brought around by the pages.

The question, of course, that you need to answer at this point, Mr. Speaker, is the urgency of this situation. You know, I could spend my time here right now just talking about the fact that 441,000 person-years of work are tied up right now if Trans Mountain is approved, this in a province that has the largest unemployment outside of the Maritimes in this country.

But I will not spend too much time talking about that, Mr. Speaker, because you have already ruled last spring, while giving us an emergency debate on this exact same issue, that this is urgent. The issue that Albertans are facing, the consequences to Alberta are urgent. The government has agreed with that statement in the past and you have as well. I think that the question then becomes for the Chamber today and you: what has changed since the last time that you granted that emergency debate motion in this place?

What has changed, Mr. Speaker, is the following. When we had that debate, the government members, as they have in question period and throughout our time in the Assembly, got up and assured the people of Alberta, assured this side of the House, and sometimes even grandstanded and prematurely celebrated, but they made it very, very clear that Trans Mountain would be built, and that construction would have started by now. Now, since the last time that we have been in this place, you and I both know that that has changed, that the government was, in fact, wrong about that. They certainly celebrated it too early, and now we see from the Court of Appeal decision that there are not, as they like to say, two pipelines approved under this government. There is yet another pipeline that has been lost underneath this government. That has changed significantly.

Now, since then, we have not heard a clear plan from the government on where the Assembly of Alberta will be going under their leadership, what their plans will be to be able to make sure that this project is built. That has changed.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, I won't spend a lot of time quoting things for you, but I would like to bring to your attention one thing in *Beauchesne's*. I'm looking at the sixth edition on page 113, section 387. In the last sentence it says, "In making his ruling, the Speaker may, on occasion, take into account the general wish of the House to have a debate." The reality is that the urgency question, while I think it is relevant and clear, you can overlook even that if all sides of this Assembly want to have a debate on this important issue for Albertans.

I am certain – and I will be surprised if the Government House Leader rises momentarily to say that they do not find this urgent because it will be significantly different than their comments that are in the press. So I hope – I hope – that the government will stand and support this Assembly having a right to debate this important issue on behalf of Albertans.

**The Speaker:** The Government House Leader.

**Mr. Mason:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That, I suppose, tangentially touched on the urgency of the matter, a bit more like a preamble to the political debate.

But, you know, Mr. Speaker, I really hate to disappoint the Official Opposition House Leader. In fact, it could be quite unpleasant. So I want to indicate on behalf of the government that we agree. Under Standing Order 30(2): "The Member may briefly state the arguments in favour of the request . . . and the Speaker may allow such debate as he or she considers relevant [with respect to the] urgency of debate."

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is something that I think is very important to all Albertans. It's certainly something that's a very high priority for our government. I would dare say that it's the top priority at this time of the government of Alberta.

Having said that, I believe that it does meet the test laid out in *Beauchesne's* and in the *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* to be considered a genuine matter of urgent public importance, and it is worth setting aside the regularly scheduled debate. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government we will support the opposition's call for a debate on this matter and support the argument of urgency and suggest that the wishes of the House are to proceed with the debate.

**The Speaker**: Thank you. As was pointed out by the Opposition House Leader, there was a similar discussion on April 9, earlier this year, when this Assembly was adjourned to debate a Standing Order 30 matter, the subject of which was somewhat similar to the application that has been brought forward today by the Opposition House Leader. Standing Order 30 applications were put forward on May 30, 2018. I wish to note for the Assembly that while similar to the previous applications, the application made today constitutes a different question and therefore on that basis does not contravene Standing Order 30(7)(d).

On the question of whether the matter relates to a genuine emergency, as has been noted previously, it is without doubt that the Trans Mountain expansion project is of great economic importance to Alberta and indeed to all of Canada. The decision of the Federal Court of Appeal to overturn the National Energy Board approval of the project undoubtedly adds a different dynamic to the issue. In fact, this matter is of such importance that it would be difficult to conclude that the impact of the Federal Court of Appeal's decision does not constitute a genuine emergency.

In addition, I find that in light of the new circumstances relating to the Trans Mountain expansion project, the need for a debate has taken on a renewed energy. Therefore, I find that the request for leave is in order.

I think we can proceed. The hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for granting us the opportunity to spend some time this afternoon in this Assembly talking about what is arguably the most important issue facing our province, certainly one of the top two or three issues that are facing our province right now. We do know that the Federal Court of Appeal made a decision, a decision that I disagree with. It seems that the government has indicated that they disagree with that decision as well, a decision that has angered Albertans, frustrated Albertans, and put us in a situation for an indefinite period of time of not knowing what's going to go on with this product, which is then compounding the problem of being able to get our largest industry's product to tidewater, that continues to go on and on.

The reason, I think, that this is an emergency that should be discussed in this place today – and I'm glad that you, Mr. Speaker, gave us that opportunity – is because we have gone through a history during this process of this current government, the NDP government of Alberta, getting this wrong repeatedly. Now, sometimes, maybe to their credit, along the way they start to do some stuff right but often too late, usually after making fun of the opposition for suggesting it, attacking the opposition for suggesting it. They sometimes finally go and actually take the action that needs to be done, often the exact action that we already asked them to do in the past.

The problem, though, Mr. Speaker, is that it's always too late with this government and that we continue to end up in a situation where nothing is moving forward on this important situation. This government continues to sit on their hands most of the time, continues to stand with their close personal friend and ally Justin Trudeau in Ottawa and the federal Liberals against Alberta's interests, and to react too late. Then, as we go along the way, all of a sudden they'll stand up and say, "Oh, we're right; we're the big champion of this issue," and they'll try to do what we already suggested they do sometimes months and years before.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

We saw it with the B.C. part of this argument. Long before the appeal court made their decision, the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues on this side of the House were standing in this place making it clear that we needed to take drastic action against B.C. to enforce our constitutional rights with our resources, up to and including shutting off the taps. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition was raising that long before he was elected by his constituents to be in this place. Along the way the Premier and the cabinet ministers across from me made fun of him, compared him to Trump, said terrible things about him. It was shameful, Madam Speaker.

***3:50***

Then, as we already know, they come back to this place – poll numbers have changed; something must have been going on – and they change their mind and bring forward legislation that the Leader of the Opposition proposed. But do they act on it, Madam Speaker? No. They realized that the people of Alberta agreed with us, so they had to do something. So they passed a piece of legislation that, I would submit to you, they had no intention of ever using. In fact, they dragged out the process, filibustered their own bill in this place, as this side of the House repeatedly called for a vote on that issue to get it done to be able to give the Premier and her cabinet the ability to deal with that issue. They, shockingly, kept

filibustering that bill because they had no intention of taking any action on that issue.

We fast-forward now throughout the process and watch minister after minister – the environment minister, the Deputy Premier, the Premier, the Economic Development and Trade minister, the Government House Leader, the Energy minister – stand up and say: "We got two pipelines approved. We got this done. You can come to the party when it's built." The Energy minister guaranteed in this Assembly in question period that shovels would be in the ground by this time, in fact six months ago. We know that is not the fact.

Then the hon. Leader of the Opposition starts pointing out stuff like Bill C-69, which is basically going to stop any pipeline from ever being built if we don't deal with that. He pointed out what would eventually just become S-245, which was Alberta Senator Doug Black's bill that would designate Trans Mountain to be in the national interest. The Leader of the Official Opposition was pushing for that long before that was even in the Senate. In fact, he dispatched me as his House leader to have a meeting with the Government House Leader to try to negotiate wording around a motion that everybody in this Assembly could support, and they mocked us in that meeting. They said that this won't work. They didn't want to do it. They don't want to stand up for it. They'd rather go out of their way to be able to continue to prop up Justin Trudeau despite the fact that he continues to hurt our province, to hurt people.

You know, I was in Rocky Mountain House on Saturday. Sixteen businesses in a community that really depends on the energy industry have been shut in the last year. I am tired and I know everybody in this House has to be tired of seeing people that have lost their jobs while this government continues to be too late to the party, too late to take action. Now we see the appeal court decision. What's the government going to do? So far they've done nothing. I mean, they started to a little bit say that there are some problems with the way that Justin Trudeau has reacted to this, but most of the time they still go out of their way to protect their ally. As we know, in August of this year at a convention where Ontario and Saskatchewan refused to sign basically an agreement or memorandum because of Bill C-69, this government signed on to it anyway. They didn't join Ontario and Saskatchewan in defending our province's interests.

Why has this government not acted, and what are they going to do to get this project moving? When are they going to start to demand that Justin Trudeau and the federal Liberal Party make this project in the national interest? When are they going to take action? What I am scared about, Madam Speaker, is that what we are going to continue to see is the same pattern of behaviour that we've seen from this government since it started on this issue: standing up prematurely, spiking the football, and saying that this project is completed, trying to score political points while the people of Alberta suffer because it's not completed.

I remember last session sitting in the Federal Building in the opposition offices listening to the cheers of this cabinet and these government caucus members outside, cheering that this project was built, but it's not. It's not done. What we need this government to do is to stop focusing on trying to take credit for something that hasn't been done yet and start focusing on how we can get this thing done for the people of Alberta, because they're depending on us to do that.

Their actions so far have been nothing short of shameful. To take credit and say that something is done when it's not done is shameful. I can tell you that my constituents and, I know, your constituents as well, Madam Speaker, would agree. They don't want to hear anymore this government saying over and over that they've got this project built when it's not built. They want this government to come forward with a clear plan on how they're going to move this project forward. That's what they want.

I'm not going to use all of my time today because I know that so many members in this Assembly want to speak to this important motion, but I call on this government to stop playing politics with this issue, to start working with all members of this Assembly, to start standing up to their close personal friend Justin Trudeau, and to work to get this pipeline built once and for all. The people of Alberta are depending on it. We need to get our oil to tidewater.

Madam Speaker, through you to them: please stop playing games.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Just before I recognize you, hon. minister, technically we have not concluded the Routine, and we haven't completed Orders of the Day. However, it will be okay if anybody wants to have their coffee or tea in the House in the new cups. So go ahead.

The hon. minister.

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise and speak to this important debate. I'm always pleased to have the opportunity to comment on what's been a key focus of our government and for the office in particular, the fight for adequate market access for Alberta's energy resources. It goes without saying that, like most Albertans, I am deeply frustrated by the new obstacles that have arisen with the Trans Mountain pipeline since we last met. I'm also deeply concerned by the growth of the differential between the price of west Texas intermediate crude and western Canadian select in the recent weeks. The differential has huge consequences for the western Canadian energy sector and, more importantly, of course, for the men and women who work in that sector, their families, and our communities.

It's even more frustrating, Madam Speaker, when you consider that in many respects things were starting to look up for our energy sector. They are looking up. Jobs are up; new oil sands projects are opening; the oil and gas sector is growing again. Our government is committed to ending the boom-and-bust cycle that we've seen in the past many years, and we are a government who is committed to building a recovery that's built to last. That means getting the greatest possible value for our resources. That's why we have placed huge emphasis on more diversification in our energy sector through programs such as PDP, the partial upgrading program, and the petroleum feedstock infrastructure program. The first round, as we all know, of the PDP is already creating new jobs in our province with the build of the new Inter Pipeline project. My department is busy evaluating the second round of the PDP and other programs as we speak. I might remind the people of Alberta that these are programs that our opposition opposed in the last session.

Make no mistake, Madam Speaker. Energy diversification is only one answer to getting our resources to market and value out of our resources. There's no question that better market access for our resources, whether it's raw or refined, is another big part of the answer. That's why market access has become a key priority for our government since our government was first elected. Indeed, one of our Premier's first out-of-province meetings after our government was elected was to eastern Canada to pitch the benefits of Energy East, and as members in this House know, our Premier has been a vocal champion for pipelines ever since that day. She has criss-crossed the country pitching the benefits of pipelines to anyone who will listen.

Through our Keep Canada Working campaign, we have invested significant resources in educating Canadians about the economic value of pipelines, and we have shown continental leadership through our climate leadership plan, tackling head-on the chief concerns of many Canadians from all walks of life about the

potential environmental impacts of pipelines. Madam Speaker, the results are speaking for themselves. Since our government undertook this work, support for the Trans Mountain pipeline has risen dramatically, to the point where now 7 out of 10 Canadians support the pipeline. This is a huge increase and a huge testament to the persuasiveness of our arguments.

On this side of the House, Madam Speaker, we've taken concrete steps to show our support for pipelines. Let's look at Keystone XL, for example. Our government has entered into an agreement with TransCanada to ship 50,000 barrels per day down the Keystone XL pipeline. The president of TransCanada thanked us for our commitment to the project, which he described – and I quote – as instrumental to achieving the commercial support needed for the project to proceed. Thanks in part to our support of Keystone XL, construction on the pipeline will begin next year. So that's one pipeline under way.

***4:00***

We've also supported Enbridge's line 3 project every step of the way. This project, once completed, will enable Enbridge to increase oil transport from 390,000 barrels per day to 760,000 barrels per day. Late last week this project cleared another major hurdle when the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission issued a written order for the Enbridge line 3 route permit. This built on an agreement in August between Enbridge and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa that the replacement line could cross the reservation on its route from Alberta to the Enbridge terminal in Superior. So, Madam Speaker, that's two pipelines.

Now we come to Trans Mountain, the pipeline project. Every step of the way we've stood up for Alberta jobs and fought to get this pipeline built, and we are not backing down now. This project means thousands of good jobs, a better price for our resources, and more revenue for services that we all rely on in our communities. With the U.S. as our only customer, money that should be going to Canadian schools and hospitals is instead going to American yachts and private jets.

Madam Speaker, I think it's important to provide some context for the debate here today. The Federal Court of Appeal ruling quashed the federal cabinet's approval for the Trans Mountain project, but it's important to note that there would have been no such approval without the leadership of this government and our Premier, because our government made Alberta a continental leader instead of a continental laggard on climate change, because our government placed a hard cap on greenhouse gas emissions from the oil sands, and because our government effectively delinked growth in emissions from approval for this pipeline.

This pipeline was approved, but we didn't stop once the pipeline was approved. We continued to speak up for the importance of this pipeline at every available opportunity. Our Premier explained to Canadians the importance of market access in terms of getting a better value for our resources. She made the case for the economic benefits that will flow to all parts of Canada from this pipeline, and instead of denying the reality of climate change, as the opposition would have us do, she addressed those concerns head-on. Not only did she speak about the work our government is doing to address climate change, but she made the case that we need better value for our resources to pay for the kinds of programs that are necessary if we want to make meaningful progress on the issue, and she demonstrated that there is, in fact, no meaningful progress in addressing climate change unless we get better value for our resources. It's not a question of either/or; it's not actually possible to have one without the other. The result, Madam Speaker, has been that massive increase in support that I already spoke of.

What else have we done? We participated in and won 17 separate court decisions in the process. When the government of B.C. threatened to put obstacles in our path, we implemented a temporary ban on wine imports and followed up with Bill 12 last spring. That legislation remains in our tool kit and is something we will use if needed. When Kinder Morgan indicated that they would be withdrawing from the project, we worked with the government of Canada to secure federal investment in the pipeline, and we showed our commitment to that project with a pledge to provide indemnity up to $2 billion should the costs of the project rise to the point that such investment was needed. If it proves to be necessary, Albertans will receive shares in the pipeline commensurate with our investment.

We had hoped that we would be closer to the finish line than we are. Our previous 17 court victories gave us ample reason for optimism, but here we are. We've been clear that this ruling was bad for working families and bad for our economic security in Canada and in Alberta. Ottawa should have appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court, and we are very disappointed that they did not. Successive federal governments have created the mess we are in today. It's time for Ottawa to fix what's been broken.

We've made our view on this crystal clear by withdrawing from the national climate plan until we see action. Alberta, Madam Speaker, is a climate leader. We will continue to do our part to address climate change because, unlike members of the opposite side, we recognize that this is the right thing to do. But we have said all along that taking the next step and participating in the national climate plan can't happen until Trans Mountain is built.

We will continue to do our part in the coming months to maintain and increase public support for this pipeline. This government and our Premier will continue to seek opportunities to make our case directly to Canadians. We will work with the federal government to ensure that the new round of indigenous consultations takes place as quickly as appropriate.

We have also called on the federal government to amend legislation to make it clear that marine wildlife should not fall under the jurisdiction of the National Energy Board. We were very disappointed that they did not do this. They have instead chosen to consult on this matter as well. At least, they have set a clear timeline in this case. We have made it very clear that we are going to hold them to timelines and keep their feet to the fire.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I'll recognize the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition.

**Mr. Kenney:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the hon. the minister for her remarks. I'm pleased to rise on behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition to debate this critical motion

> to discuss a matter of urgent . . . importance; namely . . . measures [that] must be taken to ensure that construction of the job-creating Trans Mountain expansion project is completed given the recent Federal Court of Appeal ruling and diminished investor confidence in Alberta's energy industry.

Madam Speaker, as we know, getting a fair price for Canadian energy is existential to Alberta's economic future. Our failure to do so means that we are selling Alberta oil to the Americans, our only export market, for roughly $20 a barrel while they actually sell American oil, heavy crude, to the rest of the world now as an exporter at $70 a barrel, a $50 price differential on some days in the last month.

If you include the price differential on natural gas and the $11 billion of foreign oil that we import every year to this country because we are not energy independent, notwithstanding having the

third-largest oil reserves in the world, if you include those factors, the total estimated annual cost of this problem of bottlenecking of our resources amounts to some $46 billion a year and an estimated $14 billion in forgone government revenues, not to mention the thousands of jobs that would be created by the Trans Mountain pipeline directly and upstream jobs that would be created by it as well, $46 billion of wealth that we are effectively giving to the United States and to some of the world's worst regimes: the Saudi dictatorship, the Iranians, the Venezuelans, and other OPEC dictatorships. Madam Speaker, this is intolerable, and it must end.

The problem is this. The reason we are talking about Trans Mountain in this place today is because all of the other efforts to get a coastal pipeline built have been killed by the current government's policies. Northern Gateway was a pipeline that would have gone, Madam Speaker, from Edmonton, from Sherwood Park in fact, to Kitimat, B.C. It was approved by the National Energy Board, with conditions, after three years of exhaustive reviews and hundreds, thousands in fact, of intervenor statements, all of this applied against the highest environmental and technical standards of any energy regulator on the planet, yet it was killed by a close friend and ally of this NDP government, Justin Trudeau. But what's worse is that our own Premier publicly campaigned against the Northern Gateway pipeline and did not raise a word of protest when it was vetoed by her close ally Justin Trudeau. In fact, she admitted to this Chamber under questioning last spring that her position was that we only needed one coastal pipeline. The problem is that by taking that position, informed by the NDP's historic antienergy ideology, we have ended up exposed to this campaign of obstruction on the last project that has any potential for completion.

***4:10***

Then the NDP's close friend and ally Justin Trudeau proceeded to kill the Energy East pipeline route that had been proposed by TCPL, a good Alberta company, after they spent nearly a billion dollars. They killed it, Madam Speaker, because, as they said in their statement of August 23, 2017, regulatory uncertainty created by the National Energy Board's decision to move into the regulation of up- and downstream emissions associated indirectly with the pipeline would become part of the responsibility of the project proponents. Trans Canada said that they had no idea what they meant. How could they possibly be accountable for upstream emissions for the production of oil that they don't produce or for downstream emissions for its consumption? So they cancelled that.

I note parenthetically, Madam Speaker, that the federal government forced the National Energy Board to change its regulatory parameters by including up- and downstream emissions, that led to the killing of Energy East. But isn't it curious that the Saudi and Venezuelan OPEC oil that is shipped into St. John or Montreal is not regulated by Canada based on either the up- or downstream emissions profile of that energy? This was a decision by this government's ally, Justin Trudeau, to penalize Canada, which has the highest environmental, human rights, and labour standards of any major oil and gas producer.

Of course, Madam Speaker, in late October 2015 then President Obama vetoed the Keystone XL pipeline, vetoed a second application by TCPL for a presidential permit for that project, and the NDP's close friend and ally Justin Trudeau surrendered: no diplomatic response to that devastating decision, which resulted in a further three years of delays on Keystone. Guess what, Madam Speaker? The NDP campaigned against Keystone from the very beginning. I will never forget seeing NDP Members of Parliament flying to Washington to lobby Congress to stop the Keystone XL pipeline. We had members of this cabinet standing on the front steps of the Legislature calling for the Keystone XL pipeline to be killed.

They got what they wanted. They got the veto on Keystone, they got the veto on Northern Gateway, and they got the carbon tax, that they and the Trudeau Liberals conspired on behind the backs of Alberta voters, and then they got, Madam Speaker, Bill C-69, the no-more-pipelines act, which this government would not oppose when it was introduced. They would not send ministers to Ottawa to oppose notwithstanding our suggestion that they do so.

And so now what have they done? They've ended up exposing us to one last prospective pipeline, Trans Mountain, and what happens? Their fellow partisans, the New Democratic Party in British Columbia, come to power and launch a campaign of obstruction. What does this government do about it? The square root of nothing. When last summer I suggested that we show there would be reprisals, that we indicate that we would be prepared to replicate Peter Lougheed's turn-off-the-taps strategy of 1981, the Premier mocked and ridiculed me. She said that I was acting like Donald Trump and that I wanted to build a wall around Alberta and that I was having a temper tantrum. It took her seven months, though, Madam Speaker, before finally realizing that we were right, when the government began to replicate our language.

Now we've had yet another setback. It seems like every few weeks throughout this year this government were doing their victory lap. They were spiking the football on the construction of Trans Mountain. In fact, they had a resolution at their convention this weekend: be it resolved that the Alberta NDP convention congratulate the Premier and the provincial government on their leadership in securing the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline, quote, unquote. [some applause] They're applauding the nonexistent expansion, Madam Speaker. They're living in cloud cuckoo land. All that's happened is that the proponent fled Canada. Kinder Morgan said: there is no investor certainty; we're out. Now we as taxpayers have ended up holding the bag, with a $4 billion risk, and yet another block, yet another delay.

Madam Speaker, in response the government said that they were going to talk tough to their close friend and ally Justin Trudeau. The Premier said that she would hold her friend Justin Trudeau's feet to the fire and insist on an immediate appeal and timelines for restarting the process immediately. What did they get? No appeal, Madam Speaker.

The Prime Minister, after all the Premier and the NDP have done for him, after the carbon tax, after supporting him on vetoing Northern Gateway, after being mute on his cancellation of Energy East, after his northern B.C. tanker traffic ban Bill C-48, after the clean fuel standards, after all of this that has hammered the engine of our economy, wouldn't even give her an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. You've got to ask why. Does this Prime Minister actually want it built?

Madam Speaker, that is why it is time, I submit, that we had an Alberta government that will without apology go on the offence against the well-funded foreign interests that have led this campaign of defamation against Canadian energy, that, for example, funded the litigation that led to the Federal Court of Appeal decision. Yes, this should be appealed, but it is time that we demonstrated to our partners in the federation that if we cannot get a fair price for our resources, we are prepared to put on the table equalization and demand fairness . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. minister of economic development.

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to this very important topic. I want to clarify some of the, I think, misconceptions or mischaracterizations that the Leader of the Opposition has stated. First and foremost, you know, it needs to be clear that when the Northern Gateway project

and Energy East were both shot down, part of the reason why those decisions were made was because the previous Harper government failed to take adequate action to address the concerns in order to get the approvals for those two projects.

Now, I can tell you, Madam Speaker, that we were very disappointed to see the project of Energy East not move forward. We know that Alberta energy producers are the most responsible, have the highest environmental standards to adhere to, the highest safety standards, and we have an incredible human rights track record. What is incredibly frustrating for our government is the fact that Alberta energy producers have the capacity to produce energy for the rest of our country, and projects like Energy East have been stifled because of a few.

But I can tell you, Madam Speaker, that we will continue to advocate for pipelines in all directions. As my colleague the Minister of Energy pointed out, our Premier, our government committed 50,000 barrels per day for the Keystone XL project to move forward. We know that this is a step in the right direction. It will reduce the differential, which, as other folks have pointed out, is incredibly high at the moment and is having a significant impact on our energy sector.

Let me tell you and outline just briefly, Madam Speaker, some of the initiatives and actions our government has taken in order to support our energy sector. You know, when we first came into power, we announced a royalty review because a comprehensive review hadn't been done for quite some time. We talked to energy companies, the energy sector, and listened to their feedback. We struck a committee that engaged with leaders across the province and internationally to look at how Alberta's royalty regime can reward innovation, can reward efficiency, and can help encourage more investment at a time when it was most needed, which, of course, was when the global collapse of oil prices occurred back in 2015.

We came forward with a royalty regime that, quite frankly, Madam Speaker, I'm very proud of and that many companies have said: this is exactly the action that we've been asking government for. It took an NDP government to listen to the energy sector, to amend our royalty regime in order to incent investments. Let me tell you. Some companies were so excited about the new royalty regime that they applied for early access.

For instance, EnCana spent $25 million to drill new wells in the Duvernay and Montney basin in northwest Alberta. They said that that spending would not have happened had we not made changes to the royalty system. I can quote Michael McAllister, who's the chief operating officer of EnCana, who said: it allows for investments in Alberta to compete with those in the U.S.

Those changes came into effect January 2017. By the middle of that month there were 247 active rigs in the province, more than 50 per cent more than that time the year before.

Now, that's not all, Madam Speaker. We also looked at new regulatory processes with the AER, which means that new projects can get up and running even faster, which we know will create jobs and improve our competitiveness. We know that we're saving industry hundreds of millions of dollars.

***4:20***

Now, Madam Speaker, I will say that positive steps have been made, but we acknowledge that there can be more, that we can do more, and we'll continue to work with our energy sector and with the AER to look at ways to expedite approvals so that we can get more men and women back to work in our energy sector.

Madam Speaker, I can tell you that there is not a more vocal champion of our energy sector than our Premier. She has been from day one the loudest and strongest advocate, from day one telling Albertans and Canadians that our government will do whatever it takes to see Trans Mountain move forward. There are a number of steps that we did take, but I can tell you that we were quite frustrated with the federal government when it came down to a point where the federal government had to purchase the Trans Mountain pipeline because of not acting swiftly enough initially. But we did say that it was a step in the right direction. I can tell you that I speak with international investors on a weekly basis and that many of them, in fact most of them, have said: we applaud the fact that the government has taken over this pipeline; that provides certainty that we like to see and will help it move forward.

I can tell you, Madam Speaker, that our Premier has done more for the energy sector and to get pipelines built than previous Conservative governments, both provincially here and, quite frankly, federally. I mean, the Leader of the Official Opposition sat in Ottawa for 20 years. Twenty. For 10 of those years he was a senior cabinet minister. How many pipelines to tidewater were approved and constructed? None. I can tell you that more has been done.

Now, we are frustrated with the delay in this process. Absolutely. Shovels were to be in the ground. In fact, the energy sector did pick up their tools and begin to resume construction on Trans Mountain until the Federal Court of Appeal ruled. But I can tell you that we have been relentless when it comes to telling the federal government the importance of Alberta's energy sector, the importance of the Trans Mountain pipeline, the importance of reducing our differential, getting top dollar for our top resources.

There's a number of other actions that we've taken to help spur industry and investments. I mean, the petrochemical diversification program has a $3.5 billion facility being built right now in Alberta's Industrial Heartland. In the coming weeks we're going to get a final investment decision on the second project, round 2 of this incredibly successful project. The window is closed for applications. What I can tell you is that there are more applicants in the second round than we had in the first round. Why, Madam Speaker? Because industry has said to us that Alberta is a better jurisdiction than the Gulf coast for value-added to our gas sector. What they said is: we need you, the government of Alberta, to help level the playing field because these companies are heavily subsidized in the U.S.

What I will say, Madam Speaker, is that clearly the Leader of the Official Opposition doesn't understand how competition and levelling a playing field works because if it was up to him, all he would do is go back to a flat tax and hope that industry just piles into Alberta. Well, let me tell you. Let's look at history. For decades Alberta had a flat tax. How many facilities upgraded propane to propylene? None. How many under our government? Two. And these are $3.5 billion investments that would not have happened without our program, which is built on future royalty credits, adding a new link to the value chain and ensuring that Albertans are getting top dollar for their resources. But we also are keeping those high-paid, quality jobs here in Alberta, where they are deserved and where they belong.

I can tell you, Madam Speaker, that I'm very proud to be part of a government that's continuing to build on the legacy of former Premier Peter Lougheed, who saw an opportunity in the pet-chem space but recognized that there was a role for government. This is where the opposition is sadly mistaken. They don't understand global competitive forces and think that by sitting on our hands and doing nothing, the economy will diversify itself and investments will just flood back to Alberta. What we've done is ensure that we are competing internationally through a variety of programs to level the playing field.

Now, it must be noted as well that the Leader of the Official Opposition would cancel all of these programs, therefore laying off

thousands of workers and putting an immediate halt to a number of the investments that we see today because of the actions of our Premier and our government.

I will tell you, Madam Speaker, that the Minister of Energy, myself, Environment and Parks, and our Premier have been lobbying the federal government for over a year and a half on how flawed C-69 is and the impact it would have on our energy industry. Nobody knows this better than Alberta. And what's frustrating is that, again, you had Conservative governments around for many, many years that still haven't quite been able to talk to people in a productive way about the importance of our energy sector to the Canadian economy. I can tell you that there are tens of thousands of jobs created in other provinces because of Alberta's energy sector, but what we need is to ensure that there are future investments in our energy sector, and that's where, again, C-69 needs to be completely changed.

I'm proud to have a colleague, the Minister of Environment and Parks, who spoke to over 60 Senators last week in Ottawa, spoke to dozens of policy-makers and leaders to advocate on behalf of Alberta's energy sector because, Madam Speaker, Alberta is the economic engine of Canada.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I'll recognize the hon. Member for Calgary-South East.

**Mr. Fraser:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's my honour to stand in this House and speak to the motion, the emergency debate on pipelines. We've heard quite a bit today from both sides, the Official Opposition and the government, about how amazing they are and what the other person did or didn't do. I know one thing for sure, that there's one way we can solve this right away. If we really believe that a pipeline is an emergency, we actually have a committee that deals with stuff like this on a regular basis, Resource Stewardship.

So if we are serious about wanting to come up with solutions that are going to help working-class families, the families that I represent in Calgary-South East that come into my office and want to know what's happening on the pipeline issue and what the government is doing, what the Official Opposition is doing – "Member for Calgary-South East, what are you doing on behalf of my family; I've been out of work for a number of years now, and I don't know what's going to happen next; I'm on my second mortgage" – if we really believe that those families are in crisis and emergency, we'll refer this to committee, and that committee will meet once a week every week until this issue is solved. In that committee, Madam Speaker, what we can do is that we can table those flights to Ottawa. We can table the notes and the minutes of what everybody has been saying and everybody has been doing, but we can also bring industry leaders to come help us solve this issue from an Alberta perspective.

Albertans for years and years have been mavericks in dealing with issues like this. So instead of calling an emergency debate – I think this is the second one in as many months, maybe five months since the last spring session – Madam Speaker, we can solve this. Let's put it into committee. Let's put the good minds of the opposition, the third party, the independents, and the government, let's put us around a table with the ministers and let's talk about what we have done and where we're going to go next. It really doesn't matter what happened 10 years ago. It really doesn't matter what happened a week ago. Albertans want to know what we're going to do today and tomorrow and for the next coming weeks until this issue is solved to put Albertans back to work.

An emergency debate gives us the next few hours to talk about this and blame one another and the other person that was in power, the PCs for the last 44 years. But that really doesn't help the family tomorrow to get a job, to grow our economy.

Now, I've agreed with this government on many initiatives, the petrochemical diversification program. I asked a question today about the North West refinery and the opportunities that we have there. These are the very things that we can discuss in a committee. If we're serious about it, the Premier and the House leaders and the cabinet members right now can say: this committee is going to take this on as a serious challenge; we're going to meet once a week; we're going to bring industry leaders in; we're going to bring in mayors; we're going to bring in leaders from other provinces to talk about this issue. We can do that, Madam Speaker. This province has done it before.

In fact, we love to talk about the legacy of Mr. Lougheed, who was an amazing, incredible man. But let's take that vision, let's take that tenacity that he had for this province, and let's get to work and stop the blaming. Madam Speaker, that's what my constituents expect. That's what those small and mid-sized oil producers expect. People wanting to expand the oil sands, that's what they expect. They want to see results on a pipeline. Yes, we can blame the federal government, but how about let's not blame them anymore. Let's just take over the leadership, let's put it into a committee, and let's get the work done.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. minister of environment.

***4:30***

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I appreciate, actually, the opportunity to rise in this emergency debate. I want to thank the members of the opposition for providing the opportunity for the members of the House to consider this. Of course, the Trans Mountain pipeline and the resilience and growth of our energy sector are, in fact, a matter for the national interest, and it's of keen importance to all constituents from all of our ridings. The Member for Calgary-South East just talked about what he hears from the people he represents, and I know we all do.

It's important to talk a little bit about how we got here. We are now in the aftermath of a Federal Court of Appeal decision, and rather than blame judges and undermine the institutions of our parliamentary democracy, as I have heard some people do, what we need now is action from the federal government. Now, we wanted to see specific actions from the feds that we did not see, and we're deeply disappointed in that, Madam Speaker. But the 22-week timeline, should it be adhered to, is appropriate for rescoping in the marine safety elements. We would have preferred a legislative solution to this matter, but be that as it may, those 22 weeks would have likely been around the same clock spins as a legislative amendment. As long as those timelines are adhered to, Albertans will see a good result sometime early in 2019.

Now the piece around the indigenous consultation. There were two grounds for the striking down of the decision of the Trans Mountain approval, Madam Speaker, as we remember. I have seen members opposite criticize the lack of a timeline associated with indigenous consultation. That actually undermines the upholding of the honour of the Crown with respect to nation-to-nation consultation and the terms within the court decisions that that consultation be meaningful and iterative and two way. Unless the opposition is seriously suggesting that we cut corners on indigenous consultation, it has to be structured the way it is.

Now, the Northern Gateway decision was struck down, in fact, on the grounds that the Crown did not adequately discharge its duty around consultation with respect to Northern Gateway. In fact, the TMX decision, Madam Speaker, came about because of the

inappropriate scoping within the original review for Trans Mountain. Both of those decisions were made by the previous federal government, and the Leader of the Opposition was in that government. There is plenty of blame to go around with respect to the federal government's actions with respect to pipelines, but let's not forget that cutting corners on either environmental impact assessment or indigenous-Crown consultation is a road to nowhere. It will not get pipelines built. Neither, too, will ignoring the reality or, in fact, denying the reality of climate change, which the members opposite also propose that we do. That also won't help.

In this case, Madam Speaker, we have got to get it right, and we need to ensure that as we fix this system, this mess that we have been left with from the 2012 decisions around the CEAA, the National Energy Board, we ensure that we are not replacing a broken system with another broken system. That is why I went to Ottawa last week. It is the job of environment ministers to ensure that environmental rules are upheld and that processes are followed and that large projects, if they merit being built, must get built.

That is the job of the environment minister, Madam Speaker, and that's why I was so proud to bring in the climate leadership plan, which, in fact, led to the approval of those two pipelines. We must – we must – take our responsibilities to the environment seriously. We need to make sure that we do that within a regulatory regime that will hold up in court and will hold up in the courts of 2018, not in some bygone era, that the opposition wishes we were still in, where with indigenous consultation you could just cut corners, where climate change wasn't real, where we didn't care about our air, land, and water. Those days are over.

That is why we need to see changes to Bill C-69, and that is why we are advocating so vociferously, and we have from the very beginning, Madam Speaker. I have made several trips to Ottawa on this very matter.

Let me talk a little bit about exactly what we are looking for, because this is not just about making sure that Trans Mountain gets built. The federal government has a responsibility to act in response to the Federal Court of Appeal decision around the two matters, the indigenous consultation and the rescoping of the marine safety issue. But this is also about: what does the future of the energy industry look like, Madam Speaker? Well, in one sense, first of all, it looks like an energy industry that is resilient to the reality of climate change and, in fact, flourishes within the context of climate change being real. The time is over to ignore those matters within the regulatory process.

However, we need to make sure, as Bill C-69 contemplates a strategic assessment for large projects surrounding its climate change impacts, that Alberta's climate leadership plan stands in for that strategic assessment given that it is the most comprehensive response to climate change on this continent, Madam Speaker. So that is the first piece. We have made that positioning very clear to the federal government, and we expect to see clarity on it, not just in some bland assurances but in writing, in a draft regulation or in an amendment to the legislation, ideally, itself, and we have said that from the very beginning.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, we need to know what's in and what's out. The project list is deeply important to industry, and the federal government needs to be very, very clear on what kinds of projects are in in the new impact assessment rules and which ones are out. We saw some of the problems associated with this, with the throwing out of the Trans Mountain project approval. The inappropriate scoping that was decided upon by the Harper government, in fact, led us to this day. So we need to make sure we have clarity on project lists. I expect the federal government to give us that clarity, and I will not stop asking them for that until we get it.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, we need to make sure that for items within provincial jurisdiction we have appropriate environmental regulations, whether it's on the climate side or air, land, and water impacts, and that we ensure that those frameworks are in place on the provincial side. But we also need to make sure that there is no confusion about provincial jurisdiction over natural resources, that section 92A of the Constitution is upheld appropriately, and we want explicit mention of that within the legislation.

Furthermore, going back to the project list, Madam Speaker, we want to see an in situ exemption, and that links to this issue of jurisdiction. In situ production does not impinge upon, does not trigger federal environmental assessment. It does not trigger items over which the federal government has jurisdiction unless we are talking about greenhouse gas emissions, which are, in fact, an area of shared jurisdiction. Now, the fact of the matter is that in situ production in this province is governed by the oil sands emissions cap. Further, it is decarbonizing. We're taking the carbon out of the barrel through $1.4 billion worth of clean-tech investments, a large amount of which is going into the oil sands industry. The provincial government already has taken up this jurisdiction, and a federal intrusion in this matter is neither welcome nor necessary. So we are looking for that explicit in situ exemption. We know that that will strengthen our energy industry going forward because the rules are clear in Alberta with respect to climate policy.

Finally, we are looking for changes around timelines, Madam Speaker. There are a number of new criteria, terms, and principles inserted in the act that remain too vague to properly assess their impact. We want to see either publication of draft regulations or an outright amendment to the bill, preferably the latter, because we want to make sure that the industry has the kinds of assurances that it needs to make those final investment decisions on those large projects going forward.

A final element and final point to make around the future of the energy industry and investor confidence in this province, and this one is really important: we need to fix this legislation. There are so many companies who do not want to see a return to the CEAA of 2012 because that system was broken in the first place. So if we want to listen to the chambers of commerce, if we want to listen to the industries that are going to be captured by this impact assessment, then we need to make sure that we fix C-69, and we want to see that clarity coming from the federal government, either going back to the House of Commons or within the Senate Chamber, as soon as is possible, Madam Speaker.

Thank you very much.

***4:40***

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Foothills.

**Mr. Panda:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to speak to this emergency debate on what measures must be taken to ensure that the construction of the job-creating Trans Mountain expansion project is completed given the recent Federal Court of Appeal ruling.

In light of the Federal Court of Appeal decision on the Trans Mountain expansion the government of Canada saw fit to implement two more things to be in compliance with regulations. The first was to send the project back to the National Energy Board for a study on the impact of the two additional tankers a day in the Salish Sea versus the pod of orcas. Two tankers, Madam Speaker. As we speak, right now there are a hundred tankers – I just checked 10 minutes ago – in the port of Vancouver. Those two additional tankers will really make a difference, so we have to talk about that.

Then, Madam Speaker, can you imagine if the B.C. NDP's fast ferries were in service on those waters. Which one would have the greater environmental impact?

Now, Madam Speaker, to make sure I don't politically interfere in the NEB project approval process to assess these two extra tankers a day, I have not sought leave to appear as a witness. But guess what? That hasn't stopped the leader of the B.C. Green Party, Andrew Weaver. I guess he somehow has the money for lawyers and wants to take questions from high-priced lawyers, from all the witnesses before the National Energy Board.

The second thing the government of Canada has decided to do is to recommit to complete phase 3 of the indigenous consultation. Apparently, it's not good enough for the Crown to send a bunch of bureaucrats with no decision-making power to conduct consultations. I could have told you that, that it's a waste of time and money and resources. If the bureaucrats sent to consult are not empowered to make decisions and commitments, you're just wasting everyone's time and money.

But here is the kicker. The federal Liberal government failed to put a timeline on the new consultation process for TMX. To quote a Liberal minister, Amarjeet Sohi from Alberta, he said: we are not going to put a timeline on these consultations. He said that on October 3, 2018.

Madam Speaker, Canada consulted with indigenous people for over 40 years, including the creation of the Berger inquiry, with respect to the natural resource developments in Canada's Arctic and in the Mackenzie River valley. By the time First Nations were ready for development and the NEB had issued approvals to Imperial Oil to bring natural gas to the south, new technology came along, and the market price for gas collapsed, and Imperial's project did not move forward. All the benefits that the First Nations had negotiated and that would be able to improve their lives, things like roads, hospitals, and all: they all fell apart and never happened. Now here is this federal minister from Alberta refusing to put a timeline on consultation.

I am a firm believer in upholding the duty and the honour of the Crown, but at a certain point enough is enough. Madam Speaker, enough is enough. Consultations, to move forward, need to happen swiftly, and it is consultation, not negotiations. Let's be clear about it.

As for the federal minister, Sohi, he is a Liberal's liberal, a rabid partisan. He was known to show up here in this public gallery and cheer on the Member for Calgary-Mountain View and Laurie Blakeman and Kent Hehr while those Liberals set baited traps for all parties.

Minister Sohi did not like my editorial in the *Calgary Sun* over the weekend and responded today. Sadly, Minister Sohi continues with the bravado and false hope of getting the Trans Mountain pipeline built. Minister Sohi forgets about Justin Trudeau's pipeline whisperer, his principal secretary, Gerald Butts. Before he entered government, this former Canadian head of the World Wildlife Fund had been on the take from people who would scuttle Canada's oil and gas industry. I don't know of anyone who quits their job to go work for the Prime Minister's office and gets over $300,000 in severance. Nice work if you can get it, Madam Speaker.

There is a video all over the web of Mr. Butts wanting to shut down the oil sands. There are videos about this government's members, members in this House, in the past, protesting against these pipelines. There are videos that you can look up. When Minister Sohi opens his mouth, it's quite rich and disingenuous as long as Gerald Butts is the Prime Minister's principal secretary, because he wants to leave it in the ground. He won't let any pipeline get built.

We urged the federal government to explore every avenue possible to get the Trans Mountain expansion back on track, including but not limited to an immediate appeal to the Supreme Court, re-engagement of the consultation process, and potential legislation.

But it's not just us, Madam Speaker. That great bastion of finance in Quebec, Desjardins Capital Markets, has this to say: we maintain our previous concern that the federal Liberal government will likely be highly reluctant to exercise force approaching the window of the next election cycle, expected next fall.

There is another gentleman, former CEO of TransCanada Hal Kvisle. He said:

> I don't see how any private-sector pipeline company would be dumb enough to embark on a major pipeline project in Canada today . . .
>
> The government would hope this shows Canadians that things can get done in this country, when it actually shows the private sector that even the bestlaid plans are going to end up in the ditch.

That was in the *Calgary Herald* on May 30, 2018, Madam Speaker.

Then CAPP's Tim McMillan said: investment was done under extraordinary circumstances, and we should work very hard to never find ourselves in this position again.

That's why, Madam Speaker – this government said that they have done so much for these pipelines and oil, but Albertans are not buying that. When I'm getting those in my riding, people are saying: if you fool me once, shame on me, but if you fool me twice, shame on you. This government: I mean, everyone knows what they did. They just cheered the failure of pipelines, but they were celebrating a victory lap, like the Leader of Opposition said, when nothing is getting built.

That's why we called specifically for these actions: invoke the declaratory authority under section 92(10)(c) of the Constitution, immediately passing Bill S-245; immediately bring forward the promised legislation to reinforce federal jurisdiction; suspend the transfer of $4.1 billion in infrastructure funding and $1.3 billion job-training funding to the B.C. New Democrats until they end their campaign of obstruction; pull bills C-69, which the energy industry says means that a future pipeline project is very unlikely, and the tanker ban, C-48, that impedes the ability to get resources to the market; and indicate to the B.C. NDP government that the $182 million in funds earmarked for B.C. under the low carbon economy fund will be withheld pending construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion to parallel the withholding of $60 million from Saskatchewan for refusing to implement the carbon tax.

Madam Speaker, global oil demand is growing, and it's nearly 100 million barrels per day. By 2040 27 per cent of the global demand will be from oil, and 25 per cent will be from natural gas. That means that by 2040 half of the energy market will be oil and gas. That is from the IEA. Petrochemicals are also becoming the largest drivers of the global oil demand.

***4:50***

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow, followed by Calgary-Klein.

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise to speak on the emergency debate on the Trans Mountain pipeline. I'm glad that we're having the opportunity to speak about this. I've got to tell you that I hear about this issue more than any other from constituents in Calgary-Elbow and from Albertans that I talk with around the province. When I go door-knocking, there is frustration, there is concern, there is absolute anger that we find ourselves in a situation where Alberta has some of the most responsibly produced

oil in the entire world but we can't sell it. We can't get it out of the province. We can't ship it.

I've been talking with people who are part of the investment community in the energy sector, and they've said that, you know, things were really looking up. There was a belief that this pipeline was going to go ahead, that they could rely on the regulatory process, that they could rely on the federal and provincial governments to actually ensure that the process was followed, that we'd actually see a pipeline built. They were starting to see capital maybe start to move back into Alberta.

But this has frozen everything, not just investments related to oil and gas exploration and production but investments related to technology, investments that are totally unrelated to the oil and gas sector. Investors from around the world are looking at what's happening in Canada, and they're saying: "I'm not sure I can trust putting my money there. I feel like maybe there is more risk in Canada than I thought, so I'm going to pull back and wait and see if Canada can figure itself out." So what used to be a massive advantage for Canada, political stability, a predictable regulatory regime – in fact, we have or, I should say, we had such a great reputation around the world that our regulatory experts would help set up regulatory regimes in other parts of the world. Well, that's no longer true. We're now seen as a very risky place to do business.

That is really a tragedy. It costs Albertans jobs, it costs Albertan families, it costs tax dollars that could go into important programs in health and education and ensure our society is a fairer place. So it's not just a straight fiscal issue, whether or not we ensure that our product gets sold to the rest of the world.

When I look at the approach that the NDP has taken, they said: Albertans, if we have a carbon tax, we are going to get a pipeline. They just made a straight equivalence, carbon tax equals pipeline. Well, no pipeline: what does that mean for the carbon tax? Is it a straight equation now, or are we now going on some other plan?

Where we've ended up, though, is that instead of having a pipeline – and instead of quietly going about their work of ensuring that the regulatory process was followed, what the government has done is to govern to a headline. They've just said, "Carbon tax equals pipeline," and the moment that the federal government purchased the Kinder Morgan pipeline, what did they do? They took a victory lap. They may have well strung up a banner in front of the Legislative Assembly that said: mission accomplished. They trotted out all of their caucus, and the Premier did a big news conference, and a number of us on the opposition side, staff, and media were kind of standing around gobsmacked, watching this spectacle.

Now all of a sudden, well, the courts decide that the regulatory process was not followed, that, in fact, indigenous people were not appropriately consulted. Now, I've talked to some lawyers, and I think that there's some disagreement as to whether or not that is, in fact, a correct ruling and that perhaps the federal government should look at an appeal. Regardless, that is a responsibility of the federal government, to consult at phase 3 with indigenous people and do a consultation that is a proper two-way consultation. That is on the federal government.

But where I hold the provincial government accountable is that you can't tell me that within the Ministry of Energy or within the private sector in this province we don't have a few lawyers, regulatory experts who could perhaps look over the shoulder of the federal government and make sure that that process is followed. But that didn't happen. The province of Alberta was completely hands-off back in 2016 and just said: well, we'll just trust Ottawa. When has it ever worked in the province of Alberta where we sit back and say: well, we'll just trust Ottawa; things will be fine? Clearly not. So it is not just Ottawa's fault that this happened. It is absolutely on the provincial government, who should have been looking over the shoulder, who should have been bringing some of that regulatory expertise to bear in that process to make sure that the Trans Mountain pipeline went ahead.

The tragedy of this is compounded by the fact that not only is this an economic story, as I said before, but it's an environmental story, too. The research and innovation that are happening in this province – in fact, we had an opportunity with my Alberta Party caucus colleagues this morning to tour the University of Alberta. There's unbelievable work under way at the University of Alberta on carbon abatement, on reducing land use for resource development and development of all kinds, on reducing the use of fresh water and abating tailings ponds in oil sands. These are the problems that not just Alberta is grappling with, but the world is grappling with.

I have always maintained that Alberta's contribution to fighting climate change is, yes, reducing our emissions here at home, but the far greater contribution that we will make to fighting climate change is developing technologies in Alberta that will address carbon emissions that we can then sell to the rest of the world. That is our contribution, and that contribution is funded directly by ensuring that Alberta oil and gas gets to market. So when pipelines are delayed or deferred or perhaps even cancelled, it has a massive impact on the environmental side. It has a devastating and negative impact on carbon emissions globally. That is a case that I don't believe the NDP has made nearly strong enough to our friends in British Columbia nor to the rest of Canada. Building pipelines is a pro-environmental policy, not just having a carbon tax in Alberta. Building pipelines enables research and development that will reduce global carbon emissions. That's the goal. That case has not been made nearly strongly enough.

The other consequence is, of course, more oil on rail. That is, we know, statistically more risky. I don't want to suggest for a moment that it's unsafe, but it's not as safe in any way as shipping oil through pipelines. We know that. That costs more, which has an impact on the bottom line for energy companies, which means they hire fewer people, which means they generate fewer taxes, they pay lower royalties, and it has a substantial economic cost. It also presents barriers to other Alberta products, agricultural products in particular, finding their way to market. It enriches the train companies – I'm sure they're thrilled with it – but it's not anywhere near the best interests of Albertans.

Now, the minister of environment and others have talked about Bill C-69 and that that simply does not work for Alberta. I agree. There are substantial problems with Bill C-69.

I will say that the current rules, the CEAA, 2012, also don't work for Alberta. There are many examples of that in the energy industry. On another project that's currently under way, a project that's very close to my heart and the interests of the constituents of not just Calgary-Elbow but downtown Calgary, the Springbank off-stream reservoir, a very, very important project, the goalposts continually move. Every time there's a filing, a huge number of questions come back, and the timeline moves back, and the timeline moves back, and it just never seems to end.

That's a challenge that I can understand now, having intimately and closely watched this process. I can only imagine, for a project that's, frankly, relatively simple, like the SR1 project, compared to a massively complex project like a pipeline or a tailings pond or an oil sands development – I can't imagine how much effort and time and cost would go into that.

Madam Speaker, I stand here frustrated that we don't have a clear path forward on the pipeline, that it is not under construction, as this government said it would be. Of course, here in the Alberta Party caucus we are always cheering for pipelines. We will never cheer

against Alberta. We will never cheer for a project to fail. We want this project to succeed, and we want it to go ahead very, very quickly.

But Albertans are demanding a credible plan for energy, not just pipelines. They're demanding a credible plan for energy diversification, for petrochemicals, for upgrading, for expanding exploration and production, for opening up investment once again in Alberta and not seeing those dollars that are going to energy development in the United States – it's far easier to get projects approved in the U.S. than it is here. It doesn't mean that we need to abandon our responsibility. Environmental responsibility, social responsibility, safety: those are things that we do better in this province and in this country than anywhere in the world, and we ought to be proud of that. But companies, investors need some certainty that the money they put in is going to result in project approvals and reviews in a timely – timely – way.

Since a credible plan isn't forthcoming from this government, I can promise you that the Alberta Party will present a credible plan, going into the next election, for how we get Alberta's energy sector back up and running, how we get Albertans back to work, and, most importantly, how we get pipelines built.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

***5:00***

**The Deputy Speaker:** Calgary-Klein, followed by Fort McMurray-Conklin.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to speak to this emergency motion, a very important topic indeed. Now, I have stood up here in the past in this Assembly and expressed my frustration and this government's frustration at the fact that the Trans Mountain pipeline is not being built as we speak. It's frustrating because this government had this pipeline in its sights from day one. We knew very quickly, upon assuming government, that getting a pipeline to tidewater was going to be critical infrastructure to growing our energy industry and getting a fair price for our product, which makes you wonder why previous governments didn't see this.

As such, Madam Speaker, we did everything that was asked of us to get approval, including bringing in the most robust climate leadership plan in the country, and the federal government did approve the construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline. Unfortunately, the Federal Court of Appeal ruled against the Trans Mountain pipeline, quashing the decision of the previous approval. This ruling is bad for working families and the economy. The approval process is flawed, and that's clear.

One of the most unfortunate parts of this flawed process is the fact that the Leader of the Opposition had the opportunity to improve it during his tenure in Ottawa but chose not to, and he couldn't get a pipeline built to tidewater in this province during this period either. While the federal Conservative governments were failing at getting pipelines built and changing the process, the world changed around them, and it would appear that the Leader of the Opposition and his caucus were left behind and refused to catch up.

Let's dissect this motion for a moment if you'll indulge me:

> To discuss what measures must be taken to ensure that construction of the job-creating Trans Mountain expansion project is completed given the recent Federal Court of Appeal ruling and diminished investor confidence in Alberta's energy industry.

Now, what measures must be taken to ensure that construction of the job-creating Trans Mountain expansion project is completed? Well, Madam Speaker, on this side of the House we will do whatever it takes to get the Trans Mountain pipeline built, but it appears that the opposition won't. On this side of the House we understand that climate action was an integral part of getting federal approval, and it remains an integral part of getting this pipeline built. And you know what else? It's just the right thing to do.

You know who else thinks carbon pricing is good for the energy industry? The energy industry. Steve Williams, CEO of Suncor, said: "We think climate change is happening. We [think] a broad-based carbon price is the right answer." He also said that climate inaction threatens the future of the oil sands and that an earnest effort by government to decrease emissions, shared by consumers and industry, through a carbon tax and regulations could be the best possible outcome. So it's obvious, Madam Speaker, that this government and the energy industry have already adopted a measure to help ensure construction of the pipeline.

Now, let's compare this to what the opposition is doing to help ensure construction of the pipeline, which would be absolutely nothing. Instead of supporting a price on carbon that drives efficiency in the oil sands and is supported by energy leaders, the opposition riles the anger machine with its anti carbon tax stance.

The Leader of the Opposition's good friend and ally the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, got together to rally against the carbon tax recently. Let's call this rally what it really was, Madam Speaker, a rally against the energy industry. The opposition had even partnered with their other good friend and ally, Rebel media, to rally against the carbon tax and, in effect, again, rally against the energy industry.

The bottom line: the UCP leader will say anything to get elected. He's more interested in grandstanding than doing what's right for the energy industry. What's more, Madam Speaker, what makes the Leader of the Opposition think he knows more than energy executives? I'm not seeing it.

Also, part of this motion is to deal with diminished investor confidence. Well, Madam Speaker, investment is returning. The oil and gas sector has grown by 6.4 per cent in the past year, largely in Alberta's oil sands. CNRL announced that it will increase its capital spending by $170 million this year to $4.6 billion to advance engineering and purchase equipment for its Horizon expansion efforts. Athabasca Oil has boosted its capital budget by $45 million to $185 million.

We have also made it clear that we are not happy with the Federal Court of Appeal ruling, something else we're doing to make sure this gets built, Madam Speaker, and we've been clear that this ruling is bad for working families and bad for the economic security of Canada. Ottawa should have appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court, and we're very disappointed that they did not.

Successive federal governments have created the mess we're in today, and it's time for Ottawa to fix what they've broken. Three years ago we set out to break our land lock, and despite the setbacks we have made progress. Today Canadians in every part of the country support our efforts to build the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, and we will continue to use every tool we have to reach out to Canadians and make the case for this project, from main street to Bay Street.

Also, Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of our Environment and Parks minister, who has been doing a great job of letting Canadians know that Bill C-69 as it is drafted will have a serious impact on the Canadian economy and specifically on the economy of Alberta.

Madam Speaker, it's been a pleasure to speak to this emergency debate, and I thank you for bringing it forward. It is an important topic, and it's really provided me and others with the opportunity to illustrate the large dichotomy between this side of the House and the opposition when it comes to helping to get this pipeline built. We're listening to industry leaders and scientists. They listen to

Doug Ford and Rebel media. This is a big difference. We're leading on the issue of climate change. They continue to attract candidates that deny science. Our made-in-Alberta plan goes hand in hand with economic growth. They would rather make lawyers rich than come up with their own plan. Our plan is attracting green investment in Alberta. They want to cancel those investments and go back in time.

With all that said, Madam Speaker, thank you so much to the Leader of the Opposition for the opportunity to speak to this emergency motion and to allow me to show Albertans that this side of the House is fighting for pipelines and Albertans and that that side is fighting for themselves.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Fort McMurray-Conklin, followed by Vermilion-Lloydminster.

**Ms Goodridge:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today and speak in favour of this extremely important motion, a motion that is absolutely critical to the success of my riding, Fort McMurray-Conklin. I was born and raised in Fort McMurray, and I've lived there most of my life. My family, in fact, has worked in the oil sands for almost 50 years. My dad tells stories of days when Syncrude sweet light crude used to trade at a higher rate than WTI, and that was only a short 20 years ago.

Now we sell our product, our fantastic product, at a major loss, and this is due in full to the lack of access to markets. The increasing differential, which today is at almost $50 a barrel, hurts Fort McMurray-Conklin. It hurts Fort McMurray, it hurts Alberta, and it hurts Canada. It hurts our oil and gas sector. Our oil and gas industry contributes billions of dollars into our economy. They employ tens of thousands of hard-working women and men throughout my riding and Alberta as a whole.

So many Albertans right now are out of work, so many people in my riding of Fort McMurray-Conklin are out of work, and so many companies are taking their investment dollars and capital elsewhere. We've seen so many companies pull out of the Fort McMurray oil sands and invest in different countries in the Middle East because they think it's a safer bet for investments right now. It's so important that we get these pipelines built in order to improve investor confidence and get northeastern Alberta back to work.

The unnecessary delay of the Trans Mountain pipeline project is devastating to the people in my riding. As I said earlier today, it's devastating to consider what these delays in getting shovels in the ground on this project say about Canada's ability to get much-needed, job-creating projects built.

***5:10***

Over the last six months I've had the opportunity to knock on tens of thousands of doors throughout my riding of Fort McMurray-Conklin, and what I heard was overwhelmingly clear, that we need to get pipelines to tidal waters built so that we can once again sell our valuable product at a fair market rate. The overwhelming message I heard at the doors of regular, ordinary Albertans was that we needed to get pipelines so that we could once again sell our product at a fair rate. This was the same message I heard at Tim Hortons, that I heard at Earl's or any other restaurant around town. People were hurting. Companies were hurting.

Having more pipeline access would not only put more money back into our economy, but it would bring tens of thousands of much-needed jobs to Alberta. To be specific, it would add 14,600 construction jobs, well-paying construction jobs, it would add 13,340 pipeline operation jobs, well-paying, skilled jobs, and it would add over 400,000 jobs related to additional investment in oil and gas development as a result as higher net-back producers.

One thing that I have learned growing up in Fort McMurray that is evidently clear is that when Fort McMurray is working, Alberta is working, that when Alberta is working, Canada is working. This isn't something we can take lightly. This is absolutely fundamental. Our economy is trying to recover from one of the largest recessions in Alberta's history. The people of Fort McMurray are trying to recover after one of the costliest natural disasters in Canada's history. This project would have brought hope back to the people in my riding. This project would have been the light at the end of the tunnel. The number of foreclosures in my riding is outstanding. We need to do something to get these people back to work, and this project is precisely what we could put forward.

What we have seen is social licence, that was supposedly going to get us this pipeline. We were told that if we had a carbon tax, we would get a pipeline. We were told that that would give us some social licence and that some social licence would all of a sudden buy us this goodwill to build a pipeline. Unfortunately, we see a carbon tax but no pipeline. What we do see is everyone against the oil sands.

I absolutely believe that we need to do more in this House. We need to do more to urge the federal government to get the Trans Mountain pipeline back on track, and we need to work together to push this forward and do everything within our power.

Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Vermilion-Lloydminster, followed by Sherwood Park.

**Dr. Starke:** Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today and speak to this debate and to perhaps offer a little different perspective on things. I've been listening carefully to what's been said by members from the Official Opposition, from government members, from members from the third party, and I will say that I think I am joining an increasing cohort of Albertans who are growing weary. We are growing weary of politicians who attempt to take every statement, every news story, every new happening and try to torque it to their political advantage. Now, I know there's an election coming in six months. I'm fully aware of that. But, Madam Speaker, on an issue that is as critical as this one is to our overall existence, if you wish, as a nation – because, really, if we can't get major projects built, what does that say about Canada? I think that I'm joined by, like I say, a growing number of Albertans who are truly growing weary that everything that comes up then becomes an exercise in finger pointing and blame. That accomplishes nothing.

Now, I think I can say that like most Albertans or perhaps all Albertans, I was disappointed in the Federal Court of Appeal decision of August 30. I'd like to point out a couple of things about that decision, though. That decision was rendered on August 30, but the Federal Court of Appeal took 10 months to write that decision. They had heard and considered all the arguments, and they wrapped up in October of 2017. Some 10 months later the Federal Court of Appeal, three judges with a combined experience of over 44 years, rendered the decision, a unanimous decision, reversing the National Energy Board's decision.

Now, both the Official Opposition and the government have called on the federal government to appeal this to the Supreme Court of Canada. I'm not a lawyer, but personally I think that's a symbolic but hardly a substantive gesture. Appealing to the Supreme Court of Canada is only going to result in an even longer delay. If it took three judges 10 months to write a decision, the nine judges of the Supreme Court of Canada – well, I'm not convinced that they will arrive at a reversal of those three judges' decision any quicker. In fact, I think we have to ask ourselves the question: what is the expectation that a unanimous decision made by three judges

with a combined 44 years of experience on the bench would be reversed by the nine judges of the Supreme Court of Canada? The only thing that I could see as a positive to appealing is if the Supreme Court of Canada was prepared to pass an injunction that allowed construction to continue based on the NEB's approval.

But, you know, I think that, like most Canadians, what really frustrated me in the days after August 30 was the blaming that went on. We had the federal Liberals blaming the Harper government for an inadequate regulatory regime. We had our government in this province blaming members of the opposition and specifically the Leader of the Opposition for inaction while he was in government in Ottawa. All of this was designed to somehow get a political leg-up on the other guys, and in the meantime Albertans are sitting and watching this and they're saying: do you not realize that we have more at stake than simply who gains a political advantage out of all of this? I think that's the frustration I hear from Albertans when I talk to Albertans. It's: get your heads together, and get this done. Instead, what we hear – and we heard more of it this afternoon; we heard it from just about every speaker speaking – is the opportunity to blame the other side.

You know, I do want to make a few comments that arose from debate. It may come as a surprise to you, Madam Speaker, but when I'm in the Chamber here, I actually listen to the debate, and I like to hear what the members have to say. You know, it's interesting. The Minister of Economic Development and Trade – it's very interesting. Like a lot of the members of government have wanted to do, he has invoked once again the vision of Peter Lougheed. I have to confess that it makes me feel good every time I hear the folks opposite invoke Mr. Lougheed's name. It makes me feel good when I hear the UCP doing the same thing. I mean, I think that we could be pretty much guaranteed that regardless of who wins the next election, they'll be following in the footsteps of Peter Lougheed. What that says about Peter Lougheed is that Peter Lougheed was pragmatic and not dogmatic. Peter Lougheed was a leader that looked at the situation and applied things that weren't necessarily adherent to a specific ideology.

You know, the minister mentioned the petrochemical diversification program. Well, I can look back and look at some of the decisions that were made in the 1970s by Mr. Lougheed's government with regard to natural gas diversification at Joffre. I can look at what has happened in the oil sands development in Fort McMurray and say that if it wasn't for AOSTRA, the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority, the oil sands might never have been developed in the way they have been and are now providing a major economic driver in our province.

***5:20***

So I smile when I hear people talking about Premier Lougheed, and then I have to also smile when I hear in one breath the government say how Peter Lougheed was, you know, such a great leader and had this great vision, and yet in the next breath they say how 44 years of government by the Progressive Conservatives was a disaster. You can't have it both ways, folks. If Peter Lougheed was such a disaster, he was in the chair for the first 15 years of that period of time.

You know, we hear also a lot about the failure of getting pipelines to tidewater, but nobody seems to ask the question: why? Nobody seems to ask the question: why were pipelines not built to tidewater? The answer to that question is actually really related quite simply to markets and to who owns and who controls oil and gas development in North America. In fact, for most of the years that often get talked about where no pipelines to tidewater were built, lots of pipelines were built. Pipeline capacity increased considerably, but those pipelines were being built to refineries elsewhere in the United States because in those years that was the most profitable place to ship the oil. It was less profitable to ship overseas. It was less profitable to ship to the Pacific Rim. The most profitable place to ship Canadian oil was to U.S. refineries. Therefore, the pipelines were built to U.S. refineries and not to tidewater because those were less profitable investments.

What has changed, of course – and the world has shifted – is we have seen a shift because of the increase in U.S. production because of fracking, which the NDP candidate I ran against in Lloydminster in the last election said that there should be a moratorium on all hydraulic fracturing. Because of fracking, because of multistage drilling techniques and drilling plants, directional drilling, this has opened up an increased and enhanced oil production in the U.S. to a point where over a span of about eight years their domestic oil production doubled. The U.S. went from being a country that was not allowed to export oil because it was keeping it for its own uses to a country that exports a great deal of oil, including a great deal of oil into eastern Canada. The number one source of oil in eastern Canada is not the Saudis, is not Algeria, is not Nigeria, is not Venezuela. It's the United States of America. That's the shift that has occurred, and that has also been the shift that has resulted in the expansion of the differential to now close to $50. Then, of course, we are recognizing the crisis that that results in.

You know, Madam Speaker, I'm somewhat of a student of history, and I look at what happens when people make decisions that don't necessarily result in their own electoral success. I look at, for example, this government vehemently defending the Trans Mountain expansion and only the Trans Mountain expansion to the exclusion of other viable options because they have put so much emphasis on that.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Sherwood Park, followed by Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

**Ms McKitrick:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I always like to thank the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster for his always very interesting speech. I'm glad that he rose this afternoon.

Here we are. It's another Monday and another debate on the Trans Mountain pipeline. Sometimes I really just wish that the opposition was willing to believe facts and the evidence of what the Premier, cabinet, and public servants have been doing with their colleagues in the federal government and the oil and gas industry to make the Trans Mountain pipeline continue to be built. I tend to believe facts.

This pipeline is important not only to residents and businesses in the constituency of Sherwood Park. This pipeline starts about three kilometres from my own office and will be joining some of the other pipelines just a few feet from my office in one of the pipeline corridors. But this pipeline is important to all Albertans and to all Canadians.

I am daily reminded of the need for a new pipeline and the challenges of some of the alternatives currently being used to move the raw bitumen such as rail tank cars. I am also reminded how little was done by the federal Conservative government, in which the Leader of the Opposition was a member, and how little was done by the former provincial governments, of which many of the opposition MLAs were members of or involved with. For years former Alberta governments allowed raw bitumen to flow down to the U.S., and instead of job creations in Alberta, good refinery and upgrading jobs went south to Texas, Louisiana, and other States. This not only meant good, long-lasting jobs have gone south but also the differential in price between the raw and upgraded bitumen

has seen the U.S. oil and gas sector making money rather than us in Alberta.

The Premier was clear on her disappointment with the federal court ruling. I think we also have a picture of her with Prime Minister Trudeau, and I think even with the body language she was very clear how upset she was. The Premier believed that Ottawa should have appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court, and she was disappointed that the Prime Minister decided not to.

Now, the Trans Mountain pipeline is supported by Canadians from every part of the country. Like many MLAs, over the summer I had the opportunity of meeting MLAs at our professional development conferences and all Canadians on our summer holidays. We know that the need for a pipeline is well known and that the work that Trans Mountain and the Alberta government has done to safeguard the pipeline and to respond to environmental concerns is also well understood by Canadians in all the provinces.

Not everyone is as privileged as I am to meet with pipeline companies operating in the Industrial Heartland area and learn about their environment and safety standards, to see their control rooms, learn about the constant monitoring, shutdown procedures, backup systems, alternate electrical sources, and so on. So as an MLA I believe that we all have a role to play in sharing information about the reliability of pipelines and the work the energy industry is doing to make them safer.

I often wonder how the members of the Conservative government now represented in this Assembly were not able to get the approval for the pipeline. How do they think constantly demeaning the Prime Minister in memes, ads, and their remarks is going to encourage the federal government to work with them to meet the needs of Alberta? If they continue to deny the importance of reducing carbon emissions and belief in climate change, how can they convince Canadians that they have the best interests of Albertans and Canadians at heart?

Now, I know that there are a couple of new, younger MLAs in the opposition benches now. My hope is that they do understand the importance of climate change. Maybe if they went through our school system, they might have benefited from learning about it. It might be a surprise to the members opposite who struggled with accepting climate change that most Canadians do believe that climate change is real and that efforts by government to reduce carbon emissions and the efforts by the oil and gas sector to do the same is what Canadians want. On the government side we applaud the work done by pipeline companies to mitigate climate change by constantly innovating and working to find new ways to reduce their climate emissions.

Earlier the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Economic Development and Trade, and the Minister of Environment and Parks referred to the work that the government is doing on diversification. This approach in creating jobs in the Industrial Heartland currently but all throughout Alberta is important because it means that the export of the products through existing pipelines will lead to greater revenues for the companies and the government. There is not one simple solution to employment in the oil and gas sector or to the renewed fortunes of Fort McMurray or the area that I represent or increased revenues for the government. But the multidisciplinary approach that the government is using that includes increasing the capacity of pipelines through innovations that include a way to remove the need for diluent, the building of new pipeline, and investing in companies that are upgrading here in our province is the way that we will be able to return to greater employment in the oil and gas sector in Alberta.

***5:30***

Maybe it's time for the opposition to support this multipronged approach, rather than voting again and again against the efforts to diversify our petrochemical industry and against investment in the climate change leadership plan.

Madam Speaker, I always appreciate the opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the government to getting the most out of our natural resources to provide the services Albertans need. I also always appreciate the opportunity to support the constant work done by the Premier and the ministers, working with the federal government and other provinces.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Grande Prairie-Wapiti, followed by Calgary-Mountain View.

**Mr. Drysdale:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to rise and speak to the emergency debate on the Trans Mountain expansion project. The UCP, of course, is not calling the Trans Mountain pipeline an emergency. We are trying to call the government's attention to the emergency that is upon us, since the pipeline project has stalled yet again and there's no movement in sight.

Madam Speaker, two months ago the Premier said: a reliable timeline to resume construction will be established in a few weeks. Her few weeks passed long ago, and even she does not have confidence in Ottawa's new time frame. In three and a half months she's gone from urging Albertans to pick up tools because there's a pipeline to build to admitting she's skeptical of the federal government's timeline. That hardly instills hope in Albertans or investors.

If any Albertans happened to tune in to the October 23 Resource Stewardship meeting, they might have lost all hope in this government's competence on this most important file, but they would be sure about one point. The lack of a pipeline to take our oil to tidewater has created a crisis for our province, and there is no solution on the horizon.

The UCP members of the Resource Stewardship Committee, after a year of trying to finally convince the NDP majority on the committee to tackle a resource issue, convinced them to invite Alberta Energy to the meeting. Actually, we wanted the Minister of Energy, but the NDP members voted that invitation down. Anyway, the Ministry of Energy was invited to attend the October 23 committee meeting to discuss the stalled TMX project, and we convinced them to invite proponents promoting other projects that would take our oil to tidewater, namely G7G's Alberta to Alaska railway and Eagle Spirit's pipeline.

We wanted these projects on the table because we had no confidence in the government of Alberta for a plan B should TMX remain stalled. We, like all Albertans, want this project to go ahead, but unlike the government, we believe it is incumbent upon us as legislators to look at other options. We need these options not just because the fate of TMX is in the air, but because even if it is built, Alberta will still need more capacity for moving its oil as our production increases in the coming years.

We had hoped we may be pleasantly surprised, when Alberta Energy appeared before the Resource Stewardship Committee, that it had plans beyond plan A; that is, the Trans Mountain pipeline. But there is no plan B or C or D for expanding market access. Sure, there is line 3 and Keystone, but where do they go? Down into the U.S., of course. And what is the problem with that? Well, on October 12 even Albertans who were too busy earning a living and raising their children learned an alarming fact, for that's the date that the price discount when we sell our oil to the U.S. hit a record high of $52.

Let me go over the math, and then I'll wrap up by discussing the Premier's subsequent Hail Mary announcement about expanding rail capacity. First, the math. Alberta exports 3 billion barrels of

bitumen crude a day. Almost every drop goes to the U.S. via pipeline or rail. That means that, according to Alberta Energy itself, that price differential costs $210 million in royalties for every dollar of the price differential. So if the discount hits $50 and stays there, that would work out to $10.5 billion of lost revenue for Alberta. Does that sound alarming? Of course, it does. Every Albertan may not understand the details that bring us to that figure, and neither should they. But when they sadly learn that the shortage of pipeline capacity can cost Alberta's treasury $10 billion in one year, they want to know: what has brought us to this plight, and how are we going to get out of it? We in the UCP believe that they have a right to know what government policies over the three years have brought us to this point.

Even the Energy minister acknowledged this problem, and that was long before the discount hit $50. Let me quote from *Hansard* on December 12, 2016, during the government's congratulatory period on Trans Mountain, which, by the way, has yet to materialize. The minister said:

> Once it's completed, there'll be at least $3 a barrel more to Albertans, and without this additional pipeline access, the companies would be losing between $8 billion to $13 billion annually in revenue by 2022. Without additional pipelines we would lose $1 billion annually in revenue to the government.

As you can see, even the government itself has admitted that this latest escalation of differential poses a serious crisis.

You may hear that the differential will lessen when some refineries are finished with their annual shutdowns. True, but that's only by degree. We now have a structural differential of $25 to $30 due to the shortage of pipeline capacity. So that is a revenue shortfall of at least $5 billion a year.

Now let me address the Premier's announcement about rail capacity. When the record differential was exposed, she announced that she was urging the federal government to purchase railcars and locomotives to move more of our oil. There are all kinds of problems with this announcement, from creating traffic jams on rail lines for our agricultural producers and other important sectors trying to move their products to international markets, to relying on the federal government to purchase needed rolling stock when it hasn't shown any interest in Alberta, to protesters in B.C. blocking our bitumen on our rails and, with it, other Alberta products as well. Still, it can sound good.

In committee I asked Alberta Energy what would happen to this oil when it hit the Vancouver area. Would it go to international markets so we could obtain a higher price on the world market? The answer was already obvious, of course, because larger tankers cannot travel to the Vancouver-Burnaby terminals. Alberta Energy confirmed that that was correct. This oil would be loaded on smaller ships that would head down the coast to U.S. ports. So this government's answer is to get the federal government to buy railcars to take our bitumen and crude to terminals in the Vancouver area and be shipped down to the U.S., where there is a record high price discount. Albertans have been led to believe that this is an answer to shipping our most valuable resource to foreign markets where we can get a much higher price for it. Clearly, there's a misunderstanding.

Let me point out at this point that all along the UCP has urged the government not to rely on one pipeline to tidewater to cure our pipeline capacity shortage. Yes, we need the Trans Mountain pipeline for sure, but even if it is built, we are still going to need more ways of getting the crude and bitumen we will produce in the near future to tidewater, where it can go to truly foreign markets, where it can obtain a higher price. If we simply ship more and more to the U.S., as will happen with Keystone and line 3 and rail, then we are no farther ahead. We should be looking into other options like G7G or Eagle Spirit or even North West upgrader's phase 2 and 3, value-added like Nauticol. There are lots of options that the government should be pursuing to find different markets for our product rather than just relying on TMX, that we know is up in the air these days, Madam Speaker.

Thank you very much.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View, followed by Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to speak to this very important debate, that is appropriately taking up most of our afternoon, that of the Trans Mountain pipeline. I entered politics in 2004 on the climate change issue and the lack of action by the Klein government to take seriously the growing evidence that climate was going to be a defining issue for this generation and future generations. It may seem incongruous, then, that I would be supporting the Trans Mountain pipeline along with my party, but we do.

***5:40***

It's indeed easy to take positions that oppose each other, and as the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster commented so eloquently, politicizing the issues around this pipeline has not served Albertans, it's not served Canadians, it's not going to serve our future generations, partly because – as I'm watching this develop over, well, the last year at least, it reminds me of the phrase that sunk Rome. Nero was fiddling while Rome burned, and that's what I see, unfortunately, especially as we approach the election in 2019.

Instead of focusing our energies on a bigger vision – and I have to give credit for this bigger vision to Dr. David Layzell at the University of Calgary. The Canadian energy systems research institute was working not only nationally but internationally on trying to broaden the debate beyond carbon and beyond climate to the systems that are changing around us, every one of them interacting with the other to either make it more or less likely that we will enter the 22nd century with life, with meaningful transportation, with stable education systems, with health, and with all of the benefits that we have so far taken somewhat for granted because we have such an overabundance of resources and investments in this province, to the credit of previous federal and provincial governments and the people of Canada who have supported those governments.

It may seem, then, incongruous, but we do need to think bigger. I would like to think that even as we head into an election time, we could see the kind of future that David Layzell is challenging us to think about in the face of disruptive technologies like autonomous vehicles, the growing energy focus around hydrogen and cleaner nuclear, renewable nuclear, and the new opportunities to grow food with non fossil fuel based fertilizers and chemicals, and think about what these messages should be giving us in taking leadership on some of these new technologies and not simply focus on who's right and who's wrong and who's working harder for the energy industry here and who's got the right approach to getting a pipeline built and who needs to be taking the blame for either not historically developing the technologies to move oil to tidewater or moving to new energy forms.

If we had had the vision 20 years ago that we have today around, for example, the new energies, clean, renewable, the extra jobs associated with a clean, renewable tech sector and had a more serious commitment across the globe in looking at the interface of health, education, energy, environment, and the technologies that are now upon us and leadership being taken by other jurisdictions on many of these issues, we would not be up against a wall which

is seriously going to threaten not only the stability of this country but the international community. We are going to see refugees like we have never seen to date if we continue thinking short term about who's right and who's wrong . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** Pardon me, hon. member.

Hon. members, could you please take your seats while . . .

**Mr. Nixon:** We're waiting for your permission, Madam Speaker. We're between you and him.

**The Deputy Speaker**: Thank you.

**Mr. Nixon:** Don't start a new point of order.

**Dr. Swann:** You're forgiven.

Our current polarizing debate fundamentally fails to address the multitude of interdependent systems, and when we start to think about the broader systems, we take a bigger picture look and think about the longer term future than simply the next election or the next four years of an election cycle.

I would encourage people to look up the University of Calgary, Canadian energy systems research centre to see some of the tremendous and creative thinking and projects that they're involved with; for example, hydrogen freight transportation. They just received some funding to try that out and see what that's going to mean for jobs, new technology, the environment, health in the coming years.

Governments that fail to lead rather than follow and give due credit to the disruptive technologies that are coming upon us will surely fail not only our people but the planet. Who more than Alberta has the minds, the opportunities, the resources, the history to make innovative change better? That's why bitter partisan positions simply don't have a place today in Alberta. If we care about our children and our longer term future, we have to move beyond this and see the bigger picture that we have to be contributing to, that's currently being subverted by efforts to achieve political points.

I don't get a sense of the bigger leadership in the UCP. I don't hear their comments about what they would do differently. I don't see a vision for health, energy systems, new transportation, and new jobs. What I see is "no, no, no" about the current reality of climate, environment, and the new economy that's almost upon us.

**An Hon. Member:** What's wrong with used cars?

**Dr. Swann:** What's wrong with used cars? Well, that's what I would like the UCP to talk to us about. There are some alternatives, bigger transportation that carries more people and that uses some of the new options.

We must get to grips with a more thoughtful, multisystem, cross-party, national discussion that recognizes the new energy forms that are upon us, including robotics, AI, and autonomous vehicles, which should be anticipated by the kind of leadership that we could have in this province. We do need sustained fossil fuel production both for national and international well-being right now to help us make this transition. But where's the vision, and where's the willingness to look past partisan interests? We as citizens of this province, as parents, as grandparents, as people who are going to be judged in the next 10 to 20 years on what we did or failed to do in this session of our Legislature, in the coming session, have a profound responsibility to look at climate, environment, energy, jobs in a very fresh way. I've been totally inspired by what the University of Calgary and the CESAR centre, which they call it for short, is trying to push us legislators to think past.

There had been, as my colleague from Vermilion-Lloydminster has said, a government in the '50s who tried to push a trans-Canada pipeline and sacrificed their political future – they happened to be Liberal – because they were unelected even though they had a vision for a trans-Canada pipeline system that would have created a tremendous change in our whole last 70 years. Why was it sunk? It's a good question. It had to do with political debate, political points being scored, lack of public awareness. The media were not telling the story in as effective a way as they could have. There was a failure to think long term, there was a failure of vision, and there was a failure of the legislators at the time to make the case and to stand for something bigger than their own political interests.

I put that out because this is an opportunity for us to say what's really in our hearts and minds about this particular pipeline. We've said a lot of it before, so what I want to remind us of is that as politicians we're here to do two things, it seems to me. One is to ensure that we protect the public interest and that we look at the long term. I don't think we're doing that effectively, so I challenge all sides here to think bigger and think about the very destructive effects of failing to lead economically, socially, and environmentally in this next decade.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

**Mrs. Littlewood:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's my privilege to stand and speak to the emergency motion, and I appreciate that the business of the House was suspended today to do that because this is so important. Unfortunately, we are missing out on some important business right now, talking about the sustainability of our legions and talking about firefighting, but those things need the support of our economy in order to really be able to do the business of Alberta.

***5:50***

It's also my privilege to stand as the representative for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville and for all the workers there. It's not a community that is made up of skyscrapers and the office buildings that house the leadership of our oil and gas companies. It's actually the home of the people that work in the plants themselves. It is people that build homes, start hockey teams. The companies also build a lot of things in our community as well, things like the Sherritt wing of the Fort Saskatchewan hospital. Those things are all built by the economy. I'm glad that everybody has come together to support those people today.

Every day we lose $80 million because of the differential by shipping our resources to the United States. Having less money and having our arms tied behind our backs economically makes it very difficult to help those workers get better jobs, go back to work, and be able to build those things in Alberta that we've been working on for the last three and a half years: schools, highways, intersections, bridges. Those things not only build a province but also make it more safe. It's work that had been long overdue, and I'm glad that we've been able to put some people back to work doing that, but not everybody has been able to go back to work.

I know that probably, hopefully, all members of this Assembly don't support losing $80 million of resource money from our province to the United States. I'm sure that the President there would like to make America great again, but I would like him to not do it with our money.

It's been a long journey for the last three and a half years. Unfortunately, we have seen a federal court ruling that hurts families and hurts Alberta's economy, but it's important to continue to build the things that we're able to do here. It's important to diversify the economy and industry, work that started with the

announcement of the petrochemical diversification program that saw the announcement of a $3.2 billion polypropylene plant that will be built just outside of Edmonton here, near Fort Saskatchewan.

We're also going to see, hopefully very soon, the final investment decision on a project that Pembina has put forward to do polypropylene. Also, we're going to see the results of phase 2 of that program and see what other projects are being proposed by companies around the world. We know that there is so much possibility in that economy and we know that there are companies that want to do value-add to ethane. We know there are companies that want to build straddle plants, and we know that there are companies that want to do upgrading. In the absence of the leadership that should have been coming prior to our government, we have had to grab the bull by the horns and take on that work as the province with some incredible partners in oil and gas and energy.

When it went to the federal court with everything that had been done so far, why was it turned over to the government of Canada to fix? Why did it fail? We see that it wasn't just a bad process that was created by successive federal governments, but it was also just plain bad listening. You know, that work, to be adults coming to the table and looking at those issues with our indigenous partners across the land where this infrastructure will be built and to actually discuss with them as partners, as self-determining people what it is that will benefit their communities, what benefit it will be to their families, and to actually listen: we have some of that work that happens every day in our communities.

I know that I have met with families both in Strathcona county and Lamont county that are on the front lines of development of our natural resources, and we have processes in which we determine how their families are affected, how their business is affected if they're farming, how their health might be affected, how the value of their very homes can be affected because when these areas are redesignated to heavy industrial use, the actual value of their home disappears.

I find it very troubling when we understand from the federal court that we did not listen enough through those processes and that we did not come to the table as partners to actually talk with indigenous First Nations about what that development looks like and how those impacts occur. It's troubling that we would afford those rights and those privileges to families that are basically my neighbours but then somehow lay a different judgment, a different set of values against our indigenous partners and say that somehow the two are different. The two are not different, and they should be thoroughly brought to the table and listened to because that's the only path forward.

You know, I hope that we can, as Albertans and Canadians, clear that hurdle and move beyond that sort of hyperbolic, disparaging comments that sometimes we hear. So I'm glad that this project is now owned by Canada. It's a project that as a public piece of infrastructure for the time being should deliver a public benefit. Working with people to make sure that there are local hiring opportunities and local economic development opportunities is incredibly important every inch of that line.

What do we do now? Well, we keep talking to Canadians and Albertans about what we're doing. There's a reason why 7 out of 10 Canadians now, as a result of the work of our Premier, are onside with this project. They understand the value that comes back to their communities and that this sort of real change is possible. It's important for them to know what we've done in terms of environmental leadership with the climate plan, to know what we're doing when it comes to diversifying our economy, and how it is that we have their backs through this entire process and into the future.

I look forward to further work on this, and I'm glad that we will continue to see the benefits come to all of our constituents, including those in Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Chestermere-Rocky View.

**Mrs. Aheer:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just in the last minute or two that we have left, I just wanted to answer one of the questions that the Member for Calgary-Mountain View was talking about. He wanted to know what we would do differently. That would be promoting Canada. You want to change GHGs, you want to change output: you use the greenest, best things that you have in the world that come from our country. You become the cheerleader. You are the person.

The world needs more Canadian energy. It's as simple as that, and if we actually look at what we're capable of doing, what we have, then, what the industry has done in order to promote better types of energy – there are billions of dollars, $1.4 billion, in fact, that COSIA has put into making sure that we are as environmentally positive as possible. The fact that there are people in our own country who do not know and understand and promote this throughout the rest of the world, that Canada should be the leader, the example, not the beating post of the world for energy is an absolute shame. We are the market. We are the ones that should be going overseas.

There are all sorts of things that are happening with carbon leakage from countries that have fewer human rights than our own country, yet we import that every day. The United States may be the larger importer, but we are still importing products from countries that do not uphold the rights and the conditions that we have in our own country. You want to make a change? You promote Canadian energy.

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

Pursuant to Standing Order 4(2) the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 6 p.m.]

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