

Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, November 1, 2018

Day 44

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 29th Legislature Fourth Session

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Party standings:

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

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- Stephanie LeBlanc, Senior Parliamentary Counsel
- Trafton Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel

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Loyola Coolahan Cooper Goehring Gotfried Hanson Kazim

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 1, 2018

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek.

Ms Woollard: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm so happy to be introducing to you and through you some of the students from a wonderful school in my constituency, A. Blair McPherson. The students are accompanied by two teachers, Mrs. Amber Krysler and Miss Aya Furusawa, and a parent helper, Mr. Chris Johnson. If the students and the teachers and the parent could all stand up please, we'd be delighted to give you the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you 33 amazing students from the Centre for Learning@Home. The students are accompanied by their teachers Kelsey Beaudette, Sarah Joseph, Tammy Zimmel, and Judy Kramer along with their chaperones Dana Lickiss, Brian Lear, Laura Sorenson, Beverly Berg, Sigerido Pachelo-Vega, Belinda Brodziak, and Karen Bergstreiser. I would ask them to please rise to receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, are there any other school groups today? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions today. First, I rise to introduce to you and through you Mr. Mike Zuege and Ramona Vervoorst. They are joining us on a special milestone. Twenty-five years ago they moved from Germany to Canada, specifically the fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Castle Downs. Mike volunteers for various nonprofit organizations and continues to assist many newcomers to Canada. I'd like to thank him for his work. Thank you both for sharing your milestone with us today. I'd ask that you please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms Goehring: I'm also joined today by members of my wonderful team from the Edmonton-Castle Downs constituency office. I'd like to introduce to you and through you Elizabeth Nugent, social work practicum student from the University of Calgary, and Delia Pirie, retired warrant officer, social work practicum student from MacEwan University, and retired Canadian Armed Forces member who has served two tours overseas in Afghanistan. They are here to view our proceedings in the House, and I would like to thank them for taking the time to attend today. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms McKitrick: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly two constituents from my community of Sherwood Park, Evert

Poor and his wife, Gisele Poor. Evert Poor is the recent recipient of the 2018 sovereign's medal for volunteers. Evert Poor has spent 17 years educating Albertans on their shared heritage and facilitating greater civic engagement in local communities. He's a role model in his community thanks to his work with indigenous groups, helping to nurture entrepreneurship, civil engagement, and greater diversity throughout northern Alberta. Evert and Gisele, I ask you to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

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

Mr. Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly two good friends of mine from the great town of Rocky Mountain House, the crown jewel of the David Thompson trail for sure, my friend Robert Duiker and his wife, Fran Duiker. Robert, first of all, is the principal of the Christian school in Rocky Mountain House, but he also was the president of the Progressive Conservative constituency association for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre. He played a very important role in uniting the Conservative movement in this province, which we're grateful to him for. He currently sits on the United Conservative board in the area and is a great help to us. I would ask that they both stand up and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly Jack Neustaeter and Daveed Haidner. Both are grade 9 students in the French immersion program at l'école secondaire Beaumont composite high school. They are at the Assembly today on their PD day. What a good way to spend their day. The proceedings are of special interest to them given the focus of their grade 9 social studies on government and economics and the roles and responsibilities of citizens in decision-making processes. Jack and Daveed are seated in the members' gallery, and I ask that they stand as you join me in giving them the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Feehan: Mr. Speaker, I think my guests are still arriving from the Federal Building, so if I could delay, please.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce some of Alberta's pharmacy technicians and members of the Pharmacy Technician Society of Alberta, who are seated in the members' gallery. Pharmacy technicians are leaders in providing Alberta families quality pharmacy services, assisting with safe and appropriate medication use. I ask that Teresa Hennessey, Laura Miskimins, Brianne Feduniw, and Lorén Voice please rise and receive our warm welcome and our appreciation.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, my second introduction is to recognize patient advocates and members of the Alberta Pituitary Patient Society. Today is Acromegaly Awareness Day, an opportunity for health care providers as well as the general public to become better informed about the signs and symptoms of this very rare disease. I'd like to thank the society for its dedication to making each day

the best day possible for people who are living with acromegaly. I invite Sonja Durinck, Laura Graham, James McKee, and Mark Terpstra to please rise and receive our warm welcome. Thank you for helping us to increase awareness.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, are there any other visitors to be acknowledged today?

The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all the members of the House the Metis Settlements General Council executive and the settlement chairs on proclamation day for the Métis settlements of Alberta.

On this day 28 years ago the Alberta government worked with the settlements to create a first in Canadian history, a recognized land base for the Métis to call home and the establishment of a lawmaking authority and system for self-governance. This was the vision of Métis leaders such as Gabriel Dumont and Louis Riel and of the 1975 Alberta federation of Métis leaders, Adrian Hope, Maurice L'Hirondelle, Lawrence Desjarlais, Sam Johnston, and Richard Poitras. It is still the vision of the Métis leaders of today. On November 1 we celebrate everyone in the past, and today we will continue to work toward a brighter future for all settlement members. It is with them that I stand here today to proudly acknowledge and honour proclamation day and the Métis settlements' importance to the past, present, and future of our great province.

Our partnership has led to great work together. Many settlements are taking leadership roles in responding to climate change and seizing opportunities to gain an ownership stake in diversifying Alberta's energy sector. Our indigenous climate leadership initiative programs are working with settlements to protect our shared environment, to create jobs, and to diversify our economy. We're also working together to renew Alberta's Métis settlement consultation policy, further strengthening our partnership and renewing our relationship.

I'd like to acknowledge the Métis settlement leadership here today. With us are Gerald Cunningham, the president of the MSGC, with whom I just had the pleasure to raise the Métis settlement flag at our Legislature Grounds. We also have members of the executive council here, Vice-president Darren Calliou and Treasurer Sherry Cunningham. On behalf of each settlement we have Stan Delorme, chair of Buffalo Lake; Harry Supernault, chair of East Prairie; Irene Zimmer, chair of Elizabeth; Herb Lehr, chair of Fishing Lake; Art Tomkins, chair of Gift Lake; Ken Noskey, chair of Peavine; Greg Calliou, chair of Paddle Prairie; and Dean Thompson, chair of Kikino. Please join me in a round of applause for our guests and for proclamation day for the Métis settlements, a living example of what we can do in partnership together. I'd ask my guests to please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. minister, there might have been an extended preamble with that introduction.

The hon. Member for Little Bow.

Mr. Schneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my distinct privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly three people from southern Alberta that are a part of my everyday life. They left home early this morning to get here for question period.

1:40

Mr. Cooper: Just for this.

Mr. Schneider: Just for this.

As I say your name, would you please stand. First, Sharon is my wife of 30 years, mother of our daughter, and my biggest supporter. I know that members may find this hard to believe, but Sharon actually watches QP on her computer every day. Folks, can you dig this? My daughter is Kristin Edmonds, and her newly minted husband as of July 28, Devery Edmonds. Now, Kristin works in HR at an accounting firm in Lethbridge, and Devery is a salesman at John Deere in Taber. Mr. Speaker, Devery and Kristin are in town today to go to the Oilers game tonight as they play the Chicago Blackhawks. It's a long drive from Lethbridge, as you know, and I hope the team can pull off a win while they're here. Anyway, please accept the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Hon. member, I do hope that you paid for the tickets for the new son-in-law yourself.

Members' Statements

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

Acromegaly Awareness Day

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we recognize Acromegaly Awareness Day for the first time in Alberta's history. Acromegaly is a rare condition resulting from excessive amounts of growth hormone, most commonly caused by a benign tumour in the pituitary gland. The condition causes abnormal growth of bones in adults, characterized by the enlargement of an individual's hands, feet, and face and the alteration of the facial features.

Acromegaly is uncommon and can go undetected for many years. It is estimated that up to 16 per cent of Canadians may have a pituitary tumour and not know it. Early diagnosis and treatment can reduce the risk of complications and improve symptoms. Knowledge about the signs and symptoms are key to ensuring early diagnosis. The Alberta Pituitary Patient Society is dedicated to promoting awareness, education, and supporting patients and families.

In March 2017 I introduced my constituent and friend Sonja Durinck to my colleagues in the House. Sonja joins us here today. She is an active and dedicated member of her community and works tirelessly to help improve the lives of others. Sonja is adrenal insufficient and dependent on steroids to live. She has lived with two rare diseases for over 20 years. Sonja and members of the Alberta Pituitary Patient Society regularly visit patients in hospital to help build networks of support. As a founding member of the Canadian and Alberta pituitary patient societies Sonja has done remarkable work bringing awareness to the unique challenges faced by people with rare diseases.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the importance of Acromegaly Awareness Day, and I thank the representatives of the Alberta Pituitary Patient Society for their continued hard work and advocacy across the province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Family Violence Prevention Month

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to mark the beginning of Family Violence Prevention Month. Albertans spend November raising awareness for this very, very important issue. Alberta has one of the highest rates of family and intimate partner violence in the entire country, and despite the great work that's being done by both government and nonprofit agencies throughout our province, there is still so much work to be done.

Honestly, I think that one key to preventing the tragic and heartbreaking outcomes that family violence brings is to break our collective silence. It seems that no matter how much awareness is raised, individuals who know someone who's displaying the warning signs or have witnessed concerning behaviours are still hesitant to speak out. Perhaps they think it's not our business, not our place to let that friend know that she has options or resources that could help her out of a terrible situation, that it's not our responsibility to call the police when we hear something or see something going on at someone's house that tells us there is no doubt that someone is in need of help.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is our business. It is our place to speak out, and we do have a responsibility to act whenever we suspect family or intimate partner violence is occurring, and in doing so, we could possibly save someone's life. It's not enough to say to those who might be experiencing family violence: it's okay to reach out for help. We have to help them take that cycle-breaking first step. We have to speak up when we notice the warning signs, and we have to let them know that we know and we're here to help. We have to get them to a safe place where they can access the supports they need to break the cycle of abuse. We have to call the authorities when we know that someone is in immediate danger.

Mr. Speaker, family and intimate partner violence is no longer something we don't talk about. If we want to put an end to it, we must speak out about it.

Political Discourse

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, we've heard, over the last many months and especially over the last couple of weeks, political responses to hate crimes and where political parties are trying to stake their claim. I'm proud to serve as an elected member in a country and a province where people have the opportunity and the freedom to express their beliefs. I totally support the right of Albertans and Canadians to say exactly what they believe and express their passions. I believe in Albertans. This is their province and their future. If we give them the facts, they will chart the course that they want.

But we play an important role as leaders and as legislators. What we say matters. When we speak in our communities or in this Legislature, we can empower those that we lead to be better or we can embolden them to do what is wrong. I will always defend the right for us to disagree, to challenge the government of the day. I fully support that as an elected official I should be challenged. Leadership, regardless of political bent, is and should be about strengthening communities and not dividing them. My experience in this House in serving with a diverse group of individuals is that most of them are here for the right reasons.

That being said, I see people falling because they think that's what will get them elected again. As a father and as a husband and a lifelong Albertan my worry is this: how can we empower Albertans if we hate each other politically, if we see each other as enemies? How are we growing a diverse economy if we hate each other politically? What's the progress on the issues Albertans face if our motivation is just winning the next election? Mr. Speaker, I know we can do better.

Thank you.

Robert Sallows

Dr. Starke: Mr. Speaker, every man dies, but not every man truly lives. This is a quote attributed to Scottish patriot William Wallace, but it is a fitting description of the remarkable life of Robert Sallows. Born and raised in Calgary, Robbie was someone who

immediately made an impression, small in stature but large in impact. As an active member of the Progressive Conservative Youth of Alberta he was such a stickler for process that some joked that he wrote *Robert's Rules of Order*. He only wanted things done the right way, and he had the ability to engage in discussion and have both those who agreed and disagreed with him end up liking him, such was his personal magnetism.

Now, Robert's life had many twists and turns. At the age of 17 he required a double lung transplant. After receiving this life-saving gift, Robert became a tireless advocate for organ donation and served as national secretary for the Canadian Transplant Association. He was instrumental in supporting Len Webber's private member's bill that established Alberta's organ and tissue donation registry.

Last year Robert's health took another turn. He was diagnosed with cancer and underwent surgery and chemotherapy. His initial response was excellent, but this past June the cancer returned and this time would not be treatable. After informing his extensive social media network of this devastating news, he donned his trademark Tilley hat, headed to the Canadian Transplant Games, and proceeded to win the gold medal in doubles lawn bowling. Over the past few months he has inspired hope and courage with his open and honest account of his final, profound journey. Robert passed away October 20. While cancer made his other organs unsuitable for transplantation, he donated his eyes in a final act of generosity.

In memory of Robert I urge all Albertans to register with the provincial organ and tissue donation registry he helped create. Do it now, and tell your family. Do it in honour of Robert Sallows, a friend to many who, though he died, truly lived.

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

Premier's and Official Opposition Leader's Allies

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last session I gave a member's statement comparing the Premier's close friends and allies with the close friends and allies of the UCP leader. I rise today to provide the Assembly with an update.

The Premier is always making new friends and allies, all of whom she's proud to acknowledge. Some came to say hello at last weekend's Alberta NDP policy convention, close friends and allies like the Alberta Fire Fighters Association, who took to the stage to thank the Premier for enhancing presumptive coverage for certain cancers. The head of the Fire Fighters Association said: Premier, you've had our backs for the last three and a half years, and now we have yours. Lubicon Lake band Chief Billy Joe Laboucan also attended and thanked the Premier for helping to shape their historic land agreement. The Premier also has friends at the United Steelworkers, who congratulated her for her leadership on the Trans Mountain pipeline.

1:50

But don't feel sorry for the UCP leader, Mr. Speaker. He, too, continues to make new friends, like close friend and ally Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario. They recently got together and tried to one-up each other on who cares less about both the environment and Alberta's energy industry at an anti carbon tax rally in Calgary. Another Toronto-based friend and ally is Faith Goldy, former Rebel media personality and alt-right Toronto mayoral candidate, whom the UCP leader said is always welcome in Alberta. The UCP leader also made several new friends who sell cars in Alberta, all for the low, low price of promising to remove consumer protection legislation. And who could forget the hate group Soldiers of Odin being photographed at a fundraiser for UCP nomination candidates in Edmonton?

Well, that's my update on close friends and allies, Mr. Speaker. Again, show me your friends, and I'll tell you who you are.

Oral Question Period

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

Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project Federal Bill C-69

Mr. Kenney: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday on live radio the Premier said, quote, of course, the first Canadian pipeline to tidewater in 70 years, Kinder Morgan, is closer now than it has ever been, unquote. First of all, it's no longer called Kinder Morgan. They left. Secondly, how are we closer now than we were prior to the decision of the Federal Court of Appeal, prior to the B.C. government's obstructionism? Why is it that the further we get away from completion, the closer we are, according to the Premier?

Ms Notley: Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, I share what I think – actually, I'm going to give him the benefit of the doubt – is the member opposite's disappointment with the Federal Court of Appeal decision that has delayed the Trans Mountain pipeline. That being said, unlike the member opposite, I am not prepared to declare defeat and go home and then dine out on it politically. Rather, my plan is to continue to fight for this pipeline. The Federal Court of Appeal laid out a path forward. That is the path that is now being followed, and we will get a pipeline to Canadian tidewater for the first time in almost 70 years.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, the problem is the Premier and the NDP government's tendency to spike the football every time there is a setback and their refusal to actually fight back. I'll give you an example. The NDP's close ally Justin Trudeau has a bill before Parliament. It's the no more pipelines act, Bill C-69. Yesterday the Official Opposition proposed a motion calling on the government of Canada to immediately move to withdraw the proposed Bill C-69, which is a threat to Alberta jobs and pipeline construction. The NDP vetoed this motion. Why? Why did they veto the anti Bill C-69 motion?

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

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, you know, the fact of the matter, as I think all members of this House agree, is that Bill C-69 in its current form is not acceptable, and I believe that all members of this House in different ways have made that point to the federal government. Certainly, our government has been doing that consistently, as the member opposite has heard from us. Our Minister of Energy began engaging on it back in June of 2017, and we have been doing it very vigorously ever since. There are a number of reasons why it will not support Alberta's energy industry. Therefore, we are fighting against it, and we will continue doing that until we get the changes we need.

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, was it an error that they vetoed the motion against Bill C-69 yesterday? If they're actually opposed to their friend Justin Trudeau's no-more-pipelines act, why don't they join other representatives of Albertans in this place? We could do this right after question period. Perhaps they just made a mistake. That happens. Could they correct the mistake by supporting later

today a motion calling on the Trudeau government to withdraw the no-more-pipelines law, Bill C-69?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What we're actually going to do is that given that it is a federal piece of legislation, we are going to advocate with respect to our federal lawmakers, both in the Senate as well as in the House of Commons, to have that bill amended so as to support the ability of our energy industry as well as those who are proponents of other major industrial projects to move forward because that's what we need to do to create jobs and to build economic activity. In the meantime we're also going to move forward on other important pieces of legislation for the people of Alberta in this Assembly while we are here.

The Speaker: Second main question.

Federal Bill C-69

Mr. Kenney: I'll take that as a no. The government purposely, then, vetoed a motion in this Chamber asking their ally Justin Trudeau to withdraw Bill C-69. That does not exactly suggest seriousness on the government's part. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Premier just said that they've been advocating against Bill C-69 with the Senate and the House of Commons. The truth is that the United Conservative caucus sent a submission to the House Natural Resources Committee against C-69 but the NDP government did not. Why did the NDP government not send a submission to the House of Commons against Bill C-69?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, our government, through our ministers, both the Minister of Energy and the minister of environment, has been advocating to the federal government about why Bill C-69 is not good for Alberta business, for Alberta's energy industry, and for moving forward. As you know, the minister of environment just came back from meeting with a range of folks in Ottawa. We are continuing to have actually ongoing conversations with the people who actually hold the pen, and we are confident that we are going to see significant improvements because we are about results, not grandstanding.

Mr. Kenney: Well, that's exactly what the government said when we proposed that they dispatch ministers last spring, after the bill was introduced, to make the case on behalf of Albertans against Justin Trudeau's no more pipelines law, but they said that to send a minister down there would be, quote, grandstanding. Now apparently they've accepted that idea. So, Mr. Speaker, why don't they just accept the idea that we could all, as one, put down the partisanship and speak with a united voice on behalf of Albertans and Alberta jobs with a motion calling upon the federal government to withdraw the no more pipelines act? This is a very simple, multipartisan initiative. Will the government accept it?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said before, I think that all members of the House have very clearly made the case to the federal government with respect to the position that we take on this, and we will continue to do this. We will continue to fight for Alberta's energy industry. We will continue to point out to the federal government why Bill C-69 in its current form cannot be allowed to pass. That is exactly what we have been doing. That is what we will continue to do. In the meantime we will also do the other business of this House. I

think we can actually work on both projects, and I am very pleased to be able to do that for the people . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Mr. Kenney: Well, the Premier says that the NDP has been working on this since the summer of 2017. The bill wasn't actually introduced till March. Could she please underscore for us: what changes has the government secured in the bill, either before its introduction or since its introduction, as a result of their efforts? I think the answer is: no changes. Isn't that correct, Mr. Speaker?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the first discussion paper that came out on this matter was deeply troubling and deeply problematic. At some point in 2016 the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers and others, including us, expressed our misgivings about the initial sort of pass at this, far before the legislation was introduced. Since that time we've been engaging on this file at a bilateral level at every available opportunity. We've made sure that the final product that was introduced in the House was actually, if you can believe this ...

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

Third main question.

Crime Rates and Law Enforcement

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, the Calgary Police Service has released new quarterly crime statistics that are deeply troubling, which indicate that there has been a 30 per cent increase in break and enters in Calgary this year over last, that there has been a 10 per cent increase in assaults, a nearly 20 per cent increase in sexual offences – in fact, 27 per cent over the last five years – and that there has been a 46 per cent increase in vehicle thefts over the past five years. Does the government share our concern about the growing wave of crime, and what is it planning to do to address this?

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

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. I think all Albertans deserve to live in safe and resilient communities, and that's why we need to continue to work with our police partners to address these issues as they come forward. As our police partners have said so many times, a lot of these issues do relate to drugs in the province. We can't address that issue simply by policing our way out of it, so we have been working with the Calgary police and other services throughout the province on a lot of very exciting initiatives that will help to ensure that if the individuals who are perpetrating these crimes need to go to jail, that's the place they go, and if they need other assistance, that's the place they go.

2:00

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, to continue with these disturbing trends, the increase in break and enters in Calgary over the last five years is 47 per cent, and in assaults it's 33 per cent. The federal government has a bill before Parliament now that would actually reduce penal sentences for some of these very crimes. Will the hon, the Minister of Justice join with other provincial Attorneys General in asking the federal government to withdraw that bill and to ensure that there are meaningful penal consequences, serious time for serious crime?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Again, we have been working with our partners throughout the province within our jurisdiction because we think it's important for the people of this province to ensure that we're doing the things we can do rather than complaining about the things that other people can do. We've been working with those partners to ensure that we're able to get information flowing properly. Part of the problem with repeat offenders is that they move between jurisdictions. We've been working with our police partners to ensure that we're increasing communication between those police partners so that they can present all the relevant evidence to the decision-maker so that those who need to go to jail ...

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, last year the hon. the Attorney General issued a memorandum to the provincial prosecution service essentially instructing them to "triage" prosecutions, which meant essentially dropping many serious offences from prosecution. Does that continue to be the policy of this government, that certain cases do not merit being prosecuted by our Crown prosecutors?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Well, again, when the Jordan decision came down, it was a massive change in the law. As a result of backlogs that had been building up for decades, we needed to do something to make sure that the most serious and violent offences got prosecuted, and we took action immediately. It is the case that we also felt that it was necessary to inject resources into the system, and we did make that injection of resources, an injection, I might point out, that the hon. members opposite voted against. So if we're going to prosecute, we need the prosecutors, and if they're going to vote against that money...

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

Dementia Care and Long-term Care Standards

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week I asked the Minister of Health for an update on Alberta's dementia strategy. Since that time I've done some homework, and I found that the NDP are falling way short on meeting standards for dementia care and long-term care. The continuing care service standards set the minimum requirements that facilities in the system must comply with. A recent audit of those facilities and standards found that less than half of the facilities in Alberta meet standard 9, which deals with training, and 40 per cent fail on standard 16, which addresses restraint management and secure spaces. To the Minister of Health: is that good enough?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm so proud to be part of a government that fought against significant budget cuts that would have had a significant impact on all folks in Alberta. The leader of that party now was formerly the Minister of Health at the time. Proposing a billion-dollar cut would have certainly hurt a lot of folks. We've protected and invested in public health care, and we've also expanded the number of long-term care and dementia care spaces throughout the province. There's more to be done, absolutely, but we're not going to do it by slashing billions of

dollars from the budget, and we're not going to do it by hurting ordinary folks. I'd be happy to follow up with the member more.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, I think Albertans deserve an answer to that question. This minister has been Minister of Health for nearly four years now and should take some responsibility.

Now I want to dig further into where the system is failing. Standard 11 deals with infection prevention and control. Standard 12 deals with medication management. The report shows that nearly 80 per cent of facilities fail on both measures. Eighty per cent: that is absolutely shocking, Mr. Speaker. Again to the Minister of Health. These facilities house some of Alberta's most vulnerable residents. What are you doing to ensure that long-term care facilities are preventing the spread of infection, managing medication, and meeting the needs of . . .

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

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. Certainly, making sure that we have an adequate supply of long-term care and dementia care spaces throughout the province is a significant pillar in that. That's why we are on track to build 2,000 more spaces by the end of this term alone. We're also working to make sure that we increase staffing and oversight, because we know that there are a number of folks in this province who are in facilities that are long overdue for upgrades and for additional supports. That's why we continue to work with our front lines in AHS, and that's why we won't cut a billion dollars from the Health budget. We know that fundamental to this is quality front-line care that ensures that we care for all folks that ...

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Clark: If this government thinks that that is quality front-line care, Mr. Speaker, I'd hate to see what constitutes not quality front-line care.

The data that I've been able to find is only summarized in one high-level chart. Albertans living in long-term care, their families, and their caregivers want to know how the facility that they are living in stacks up against the rest, so what I'm going to ask the Health minister is: will you table an itemized, specific report of this audit that shows on a facility-by-facility basis which are meeting the standards and which are not?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Again, we do have audits of all facilities on a regular rotation, but we also have special audits if there's a specific concern that's being raised so that we can bring in additional supports for that. They are posted regularly on the AHS website as well as the HQCA website. I'd encourage anyone who has questions or concerns about their local facility to talk to the local management. As well, they can raise their concerns with AHS or with myself. We're very proud to be investing instead of proposing a billion-dollar cut to health care like that member's party or even more by the Official Opposition.

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

Racism Prevention

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we need to do everything in our power to stop racism in our province. I know there

are a number of not-for-profit organizations that are working hard every day to combat prejudice and bigotry, that risk destroying our great province at its core. To the Minister of Culture and Tourism: what is your ministry doing to help these organizations?

Miranda: Thank you for the question. Whether it's racist graffiti in Calgary, arson at the Edson mosque, or ultraright rhetoric drifting into mainstream politics in Alberta, racism and bigotry are still problems in our society and even in the opposing party. As part of our government's commitment to address racism, we announced a new antiracism community grant program because we believe on this side of the House that there is no place for racism in our communities, our province, and, especially, our leadership.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: how will this program help communities combat racial discrimination, foster acceptance, and promote diversity and inclusion?

Miranda: Thank you to the member for the question. Our government has committed a total of \$2 million to an antiracism community grant program. Eligible nonprofit organizations can apply for matching grants of up to \$25,000 in funding and \$5,000 in nonmatched funding. This money will fund training and education programs, the development of informational resources, various support services, and capacity building.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: when can groups apply for this grant?

Miranda: Thank you to the member for the question. The next deadline is November 19 for intake, and I would encourage all groups who take on this very important work to apply. On this side of the House we do not promote, endorse, or defend racism. It has no place in Alberta, so our government is committed to fighting it and fostering respect for diversity. The question is not: how much racism is okay? It's really that no amount of racism is ever okay.

Government Policies and Economic Indicators

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, another adverse impact of this government's managed decline of the economy is reflected by the increased cases of unpaid property taxes. The *Red Deer Advocate* states that Red Deer county is facing \$6.6 million in unpaid property taxes, a 20 per cent jump from just last year. This includes \$1.4 million from pipelines alone. When property taxes go unpaid, it gets downloaded onto the rest of the community, families, and the county. To the minister: do you have current information on how many Alberta families, businesses, and companies are unable to pay their current municipal taxes?

The Speaker: The hon. Finance minister.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much. I think I read the same media report that the member opposite read about the county. You know, we have been through a significant recession in this province, the worst in two generations. It has impacted not only municipal governments across this province, but it's impacted Albertans and companies. We know that there are some challenges on the corporate side in particular. We know also that on the personal side things are looking better because there was an underassessment back in 2016-17. I can follow up on those kinds of questions.

2:10

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Barnes: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, given that billions in capital flight has resulted in Calgary commercial vacancy rates of over 25 per cent, resulting in city investors losing value and tax assessment value, which, of course, costs all Calgarians their tax base and services, and given that the *Calgary Herald* reports that this has resulted in the largest hike in commercial tax rates among 11 major Canadian cities, a 9.5 per cent increase, again to the minister: do you not see how your managed decline of the economy, tax increases, and layers of regulation are making it tougher for all Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. Finance minister.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, it's not that at all. What it is is the significant recession this province has been through. As I said, it's the worst in two generations. But, you know, things are looking up; I guess you were waiting for me to say that. We're seeing GDP growth up in this province, 4.9 per cent in 2017, and we're going to lead in 2018, '19, and '20 on GDP growth. Just on the business side business incorporations are up. Since the beginning of 2018 more than 26,000 businesses have been incorporated in Alberta. That's going to take up some of the slack that ...

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, given that the oil and gas industry saw foreign investment drop \$15 billion in 2017, due in large part to this government's anti-investment policies, and that, incredibly, the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy warns that a 30-year-old Albertan will pay an additional \$50,000 in personal provincial income taxes just to pay the interest on the NDP debt this Finance minister has accumulated, Minister, again, can you not see how your debt, interest expense, credit downgrades, and policies have burdened our municipalities, our cities, and now our youth?

Mr. Ceci: Actually, what I see is that the situation in this province, particularly for oil and gas companies and their lack of investment, is because of the drop in oil prices, Mr. Speaker. They haven't had the capital to invest. But, you know, they would be worse off under that side, that side of Conservatives. All Albertans would be worse off. All Albertans would suffer as a result of a \$700 million tax break to the richest 1 per cent that that side is only too happy to give to their friends and insiders. We won't do that. We're going to continue to stand up for Alberta.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister. The Member for Calgary-Foothills.

Power Purchase Arrangements and the Balancing Pool

Mr. Panda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a very simple question to the Deputy Premier. How much money did the borrowing pool – I meant the Balancing Pool – borrow from the government of Alberta to cover the losses on the PPAs, and how much will it increase by 2020, when the remaining PPAs will expire?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the member well knows, that matter was settled because of the position that this government took, that we were not going to privatize profits and socialize risk. So we settled those matters, and we now

have capped electricity rates, the fastest growing renewables market in the country, and are reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and our pollution.

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, given that termination notices for the PPAs were issued in the first quarter of 2016 and could have been terminated by the end of 2016 if not for the NDP government suing itself and given that the Balancing Pool's delays cost Albertans hundreds of millions of dollars that could have been used to pay for 4,000 teachers and 4,000 nurses, to the same minister: by interfering in the cancellation of the PPAs, did the NDP run the electricity market in a noncommercial manner?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We rely on independent agencies like the Balancing Pool and the MSA, the Market Surveillance Administrator, to effectively manage the electricity system within their mandates. Any suggestion of political interference is completely baseless. Decisions regarding the termination of PPAs has always solely been in the hands of the Balancing Pool and not the government.

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, given that the Market Surveillance Administrator, who also reports to the same Energy minister, found that the Balancing Pool broke the law in its handling of the PPAs and ran generating assets under its control in a noncommercial manner in a two-year period, did the Minister of Energy or any of her staff or employees of the department instruct the Balancing Pool to manipulate the electricity market? Was it in a voice mode?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our priority with respect to the electricity system is making sure power bills are affordable and predictable. We've been focused on fixing a broken system that Conservatives left us through a deregulation experiment that put consumers on a roller coaster. Since electricity was deregulated, Albertans were subjected to vast price hikes. We have capped electricity rates. We've opened up the largest renewables opportunities on the continent, with the lowest cost renewables in Canadian history now bidding into our system, and we're reducing pollution from coal and creating jobs in natural gas.

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

Drug-impaired Driving

Mr. Ellis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A year ago I was urging this government to start preparations for keeping our roads safe once marijuana was legalized. Well, yesterday the minister could provide no assurances about the number of saliva roadside devices in Alberta or police access to blood testing or the number of drug recognition experts. Instead she offered this excuse: "Legalization [only] happened very recently." Minister, we've known this was coming for years, so why did you not ensure that all police in Alberta were prepared for this?

Thank you.

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

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think just to clarify a few things here, we have been preparing since we got the message from the federal government, and in fact, as I noted previously, Alberta was out in front significantly, and other provinces have been looking to us because we've done such a good

job with our model. That being said, it is a choice that is on police services to either buy those devices independently or to get them through the government, so we don't have immediate numbers in terms of the services that may have gone directly to the federal government to purchase those devices. Again, in terms of the training – I'll just stop.

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

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Given that yesterday the minister confirmed that "there will be an increase in impaired drivers on the roads," Minister, let me specifically ask about blood testing again. Are police officers able to perform blood tests at their police stations or do they have to take suspected drug-impaired drivers to hospitals for this service?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I think, to be clear, that what I said was that we have been hearing concerns from Albertans about an increase in impaired drivers. I don't like to predict crime trends into the future. That being said, we have been working very hard with our police partners to ensure that we are ready to handle the legalization of cannabis. It certainly is the case that we have been training drug recognition experts. I do know that the RCMP has reported to us very recently that they are on track to meet their targets. With respect to the blood test, again, it depends on the services, as the member knows ...

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, given that last May the Justice minister said, "One of our top three priorities is to ensure we are keeping our roads safe as this legalization process occurs" and given that your answers offered no confidence that Alberta has enough roadside saliva devices, blood-testing facilities, or drug recognition experts to keep our roads safe, Minister, the government appears to be grossly ill prepared. Why?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'll point out that the Alberta government was the first to have two-phase consultation and to get a plan out there on the ground. Other jurisdictions have been looking to us. In addition, I will point out that we have worked very closely with our police partners. I think they have done an incredible job in demonstrating readiness. One of the things that we're certainly going to need to fight this type of crime or any type of crime is to ensure that more boots are on the ground. We are investing in those services as we are investing in other services. Meanwhile our opposition is voting against them.

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

Student Achievement in Mathematics

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year only 59.2 per cent of grade 9 students achieved an acceptable standard on the math PAT. Most Albertans believe that a passing grade is 50 per cent or better, but the *Calgary Herald* also revealed that the acceptable standard was only 42 per cent. To the Minister of Education: is it acceptable to you that over 40 per cent of Alberta's grade 9 students were unable to score 42 per cent on the PAT this past year?

2:20

The Chair: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the question very much. We made several adjustments to the PAT exams here in the province of Alberta to make them stronger, to fit with basic skills and learning basic skills. The grade 9 part B, no-calculator portion: we knew fully well that the kids wouldn't do so well. Last year we did it with the grade 6s. And guess what? This year the grade 6s went up by 7.2 per cent. So people make adjustments, they learn along the way, and they learn because we're investing in education.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that one parent has said, quote, "Parents should be well informed about what constitutes an acceptable grade; cut scores should be well advertised and parents should be provided with the rationale behind choosing that particular cut score," end quote, and given that math cut scores have remained below 50 per cent for five years running and given that trust is earned and easy to lose, is the minister prepared to publicize the cut scores on future PATs and to explain why that cut score was chosen?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we are making great strides, progress in terms of our mathematic scores and diploma scores in general. They are on the rise in most subject areas, particularly in science and in math in grade 12. I'm superproud of what we have seen. And do you know how we've managed to do that? We did not cut the budget of Education during an economic downturn. We made sacrifices in other areas as opposed to the opposition here who would have 4,000 teachers less in our schools. That is a cut if I think so.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Smith: I guess parents will continue to be in the dark.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would ask this: is the minister – after having refused to heed the opposition's warning for many years and yet given that the Alberta parents are saying, quote, "There is a crisis in math education in this province, and students do not have adequate mastery of basic mathematical concepts," end quote, how will this minister earn the trust of Albertans, address the problem of cut scores, and ensure that our students are truly prepared for 21st-century realities?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly appreciate that question because, of course, what we are doing here and now is building new curriculum. You can see the new draft curriculum for kindergarten to grade 4 on the website right now. We have literally had tens of thousands of Albertans helping us to build that curriculum, focusing on basic skills. And you know how you do that? You make sure you do have those 4,000 teachers in the classroom; you do not make significant cuts. Seven hundred million in tax cuts: do you know how many schools that would pay for? More than 20 high schools. I would go with the high schools instead of the tax cuts, and I think most Albertans would, too.

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

Postsecondary Tuition

Drever: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Investment in education has been a key priority for this government. Students are concerned that the end of the freeze will bring a sharp spike in tuition costs. To the Minister of Advanced Education: what are you doing to protect students from the steep tuition hikes, and what has been happening with tuition once the freeze ends?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, our government has been proud of our record of fighting to make life affordable for Albertans, and that includes postsecondary students. As the member mentioned, we've frozen tuition for five years in a row, and thanks to this tuition freeze Alberta has gone from one of the most expensive jurisdictions for higher education to one of the most affordable, and I'm proud of that. Once the tuition freeze ends, of course, we're proposing that it be capped at the rate of inflation. As the member knows, under the previous Conservative government tuition and fees rapidly outpaced the cost of living, and we're proud to be able to take some steps to prevent that from happening.

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

Drever: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Affordability is top of mind for students. With this additional year of the freeze announced before the new tuition framework takes effect, how much will the average student save over a four-year degree?

Mr. Schmidt: Well, Mr. Speaker, the average university student over a four-year program will save nearly \$2,000 thanks to our tuition freeze, and that amount reflects how much tuition would have increased under a different set of principles. I think it's important to contrast with the ideological friends of the UCP in Saskatchewan, who slashed and burned their way through a recession with very little positive results to show for it. They cut budgets to universities by 5 per cent, and tuition in that province has increased by over \$800. I'm proud of the approach that our government has taken to make life more affordable.

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

Drever: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that most members of this House have been lobbied by the students' unions for the framework like this one, can you update the House on what the response has been from students on this action?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to say that students have received this announcement extremely positively. I would venture to say that I am probably more popular with students than I am with the members opposite. I know a member of the students' association who attended Mount Royal University prior to being elected, and I believe that she is pleased to hear about the package of reforms that we're bringing forward to Mount Royal University. That means that Mount Royal University will have a general faculties council, the ability to appoint a chancellor, and will have similar governance structures to give it the same kind of esteem and reputation that other universities across the province enjoy.

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

Oil and Gas Transportation

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pipelines are on the minds of many Albertans and with good reason. Our inability to get our energy products to market efficiently has resulted in a \$50 discount per barrel. That means less money for companies, employees, and government programs. The problem has become so bad that we're now seeing an increasing amount of oil ship not just by rail but also by truck. This shows just how desperate companies are to get their product moving. To the Deputy Premier: we're years away from adequate pipeline capacity, so what are you doing in the short term to get this product to more markets?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the Premier very recently was quite clear that we need some action from the federal government with respect to rail capacity, and we will certainly look at our options as well on the provincial side of the House. Another piece of this is, of course, that there is a knock-on effect for any time you have more demand for rail capacity. Then you have issues related to the transportation of agricultural products to market as well. That's also bad for Alberta. There's more to talk about in terms of getting better value for our resources, which I am sure I will be pleased to share with the House in supplementals.

Mr. Fraser: Given that shipping oil by pipeline is by far the safest method of transportation and given that depressed prices and bottlenecked transportation means more and more oil will be shipped by train and by truck and given that more oil being shipped by alternative methods carries additional risks to both the environment and public safety, to the same minister: what are you doing to ensure that increased use of nonpipeline transportation isn't posing additional risks to the environment and our public?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That's precisely why we need co-operation from the federal government on this matter of rail transportation. That is, in fact, a federally regulated matter. They, too, have a responsibility to ensure that Albertans get best price for our resources, that our resources can get to market because we are, in fact, a country, not a collection of villages or provinces. But rail capacity is fundamental to who we are as Canadians. Definitely the feds need to step up, but in the meantime there are a number of other things that we can do as a province, including getting better value for our resources here at home.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that many Albertans would be surprised to learn how much oil is moving by truck and given that the Alberta government and the people of Alberta would benefit from a better understanding of exactly where our oil is going and why and given that knowing which destination and methods of transportation deliver the most benefit to Albertans helps us plan for the future, to the same minister: will you provide this House with a detailed breakdown of where our oil is going currently and where we would like it to go?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do believe that much of the information that the hon. member is seeking is available either through the Department of Energy or the Canadian

Association of Petroleum Producers' website. There are a number of different analyses out there. At the end of the day, the fact of the matter is that pipeline is the safest. Through our government's efforts we've gone from 4 in 10 Canadians appreciating this matter to 7 in 10 now. We've also secured the approval of two pipelines. Of course, Trans Mountain has been in the headlines a lot, but line 3 is moving along and has actually gotten some of its Minnesotabased regulatory approvals.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Unemployment and Job Creation

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's latest annual report claims that more Albertans are working than ever before, but there are still over 177,000 Albertans out of work, 38,000 more than when the NDP took office. Meanwhile a recent Fraser Institute report indicates that over 46,000 jobs have disappeared from the private sector since 2014, accompanied by the flight of over tens of billions of dollars of investment capital. To the Minister of Labour: how do you explain this misguided, managed decline when speaking to the 177,000 unemployed and even more underemployed Albertans in virtually every corner of this province?

2:30

The Speaker: The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, our government is putting jobs and diversification first. That's why we put so much time through our budget investments in those areas, and our plan is working. Though there are still people who are unemployed, the economy in Alberta is recovering, with 90,000 new full-time jobs last year. But we know, as I said, that there's much more work to do. We want to make sure that every Albertan at every kitchen table feels the recovery, and that's why we're standing up to Ottawa to build a pipeline in this province and across to tidewater, and we're making strategic investments.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Gotfried: A hundred and seventy-seven thousand is some?

Mr. Speaker, given that are over 39,000 unemployed youth in Alberta, with youth unemployment at 11.5 per cent, the highest outside of Atlantic Canada, and given that it appears that young people have been left behind in your ever-so-fragile recovery, to the same minister: why are young Albertans experiencing such little success from your misguided, ideological, job-killing, investmentrepelling NDP world view policies?

Mr. Ceci: You know what won't help the unemployed, Mr. Speaker? Even more people unemployed, because that side wants to kill more jobs, 4,000 teachers and 4,000 nurses. They want to give tax breaks to their friends and insiders. That's not going to get more people employed; that's just going to get the rich richer in this province. We're not going to do that. [interjections]

The Speaker: Calm it down. Second supplemental.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A hundred and seventyseven thousand would make it one of Alberta's biggest cities of unemployed people.

Given that the government continues to boast about its record of job creation and given that, at 7 per cent, Alberta has the highest unemployment rate in the country outside of Atlantic Canada, to the same minister: if Alberta is recovering so nicely from the recession and the most robust job creation is fully funded by the NDP's red pen on the backs of future generations, what do you have to say to unemployed Albertans and their families struggling to make ends meet?

The Speaker: The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I know that not every person who lost their job or is working in a job that wasn't their original job now is happy, but things are looking up. We will not rest until every Albertan is satisfied and working to the full extent that they need to, they want to. On that side the opposition would fire more people. They would fire public servants. They would make it tougher because they'd privatize so many businesses that we are standing up for and won't let them do it.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Little Bow.

Mountain Pine Beetle Control and Wildfire Prevention

Mr. Schneider: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again it appears that we have been fortunate in this province that enough moisture fell this summer to lessen the threat of a major fire in Jasper national park. Now, that's small comfort to the population of Jasper townsite as they live in the shadow of an ever-expanding stand of dead and dying trees from the pine beetle epidemic. To the minister of ag: how many hectares of trees have been taken down either by some form of harvest or controlled burn around the town this year?

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you to the member for the question. You know, I come from B.C. originally, and I understand the devastation that the pine beetle can do and that it moved into Alberta in a big way. It's something that we've been working on in Alberta with the federal government, and we need to push the federal government to do more, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker. We know that the Member for West Yellowhead has pushed us very hard and advocated – and I know that our minister has spoken to the federal minister about this – and we have lots more to do on it, but we will continue to fight for the people of that area.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Schneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the serious nature of the threat to Jasper townsite and surrounding area and given that Jasper is a huge part of tourism in Alberta, as we all know, Minister, what is the ministry's and the federal government's plan to maintain the ecological integrity within the federal park while helping to thin out the infected areas, thus reducing the fire risk in that area?

The Speaker: The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you very much. You know, on behalf of myself as the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the minister of forestry we have been working hard on such programs as FireSmart, working with the town of Jasper, with the national parks, understanding, through the conservation officers there, what's been happening on the ground, working with the lumber industry, who has been affected quite hard on this, the softwood lumber in particular. We have task forces who are sharing information through us and the federal government and helping the municipalities. We will continue to work on this. The job isn't done. We know that, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue to support Albertans.

Mr. Schneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the townsite of Jasper is fairly isolated out there in the mountains and given that funds through programs such as FireSmart are available and given that I understand the ministry of ag has increased funding, which I support, Minister, has your office and Municipal Affairs given any thought to changing the building codes within populated centres that may be vulnerable to wildfires in order to make them more fire smart, as many fire experts are now suggesting?

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you to the member for the question. That's a good question. As he correctly stated, we did – the operating budget for wildfire management is almost \$130 million, and that covers preparation work, training, air tanker bases, and seasonal employees. We have increased funding to FireSmart by \$11 million. Working through myself with Municipal Affairs and building codes and safety codes, we do monitor this, and we are adopting national standards. You know, I think we have to adapt as we go as climate change plays an ever bigger part in what we do in this world. We do monitor closely and adapt as we go, and we keep a good eye on it.

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

Surgery Wait Times

Mr. Yao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta Health Services has 13 measures that help them evaluate their performance. Wait times, emergency or surgical, are, interestingly enough, not in any of those 13 measures. They don't use the deteriorating statistics for hip surgeries, where Albertans are now waiting 37 weeks on average versus 29 weeks from three years ago. Knee surgeries have slowed to 41 weeks on average from 33 weeks. Can this minister explain why things are getting worse under this government for Albertans? Can she explain why AHS doesn't use wait times as a performance measure, and is she looking elsewhere to see how they expedite surgeries?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for raising an important question. Certainly, any time anyone is waiting for surgery, we don't want them to wait a day longer than necessary. That's why we increased the budget to do more surgeries. At the same time we're doing more surgeries, more people are on the list asking for surgery, so we're actually providing more capacity. But I do know that some specific areas have seen longer wait times, and that's why it's important that we invest in public health care instead of cutting billions of dollars and laying off 4,000 nurses, as the Official Opposition is proposing. We want to take care of our community, and that requires investment.

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, the Workers' Compensation Board aims to have surgeries performed within a few weeks. Here's an agency that gets people into surgery in a fraction of the time of AHS. Patients don't become addicted to painkillers. They don't become complacent and demotivated. The patients quickly recover, and they continue to contribute to our society. Have you learned anything from WCB on how to deal with surgical wait times?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear as well that anyone who requires urgent care, whether it's access to an emergency department, urgent surgery, or access to a specialist, will receive it. The UCP certainly don't have a plan to improve wait times. They keep pushing for privatization and for big tax giveaways to the superrich, most high-income earners in Alberta, a \$700 million tax cut specifically to those folks. Why? They want them to take that money and go to other jurisdictions and pay privately. On this side of the House we invest in public health care because we want to improve access for every Albertan. Absolutely, there is more to be done.

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, WCB utilizes doctors and nurses that work in our AHS system, and they rent space from our smaller hospitals with underutilized operating rooms, like the Leduc hospital. Basically, hospitals run X number of surgeries, and if there's any extra space, WCB reserves that space. How is it that WCB is getting people access to surgeries substantially quicker than AHS while using the very same public health professionals and facilities to do this? How do they get someone into surgery in two to three weeks where it takes you 11 months?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you vey much, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to explain triage to the member opposite. It's actually AHS that's doing those surgeries in AHS facilities. It's 55 health care facilities that we do surgeries in across the province. The reason why we have some folks get in faster than others is because there's a triage system based on urgency, based on need. That's what happens in a public health care system that has an ability to make sure that everyone – it's not based on whether you have a fur coat or no coat at all that you get access to the front of line; it's based on your need and your urgency. I'm not going to apologize for public health care. There's more to do and more investment to be done, but laying off 4,000 nurses won't do the job, you guys. It's time to admit that.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Northern Hills.

2:40 Educational Curriculum Review

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, our government has been dedicated to ensuring that students in Alberta are receiving high-quality education. That is one of the reasons our government decided to review the curriculum, as some of it was out of date, more than 30 years old, back when a few of us here were still learning on Commodore 64s in elementary school. Previous timeline targets expected that the new K to 4 curriculum would be written by December 2018. To the minister: can you please provide an update on the state of the curriculum review?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we've been working very hard since 2016 to build the curriculum. We have the K to 4 curriculum drafts up on our website now. We've had literally tens of thousands of Albertans helping us to build the curriculum every step of the way, focusing on basic skills like reading, mathematics, numeracy, critical thinking, and so forth. You know, I wonder why the UCP said that they would put the curriculum into the shredder. Now I know. It's because we're going to be teaching critical thinking skills, which go against the basic ideas that they try to push from the other side.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister. You spent much of the summer consulting with various groups to ensure that our curriculum rewrite is on track. Who did you meet, and what sort of feedback did you hear this summer? The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to say that we had more than 100,000 interactions with Albertans contributing to building the curriculum we're at with K to 4 right now. We had round-tables with different industries, the energy industry, financial literacy. The Minister of Finance and I met with banks and credit unions. They put together a beautiful, wonderful way to teach financial literacy in K to 12. You know what? We're using it because we believe in interactions with Albertans for the betterment of our children.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Thank you. To the same minister. I received several inquiries from constituents last summer wondering how far along we were in this process and when we expect to see the new curriculum in classrooms. Could the minister please explain his timeline on that?

Mr. Eggen: Well, sure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, we have the K to 4 draft curriculum. We'll finish working on it and begin field testing here in the new year. It's a multiyear process, so it's very important to have continuity and a long-term commitment to education to allow this to happen. You will not see a new curriculum to benefit our kids if you make cuts in education, where you lose 4,000 teachers or you take \$700 million out of the system. These are not the ways you build good curriculum here in the province of Alberta.

The Speaker: We'll continue with Members' Statements in 30 seconds.

Members' Statements (continued)

Family Violence Prevention Month

Cortes-Vargas: Several years ago, before I was an MLA, late one night I got a phone call from an organization that I worked for. It supports people fleeing from family violence. I was told that I was needed as soon as possible to support a new mother with young children who spoke only Spanish. She just needed some support. I got there around midnight. I was there the entire weekend and long after that. I observed the complexities of the paperwork involved, her emotional strength, her resolve, and her dedication to her children. I also saw the deep sigh of relief when she realized that I spoke Spanish as well, that the person who was supporting her was someone that could communicate in her own language.

Mr. Speaker, November is Family Violence Prevention Month, and I am proud to wear a purple ribbon signifying my support for this important month and to bring attention to this issue. I am proud to be part of a government that sees family violence as a serious issue that needs to be addressed, a government that has made it possible for victims to end a lease without penalty and leave an unsafe home, a government that puts significant investment towards prevention of family violence and supports for people fleeing terrible situations, investments like \$33 million towards family and community safety programs and a \$25 million increase to support community-based prevention services across Alberta. Our government is committed to working with community organizations to support Albertans fleeing violence and looking for safety.

Two important organizations, Saffron and A Safe Place, are doing amazing work for the constituents of Strathcona-Sherwood Park. Today, on the first day of Family Violence Prevention Month, I want to thank them and all of the organizations that support prevention and stand with survivors for the essential work that they do.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Notices of Motions

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

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell you that at the appropriate time I intend to move the following motion pursuant to Standing Order 42:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of Canada to immediately move to withdraw the proposed Bill C-

69, which is a threat to Alberta jobs and pipeline construction.

I have the appropriate number of copies.

The Speaker: Minister of Transportation, do you have

Mr. Mason: A notice of motion, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Mason: Why, yes, I do.

The Speaker: Great. Good.

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34(3) I'm rising to advise the House that on the next available Monday written questions 1, 2, and 3 will be accepted. Additionally, motions for returns 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 will also be accepted.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier and Minister of Health.

Bill 24

An Act to Recognize AMA Representation Rights

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce Bill 24, An Act to Recognize AMA Representation Rights.

The legislation will provide the Alberta Medical Association with statutory representation for physicians in Alberta. The proposed legislation doesn't change existing processes between government and the AMA. It doesn't give the AMA new powers or abilities. The legislation was a commitment the government made as part of its recent agreement with doctors, and we have made good on that promise. I'm proud that our government has maintained a collaborative and constructive relationship with Alberta's physicians, enabling us to stabilize health spending while improving patient care. This legislation represents the next steps in this positive relationship. On behalf of my colleagues and all Albertans I want to thank the AMA and all Alberta physicians for working with us to meet Alberta's health care needs.

With that, I move first reading of Bill 24.

[Motion carried; Bill 24 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table the requisite five copies of two documents: Alberta Health Continuing Care Health Service Standards, that I referenced in my

question earlier, updated and amended as of July 2018; and a presentation called The Care Planning Journey, including the chart I referenced earlier, which shows the poor performance on the standards in the continuing care health service standards guidelines. Thank you.

nunn you.

Tablings to the Clerk

The Acting Clerk: I wish to advise the Assembly that the following documents were deposited with the office of the Clerk: on behalf of the hon. Ms Ganley, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, the Alberta Human Rights Commission annual report 2016-17; and pursuant to the Legal Profession Act, the Law Society of Alberta annual report 2017.

2:50

The Speaker: Hon. members, I believe we had a point of order, which was withdrawn by the opposition.

Point of Order

Questions outside Ministerial Responsibility

The Speaker: I am prepared to make a ruling on the point of order raised yesterday regarding the main question of the Member for Drumheller-Stettler during Oral Question Period. The question of the Member for Drumheller-Stettler, which you can find on page 1711 of *Hansard* for October 31, 2018, was as follows:

This past weekend the NDP and their supporters came together and passed some policy resolutions. One dealt with grain and the resolution to ... formally examine the impact to Canada's international reputation that has resulted from the changes to Canada's grain marketing storage and handling system ... Minister, in all your travels I have never heard you publicly say that Canada's ... grain growers have somehow been diminished by any recent changes in that federal policy. Have you?

In her arguments the Deputy Government House Leader referred to page 509 of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, third edition, which states that members should not ask questions during Oral Question Period that "refer to public statements by Ministers on matters not directly related to their departmental duties." In essence, a minister should not be asked questions that fall outside their ministerial responsibilities. The Official Opposition leader responded by arguing that provincial government policy connected to federal changes in the agriculture sector is an appropriate topic for questions to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Members, I have carefully reread the question asked by the Member for Drumheller-Stettler yesterday, and I did have some difficulty determining what was being asked. The question could have been phrased so that it asked the minister directly about the impact of federal policy on Alberta grain growers rather than asking the minister whether he had made statements regarding those changes. My understanding of the intent of the question was that it was to assess the impact of the changes on Alberta's agricultural sector, which is undoubtedly related to the minister's departmental duties. Accordingly, I can find no point of order in this case.

Motions under Standing Order 42

The Speaker: Now I believe a member of the Official Opposition has a motion for the House. Please proceed.

Federal Bill C-69

Mr. Nixon:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the government

of Canada to immediately move to withdraw the proposed Bill C-69, which is a threat to Alberta jobs and pipeline construction.

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief. I have brought forward a motion under Standing Order 42 to do with Bill C-69. I will not spend any time talking about Bill C-69; it's been talked about much in this House, including today. Yet again during the exchange between the Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition today the NDP, through their Premier, seemed to be indicating that they are committed to this House and this Assembly standing up to the House of Commons against Bill C-69, the bill to kill all future pipelines in this country that's been brought forward by their close personal friend and ally Justin Trudeau. It seemed to be that there may have been some indication from the Premier that her Government House Leader instructing her caucus to vote no on this motion yesterday was a mistake, so being the courteous guy I am on a Thursday, I would like to give them another opportunity.

I hope all members support us in defending Alberta and our energy industry.

The Speaker: As the House knows, there are no other speakers to the motion. We need to have unanimous consent.

[Unanimous consent denied]

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

Bill 8

Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2018

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's an honour and a privilege to rise today and move third reading of Bill 8, Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2018.

This act contains many important updates. One result is safer conditions for first responders and Albertans under evacuation orders, another is clarity on how dispute resolution is used when property is damaged during a response, and another is establishment of the authority to create a new regulation that further clarifies emergency management roles and responsibilities with local authorities.

The local authority emergency management regulation will allow for additional direction to municipalities, including offering additional clarity to ensure that everyone understands what role they play in emergency management, providing direction on emergency management training for local emergency managers, and encouraging intermunicipal collaboration ahead of emergencies so that communities are prepared to work together. This regulation will ensure all municipalities across the province are better prepared to respond to disasters and keep Albertans safe.

We're here to help as the provincial government, through the fine folks at the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, to make sure that all communities get the support they need in preparing for and managing emergencies. Ultimately, all these proposed amendments will lead to stronger, more efficient responses to future emergencies.

Over the summer the Alberta Emergency Management Agency engaged municipalities, first responders, and other stakeholders. We held in-person sessions in 11 communities across the province, which were participated in by 174 stakeholders from 92 municipalities. More importantly, stakeholders agreed that these changes will move us forward and help build a stronger emergency management framework in our province.

I'd like to say thank you to the staff and the leadership of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, including Shane Schreiber, who is the managing director of the AEMA in our province, for all their work on this bill. I'd like to also thank all the elected leaders, the municipal administrators, first responders, and emergency managers across this province who helped us make these updates. I'd also like to thank all members of this House, on all sides, for their thoughtful debate and their questions on this act.

Madam Speaker, we have seen an increasing number of disasters impacting Albertans, and we all have a duty to protect residents of this province when disaster strikes. I'm proud to say that Bill 8 will result in a safer, more prepared, more resilient Alberta.

With that, I move that this bill be read a third and final time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to third reading? The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod.

Mr. Stier: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be brief today. I don't have a lot of prepared remarks for this, but I would like to offer my comments. In the past few years we've seen a lot of horrendous events in this province. I don't need to go through a lot of them, but certainly we can all recall the Slave Lake wildfire, the southern Alberta floods, the Wood Buffalo fires, in my own area the Kenow fires, and almost, again, more fire in that southern district of mine just across from the B.C. border.

I would like to actually offer my compliments to Municipal Affairs and the department for embarking on these changes. We did endure an awful lot in this past decade with a lot of these horrendous situations. I think they've gone ahead and looked through a lot of the things that were important between evacuation orders, dispute resolution, regional collaboration, training requirements for municipalities and first responders, emergency management plans, exercises, and all of these things that will contribute, hopefully, in the future to a much improved system.

With that, Madam Speaker, I close and wish everyone a good afternoon.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

Mr. Rosendahl: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise in the House and talk about such a very important bill, Bill 8, the Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2018. We've all seen and heard several times about the big events – floods, fires, et cetera – across the Alberta land base. We're updating the Emergency Management Act so that we can be best prepared for disasters. This update will provide authority, create new regulation that will give clear direction on emergency management practices for municipalities, following consultation with stakeholders to make sure that we get this right.

I'm going to talk about the importance of the Hinton Training Centre, and the reason I'm going to say that is that the Hinton Training Centre is the most experienced centre in Canada for training forest fire fighters. We get forest fire fighters that we train that show up at the Hinton Training Centre from all across the world. The centre also trains water bomber pilots, small bird dog planes that assist with the dropping of water on fires, and it uses state-of-the-art flight simulators. I had a lot of fun in the simulator. Unfortunately, I ended up crashing both planes. Anyway, it was fun. The instructor laughed while we were sitting there doing that. It's quite a program that they have for training.

3:00

The other thing that I want to mention is that I sit on the pine beetle committee, which was formed about two years ago with the local mayors, town and county of Jasper, the federal park, forestry companies, chamber of commerce, and of course the government of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry people. The biggest deal with this is supporting FireSmart programs, supporting the removal of pine beetle infested trees, which is very important when we're looking at management of fire issues going forward.

The reason I'm mentioning this committee is simple. We have to have an emergency plan in place. Once again, we all know that we choked in smoke this summer. It followed the highway 16 corridor, and of course when I looked out my office window, you couldn't even see the foothills that surround us. That's how bad the smoke in our area was. It was caused in part by the B.C. forest fires burning basically deadwood from pine beetles, to a major extent. Of course, it burns hotter and it spreads faster because of the deadwood.

West of Jasper park is now dead sticks. It's not red trees anymore. All the pine beetles have fallen off the trees, and all we've got is dead sticks there. Throughout Jasper park it's now nearly all red, as we can see when we travel through there. The eastern part is now turning red. Parts of the Hinton area can be seen like that as well.

Jasper national park has its own issues. It's controlled by the federal jurisdiction that looks after the federal parks, so it creates its own issues in the fact that they determine what they're going to do. We were fortunate to convince them to finally do FireSmart around the community of Jasper. It's the first time we've ever seen logging occurring in a national park, but it was important for the protection of the people in the town of Jasper. They're also logging now in other areas of the park. Whistlers campground will be shut down for a year. I had a long meeting with the manager of the park, and it'll remain shut down for a year. They're also going to do some upgrades, but during those upgrades they're going to remove all the deadwood from pine beetles because they know that it's a hazard and it has to be done.

The pine beetle committee recognizes the seriousness that this situation is creating. We realize that we'd better have a plan in place. The plan must address the limited scope of travel routes in West Yellowhead, including highway 16, highways 40 and 93, and of course the forestry roads. When we get a fire that could be in that magnitude, how do we address it, and where do we go? Evacuation plans have to be developed to cover the communities, random campers, and of course all the tourists that come into the park. We've been trying to work with the federal park to make sure that we address the concerns coming forward. That's why it's so important that we put this plan in place.

We need to ensure that we have plans to cover the winter conditions as well. We've had two bad forest fires in the Hinton area that were during the winter. A chinook comes through, and it wipes out all the snow, dries up everything, and all it takes is somebody being careless with cigarettes or whatever. We ended up with a big fire. Of course, the problem with that is: how do you fight them? Water bombers can't pick up water from a frozen lake, and neither can a helicopter. That's why it's so important that we look at these issues, and that's why I'm in full support that we look at this act and we ensure that we have a plan in place and working out in that situation that we have, that we're facing in West Yellowhead.

I really support this act, and I hope that it gets passed so that we can move forward and protect the communities and the people of West Yellowhead. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak? Oh, 29(2)(a) first. Is there anybody else wishing to speak to the bill? Seeing none, would the minister like to close debate?

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to say thank you to everybody for the robust debate and the positive attitude on this bill because it's a really good thing that's going to help a lot of people. Thank you very much.

I close debate.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

[Motion carried; Bill 8 read a third time]

Bill 20 Securities Amendment Act, 2018

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

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise today to move third reading of this bill before us, Bill 20, Securities Amendment Act, 2018.

The Alberta government is committed to ongoing reform of our securities regulatory system. This commitment to ongoing reform means Alberta has a modern, streamlined, and highly harmonized securities regulatory system. The Alberta Securities Commission, or ASC, is mandated to protect investors, to foster market efficiency, and to minimize systemic risks. This requires balancing investor protection and the integrity of the financial system while allowing innovation and ensuring a competitive investment climate.

These amendments were developed to support our commitment to ongoing reform by protecting investors and promoting a fair and effective Alberta capital market. To enhance investor protection, we will create a new regulatory regime for benchmarks and benchmark administrators substantially similar to the benchmark amendments recently adopted in both Ontario and Quebec. The European Union recently adopted a benchmark regulatory regime. To ensure that Canadian benchmarks may continue to be used by EU market participants, Canadian securities regulators have committed to implementing a regulatory regime respecting benchmarks equivalent to the EU's regime.

The amendments will also support the implementation of a whistle-blower program for the Alberta capital market and its participants similar to whistle-blower programs implemented, again, in Ontario and Quebec in 2016. Security regulators believe whistle-blower programs will encourage individuals to report information on serious securities- or derivatives-related misconduct to the securities regulator. Whistle-blower programs have also been implemented internationally, based on a belief that a whistle-blower program may assist in preventing or limiting harm to investors that may result from such misconduct. As whistle-blowing is an inherently risky activity with a myriad of personal and professional consequences, the ASC will create a whistle-blower program that mitigates as much as reasonably possible the risks and barriers that whistle-blowers may encounter.

The amendments will also provide ASC members and staff with protection from being compelled to provide evidence in civil proceedings relating to information obtained during the discharge of their duties at the ASC. That's substantially similar to the amendment adopted in Ontario in 2017.

Finally, amendments to Lieutenant Governor in Council regulations will permit the ASC to make rules respecting the manner and form of material provided to the ASC under other statutes, for example the Business Corporations Act, in respect of relief from proxy solicitation requirements. This amendment will also facilitate the development and implementation of the new information technologies system, allowing a vast majority of material to be filed electronically.

3:10

These amendments were developed to improve the regulation of Alberta's capital market, increase investor confidence and protection, and keep our securities laws harmonized with other jurisdictions both in Canada and the EU. With these amendments we are ensuring that Alberta's securities regulatory system reflects the realities of today's markets and evolves in alignment with international standards and global regulatory reform initiatives. I'd ask all members of this House to support third reading of this bill.

Of course, I'd like to extend my appreciation to the board and staff of ASC as well as Treasury Board and Finance for making these changes to the regulations and the Securities Amendment Act, 2018, Bill 20, possible.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the bill? The hon. Member for Edmonton-South West.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to try and keep it brief for everybody else in the House here today. I think that, certainly, the Securities Amendment Act has sometimes been lamented by opposition members as something we do very frequently or something that members may say is not the most interesting bill in the world, and we have to do it every year. You know, actually, I think that there are certain parts in here which are very important. It's something that my colleague from Edmonton-Whitemud has mentioned before. I think we do a lot of really good and important work in the Securities Amendment Act here.

Last year we brought in many protections for investors. This year one of the biggest things that I'm excited about is this whistleblower protection program. We're not leading the way on this; it's being implemented across Canada. I believe the CSA has agreed to that. We've already seen it implemented in Ontario and Quebec. It's something that we know is going to help provide a robust securities regulatory regime. It's something that we know is important to have when we want to have a system that people can trust and depend on. As the minister said, whistle-blowing is inherently dangerous, which is why it's important to provide protection and confidentiality for whistle-blowers. I think that that's something that we can be really proud of, that we're supportive of an open and transparent system here.

I think it's also important to note that a lot of the changes going on are harmonizing us with the rest of the country and, indeed, other parts of the world as well. That's really important because it allows investors in Alberta to have confidence that we are working with our partners across the country, and it's important that we can minimize risks and uncertainty for investors. Really, all of these things together lead to a regulatory regime that says: Alberta is stable; Alberta is open for business.

We're also making some changes to protect investors' rights, things like privacy. We speak about Alberta Securities Commission members and their staff. They previously could have been called to reveal confidential third-party information through their job. We're protecting that information now. We're making sure that it can't leak through some sort of third-party discovery process. I think that all of these changes together, when we look at them – yes, sometimes it can seem like there are a lot of small things going on, but when we put them together, it's very clear that this bill is there to ensure that we have a stable system that consumers and investors can both rely on.

I'm happy to support this bill, and I'm happy to encourage all members to vote in favour of it. That's all I have for today. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak? Seeing none, would the hon. minister like to close debate?

Mr. Ceci: Close.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

[Motion carried; Bill 20 read a third time]

The Acting Speaker: Hon. Government House Leader, would you have a motion?

Mr. Mason: That we continue to meet until 9 o'clock tonight. No. No.

Madam Speaker, I am almost speechless but not quite about the rate of progress that we've made this afternoon and this week. I would like to thank all members of the House.

I move that we adjourn until 1:30 on Monday.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:16 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, November 1, 2018

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

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

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

Bill 1 — Energy Diversification Act (McCuaig-Boyd)

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

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

Committee of the Whole — 1286-87 (May 29, 2018 aft.), 1280-86 (May 29, 2018 aft.), 1299 (May 29, 2018 eve.), 1311-18 (May 29, 2018 eve., passed)

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

Royal Assent -(Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 11, 2018; SA 2018 cE-9.6]

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

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

Second Reading — 243-46 (Mar. 20, 2018 morn.), 294-96 (Mar. 21, 2018 aft.), 314-25 (Mar. 22, 2018 morn.), 411-12 (Apr. 4, 2018 aft.), 702-05 (May 1, 2018 eve.), 928-33 (May 9, 2018 morn.), 1061-68 (May 15, 2018 morn.), 1101-04 (May 15, 2018 eve.), 1163-67 (May 16, 2018 eve.), 1202-06 (May 17, 2018 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole — 1253-58 (May 29, 2018 morn.), 1288-97 (May 29, 2018 aft.), 1299 (May 29, 2018 eve.), 1379-82 (May 30, 2018 eve., passed)
Third Reading — 1492-94 (Jun. 5, 2018 morn.), 1510-23 (Jun. 5, 2018 aft., passed on division)
Royal Assent — (Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2018 c8]

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

First Reading — 184 (Mar. 15, 2018 aft., passed)
Second Reading — 221-26 (Mar. 19, 2018 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole — 261-68 (Mar. 20, 2018 aft., passed)
Third Reading — 296-98 (Mar. 21, 2018 aft., passed)
Royal Assent — (Mar. 28, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force Mar. 28, 2018; SA 2018 c1]

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

First Reading — 165 (Mar. 15, 2018 morn., passed) Second Reading — 226-32 (Mar. 19, 2018 eve., passed) Committee of the Whole — 268-75 (Mar. 20, 2018 aft., passed) Third Reading — 298-301 (Mar. 21, 2018 aft., passed) Royal Assent — (Mar. 28, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force Mar. 28, 2018; SA 2018 c2]

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

First Reading — 200-201 (Mar. 19, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 360-62 (Apr. 3, 2018 morn.), 482-87 (Apr. 10, 2018 aft., passed) Committee of the Whole — 847-54 (May 7, 2018 eve.), 1084-88 (May 15, 2018 aft.), 1361-64 (May 30, 2018 aft., passed) Third Reading — 1418-21 (May 31, 2018 aft., passed) Royal Assent — (Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 11, 2018; SA 2018 c12]

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

First Reading — 448 (Apr. 9, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 533-34 (Apr. 12, 2018 aft.), 669-79 (May 1, 2018 aft.), 1010-13 (May 10, 2018 aft.), 1101 (May 15, 2018 eve., passed) Committee of the Whole — 1158-63 (May 16, 2018 eve., passed) Third Reading — 1360-61 (May 30, 2018 aft., passed) Royal Assent — (Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2018 c7]

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

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

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

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

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

Royal Assent — (Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 11, 2018, for sections 1-6 and 20-21 and April 1, 2019, for sections 7-19; SA 2018 cS-23.3]

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

First Reading — 374 (Apr. 3, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1639-45 (Oct. 30, 2018 morn., passed) Committee of the Whole — 1645-53 (Oct. 30, 2018 morn., adjourned) Third Reading — 1763-65 (Nov. 1, 2018 aft., passed)

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

First Reading — 425 (Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 497-502 (Apr. 10, 2018 aft.), 785-93 (May 3, 2018 morn.), 775-76 (May 3, 2018 morn.), 807-08 (May 3, 2018 aft., passed on division)

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

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

Royal Assent -(Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 11, 2018; SA 2018 cP-26.83]

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

First Reading — 528 (Apr. 12, 2018 aft., passed)
Second Reading — 611-12 (Apr. 19, 2018 aft.), 643-50 (May 1, 2018 morn.), 761-72 (May 2, 2018 eve.), 973-81 (May 9, 2018 eve.), 1049-54 (May 14, 2018 eve.), 1180-87 (May 17, 2018 morn.), 1242-47 (May 28, 2018 eve., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole — 1287-88 (May 29, 2018 aft.), 1299 (May 29, 2018 eve.), 1374-79 (May 30, 2018 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading — 1555-71 (Jun. 6, 2018 aft., passed on division)
Royal Assent — (Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2018 c6]

Bill 11 — Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2018 (Gray)

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

Second Reading — 612-13 (Apr. 19, 2018 aft.), 650-56 (May 1, 2018 morn.), 772-74 (May 2, 2018 eve.), 967-73 (May 9, 2018 eve., passed) Committee of the Whole — 1157 (May 16, 2018 eve., passed)

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

Royal Assent — (Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 11, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 c9]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Reading — 606 (Apr. 19, 2018 aft., passed)
Second Reading — 746-53 (May 2, 2018 aft.), 808-16 (May 3, 2018 aft.), 855-64 (May 7, 2018 eve.), 947-57 (May 9, 2018 aft.), 1169-80 (May 17, 2018 morn.), 1247-50 (May 28, 2018 eve., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole — 1322-34 (May 30, 2018 morn.), 1397-1404 (May 31, 2018 morn.), 1449-79 (Jun. 4, 2018 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading — 1573-92 (Jun. 7, 2018 morn., passed on division)
Royal Assent — (Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2018 c10]

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

First Reading — 590 (Apr. 18, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 718-24 (May 2, 2018 morn.), 915-19 (May 9, 2018 morn.), 1098-1101 (May 15, 2018 eve., passed) Committee of the Whole — 1319-22 (May 30, 2018 morn., passed) Third Reading — 1421 (May 31, 2018 aft., passed) Royal Assent — (Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2018 c5]

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

First Reading — 610 (Apr. 19, 2018 aft., passed on division)Second Reading — 683-89 (May 1, 2018 aft., passed on division)Committee of the Whole — 753-56 (May 2, 2018 aft.), 757-60 (May 2, 2018 eve., passed)Third Reading — 776-85 (May 3, 2018 morn., passed on division)Royal Assent — (May 14, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 14, 2018; SA 2018 c3]

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

First Reading — 879 (May 8, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1010-13 (May 10, 2018 aft.), 1105-22 (May 16, 2018 morn.), 1155-57 (May 16, 2018 eve., passed on division) Committee of the Whole — 1258-64 (May 29, 2018 morn.), 1299 (May 29, 2018 eve., passed) Third Reading — 1421-22 (May 31, 2018 aft., passed) Royal Assent — (Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 11, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 c4]

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

First Reading — 806 (May 3, 2018 aft., passed)
Second Reading — 864-65 (May 7, 2018 eve.), 1014-15 (May 10, 2018 aft.), 1058-59 (May 14, 2018 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole — 1157 (May 16, 2018 eve., passed)
Third Reading — 1364 (May 30, 2018 aft., passed)
Royal Assent — (Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 11, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 c13]

Bill 18 — Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Mason)

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

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

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

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

 Royal Assent — (Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 11, 2018; SA 2018 c11]

Bill 19 — An Act to Improve the Affordability and Accessibility of Post-secondary Education (Schmidt)

First Reading — 1621 (Oct. 29, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1667-81 (Oct. 30, 2018 aft.), 1690-1701 (Oct. 31, 2018 morn., passed) Committee of the Whole — 1718-28 (Oct. 31, 2018 aft., adjourned)

Bill 20 — Securities Amendment Act, 2018 (Ceci)

First Reading — 1621 (Oct. 29, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1681-84 (Oct. 30, 2018 aft., passed) Committee of the Whole — 1716-18 (Oct. 31, 2018 aft., passed) Third Reading — 1765-66 (Nov. 1, 2018 aft., passed)

Bill 21 — An Act to Protect Patients (Hoffman)

First Reading — 1666 (Oct. 30, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1685-90 (Oct. 31, 2018 morn., passed on division) Committee of the Whole — 1729-32 (Oct. 31, 2018 aft., adjourned)

Bill 22 — An Act for Strong Families Building Stronger Communities (Larivee)

First Reading — 1714 (Oct. 31, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1735-49 (Nov. 1, 2018 morn., passed)

Bill 24 — An Act to Recognize AMA Representation Rights (Hoffman)

First Reading - 1762-63 (Nov. 1, 2018 aft., passed)

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

First Reading — 118 (Mar. 14, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 201-14 (Mar. 19, 2018 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future), 1620 (Oct. 29, 2018 aft., motion to concur in report, adjourned)

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

First Reading — 179 (Mar. 15, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 549-63 (Apr. 16, 2018 aft., defeated on division)

Bill 203 — Long Term Care Information Act (Schreiner)

First Reading — 425 (Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 632-40 (Apr. 30, 2018 aft.), 829-33 (May 7, 2018 aft., passed) Committee of the Whole — 1221-30 (May 28, 2018 aft., passed) Third Reading — 1434-41 (Jun. 4, 2018 aft., passed on division) Royal Assent — (Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 11, 2018; SA 2018 cL-22]

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

First Reading — 425 (Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 833-41 (May 7, 2018 aft., adjourned), 1031-37 (May 14, 2018 aft., reasoned amendment agreed to)

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

First Reading — 1008 (May 10, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1037 (May 14, 2018 aft., deferred to Monday, October 29, 2018)

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

First Reading — 1008-09 (May 10, 2018 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1037 (May 14, 2018 aft.), 1441-47 (Jun. 4, 2018 aft., adjourned)

Bill 207 — Municipal Government (Legion Tax Exemption) Amendment Act, 2018 (Rosendahl) First Reading — 1418 (May 31, 2018 aft., passed)

Bill 208 — Public Recreation Areas Consultation Act (Westhead)

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

Table of Contents

Introduction of Guests	
Members' Statements	
Acromegaly Awareness Day	
Family Violence Prevention Month	
Political Discourse	
Robert Sallows	
Premier's and Official Opposition Leader's Allies	
Family Violence Prevention Month	
Oral Question Period	
Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project, Federal Bill C-69	
Federal Bill C-69	
Crime Rates and Law Enforcement	
Dementia Care and Long-term Care Standards	
Racism Prevention	
Government Policies and Economic Indicators	
Power Purchase Arrangements and the Balancing Pool	
Drug-impaired Driving	
Student Achievement in Mathematics	
Postsecondary Tuition	
Oil and Gas Transportation	
Unemployment and Job Creation	
Mountain Pine Beetle Control and Wildfire Prevention	
Surgery Wait Times	
Educational Curriculum Review	
Notices of Motions	
Introduction of Bills	
Bill 24 An Act to Recognize AMA Representation Rights	
Tabling Returns and Reports	
Tablings to the Clerk	
Motions under Standing Order 42	
Federal Bill C-69	17(3
Orders of the Day	
Government Bills and Orders	
Third Reading	
Bill 8 Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2018	
Bill 20 Securities Amendment Act, 2018	

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