



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, November 8, 2018

Day 48

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 29th Legislature

Fourth Session

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Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (UCP)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (NDP)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
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Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (NDP)
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (NDP)
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Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (NDP)
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Drever, Deborah, Calgary-Bow (NDP)
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UCP)
Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (NDP)
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (UCP)
Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP),
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Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (NDP)
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (AP)
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (NDP),
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Goodridge, Laila, Fort McMurray-Conklin (UCP)
Gottfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)
Gray, Hon. Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)
Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (UCP)
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Sabir, Hon. Irfan, Calgary-McCall (NDP)
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Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (NDP)
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Starke, Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC)
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (UCP)
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)
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Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)
Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (UCP)
Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)
van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (UCP)
Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (NDP),
Deputy Government Whip
Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (NDP)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)

Party standings:

New Democratic: 53 United Conservative: 26 Alberta Party: 3 Alberta Liberal: 1 Freedom Conservative: 1 Independent: 2 Progressive Conservative: 1

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 8, 2018

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

Introduction of Visitors

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

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the high commissioner for New Zealand to Canada, His Excellency Daniel Mellsop, as well as Mr. Nick Fleming, trade commissioner and Consul General of New Zealand in Vancouver.

Mr. Speaker, there are many similarities between our two jurisdictions that allow for natural partnerships across a number of areas. I had the opportunity to sit down with His Excellency this morning to discuss some of those areas, including agriculture innovation. What's fascinating is that 80 per cent of New Zealand's electricity is generated by renewables, so there's lots in common between Alberta and New Zealand. We enjoy a warm relationship, and we look forward to working with the high commissioner to further our relations in trade and in areas like agriculture and to collaborate on matters of interest, especially to indigenous peoples. I'd now like to ask the high commissioner and Mr. Fleming to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Introduction of Guests

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

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you a group of seniors that have travelled to the Legislature today from the Heritage Place Lodge in Morinville: Simonne Deblois, Glen Gabby, Dell Risser, Marie-Thérèse Cyr, Dorothy DeChamplain, Jean, Liette Beaulieu, and Monica Warrener. They are here today to learn more about the happenings in the Alberta Legislature, and I welcome them here. I'd ask that they please rise to receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Piquette: M. le Président, c'est avec fierté que je me lève à la Chambre aujourd'hui pour introduire members of CFB Edmonton 1 Service Battalion, who are students in the official languages program. We have here Master Corporal Johnathan Cognac, Corporal David Houde, Leading Seaman Becada, Private Fortier, Aviator Monette, Corporal Migneault, and they are accompanied by their instructor, Deborah Stasiuk. I had the opportunity to chat with them at lunch, and I have to say that they are wonderful students, so obviously they must have a great teacher. A warm welcome to Alberta, and I hope that you really enjoy being here. I see that they've already risen, so I would like to have the members extend to them the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park.

Cortes-Vargas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly the very first class of the brand new school of Davidson Creek, and I hope that they'll stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly. It was my pleasure to be there as we were opening this school with an incredible amount of windows. I think that they're pretty excited to be here, so give them a warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Little Bow.

Mr. Schneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my good friend from Battle River-Wainwright it is indeed my privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly a remarkable group of students from the Bashaw school. They are obviously here today to take a tour of the Legislature and learn a little more about how the Legislature works. I see just about everybody has risen there. If everybody is there, I'll say your name. The teachers are Rebecca Coates, Gerald Brouwer, and Lezley Lischynski. Hopefully, I got everything right there. Chaperones are Sara Jo Errity, Lori Miller, Maypu and Mark Mann, Sheena Singleton, Chad Singleton, Bobbi Wright, Jeff Bailey, Matt Greanya, Natasha Lawrence, Marie Leier, and Renée Groux. Please accept the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Stony Plain.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members of our Assembly SML Christian Academy. There are 17 students today here in the public gallery. They're accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Vanessa Hamilton, and their chaperone, Mrs. Aimee Williams. If they could all stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms Goehring: Mr. Speaker, today is Aboriginal Veterans Day. I'm honoured to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly distinguished visitors from the Aboriginal Veterans Society of Alberta. The society's mandate is to organize and unite all aboriginal veterans for advocacy and support of each other. Today we honour First Nation, Inuit, and Métis veterans for their dedication and sacrifice. Indigenous veterans bravely served in World War I and every world conflict since. We thank you for your sacrifices, for your service with the Canadian Armed Forces, and for your continued contribution to our society. Hay-hay.

I would ask our honoured guests to stand as I read your name: Corporal (Retired) Wallace Bona, royal Canadian electrical engineers and president of the Aboriginal Veterans Society of Alberta; Corporal (Retired) Shawn Donovan, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry; Corporal (Retired) Clint Eastman, intelligence branch for five years and 22 years with armoured, and his wife, Corporal (Retired) Jocelyn Eastman, served 16 years between the RCAF and the Royal Canadian Navy; Corporal (Retired) Chuck Stevenson, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and his wife, Bridget Stevenson, who will be celebrating 52 years of marriage on November 21. I would ask that all my guests remain standing and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome. Thank you for your service.

Mr. Horne: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the winner of the

Royal Canadian Legion's Dominion essay contest, Sadie Vogel. Her father, Mr. Paul Vogel; her mother, Mrs. Penny Vogel; and her sisters Miss Ellie and Holly Vogel join Sadie in the Speaker's gallery. The Vogels are from St. Albert, where Sadie currently attends St. Albert Catholic high school. I am sure that many members will recognize Sadie, who read out part of her essay Remembering the Past and Reflecting on the Present at the Remembrance Day ceremony earlier today. On November 11 Sadie will be part of the ceremonies in Ottawa, where she will meet the Governor General and help lay a wreath at the National War Memorial. I would ask that Sadie and her family all rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome, and thank you.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Isaac and Colleen Stepney. Isaac is in grade 6 at St. Pius X elementary school. He's excited to learn about the provincial government with his class this year. He enjoys playing ball hockey, reading, playing board games, and spending time with his family. Colleen is a retired Edmonton Catholic school social studies teacher who has brought many students to visit the Legislature. She is delighted to introduce her grandchildren to the history and traditions of the Legislature in hopes that it will inspire a lifelong interest in politics and the democratic process. I'd ask Isaac and Colleen to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-South East.

1:40

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise and introduce to you and through you Mark Taylor and his son Markus. Mark is the dedicated executive director of the Alberta Party and is raising a fine young man. It's a pleasure to have them as friends and in this House today. If the members would give them the warm welcome, I'd appreciate it.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Nielsen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a special group of individuals who promote diversity, inclusion, equality, and human rights. Joining us here today are human rights advocate and Hate to Hope founder, Chevi Rabbit; representatives from the 13th annual sisters in spirit vigils, April Eve and Freda Ballantyne; as well as newly elected councilwoman Katherine Swampy, who was an integral part in creating Canada's first rainbow crosswalks on a reserve. We also have Hate to Hope guest speaker, Dan Johnstone, and Rob Schwabenbauer and his team from the Mental Rescue Society. I'd like to thank my guests for all the important work that they do to make life better for all Albertans, and I would ask that they now please rise to receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first introduction today is to recognize two remarkable Albertans who exemplify the values of learning, teaching, and service. Dr. Austin Mardon is a geographer, writer, parent, and person living with schizophrenia. His wife, Catherine Mardon, is a lawyer, pastor, author, and parent. Together

they are frequent writers, speakers, and advocates for mental health, social justice, and people with disabilities. They have received countless honours in recognition of their work, including the Order of Canada for Austin and papal knighthood for both Catherine and Austin. Please join me, colleagues – and Catherine and Austin please identify yourselves in the members' gallery – in honouring these two folks.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms Hoffman: I'd also like to rise today in recognition of our province's allied health professionals and their valuable contributions to health care teams across our province. This week is dedicated to allied health professionals as they dedicate their careers to the well-being of others. The allied health teams in our province include many disciplines such as audiology, psychology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, recreation therapy, respiratory therapy, speech-language pathology, social work, and spiritual care. Representing some of these folks today, I'd ask that Carol Robertsen, Eileen Keogh, Lana Hawkins, and Liz Webster please rise and receive our warm welcome and the appreciation of our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three sets of introductions, and I will be brief. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you some very important advocates who have called for increased AISH and financial assistance rates: Ian Young, Larry Marcotte, Don Slater. They're joined by Kelly Dowdell from Momentum; Rob Yager, president and CEO of United Way; Allan Undheim, vice-president of community building and investment for United Way; Jody-Lee Farrah, Andre Tinio, Elie Haddad, and Kayla Das from the Alberta College of Social Workers. I want to thank all of you for your dedication to fighting poverty and ensuring that all Albertans can live in dignity and provide for their families. Our government shares your commitment and looks forward to continuing to take action to make life better for Albertans. I ask my guests to rise and receive the warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you three guests all the way from Calgary: Sana Jahangir, a real estate associate, a successful businessperson; Gul Wisha, resident and property manager with VIP company, who is accompanied by her daughter; and Humaira Falak, program co-ordinator with the Calgary Senior's Resource Society. These women are strong and successful advocates and active members of their communities who make life better for newcomer and immigrant communities. I ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you. It's my last introduction, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Assembly I want to introduce Red FM reporter Ramanjit Sidhu and Arshad Chaudhry, who is the Red FM photographer and one of the gallery's best photographers, and Kayla Van Den Bussche, Arshad's assistant photographer. These folks came up from Calgary to cover the event that will change the lives of many Albertans. I thank them for their dedication and for bringing culturally relevant news to the great people of Calgary in a language they understand. Red FM has done

some great work with raising funds for the Peter Lougheed Centre's maternity triage area and neonatal intensive care unit care rooms, and now they will be having a radiothon for the Peter Lougheed Centre hemodialysis unit on the 23rd of November. I ask my guests to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly Mr. Andrew Boitchenko. Andrew is a constituent of mine and a proud Conservative and a volunteer with the United Conservative Party constituency association in Drayton Valley-Devon and a friend. Andrew was born in Odessa, Ukraine, and he is an active member of the Ukrainian community in Alberta and sits on the council of Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce. Would Andrew please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Environment and Parks and climate change.

Ms Phillips: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you two women visiting us from Japan. They're here on behalf of the government of Japan's Ministry of Environment. Their names I'll say in the Japanese way. Aya Naito and Maho Takimi are here to focus on carbon pricing and emissions trading systems in Japan and around the world and to learn more about how it works in B.C. and Alberta. I would like them to rise [Remarks in Japanese] and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, are there any other introductions? Lacombe-Ponoka.

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege today to introduce to you and through you representatives of Lacombe composite high school, one of two schools in Canada to share this year the award for the greenest school in Canada. The students and their teacher, Mr. Schultz, are here in Edmonton today participating in the ag hero symposium, meeting with members of the Commonwealth ag society, presenting some of their projects, and planning for others. I'll mention them a little bit more in my member's statement. I ask that they please stand as I call out their names: Mr. Schultz, teacher; and then students Jade Benoit, Darcy Cunningham, Alexis Hutson, Holden Fafard, Brienne Campbell, and Cody Schonewille. Please extend to them the traditional warm welcome of the House.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Members' Statements

World War I Armistice Centenary Aboriginal Veterans Day

Ms Goehring: Mr. Speaker, this Remembrance Day marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, when an armistice was signed at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918, which ended the hostilities of the First World War. Here in Canada our nation's contributions still evoke pride while families still feel the impact of loved ones lost. Leading up to the signing of the armistice is a period of time referred to as Canada's Hundred Days, a three-

month stretch of Canadian victories that saw more than 100,000 Canadians advance 130 kilometres. Such triumphs came at a high price: 68,000 Canadians lost their lives in World War I, and more than 172,000 Canadians were injured.

Mr. Speaker, today is national Aboriginal Veterans Day, and it is my honour to recognize the contribution of indigenous Canadians from the First World War. An estimated 4,000 indigenous people, 400 in western Canada, voluntarily enlisted in the Canadian military in the First World War. They did so out of a proud warrior tradition, from a sense of adventure, and from patriotic sentiment. They served in every major battle Canada fought, and they served well. Over 50 were awarded medals for bravery, and hundreds died or were wounded, yet when the war was over, indigenous veterans did not receive the same services as others or the recognition that they deserved.

1:50

Mr. Speaker, I can only touch on this important story today, but with the 100th anniversary of armistice on our minds, I invite Albertans to explore this and other stories of the First World War for themselves. In the course of history a century is only the blink of an eye. The First World War still offers us many important lessons today of bravery and perseverance and ideals that led many to make the ultimate sacrifice. Let us learn these lessons and never forget those who lived them a century ago.

Lest we forget.

Oral Question Period

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

Unemployment

Mr. Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday's job numbers show that unemployment is up 32 per cent under the NDP government's watch. Literally hundreds of thousands of Albertans in this province are out of work, and we have the highest unemployment outside of Atlantic Canada in our country. These are real people suffering real consequences as a result of that unemployment, and all this government can do is say that everything is rosy. It's not. My question is this. How does the government explain the decline in private-sector employment?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, it's interesting. I think it was on Monday or Tuesday that the Leader of the Official Opposition was declaring defeat and talking about how nobody was ever going to invest in Alberta again. About an hour after those sets of questions, I believe that Imperial Oil announced a \$2.6 billion investment in Alberta's oil sands. So let me just say that work still needs to be done, Albertans still need more jobs, but we are on the right track.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, of course, that's very good news, but that still doesn't replace the \$100 billion that left under this Premier's watch.

Standing up and saying that everything is okay totally disregards what these families are going through. A young man by the name of Ryan visited with me in Rocky Mountain House when I was home on Friday, a father of three who's been unemployed for two and a half years, struggling to keep his family fed, who's lost hope.

His biggest frustration is that this Premier and this government continue to act like that does not matter. Again through you, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: why does this government insist on telling Albertans how good things are, how good they have it when we know without a doubt that we still have the largest unemployment in the country?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, what we say all the time is that we know there is more work to do and that we continue to be focused on having Albertans' backs and doing whatever we can to promote job creation and that we know that it is not success until every family feels that recovery. We actually say that all the time. That being said, the members opposite want to paint a picture that is not true. Just yesterday StatsCan came out and showed that last year Alberta led the country in economic growth by a long ways, doubling Saskatchewan next door, that followed . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, let's talk about actually what this Premier and her government say to Albertans. She told them to take the bus. She told the people that were concerned about the carbon tax that they were Chicken Little. She told seniors in my community to fund raise to pay for her carbon tax. And she continues to stand up here and just try to indicate that because we have some investment coming back, everything is going to be A-okay. The reality is that while that is good news, unemployment has still been increasing since May under this Premier. Investment is still fleeing. Trans Mountain, which she promised the House would be built, is not being built. People are out of work, and they are hurting. Again, how does this Premier expect Albertans to believe that things are looking up when their . . .

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

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Another thing that is in fact happening is that the employment rate in Alberta is the highest in the country. The number of people working in Alberta is higher than it has ever been. The average weekly wages are higher than they have ever been. Is every family feeling that yet? No. That's why we're going to continue to focus on supporting our communities. But what we do know is that the families that the member opposite talks about will not be helped by blowing a \$700 million hole in the budget to give money to the richest 1 per cent of Albertans.

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

Provincial Achievement Tests

Mr. Smith: Thank you. Yesterday the Minister of Education boasted of "excellent results" in the provincial exams. A 42 per cent passing grade, or cut score, is not an Albertan standard of excellence, and the Premier herself remarked yesterday that "the tests are not good." Now, I was a social studies teacher, and I never learned how bad tests could produce excellent results. Perhaps you need discovery math for that one. Mr. Speaker, through you to the Premier: how is it that bad tests are getting excellent results?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we see excellent results in so many areas, in science and grade 12 math and

grade 6 math. Grade 9 math: room for improvement, for sure. But you know what? We're not afraid to have no-calculator portions on the tests to make sure that kids can do math in their heads. That's a decision that we made to make sure that we're investing in education, to make sure our kids get the very best education now and into the future.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that the PATs are extensively field tested and that the assessment branch has historically produced excellent assessment tools, which indicates to me that there is some kind of disconnect between teaching methodology, teaching resources, curriculum, and assessment. Parents deserve to know which pieces of the puzzle are missing. Why won't the Premier direct her minister to publish the cut scores and explain the rationale behind them so parents can better understand where the problems lie?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we know that the root of the problem is that we need to develop new curriculum, which we are doing here in the province of Alberta, the biggest curriculum rebuild in the history of the province. The previous government failed to build curriculum in a modern way, and we are doing so. We're proud of the results that we're getting. Certainly, we have transparency every step of the way to make sure parents, teachers, and students know what is expected of them, and we should expect nothing less.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a recent CBC article one Alberta parent has described her daughter's experience with the PATs this way. "We really didn't have any indications from her report cards that she was going to be flunking the exam." This disconnect between expectations and results strikes me as mounting evidence of a major problem with math instruction in Alberta, and curriculum is only one piece of the puzzle. When is the Premier going to direct the Minister of Education to make a comprehensive inquiry into the problem of cut scores?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said before, our PAT exam scores are excellent. We see some room for improvement on one part of one exam in one grade. You know, I used to teach a bit of science. It's called action-reaction. Action: you take \$700 million out of the public purse to give to your friends. Reaction: kids in schools will suffer; kids in classrooms will suffer. You take 4,000 teachers out of the classroom: action-reaction, same result. We're here for kids. We're proud of that.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

Suspension of Physicians' Licences to Practise

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Six months ago we raised the case of an Edmonton area doctor who was convicted of sexually assaulting a patient at a Sherwood Park clinic in June 2013. He also assaulted a nurse at a north side Edmonton clinic. He also assaulted a clinic manager. The tribunal report said that "proven conduct was . . . serious and repugnant for a member of the medical

profession.” Until this morning this government thought that a mere five-year suspension would be good enough. To the Premier: why?

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

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Women and all Albertans should feel safe when receiving medical care. We’ve been clear about that for a number of months, and I want to thank the Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park for her advocacy on this particular issue. That’s why our government introduced legislation to ensure better protections for patients from sexual abuse and sexual misconduct, more transparency on the disciplinary histories and criminal convictions of health providers, and why we were matched, until this morning, for the strictest in Canada. But we’re thinking that it’s time to take that even further. We’ve worked with survivors and the agencies that support them, and they’ve asked us to do that, and we’re proud to do so.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you to the minister for listening to the opposition.

Five years is not a long time. Dr. Ismail Taher sexually assaulted an 18-year-old female patient in a Sherwood Park clinic in 2013, violating the sacred doctor-patient trust. If he had received a five-year restriction on practising back in 2013, he’d actually already be practising right now, today, in 2018. Again to the Premier: why did your government this week repeatedly stand against making a lifetime ban from practising for doctors and is now only starting to backpedal?

2:00

Ms Hoffman: I want to thank members from both sides of this Chamber for their passion in this debate on this important topic. Let me make it clear. My intention is to proceed with preventing any physician found guilty of a sexual offence as defined under the Criminal Code of Canada from being reinstated, to prevent that from happening, to prevent anyone who has conducted sexual assault from being able to practise again in this province, and to give the colleges the strictest legislation of any jurisdiction across Canada to ensure safety for patients and all Albertans, Mr. Speaker. I’m proud of our record.

Mrs. Aheer: Mr. Speaker, the minister’s record is voting three times against extending the ban on predatory doctors.

We welcome that the government has finally come around to doing the right thing, but just the other day the Minister of Health said that she wanted to

ensure that everyone can have the confidence that health practitioners are being dealt with in a strict and fair way.

That being said, that’s why I will be opposing the amendment.

To the Premier: why did the government spend days arguing that five years is a good enough ban for doctors who sexually assault patients?

Ms Hoffman: Again, I want to say that Alberta’s vision for this law is the strictest in the country, and we will show just how serious our government stands in support of women’s rights and the rights of survivors when they’ve been assaulted, Mr. Speaker. It’s important to us that we continue to show just how we stand with survivors. That’s why we’ve increased funding for women’s shelters by \$50 million to help more than 17,000 women and 14,000 children flee violence, that’s why we passed legislation so that survivors of domestic violence can break a lease without financial penalty, and that’s why we will improve access to the legal system for survivors of domestic violence by removing the two-year time limit for

bringing forward civil claims. Our record is clear, and I’m proud of it.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

Dr. Turner: Mr. Speaker, consumer protection is a major responsibility of governments of all types.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I was thinking about next week, when we won’t be here. My apologies.

The Member for Calgary-South East.

Mr. Fraser: No problem at all, Mr. Speaker.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, to the Deputy Premier: when we speak in this House, who are we speaking for? Are we speaking for our constituents, or are we speaking for political parties? As representatives for Albertans do you believe that honest questions asked in this House deserve straight answers?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I have the absolute honour and privilege to be in this House every day fighting for all Albertans. On this side of the House we’ve done that by stopping a billion-dollar cut to health care, by making sure that we invested in children when former governments wanted to push for deep cuts, and we will continue to do that. And, yes, I will happily answer reasonable questions with reasonable answers, and I will not back down from my responsibilities to fight for ordinary families.

Mr. Fraser: I asked yesterday how close we were to full implementation of the Valuing Mental Health recommendations. I asked that question because people in Alberta are suffering. Whoever is responsible, it’s clear that we don’t have the necessary supports for people suffering from mental health. To the same minister: how many of the recommendations have been implemented, and what still needs to be done?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently we’re monitoring over 150 initiatives led by the government, Alberta Health Services, and community organizations to move forward with the 18 actions that were identified in Valuing Mental Health: Next Steps. I’m very proud of the fact that we not only did a review but that we developed an action plan, something that many members in the community said hadn’t happened before. They were a little bit nervous that they might be part of a report that would sit on a shelf, but this side of the House has put our money where our mouth is. We’ve moved forward on action plans, and we’re funding it while members of the opposition continue to vote in opposition to those.

Mr. Fraser: Minister, we know that there are thousands of Albertans dealing with mental health issues. Their voices count, and they should be our top priority. To the same minister: can you articulate a vision to give Alberta families hope that mental health will be top of mind and a nonpartisan priority?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, as was evident from one of the Premier’s first two or three news conferences, we absolutely wanted to reach across the aisle and work with members of multiple parties to

address this significant area of need. That's why we invited the Member for Calgary-Mountain View along with the now Minister of Children's Services to lead a review on mental health. Then when we added the associate minister, she helped lead the initiatives around implementation. We welcome all members of the House to bring forward ideas and recommendations because we are certainly focused on making sure that we invest in supporting and promoting and protecting the health of all Albertans.

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

Consumer Protection for Motor Vehicle Owners

Dr. Turner: Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. Consumer protection is a major responsibility of governments of all types. Our provincial government has made it a priority. My constituents, particularly seniors, are really appreciative. They want to hear more about these efforts. To maintain mobility, these seniors may need to buy a car sometime. To the Minister of Service Alberta: please outline the initiatives taken to protect all Albertans who are purchasing or leasing a motor vehicle.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Malkinson: Why, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Our government believes Albertans should be protected when making purchases, whether big or small. That is why we recently announced new protections for consumers when buying or repairing a car, protections such as informing buyers of the history and condition of a vehicle so they know as much as the dealership, giving a written estimate upon request for repair, providing a comprehensive bill of sale, itemizing things such as, you know, paint protection and others that the consumer might want, and transitioning the AMVIC board into a public agency as the automotive agency regulator.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Dr. Turner: Thank you. To the same minister: do you have any concerns that the playing field needs to be relevelled after these important changes?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member again for the question. These protections will increase transparency in the industry and help Albertans make well-informed decisions when buying or fixing a vehicle. This levels the playing field for consumers and prevents businesses from having to compete with bad actors in the industry. We did this by consulting with Albertans, with industry, which is something this side of the House believes in – and I know others do not in this House – and by not making backroom deals and selling our platform to the highest bidder in exchange for \$700 million tax breaks for the wealthy.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Dr. Turner: Thanks again. How is the ministry protecting car dealership customers from usurious car loan rates?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Albertans deserve a safe borrowing environment. That's why we're bringing in new rules that level the playing field for lenders and protect

borrowers of high-cost products such as instalment loans, rent-to-own contracts, or vehicle loans. These changes include establishing disclosure and advertising requirements and establishing licence requirements for high-interest lenders. These protections will help borrowers make informed decisions and minimize the risk of being trapped in a vicious cycle of debt. That's good for all Albertans.

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

Government Caucus

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are elected as MLAs to represent people to the government and not the government to the people. The establishment parties and the career politicians have learned nothing from the last election. The establishment parties act like they're entitled to the votes of the people and entitled to the obedience of the MLAs. Premier, is it the government's policy to control, silence, and whip your MLAs?

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, this government is here for all Albertans. It's important that all voices are heard, and we make sure that that happens. You know, I see the hon. member is in the far corner, no longer with his caucus, and I'm sorry. We do have also a matter of working together as a team, and that's important in politics, too.

Mr. Nixon: Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order noted.
First supplemental.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that it's hard to believe when the Member for Calgary-East called out her own government for excessive control over its MLAs and given that this rot is firmly entrenched in both establishment parties and given that when I was in the Tory caucus, I too was silenced and whipped, again, is it the government's policy to silence and whip your MLAs? [interjections]

The Speaker: Order, folks.

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, we have, in my opinion, the best caucus that I've ever seen in this Legislature. I've been here longer than any other member, so I've seen a lot of government caucuses come and go, and this is absolutely the finest one. We have such wonderful input from our very diverse group of MLAs. We represent people in this province that never had a voice before, and that's something I'm very proud of.

2:10

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's hard to believe.

Every MLA votes the same as their leader does in every caucus and every time. When the NDP brought forward their Bill 9 attack on free speech, I was not free to speak out about it or even vote to represent my constituents on the bill. Independent thought was not welcome. Is it the government's policy to control independent thought, just as the Tories do? [interjections]

The Speaker: Calm down, folks. Stay calm.
The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, I'm very shocked to hear that, quite frankly. It confirms what I believed about our friends in the Official Opposition. I want to assure you

and all members that we have one of the best caucuses in this Legislature's history, and they provide a wonderfully diverse input to the government. We value them, and we value their opinions.

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

Bail for Persons Charged with Violent Offences

Mr. Ellis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A man accused of attacking and terrorizing his girlfriend this fall was released on bail not just once but twice. The first incident was a particularly vicious attack. A little more than a month later he was arrested again after he was accused of pulling up beside her in a vehicle and firing a gun. Incredibly, he was released a second time, and the woman felt so unsafe that she has now fled the community. Minister, why did the bail system fail this young woman so badly?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice.

Ms Ganley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the very important question. I think this case is extremely concerning to our government. I think it's extremely concerning, obviously, to the opposition and to all Albertans. Preventing and addressing domestic violence has been one of our government's top priorities. As members of this House will know, unfortunately bail decisions are ultimately determined by independent justices of the peace. In this case the prosecutor did oppose bail and was not successful.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, given that in the first incident the woman accused her ex-boyfriend of biting her face, choking her, banging her head against the floor – and the disturbing pictures show her battered, swollen, and scarred – and given that even though her ex-boyfriend was charged with three counts of assault and one count of unlawful confinement, he was released and continued to terrorize her, Minister, why does it appear that Alberta's bail system favours a person with violent tendencies rather than a victim of domestic abuse?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Again, this is an incredibly troubling case. My office has reached out and spoken with the families to ensure that they are receiving the necessary supports through victims' services in this case. It certainly is a troubling case. As I've indicated in my previous answer, these are decisions that are made independently of government. The Crown did attempt to oppose bail in this case.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, given that in the second incident the man is accused of shooting a gun near the victim and it resulted in very serious charges against this alleged accused and given that despite these alleged hostile acts committed by a man already on bail for a vicious attack against the same victim, he was let out on the streets again, Minister, how can we claim that protecting victims is a paramount goal of our system in the face of such a colossal failure?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Again, it is certainly a goal of our government to ensure that we are doing everything we can to prevent and address domestic violence. That's why we've increased funding for domestic violence shelters. That's why we've taken a number of steps around these sorts of issues. This case is, as I have noted, very disturbing. My office has been in touch with the family to ensure that they have the necessary supports.

Thank you.

Caribou Range Plans

Mr. Loewen: Mr. Speaker, last spring the government tabled a letter to the federal government regarding the development of caribou range plans indicating that the province needed more time to conduct a socioeconomic impact assessment and that federal funds would be required to implement effective caribou management. Could the minister tell the House what the response from Ottawa was, what discussions have taken place on the issue since, and what the present plans and timelines are?

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

Ms Phillips: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we are fully committed to recovering caribou populations, as we are legally required to do under the Species at Risk Act, which is a federal piece of legislation. Earlier this spring we led a delegation to Ottawa where we requested support from the federal government, as the hon. member points out. We did get a commitment from them of something in the neighbourhood of \$30 million to assist us with caribou range planning and some of the near-term recovery efforts that we can undertake.

Mr. Loewen: Given that the NDP has been through multiple versions of the caribou plan and given that they have had to backtrack on their own words after realizing oversights and mistakes and given that until those on this side of the House and the communities affected applied pressure on the issue the government wasn't even considering an economic impact assessment, can the minister confirm to us that the results of the assessment as well as those from consultations with industry, stakeholders, and the communities affected will drive the next steps of this process?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of incorrect statements within that lengthy preamble of a question, but let me just correct one. A socioeconomic assessment is, in fact, part of range planning and is being undertaken in the various ranges. There are, I believe, 17 ranges that we have to plan for. They're all in various stages of development. There's a tremendous amount of technical and scientific work – science – that has to go into this, and I'll be pleased to provide more detail in the supplemental if I ever get the chance.

Mr. Loewen: Given the NDP's atrocious record on this file and on wildlife management more broadly and given the NDP's tendency to develop management plans in silos, disregarding the interactive nature of Alberta's complex ecosystem of wildlife, forests, and waterways, and given, for example, that pine beetles, which threaten Alberta, and caribou, which are threatened in Alberta, are said to require similar old-growth forests, what has the minister done in dealing with these two conflicting management issues?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, Alberta is redoubling its efforts to work with industry to develop solutions that avoid the imposition of an environmental protection order, which is something that would happen if these folks had their way because they would do nothing. Certainly, my deputy minister was meeting with federal counterparts today on the issue of C-69, but I know that she is also engaging the federal government on our recovery efforts with respect to caribou populations as well and on their investment and their responsibility to help us on this file.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

SuperNet Contract Management

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday Alberta's Auditor General released his fall report identifying the new and follow-up audits recently conducted by his office. Among those audits the Auditor General addressed the NDP's mismanagement of the SuperNet, Alberta's most critical Internet infrastructure. More broadly, the audit was critical of the existing contract management processes of Service Alberta, indicating that improvements must be made. To the minister: do you agree with the Auditor General that the status quo for Service Alberta contract management is unacceptable?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Auditor General was indeed correct that there were many problems with the previous contract. He described it as: poorly constructed and largely mismanaged. I'd point out that the Auditor General was looking at the previous SuperNet contract. That was the contract that was put in by the previous PC government. The Minister of Service Alberta, this government came forward with changes to replace that contract and, in fact, implemented all of the Auditor General's recommendations.

Thank you.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

2:20

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this current government has had three years to deal with that and given that the Auditor General issued three new recommendations in his audit and given that these recommendations highlight key failings of the performance measurement and the compliance processes and given that these failings have negative impacts on hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of important government contracts like SuperNet, can the minister tell us if he has immediately directed his department to implement these recommendations and what steps he plans on taking to prevent future processes that fail just like this one?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, our government took immediate steps to address those issues three years ago. That is why we have a new contract for SuperNet that I'm so proud about, that we're going to be posting that online shortly, as soon as the assets transfer over to Bell with the new contract. You know, that contract was done by the previous Conservatives, and it left us with a contract that did not function properly and did not properly serve rural Albertans. Thank goodness that Albertans elected a government that was able to fix it properly.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that we have repeatedly asked this government over the last three sets of estimates to correct this or give us an update and they've told us each and every time that they had it under control – clearly, this is not the case; we're putting at risk over 400 Alberta communities, including schools and hospitals – and given that the NDP had three entire years to get this new contract in order, will the minister admit that the process that led to this new SuperNet contract failed to meet the standards that

Albertans expect from their government and take steps to ensure that these contracts ...

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

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, we did take steps to protect Albertans, and Albertans did that by electing an NDP government, which took steps to clean up the PC mismanagement, and this contract was just another example of that. I suggest that the hon. member look to his colleagues who were part of the government at the time. We took the time to go forward with a new contract that will serve Albertans well, and thank goodness we were there to do that.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

Military Content in Educational Curricula

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the government of Alberta's liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces I've had the tremendous honour and responsibility of advocating for the Alberta men and women who serve us bravely every day. I've heard from members of the Armed Forces across the province on the importance of ensuring that our history is not forgotten. This is especially significant as it is currently Veterans' Week and we are commemorating the 100th year of the armistice this Remembrance Day. To the Minister of Education: how is military contribution and history present in the new curriculum?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you for the question, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to say that our military history and service will be very well represented in the new curriculum. We're working on the grades 5 to 9 curriculum right now. We want to make sure that kids have a very clear idea about the history that we share, the things that we should be proud of, and to make sure that we don't see atrocities like we saw with World War I, and so that kids can learn: never again.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As there is a very strong military presence in my constituency of Edmonton-Castle Downs, I have the opportunity to speak with veterans and active military members, their families regularly. To the same minister: how is the government incorporating the lived experience of Alberta veterans and current CAF members in the new curriculum?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we've worked with military history – we had a military history round-table – and we've been speaking with Canadian Forces, both veterans and current members, to make sure we're building a strong curriculum. I hear it time and time again from service personnel that they like to get stationed in Alberta because – you know what? – they think that the education system is the best in Canada.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that the involvement of the Canadian Armed Forces affords many unique opportunities to the young people of our province to chart a positive course for their lives, test their abilities, and learn valuable life

skills. To the Minister of Education: how is the government supporting opportunities for students and Alberta youth to engage with the Canadian Armed Forces?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we're working very closely with the Canadian Armed Forces. We're working with advocacy groups. I'm very proud of an announcement that we'll make around No Stone Left Alone tomorrow, together with the member, to make sure that we have a strong school system there for Canadian Forces kids but all students as well. You know, this whole notion that you would make cuts and that it's going to hurt, I mean, that would hurt Canadian Forces personnel, which I think is not conscionable, and we don't want to be hurting our kids as well because we're here to help and to create something that we can be proud of.

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

Service Alberta Contract Management

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday's Auditor General's report examined procurement in Service Alberta, highlighting SuperNet as an example. Through examining this contract, the AG found that the department lacked an effective contract management system, and Service Alberta confirmed that it applies the same process to manage all of its large and complex contracts. Now, this contract was so late that subscribers and ISPs were scared about service continuity. To the Minister of Service Alberta: how many other large and complex contracts does Service Alberta manage with this flawed process?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. As the Auditor General's report pointed out, it was a backward-looking report specifically on the original SuperNet contract, so that was the one that was put in place by the PCs. We took the lessons learned from the previous one and actually implemented the recommendations that the Auditor General put forward in his report when we came forward with the new SuperNet 2.0 contract.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That actually wasn't an answer.

Given that the Auditor General found in 2018 that parties to contracts are not interpreting terms and conditions consistently and given that this exposes the government to unnecessary risk, what specific measures has this minister taken to improve Service Alberta's capacity to learn and ensure that flawed processes and unaccountable outcomes don't occur in the future?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned before, the Auditor General's report was backward looking. You know, that contract was put in place by the former PC government. As we go through Service Alberta, we have taken steps to fix the PC waste and bad mismanagement that was in there before. Thank goodness that Albertans rejected the poorly constructed and largely mismanaged contracts that the previous

government was known for by electing an NDP government, and hopefully they'll do it again in the upcoming election.

Ms McPherson: Given that the Auditor General found deficiencies in 2018, this year, in how Service Alberta defines performance measures and targets in its contracts that prevent the department from understanding or reporting on whether contracts deliver on desired outcomes and given that the minister said yesterday that the SuperNet contract was an excellent example of something that our government had to come through and fix, when will Service Alberta publish performance measures about its procurement practices?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the member pointed out, I am going to be making public the new SuperNet contract as soon as the deal is finalized and the assets are transferred over to Bell. Because we are proud of the work that we've done on that contract, we are going to have that contract be public so that Albertans can see for themselves the good work that Service Alberta and our government have done on that contract to serve rural Albertans.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The Member for Calgary-Hays.

Highway 1 Snowstorm Response

Mr. McIver: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, thousands of motorists were stranded on highway 1 between Calgary and Canmore for more than 10 hours during the October 2 snowstorm. When they ran out of gas, food, and water, they turned to each other to survive the ordeal because neither the plows nor the police showed up. Their desperate calls to 911 got them a shrug. To the Minister of Transportation: why did the government abandon these motorists when they needed your help?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Nothing could be further from the truth. Great efforts were made by our contractors. We had difficulty throughout the evening in getting the appropriate communications about what was going on from our partners in the RCMP, but our contractors were working diligently on the job.* In the end, I'm very grateful to say that everyone was fine and able to return home to their families.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. McIver: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, given that this provincial government relinquished its responsibility to help desperate citizens – and they can blame the RCMP's communication all they want – and that the lapse could have ended in tragedy if temperatures had fallen to dangerous levels that night and given that there are emergency mechanisms the government can activate to deal with perilous circumstances like this snowstorm, again to the minister: what happened on October 2 that caused your government system's response to fail so badly?

Mr. Mason: Well, Mr. Speaker, I reject that characterization. Our staff worked diligently. I worked that evening with our staff who were present in the emergency area that were supervising our efforts. We worked very hard, including myself taking to social media, not my favourite place to be, to try and make sure that people were well informed about what was happening. In the end, the

*See page 1921, right column, paragraph 12

RCMP successfully extracted everyone. I want to thank, particularly, the town of Canmore for their work.

2:30

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. McIver: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that all these stranded motorists would like to thank the minister for tweeting gasoline and tweeting a blanket and tweeting water, it didn't actually get there by tweet. A full month has gone by. The minister and the government obviously failed. What have they learned, and what are they doing to make sure they don't fail Albertans again the next time it snows?

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to finish my thanks to the town of Canmore for the respite centre that they set up. They helped hundreds of people with food and warmth. People were, I think, very grateful for that. We certainly were. We're endeavouring to make sure that our communications are as good as they can be with our partners in the RCMP, with other organizations, and with municipalities. We want to make sure that this kind of thing doesn't happen again. It was very unfortunate. But the member's characterization of it is incorrect.

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

East Central Francophone School Principal and Superintendent

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, it's now been 250 days that the principal of École du Sommet has been absent although he is still listed as the principal on the website. To this day parents have not been given any information from the ministry regarding their principal. To the Minister of Education. This is a small, community-oriented school where parents and teachers are close friends. Why have you refused to respond to the parents' request for information to clear up this issue?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much to the member for the question. Certainly, the school board in St. Paul produces a very excellent education, as does the school. I am aware of the very difficult situation that has happened as a result of a human resource circumstance. It's also incumbent and important for me to abide by the rules around human resource issues. There is an investigation taking place now and . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Hanson: A human resource issue.

Given that on October 30 parents received an e-mail announcing the name of the acting superintendent, it now appears the francophone board superintendent is also absent. Minister, what is going on here? Why do you ignore the parents' right to know what is happening in their school?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for the question. Again, it's a very excellent school system and school. People are working hard to make sure that there's an excellent level of education. But, again, as it happens, the superintendent is under investigation, as well, at this moment, so it's incumbent upon me to not comment on this investigation here in the House.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Hanson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that out of frustration parents have removed over 35 of their children from École du Sommet, which is effectively removing their constitutional right to a francophone education, and given that parents requesting information have been ignored by your office and given that the public school board doors are locked to the public – Minister, these parents and these students deserve answers – how long are you going to allow this situation to deteriorate?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, it's important to understand what the rules and protocols are around investigations and how that must unfold legally, quite frankly. I certainly think that the results that we just saw from this particular francophone school board were excellent. They produce excellent education for students and a safe and caring place for them to be educated in. But making comments around investigations is not something we do here in the House.

Time-share Lease Consumer Protection

Mr. Gottfried: Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate the Minister of Service Alberta making time to meet on an important issue for many of my constituents and people across Alberta, since that meeting I have received a mountain of correspondence referencing what appear to be serious breaches of consumer protection legislation, supposedly being ruled outside of the mandate and jurisdiction of the legislation and this government. To the minister: can you confirm that the sale of time-share properties in Alberta is regulated by current and past legislation and your commitment to ensuring all Albertans are protected under law?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm, of course, disheartened to hear about the financial burden and hardships that Albertans have faced with these particular time-shares. You know, for too long Alberta's consumer protection laws definitely lagged behind, and that was something that we fixed. That's why we have taken action and strengthened our consumer protection laws so that hard-working Albertans are protected whether they are buying a new home or condo or whether they're going to their favourite concert or getting work done on the family car.

Mr. Gottfried: Mr. Speaker, given that I've received constituent correspondence dating back to March of this year from Alberta Justice stating, "The sale of timeshare properties in Alberta is regulated under the Consumer Protection Act, (formerly the Fair Trading Act)" and given that I'm convinced the minister wishes to do the right thing to protect Alberta consumers, Minister, can you explain to Albertans why this government has failed to enforce clear and, to me, unequivocal protections within both the Consumer Protection Act and its predecessor, the Fair Trading Act?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the RCMP have actually investigated this matter, and I, of course, encourage Albertans to follow up with them. There are some crossjurisdictional things happening with this since the time-shares were indeed in B.C. but sold in Alberta. We're of course continuing to listen to Albertans who are impacted by this, and, you

know, we definitely encourage Albertans to follow up with Service Alberta's consumer protection unit. If there's any new information that may become available, it is something we want to hear here in Service Alberta.

Mr. Gottfried: Mr. Speaker, I believe this minister has some responsibility.

Given that consumer protection is important to all members of this Assembly and rightly has been a theme of this current government and its members and given that my constituents feel that recourse to the courts would not have been necessary if this government had done its job in the first place by protecting consumers, again to the minister: if the legislation has been breached, will you commit to full disclosure on the issues of mandate and jurisdiction and to a full and perhaps independent investigation into those alleged breaches?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just recently this particular matter, again, went back before the courts, so in the case of an independent investigation, you know, the precedent set by the court I think would end up settling that matter. However, in Service Alberta we, of course, are monitoring the situation, and we are happily taking feedback from Albertans. If there do need to be changes above and beyond what we've already done, this government and this minister would be happy to look at them.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Edmonton-McClung.

Racism Prevention

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 27 we saw yet another act of deadly violence against a racial minority in North America. The recent mass shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue was a stark reminder that racism and hatred exist and can have lethal consequences. My riding of Edmonton-McClung has the Beth Israel synagogue, the Rahma mosque, and a large newcomer population. Alberta's diversity is its strength. I am proud that my constituency reflects that strength. To the Minister of Education: what is the government doing to ensure that these residents of Alberta have a voice in addressing racism and ignorance in our province?

Mr. Eggen: Thank you for that question. Mr. Speaker, the atrocity that the member describes and others like it are very saddening, and my heart goes out to the Jewish community and racialized communities across the world. Our government is working with communities to combat racism and hatred and to promote inclusivity and acceptance here in our province. The Alberta Anti-Racism Advisory Council will provide government with valuable insight and advice on how to support those efforts. We have more than 300 applicants to the council, and we are committed to ensuring a diverse membership that accurately reflects Alberta's population.

The Speaker: Thank you.
First supplemental.

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are fantastic organizations across the province that work diligently to address the needs of these racialized communities. I've heard again and again

that these organizations provide valuable support to reduce feelings of vulnerability and fear. To the Minister of Education once again: what is the government doing to ensure these groups are supported in their work to combat racism in Alberta?

Mr. Eggen: Thank you for the question. Mr. Speaker, we know that we can build from the strength we have in local communities and local community groups to help to combat racism and to provide that education that fights ignorance, as I said before. We have a grant structure available for groups to apply for antiracism initiatives. We have very, very good pickup for these grants, but we're also making and designing them so that they are quite modest and so that many people can participate and help to build a stronger, safer community for everybody in the province.

2:40

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Dach: Thank you once again, Mr. Speaker. Newcomers to Alberta come from a wide variety of backgrounds and must quickly adjust to life in a new home. Given that this can mean learning a new language, new skills, and new social norms, children come to Alberta and begin learning in an environment that can be very different from what they are accustomed to. To the Minister of Education: what is the government doing to ensure these students feel welcome and safe in their schools?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a great question. You know, we see encouraging signs. People are moving to Alberta from all parts of Canada and around the world, in part because they know that there is a more safe and caring environment being fostered in our schools, where kids can have that diversity. We need to make sure that diversity is reflected in the curriculum that we are building here now so that kids can look to the curriculum, see themselves, see their shared history in that curriculum. That builds confidence, and from confidence you have a platform for learning.

Thank you. [interjections]

The Speaker: Some order, please. [interjections] Order, please.

I understand that the Minister of Transportation has a supplemental piece of information with respect to the question from Calgary-Hays.

Highway 1 Snowstorm Response (continued)

Mr. Mason: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to supplement my answer to the hon. member. I want to just let him know that we were aware of a very severe storm coming and that all maintenance equipment was mobilized and was available. Unfortunately, the severe winter conditions resulted in the roads being blocked, including semi-trailers in some cases jack-knifed or off the road, blocking access to emergency vehicles and to maintenance equipment. We are in fact conducting a routine examination of this. It's done every time there's an instance, and that review should be completed fairly soon.*

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Member for Calgary-Hays, a supplemental.

Mr. McIver: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that I'm grateful that the minister has approved that gasoline, blankets, and water don't arrive by tweet and has admitted that there was a problem, I would hope that at some time in the future he might be able to report

*See page 1919, right column, paragraph 11

to this House any learnings and improvements that Albertans can look for in the future. If he would enlighten us on that, I would be grateful.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would be pleased to do that. And I do want to say that the first responders, including the RCMP, as well as our maintenance people as well as municipal resources need to be commended for their very diligent, hard work late into the night. I would also like to acknowledge the fact that it was probably a very frightening time for many people who were stranded on the road, but I'm convinced that this review will show us how to prevent any such further recurrence. Sometimes the weather is just overwhelming.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

We'll continue in 30 seconds, hon. members.

Members' Statements

(continued)

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

Lacombe Composite High School Environmental Award

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I celebrate Canada Green Building Council's greenest school in Canada 2018 winner, Lacombe composite high school. I congratulate Wolf Creek public schools and the business sponsors and the volunteers for their support. I congratulate my friend and teacher Mr. Steve Schultz, who with vision and dedication leads the students, and I congratulate the students, who for the past 15 years have participated in the program, some of whom are here today.

Here is what Lacombe students have done for sustainability and a greener community. Through the EcoVision enviroclub they've installed 32 solar arrays on the school, producing six kilowatts, along with a portable solar array and solar classroom cars. They built and use a 42-foot diameter, energy-efficient geodesic tropical greenhouse with geothermal heat storage and commercial aquaponics system. They have two acres of outdoor gardens with 40 raised beds, a 125-fruit-tree forest, picnic tables, and bird, bat, and wild bee houses. They have an urban beekeeping program with eight hives. Lacombe is the first school in Canada to run a beekeeping course for 20-plus credits. They also do farm market sales and a microbusiness program selling garden and apiary produce. They completely compost the 25 kilograms of school kitchen waste. They are now researching and fundraising for an outdoor gazebo classroom with a living roof, and they also have an active robotics program.

Wow. Lacombe high school, way to go. You truly are one of the two greenest schools in Canada, and the thousand-dollar prize will be put to good use. Lacombe is the perfect place for these endeavours. Lacombe is all about agriculture. We have both federal and provincial ag research stations. The soil is great. The weather is near perfect, and there are knowledgeable people who help guide student learning. Way to go, Lacombe students, and thank you to Mr. Schultz, Lacombe citizen of the year and teacher extraordinaire.

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

Calgary's 2026 Winter Olympics Bid

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Tuesday Calgarians will have their say. They will vote on whether to bid for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. Now, there's been a lot of heated debate. Like my neighbours, I've been paying attention to both the process

and the details of the deal. I wish the process was stronger. I wish we had a funding commitment from the federal government sooner than we did, and I wish we had longer to weigh our options. But now that the numbers are in, I think this is a good deal. On Tuesday I will be voting yes. I've always believed we won't move forward if we stand still. An Olympic bid is an opportunity to build on the legacy of one of the best Games ever held, the Games that were run at a profit. The 1988 Olympics left a remarkable legacy over the past 30 years for our city and our country. There's no reason to believe that hosting in 2026 wouldn't leave the same or a better legacy for the next 30 years.

I think we get a good financial deal. We get nearly 1 and a half billion dollars from the federal government for infrastructure that is badly need. Make no mistake: this is money that Alberta would not see otherwise. The IOC has stepped up. The provincial government has provided a responsible contribution, and the amount committed by the city of Calgary is almost entirely made up of what the city would spend anyway on badly needed infrastructure like a field house, facility upgrades, and affordable housing.

What about the risks of cost overruns? I have total confidence in the organizing committee to stay within budget. We've proven time and again that we can build major projects in Calgary just like the brand new Central library, which came in on time and under budget, and let's not forget that the proposed plan includes a billion-dollar contingency. That is nearly 1 dollar in 5 of the entire bid.

Calgarians have different opinions on this, and everyone's opinion matters. I've looked at the numbers, and I think Calgary 2026 is a good deal for our city, our province, and our country. It will create jobs, build on our legacy, and once again showcase Calgary to the world. This Calgarian is voting yes, and I encourage all my neighbours to do your homework and make up your own mind. Yes or no, get out and vote on Tuesday.

Federal-provincial Relations

Mr. Fildebrandt: "The west wants in." Preston Manning and Stephen Harper spoke those words in 1987, when they launched the Reform Party in revolt against the Liberal, Tory, and NDP establishment parties dominated by antiwestern interests. As the western alienation was transforming into western separatism, they sought to channel that anger into something more positive. As many Albertans looked to take the west out, they sought to take the west in, but after decades of struggle the west has never succeeded in getting more than just a foot in the door. The fact is that when the Liberals are in power, Ottawa will work against us. When the Tories are in power in Ottawa, they will too often take us for granted.

The only answer is for Alberta to take back its destiny into its own hands. Alberta must follow the example of Quebec here and take back all powers under the Constitution that the provinces have but do not exercise. Alberta must take direct control over our own pension plan. Alberta must collect our own taxes. Alberta must take direct control of the administration of the Firearms Act. Alberta must take back direct control over our own immigration and refugee system. We must build a new Alberta government that will fight the Trudeau carbon tax without end. We must build a new Alberta government that will not just complain about equalization but be prepared to use every tool at our disposal to force Ottawa to the table. We must build a new Alberta government that does not accept our extreme under- and misrepresentation in the Senate.

2:50

Albertans are proud Canadians and we want nothing more than to be treated equally and fairly with the rest of this country. That is not going to happen under the status quo. The Freedom Conservative

Party is dedicated to bringing decision-making back home, building a firewall around our provincial wealth, and holding a referendum to renegotiate our constitutional relationship with Ottawa. We must come together to build an Alberta and a Canada that is strong and free.

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

Suspension of Physicians' Licences to Practise

Mr. Yao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last April my colleague the Member for Chestermere-Rocky View raised a disturbing incident. A doctor here in Edmonton was continuing to practise, to see patients despite having been convicted of sexually assaulting a patient. This individual was convicted of sexually assaulting a patient at a Sherwood Park clinic in June of 2013. He also assaulted a nurse at a north-side Edmonton clinic a year later. He was also charged with assaulting a clinical manager. The tribunal report over his conduct said that "proven conduct was very serious and repugnant for a member of the medical profession." Serious and repugnant, yet he was allowed to return to seeing patients, patients who had no idea about this doctor's behaviour. This was a demonstration of the failure of one of our professional colleges.

The Leader of the Official Opposition raised this in question period as well. As he committed at the time, our United Conservative opposition are ready to work with the government to ensure that this needed legislation passes quickly if introduced. We welcome the government putting forward legislation months later, but the legislation as proposed didn't go far enough. A five-year suspension for those grotesque crimes is simply not enough. We raised these concerns and proposed amendments. It was disappointing to see the government defeat these amendments. It was disappointing to see the government defend the idea that being unable to practise for five years was good enough. It was disappointing to see the NDP members on the government benches stand and repeatedly vote against amendments to move this towards a lifetime ban.

Today it appears that the government finally recognized this obvious problem in their legislation. Mr. Speaker, we're relieved that the government has finally changed its mind and finally supports a lifetime ban for doctors who commit sexual assault. The doctor-patient relationship is a sacred trust.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

Remembrance Day

Mr. Rosendahl: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year in the weeks leading up to November 11, people from across the province, across our nation come together to pay tribute to men and women in uniform. Many of us proudly wear poppies as a symbol of remembrance and respect towards those who have fallen in the defence of our freedom. Some attend Remembrance Day events and reflect on the past and present sacrifices made by Canadian service people. It is easy to forget that there are dedicated individuals who commit themselves to honouring our veterans year-round such as the members of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Legionnaires are the ones who provide our poppies and organize our Remembrance Day services. They raise money to provide essential support to veterans, their families, and other community organizations. They educate and provide mentorship to our young people through cadet programs. Legions also provide venues for socializing, local events, and volunteer recruitment. Legion halls

are a foundational part of communities across Alberta. As a Legion member myself I have always recognized the incredible service that Legions provide to veterans and communities.

Recently with the consultation of my bill, Bill 207, the Municipal Government (Legion Tax Exemption) Amendment Act, 2018, I have had the privilege to consult Legions all across the province, deepening my appreciation for Legions. I am proud to have five Legions in my constituency – Hinton, Jasper, Edson, Cadomin, and Grande Cache – where I have spent a great amount of time with veterans. I am proud to be in a province where there are over 120 Legions. I am proud to rise today and give my thanks and support to our troops, our veterans, and our Legions.

Lest we forget.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: If I may, before we move on, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to provide notice pursuant to Standing Order 7(8) that the daily Routine will continue past 3 p.m.

Notices of Motions

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation. You have a notice of motion?

Mr. Mason: I do, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my colleague the hon. Minister of Justice I would like to give oral notice of a bill for the Order Paper, that bill being Bill 28, the Family Statutes Amendment Act, 2018.

Thank you.

Introduction of Bills

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

Bill 26

An Act to Combat Poverty and Fight for Albertans with Disabilities

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour and privilege to rise today and request leave to introduce Bill 26, An Act to Combat Poverty and Fight for Albertans with Disabilities.

This legislation, if passed, will make historic changes to the AISH income support and Alberta seniors' benefits programs by indexing these programs to cost-of-living increases. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a response to the concerns and feedback that we have heard from many Albertans, their families, and advocates, who count on AISH, low-income, and seniors' programs. If passed, this legislation will make a positive difference in the lives of thousands of Albertans. I look forward to the discussion in the House on this bill.

With that, I move first reading of the bill.

[Motion carried; Bill 26 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the requisite number of copies of correspondence, referenced in my question today, from Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, dated March 2018, referencing that "the sale of timeshare properties in Alberta is regulated under the Consumer Protection Act." Further, it says,

"I sympathize with you and the many other individuals impacted . . . however, there is nothing further I or this ministry can do to assist you directly."

The Speaker: Member for Calgary-Shaw.

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To supplement my member's statement on Monday, I am tabling the requisite five copies of a document provided to me by the St. Teresa of Calcutta School Playground Foundation, which I provided to the Minister of Education earlier today.

The Speaker: Any other tablings, hon. members?

I advise the House that I believe that the point of order from the Opposition House Leader has been withdrawn. I think there was one point of order. Is that correct?

Mr. McIver: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Opposition House Leader has chosen to withdraw that point of order.

The Speaker: Thank you.

3:00

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

The Deputy Chair: I would like to call the committee to order.

Bill 21 An Act to Protect Patients

The Deputy Chair: The Committee of the Whole has under consideration sections 7 and 26 of Bill 21, An Act to Protect Patients. We are currently on subamendment SA1. Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered in respect to this section of the bill?

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate the opportunity to rise on the subamendment which is before us right now. This has been a long and winding road to get to where we are. Certainly, starting back in the spring, the Leader of the Official Opposition and the deputy Leader of the Official Opposition raised this important issue. I think it's an issue that matters to all Albertans. Surely, when any Albertan goes to see a doctor, I know that they have every right to expect professional behaviour, and to be clear, that's almost always what Albertans get. However, in any line of endeavour you do end up with certain individuals who are either poor at their job, show terrible judgment, or actually do things that are completely unacceptable and offensive.

When it comes to those cases where that small minority of doctors are predatory and commit sexual advances towards their patients, then surely that needs to be dealt with in a firm, harsh, and definite way. Certainly, from the input that I've heard into my office and talking to people that I know, I think Albertans' opinion is that doctors convicted of sexual misbehaviour towards their patients, particularly female patients, obviously, but any patient, should lose their licence not for five years but forever. Despite the fact that this issue came about in the spring, Bill 21 didn't arrive from the government until this week, and of course it arrived with a recommendation to only suspend the doctor's licence for five years before the doctor could reapply.

Now, certainly, we the Official Opposition and other opposition parties took the position very much right from the start that that was

not an adequate reaction to the heinous behaviour that we are talking about and, surely, in the example of Dr. Taher, which, I suppose, has become the best illustration of this very, very serious and completely unacceptable and offensive behaviour that can sometimes occur. Albertans really have come to the conclusion that a stronger, longer withdrawal of the doctor's ability to practise medicine is what's appropriate. Indeed I believe that what Albertans want this House to do is to say that that doctor can't practise medicine anymore in Alberta.

The entire House, in my understanding, is actually coming around, I believe, to the same conclusion despite the fact that the government side took a much different position at the beginning of this debate on Bill 21. I'm presuming they received some of the feedback from Albertans that the Official Opposition has received and, I understand, some of the other opposition parties have received, which is a very strong message saying never, that when a doctor is convicted of sexual misconduct against a patient in that sacred trust relationship in Alberta, that doctor should never be able to practise in Alberta again.

Here's the problem. The problem is that in this very illustrative case with Dr. Taher, that is not what occurred. That sanction is not the sanction that that doctor received. Frankly, I think many Albertans are angry about that.

Now, the government rejected the opposition parties' amendments to strengthen that. They strengthened one amendment to stretch the time period out to never and then another one as an alternative, I think, because the member of the House thought that the closest to never was 40 years, probably reasonably based on the fact that by the time somebody gets a medical degree, they're probably, in many cases, 25 or 30 years old. If you add 40 years onto that, they're pretty much at the end of their effective time of practising medicine. So, really, both amendments amount to the doctor never getting his licence back. Despite the fact that they weren't worded identically, I believe the net effect in protecting Albertans was the same strong net effect, which is why the Official Opposition and indeed another opposition party took that position.

Of course, we're at this awkward place because, apparently, until they got a stronger message, the Health minister, the hon. Deputy Premier, took a completely different stand and insisted that the five years was enough and indeed let this piece of legislation go on to third reading without any of those important amendments being made.

Today we saw what brings us here to this subamendment, this amendment and the subamendment that we're talking about right now. A most extraordinary thing happened. The government did a complete 180, taking a mulligan, if you will, backtracking, admitting failure, admitting a mistake, something that this government has been severely reticent to do despite the fact that they've had many, many pieces of legislation that they've had to drag back to this House for sometimes one, two, three, and four changes before they got different pieces of legislation to the place where they wanted them to be. They've actually gone further than third reading; they've gone past third reading and then had to bring another piece of legislation back. But this is the deepest they've gone into a piece of legislation before retreating, going into full retreat, admitting failure, admitting to be completely wrong, admitting the opposition was right and they were wrong. I'm sure that was a little painful for them to do. Nonetheless, I thank them for doing that because this issue is important to all Albertans.

Despite the fact that I'm sure it was painful and humiliating for the government to do it, I give them credit for doing it. I think they have come to the belief and the agreement, where the opposition has always been, that five years is not an appropriate penalty for that abuse of the doctor-patient relationship trust, not an appropriate

penalty for sexual misconduct towards a patient who's depending on that doctor for care, for compassion, and for a chance at a healthy life under the doctor's care moving forward.

Madam Speaker, the government, to their credit, has agreed to recommit Bill 21 to Committee of the Whole. The opposition has accommodated the government's desire to do so, and an amendment was made. Of course, the subamendment, it is determined, will improve the amendment that was put forward.

What's happening right now other than me being on my feet talking about this is that there's been some consideration that there is an additional improvement to that subamendment that I think that the government and the Official Opposition can agree upon. While I'm here debating the subamendment on this very important bill to protect Albertans, it's my belief that there are members from both sides working feverishly in the backroom, looking to refine the subamendment, to improve it, and to come up with something that is a little more fulsome, a little more effective, which we believe will more fully meet the desires of Albertans for that protection, which they deserve, they need, and they surely want.

3:10

Madam Chair, again, as I said when I started out, it's been a long and winding trail to get to this point, and it's certainly my desire and the desire of the Official Opposition that before this day ends – and as we all know, this day ends at 4:30 on Thursdays – we can come to that common understanding of where we need to be with this legislation, that we can think of Albertans, that we can put our political differences aside on this issue, which I believe and I think all members of the House believe ought to be a nonpartisan issue. Having women and indeed all Albertans safe when they go to the doctor should be everyone's position. It should be an NDP position and a Conservative position and every other party's position. It's an Albertan position. It's a human position. It's a position that we all need to have and we all need to get to. So by the end of this day that's my hope.

Really, today the opposition showed what due diligence and perseverance is. To get here, we held the government accountable. We stuck to our guns, but we also agreed to work with the government and to look for what I would call that hallowed middle ground, where all sides in this House can do something that upon proper reflection, not only with each other but proper reflection and communication with bodies like the College of Physicians & Surgeons and the AMA and doctors' groups and individual doctors and indeed patients – let's not forget about the patients, the Albertans who are patients. These are the people, particularly women, that need to be protected. If we do our jobs well today, we will have moved forward in protecting those Alberta women today.

You know what? No one wins if we don't get this right. No one wins. Without regard to whatever political party they support, whatever part of Alberta they live in, whatever their quality of life is in other ways, it serves no one if a woman goes to a doctor and that woman is not safe. That will never be a standard that should be tolerated. It should never be a standard that is accepted.

I am genuinely and sincerely of the opinion that by the time this day ends, I hope that we can all look across the aisle at each other and say, "Well, there are a lot of things we don't agree on, but we agree on this," which is why it's important that we take this time. There was a point, I believe, when the House was considering talking about other pieces of legislation today, and at this point, again, it's been agreed that the most important thing that we can do on this day is to get this important issue right, an issue that we struggled to get to this place where we think we can all agree and get it right and one that matters. I'd like to think that everything that we do in this House matters, but I think most Albertans would agree

that some things matter more than others. The sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship, the security of that relationship, is of the highest importance.

Madam Chair, there has been a lot of talk about how we properly look after survivors of this heinous act when it happens, and that's important, but the place that I'd like to get us to is a place where we have fewer survivors because we have fewer offences made. While you can never one hundred per cent stop bad human behaviour, one of the mechanisms that we as legislators can use to prevent bad human behaviour is to put in place sanctions, penalties, things that those that would behave badly would not look forward to, would be afraid of, be unwilling to tolerate, and that, we would hope, will inspire them to forgo any bad behaviour that they may be considering. What's better than looking after a victim of sexual violence in a doctor's office is to have no victim at all. What's better than having a survivor is to not have anything to survive. What's better is to have a trusting relationship that is honoured one hundred per cent of the time. While we may not be able to guarantee in this Legislature that we can do that one hundred per cent of the time, by gosh, I think we need to try to get as close to that one hundred per cent number as we can, and by so doing, I believe we will be truly serving not only Alberta women but, really, all Albertans.

There are other things to do. The College of Physicians & Surgeons: my understanding is that they are actually looking forward to this legislative guidance. They're actually looking forward to the legislation putting them in a position where they can apply meaningful sanctions in a timely way and feel fully able to do that without having those sanctions overturned and without having their own tribunals feel reticent to put in place the proper sanctions. That's my understanding. If we can actually do that for them, if we actually could put them in a better position to serve all Albertans, that function of this Legislature would be one, indeed, that we could all be proud of if we can get to that important point.

Madam Speaker – Madam Chair. Pardon me. I'm trying to elevate your position here. You might be Madam Speaker in a few minutes, when we move out of Committee of the Whole. I mean nothing but respect. I want to thank you for this opportunity to rise and speak on this bill. I know that there are people in the background working feverishly to agree on words that will get us to the place where we want to be. I'm grateful for this opportunity to talk about a matter that truly is of importance to all Albertans.

Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the subamendment? The hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Mr. Nixon: Well, thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you to the Member for Calgary-Hays, who has been discussing this important subamendment for the last . . .

Mr. McIver: Nineteen minutes.

3:20

Mr. Nixon: . . . 19 minutes. As he says, there have been some conversations taking place, of course, behind the scenes between the government and the opposition, conversations that I believe are going to bear fruit shortly, Madam Chair. I'm sure you are excited about that.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke about his desire to be able to try to come to a good compromise – actually, I think that "compromise" is the wrong word in this case – a good agreement that will make the strongest piece of legislation on this issue for Albertans. He did indicate, Madam Chair – I don't know if you

caught that part of his speech this morning, where he discussed the kind of timeline that got us to the place that we're at today, kind of an unprecedented day. I know that in your time in the Assembly you have not seen a process quite like this in the Legislative Assembly. In fact, it had gotten complicated enough that we had to bring in, between us and the government, some extra procedural help to try to figure out how to do this appropriately.

He talked about how, you know, this was brought forward last spring. The hon. Leader of the Opposition and the hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View – not Rocky Mountain House-Chestermere, as sometimes those of you who sit in the chair like to say because they sound similar. In fact, Madam Chair, I don't know if quite often people hear that I'm from Rocky Mountain House and think it's Rocky View county. I don't know if you've ever been to Rocky Mountain House and Rocky View county. They're very different places, about as different as myself and the hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

He talked about how they brought this important issue, that they identified it last sitting. The Deputy Premier at that time did not move forward with legislation, but we are thankful that sometime, at least, over the summer she recognized this as a serious issue and brought forward a piece of legislation to the Assembly. You know, the Leader of the Opposition pointed out some of the antics that we thought were unfortunate on this issue, but the reality is that the bill did get here.

But then, when the bill got here, there was a discussion primarily around five years versus lifetime bans in certain situations, and there was certainly significant disagreement between the government members of the House and the opposition on those issues. The Alberta Party and the Official Opposition, the United Conservative Party, were united on that issue, and in this case the NDP government were not on the same page. In fact, the members across the way from me stood up four times in a row in this House, had their names called for their constituencies, and voted against, you know, making sure predatory doctors and those types of things would be unable to practise medicine if they were convicted of crimes and had done things of a significant sexual nature to hurt their patients or people that they were charged with caring for. The government made that decision.

At that time the Deputy Premier indicated that she felt she didn't have enough time to look at the amendments that were being brought forward by the opposition. I found that a little bit alarming, the fact that that is what her and her party call on the opposition to do constantly, on a regular basis, with more than just amendments. They ask us to do that with large pieces of legislation. It's an interesting process for us, where we have to often be able to try to determine what to do with a piece of legislation. It's hard.

Now, the reason I bring it up is just to point out that the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills gave the minister an opportunity to be able to adjourn debate briefly for a day or so to be able to get this right, to have time to review it. Instead, the government chose to stand up three or, actually, four times and vote against what, clearly, the majority of Albertans wanted and then sometime between then and there decided, I think because of political pressure, to change their mind and reach out to us and ask us to take their bill back out of third reading, back into Committee of the Whole, do what's called a recommittal motion, and then try to have an opportunity to have a do over. I'm glad they did because I think it would have been unfortunate if this bill had passed the way that it was in third reading and if this got missed when they go forward. I think that, to their credit, they recognized that. They came to this Chamber and had an opportunity to change it.

We looked at the amendment that was brought forward by the government, and in general – actually, not in general. We agree with

all the content of the amendment, but we feel there was one section that was missed, which is why the hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Conklin brought in a subamendment, which we're talking about today, to be able to amend those areas that we think have been missed. Now, my understanding, Madam Chair, is that the government has indicated to us that they're in agreement in general with our intention with the subamendment. We have been in discussions, since we rose this morning for the Remembrance Day ceremonies, attempting to get that amendment to a place where both the government and their lawyers and the opposition are comfortable being able to pass it.

I do expect that that amendment will briefly be coming to this Chamber. As such, then I will shortly, actually, consider probably withdrawing the current subamendment that is on the floor. I'm explaining that now so that I don't have to explain it when it happens, Madam Chair, to try to make it as efficient as possible once that new subamendment arrives. Then you will probably see the Member for Fort McMurray-Conklin shortly thereafter rise to move a new subamendment.

Now, I actually think, Madam Chair, there's a very good chance that you will probably know how close we are to that before I do, but we will find out. Maybe not. Maybe it'll be a surprise. We will see where we're at. But that's what we are going through today. I think what's important about that is that it shows how we should have handled that as a Chamber in the very first place. If the minister felt that she did not have enough time to review the amendment – and I suspect that what her argument will be is that, well, we send you briefs . . .

Ms Hoffman: A sit-down briefing.

Mr. Nixon: A sit-down briefing, usually the day before a bill is voted on.

Now, I've been in those sit-down briefings, and while I do appreciate that they give them, they are nowhere near adequate enough for us to be able to determine our position on a bill. That takes time. The hon. Deputy Premier spent some time as a staffer with the NDP when they were in opposition. She knows that you don't just go to a government briefing and take the government's word for it. That is not the reality of the political process.

Madam Chair, I know, without a doubt, that in the last NDP caucus, when they were in opposition, the hon. Government House Leader, who spent a considerable amount of time in this Chamber in opposition – and I always enjoyed watching him in question period – did not go to Progressive Conservative briefings on a bill and just automatically assume that they were completely comfortable with it and then come into the Assembly and make his position for his constituents based on what the Progressive Conservatives told him in that briefing. That is not a reality of how the NDP operated in opposition. It's not a reality of how any opposition party should operate.

You take that briefing. You take the bill. You work with your researchers and your staff to try to understand it. Most importantly, you reach out to constituents, you reach out to stakeholders that will be involved. I know that the NDP did that when they were in opposition as well. That is the process for the opposition when they're in there.

Now, an amendment. I have been in this Chamber many times, firstly as the chief opposition whip and then later as the Opposition House Leader, when the government has brought in amendments that I only saw minutes before, where I was literally, Madam Chair, taking pictures of the amendment and sending them to staff that are elsewhere, trying to find out where the amendment is at. It is not that uncommon for an amendment to come to this place with very

little notice because of the speed of how we move through this legislation. The reality is that that is our process here in Alberta, which is why I always talk about the House of Commons. It has a different committee process, that I think probably would avoid such things as this.

What I think is important about this is that, at the end of the day, the government has indicated that, I think it would be fair to say, they regret voting against those amendments so hastily or moving this to third reading without a further discussion on this important issue. As such, we found ourselves there, and I think there's been some good bipartisan co-operation on an important issue today.

As such, Madam Chair, I'd like to ask for unanimous consent to withdraw the current subamendment that is on the floor.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

There has been a motion to withdraw subamendment SA1, requiring unanimous consent.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Deputy Chair: The subamendment will now be withdrawn.

The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Conklin.

Ms Goodridge: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to move a subamendment, and I have the requisite number of copies here. Would you like me to wait till you receive the subamendment copies?

The Deputy Chair: If you could please just wait until I have a copy at the table.

Go ahead, Member.

Ms Goodridge: All right. Thank you, Madam Chair. Part of why I've been pushing so hard to ensure that any health professional who sexually abuses a patient never is able to practise again is due to some of my personal experience. Dr. Carl Nqumayo, an ob-gyn in Fort McMurray, was charged with assaulting six female patients between 2003 and '05. He was supposed to be performing internal examinations on the women when the offences were committed.

I was 18 at the time that Dr. Nqumayo was charged, and it was all over our local media. It affected me and many young women within my community who were supposed to be getting these important tests completed for the very first time. It made a generation of young women in Fort McMurray reluctant to take their health seriously.

3:30

Today I would like to move my subamendment to ensure that health professionals that abuse a patient never practise again. I would urge all members to support this important change. I move the motion as follows:

(a) by renumbering it as part A.1 and by adding the following before part A.1:

A Section 7(a) is amended by adding "or (3.1)" after "subsection (3)".

(b) in clause (a) in the proposed section 45

(i) by striking out subsection (3) and substituting the following:

(3) A person whose practice permit and registration are cancelled as a result of a decision of unprofessional conduct based in whole or in part

(a) on sexual abuse, or

(b) on a conviction of the person under section 151, 152, 153, 153.1, 155, 162, 162.1, 163.1, 171.1, 172.1, 172.2, 173, 271, 272, 273, 286.1, 286.2 or 286.3 of the *Criminal Code* (Canada)

may not apply for the practice permit to be reissued and the registration reinstated.

(ii) in the proposed subsection (3.1) by striking out "A person" and substituting "Subject to subsection (3), a person".

Thank you, Madam Chair, and I would please urge all members of this Assembly to consider accepting this amendment.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member. First off, the amendment will now be referred to as subamendment SA2.

Are there any members wishing to speak to subamendment SA2? The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Madam Chair and to the member for the amendment. I think this goes to speak to how complicated some of this language can be around drafting and how important it is to make sure that we work in a way that's collaborative. I really do want to recognize that the members opposite and staff sat down with our Health staff and with staff from my office to make sure that the intent, which we both agree upon, is indeed the language that will ensure the safety for any individual who is part of such a severe act.

I have to say that I think it's really important that we continue to say to anyone who's been assaulted, to all health professionals, and to all Albertans that they are going to be protected, that we are going to ensure that they have the supports that they need, and that if there are any concerns, they are addressed.

I have just gotten confirmation that this indeed is the language that we agreed upon. Therefore, I want to encourage all my colleagues to vote in support.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. minister.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to subamendment SA2?

Seeing none, I will call the question on the subamendment.

[Motion on subamendment SA2 carried]

The Deputy Chair: We are now back on the amendment. Are there any members wishing to speak to the amendment as amended?

Seeing none, I will call the question on amendment A7.

[Motion on amendment A7 as amended carried]

The Deputy Chair: Are there any other members wishing to speak to sections 7 and 26?

Seeing none, I'll call the question on section 7 and section 26 of Bill 21, An Act to Protect Patients, as amended.

[Motion carried]

The Deputy Chair: Shall the bill be reported with amendments? Are you agreed?

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Mr. Mason: I move, Madam Chair, that the committee rise and report Bill 21 as amended.

[Motion carried]

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

Ms Jabbour: Madam Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has had under consideration certain sections of Bill 21. The committee reports the following: sections 7 and 26 of Bill 21 with amendments.

I wish to table copies of all amendments considered by the Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.
Does the Assembly concur in the report?

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Acting Speaker: Opposed? So ordered.

Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

Bill 21 An Act to Protect Patients

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier and Minister of Health to move third reading.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and thank you very much to our colleagues for the progress we continued to make this afternoon.

It's my honour to introduce again third reading of Bill 21, An Act to Protect Patients.

Thank you very much to members of the other parties for the important amendments and contributions to ensure that this bill is even stronger than what was introduced, and thank you to all members for working together to ensure that we have the strongest possible penalties in place for regulated health professionals who do commit sexual assault. Our government has zero tolerance for sexual abuse or misconduct towards patients, and it's a significant betrayal of the public trust, as many of us have mentioned. There is no circumstance where sexual abuse by a regulated health professional will be tolerated. The age of impunity, once again, is over, and it's time to take these crimes into the light.

Again, I want to thank the regulated health authority colleges for their support on this bill and all of the brave and strong Albertans who have shared their stories to ensure that this never happens again. I'm very proud that our government is taking action to increase transparency.

With that, I move third reading of Bill 21.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health.

Are there any other members wishing to speak? I'd like to recognize the hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to actually move a recommittal back to Committee of the Whole. I'll give the necessary copies. Let me know when you receive it.

The Acting Speaker: Hon. member, if you could just wait until I have the amendment at the table, and then you can go ahead.

Thank you, hon. member. Your amendment will be referred to as REC2.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to move that the motion for third reading of Bill 21, An Act to Protect Patients, be amended by deleting all the words after "that" and substituting the following:

Bill 21, An Act to Protect Patients, be not now read a third time but that it be recommitted to the Committee of the Whole for the purpose of reconsidering section 4.

The reason that I am moving this is that I do have an amendment to move this afternoon to address some of the concerns put forward by stakeholders.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the amendment? Seeing none, I will call the question on amendment REC2.

[Motion on amendment REC2 carried]

3:40 Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole (continued)

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

The Deputy Chair: I would now like to call the committee to order.

Bill 21 An Act to Protect Patients (continued)

The Deputy Chair: The committee has under consideration section 4 of Bill 21, An Act to Protect Patients. Are there any comments, questions, or amendments? The hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's certainly been a lesson in procedure today, how things work – it's been interesting to watch that part – and I think really heartening and gratifying to see all of us working together to strengthen this legislation. I'm really grateful for the opportunity to move this amendment. I'd like to move that Bill 21, An Act to Protect Patients, be amended by striking out section 4 and substituting the following:

4 Section 16 is amended by adding the following after subsection (1):

(1.1) When establishing a hearing tribunal where the subject-matter of a hearing relates to a complaint alleging sexual abuse of or sexual misconduct towards a patient by a regulated member, the hearings director must make every reasonable effort to ensure that

- (a) at least one member of the hearing tribunal has the same gender identity as the patient,
- (b) all members of the hearing tribunal have received training on trauma informed practice and sexual violence, and any other training specified by the Minister, and
- (c) all members of the hearing tribunal have completed the training referred to in clause (b) prior to serving on a hearing tribunal.

(1.2) For the purposes of ensuring that at least one member of the hearing tribunal has the same gender identity as the patient under subsection (1.1), the hearings director may select one member from the membership list established by another council under section 15 to be appointed as one additional public member.

The rationale behind this is to ensure better decision-making by tribunals when they're hearing cases of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.
Are there any members wishing to speak?

Ms Hoffman: What a nice example, I think, this is of how we can achieve good outcomes when we continue to work collaboratively.

That being said, I have reviewed the language. It reflects the understanding of the conversations the hon. member and I and many members of my caucus have had. Therefore, I encourage all colleagues to vote in support.

Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to amendment A8?
Seeing none, I will call the question.

[Motion on amendment A8 carried]

The Deputy Chair: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Well, it is with an incredible sense of déjà vu, Madam Chair, that I stand to move that we rise and report Bill 21 as amended.

[Motion carried]

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

Ms Jabbour: Madam Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has had under consideration certain sections of Bill 21. The committee reports the following: section 4 of Bill 21 with amendments. I wish to table copies of all amendments considered by Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.
Does the Assembly concur in the report?

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Acting Speaker: Opposed? So ordered.

Government Bills and Orders

Third Reading

(continued)

Bill 21

An Act to Protect Patients

(continued)

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

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. My grandmother said good things happen in threes. It's my pleasure, for the third time, to introduce third reading of Bill 21, an act that I think we're all really excited to see move forward and be passed and enacted to ensure that patients and all those who visit health care offices have the confidence and full assurance that they are doing so without seeing somebody who may have been found guilty of sexual assault.

With that, I am very proud to move third reading and look forward to this continuing to move through at this new pace that we've set this afternoon. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, minister.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to third reading of Bill 21? The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to speak on Bill 21, An Act to Protect Patients. This bill is an incredibly important step forward for our province to protect patients and ensure trust in our health care system. I want to first thank my colleague from Chestermere-Rocky View for raising this important issue this past spring and for being unrelenting in her advocacy for victims all across Alberta.

Trust in our health care professionals is an absolute necessity for our health care system. It is critical that we deal with those few who abuse this trust and, in doing so, not only support victims but also the vast majority of health care professionals who uphold the high standard of ethics expected in their vocation.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank the government for coming forward with this bill and for belatedly making this decision to engage with the opposition to make it better. My colleague's amendment to change the length of the ban from five years to a lifetime, in my view, is an important change to let victims know that they have our support, that they have the understanding that their safety is our utmost intent in this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I am a husband and a father, and the safety of my family, particularly in potentially vulnerable circumstances, is my utmost concern. I am also confident that this issue is of the utmost concern for every member of the House.

I want to thank everyone who knows how important this is and is working to deliver this legislation for Albertans. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to start by first of all saying to the Member for Calgary-MacKay-Nose Hill and the Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park that I am always humbled by the willingness of members of this House to be open and to talk about their personal experience. I think this is why I really appreciate being part of the Assembly at the moment where we're really willing to tackle some very tough issues that are not only very personal but affect people for a lifetime.

The other thing that I think is important to say is that whatever bill we pass and so on, the important thing is that, first of all, we believe people who report sexual abuse or sexual misconduct. That's one thing that I've appreciated, the ability that we can put forward bills and programs and so on so that when somebody stands up and speaks, we believe them and we take action. I think this is really important in what we do in the Assembly. I'm also very aware that this bill is not the only thing that the government has done to protect victims of sexual abuse or to listen to them and to put programs in place. I appreciate the extra funding that has gone to programs for safe homes or for counselling programs.

3:50

I'm really pleased to stand up and speak on behalf of this bill because, as we all know, there was an incident in Sherwood Park, my constituency, that led to concern arising out of the way that the doctor was able to practise. I also want to thank the constituents, the people who have spoken about it and have interacted with government and opposition members to make sure that we dealt with this bill. We may be voting for this bill in the House, but I think this bill indicates the fact that the voice of those who are survivors, who have been victimized is really important in how we make decisions.

Thank you to the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health for working with every member of the House to make this a very strong bill, and I especially appreciate the willingness of the opposition to work with us and to be reminded all the time that we have to listen to the voice of those people who say they've been abused.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Mr. Yao: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is an honour to rise today in the House to support Bill 21, the protecting patients from sexual assault by health providers act. This minister might not be able to address emergency wait times, which continue to worsen, and our

ambulances that continue to line up. This minister might not be able to improve surgical wait times as they deteriorate, surgeries at 46 weeks now. This minister might not be able to do one iota of streamlining in administration in order to enable front-line services to see their patients more effectively. But this minister was good enough to listen to the Member for Chestermere-Rocky View on her question this last spring, and she is addressing a very serious issue, and for that I commend her. This is a good bill. This bill is a crucial piece of legislation, and I'm very grateful for the opportunity to stand up and talk on it today as the Health critic for the United Conservative Party.

I understand the code of conduct that is expected of those in the medical profession. We must treat all patients with respect and dignity. We must do our very best to make sure patients know that they are safe and that they can trust us to help them. It's absolutely horrific that some medical professionals take it upon themselves to misuse their power and sexually abuse their patients. Madam Speaker, when we were discussing this bill and I was discussing this bill with two friends, those two friends told me about their negative experiences. It was appalling. My one friend, when she was a child in Ontario, a teenager, a lifeguard, sprained her ankle. The paramedics proceeded to cut off all of her clothes, and to this day, 20 years later, she's still disgusted by it. She was good enough to share that experience with me. As a former paramedic I can tell you that if you have a sprained ankle, there is no need to cut off all of your clothes. That much I guarantee. It's disgusting. Why would a 17-year-old kid have to go through that kind of traumatizing experience? She had the trust of a medical professional who was working on her, and it's absolutely disgusting that someone would take advantage of that.

Another story from another friend here in town. She shared with me a story that involves her teenage daughter here in this city. She was having chest pains. By any measure, I know what to do with chest pains. You're assessing something in the chest. You're assuming it's a cardiac issue or maybe a musculoskeletal issue. Ultimately, Madam Speaker, the doctor wanted to do an internal exam on her – just to be clear, when I'm talking about an internal exam, I'm talking about a vaginal exam – for chest pain. When her daughter was startled by this and very unsure whether to say yes – and thank God she was discouraged from agreeing with this treatment – the doctor shamed her and said: you're refusing a medical treatment? This poor kid didn't know what to do. Ultimately, they left the hospital, and she was able to see a physician a little bit later and get a proper diagnosis.

I tell you what. It's things like that, and this abuse of medical professionals is truly detrimental to our society. It's unfortunate that our college failed us in this regard, and we can only hope that this legislation will ensure that these things never happen again. This bill ensures that patients will feel safe, that they can continue to have faith in their doctors and in the system. They can be reassured that medical professionals will not abuse their power and, if they do, that they will be held accountable. The safety of Albertans should always be our number one priority, and this bill certainly does that.

People need to be held accountable for their actions, and that includes the organizations that they're responsible to. We have to have faith and trust in these colleges that we have empowered to manage professionals. The epitome of professionals is the fact that they are self-managed. The fact that this one particular college failed our society in allowing one physician to treat people was disappointing, and we can only hope that they and every other college learn that they are accountable, that they're responsible for their actions, and that our society is very aware in this day and age. We can only hope that these things never happen again.

With that, Madam Speaker, I just simply want to say that I'm proud to stand today with this Legislature in favour of Bill 21. This bill, I hope and we all hope, will bring back to Albertans trust and faith in our system, trust and faith from people that have been mistreated by the system. We can only hope that they continue on in our society, hope that this will hold all medical professionals accountable for violating their sacred oaths and will ensure that a high standard for our medical professionals will be upheld.

I do hope that all members will vote in favour of Bill 21. Thank you very much.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

The hon. member under 29(2)(a)?

Ms McPherson: Just a comment, not a question. I think it's really incumbent on all of the members of the Legislature to avail themselves of information about trauma and how their language can be extremely retraumatizing for people who've experienced sexual assault. With some of the language that I just heard, I had to plug my ears so that I didn't have to listen to it. It was very upsetting. It was unnecessary. It didn't add anything to the debate, and I'm very disappointed to have heard it in this Chamber in that context. Once again, you know, there are many programs available where you can learn about trauma and about the effect of your words on other people.

The Acting Speaker: Any other comments under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, hon. member, would you like to speak to third reading?

Ms McPherson: Just very briefly.

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

Ms McPherson: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I want to reiterate my extreme gratitude for where we've gotten to, acknowledge the Minister of Health, the government caucus, the Official Opposition. I want to thank especially my own caucus members for standing with me and in solidarity for women. It's not just women; it's all patients. We've all done a remarkable job of sending a really clear message to people who have experienced sexual assault that we believe them and that we take it seriously and that their words matter, their experience matters.

So I'm really happy to be able to support this bill.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Any members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, I'll now recognize the hon. Member for Calgary-Bow.

Drever: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be brief in my comments. I just want to thank the Minister of Health for putting forward this bill. This is such an important bill to so many women here in this province. I know that she worked very hard on it, and I just wanted to say thank you for that.

Our government has always been clear that sexual assault is a heinous crime and it will not be tolerated. I'm just so pleased that we're so close to passing this important piece of legislation to protect patients from sexual abuse and sexual misconduct, making Alberta the second province to do so. I'm proud that Alberta is a leader in Canada in preventing assault and supporting survivors, and I want to thank the members from all parties in this Assembly for their thoughtful debate and constructive conversation around this legislation. We've listened to survivors and listened closely to

the organizations who support them as we drafted this legislation and as we continued to work with them during this debate.

4:00

I'm very thankful for all the amendments that came forward. I think that they really strengthen the current piece of legislation. I also wanted to thank the Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park for all her words today in the House. I think that she spoke on behalf of a lot of women who've been in that situation. I think that's a pretty strong message. As legislators this is our role, to represent our constituents, and I think that everyone here has done a really good job here today.

Thank you. That's all I have to say.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Any members under 29(2)(a)?

Any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I will speak briefly to take this opportunity to rise and speak in favour of Bill 21, which I think is, without question, a tremendously important piece of legislation, that I would hope has a very strong and positive impact on the lives of Albertans who may be victimized by medical practitioners, be they doctors or members of the other nearly 40 colleges, I think, that it will be applied to in this case.

I also want to make sure that I thank the Minister of Health and the Government House Leader on the government side for working very collaboratively with the opposition. We had a lot of back and forth to get this bill where it needed to be, and government and opposition and all members should be proud of the work that we've done here today. I want to make sure that my gratitude is on the record and stated.

I want to thank my colleague the Alberta Party caucus Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill for being the first here to push for a lifetime ban. Ultimately, after some back and forth, we got to where we needed to be. Most importantly, though, I want to thank her for her tremendous bravery in sharing her personal story. Thank you.

To the Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park as well for her powerful words earlier today and to others in the Chamber who may have had similar experiences but not having had the desire to share that, which is absolutely your right: know that I believe you and that that is something that we, and I personally, acknowledge is tremendously impactful on your life. I know that others in this House have shared their stories, and it is really humbling and sobering to hear those stories. With some of the other stories that we've heard and personal experiences, what I'm struck by is just how devastatingly widespread sexual assault, sexual harassment is in our society. We're starting to finally shine a light on that problem. I think legislation like this, bills like this, help ensure that that cycle stops, but I think we need to be cognizant of the fact that we're a very long way from solving this problem in society, and there's much work that remains to be done. I really do want to thank those who have had the bravery to share their stories, and I will, with my Alberta Party colleagues, support Bill 21 at third reading.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, are there any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Peace River.

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I did want to just take a brief opportunity to speak to Bill 21 and, I think, just really reinforce how incredibly important this legislation is. I'd like to

remind the House that we've talked a lot about the impacts of a doctor-patient kind of a situation. But this bill, in fact, regulates a whole number, a whole range of health professionals, including my own profession. As a provisional psychologist, my profession falls under the agency of this bill as well. If you think about a relationship between a psychologist and a patient, the potential for damage could be pretty severe just due to the nature of the personal revelations, the kinds of conversations that go on; you could be potentially creating a lot of damage should you engage in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a patient. Now, as psychologists we have a very, very strong code of ethics. We are expected to adhere to this, and in fact it's an excellent code of ethics. You benefit from it every day because it really gave me some good guidance in a whole multitude of situations.

I think it's important that the college, while they would hold their members to account, also needs to have the backing of some legislation to support them in that. This is what I heard the other evening when I had the opportunity to speak with members of the college of physicians. They said how much they appreciated this legislation because it will actually give them the legal piece that they need when they want to withhold ever giving back a licence to someone who's found guilty of an offence. This is really far-reaching legislation. It's not just doctors; it's impacting a whole range of health professions. It's wonderful. I'm really glad that the government has brought this forward.

I just wanted to comment a little bit on the process. It's been really interesting, I think, partly because I guess I'm a bit of a legislative geek, and I find it really interesting that we've had to follow all of these rules back and forth to get these things fixed. It also brought home to me the importance that we pass legislation that will withstand a constitutional challenge. We would never want to pass really good legislation like this and then have it struck down, because this is legislation that we need in this province, so I think it was really important that there was some due diligence done around that. While maybe initially, you know, we thought that we had found that balance, the minister went back, checked with the legal counsel, and came back with another possibility. You know, I think we've arrived at a really good solution together.

I just wanted to comment, thirdly, about the collaborative process. One of the things when I was working in *Hansard* and I used to watch the process back and forth during the years when the former PCs were in power: it would frustrate me because the opposition would bring forward excellent amendments, great suggestions, and the government just ignored them. They had no interest whatsoever in listening to anything the opposition had to say. So I'm so pleased that our government is doing this differently and that you're willing to listen, that the Health minister and the opposition parties worked together to make this bill as strong as could possibly be. Thank you so much for engaging in all of that. I'm really, really proud that as a province we're taking the lead on this.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a)?

Are there any more speakers, just to clarify?

Seeing none, I'll now call on the Deputy Premier to close.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker, and thank you to all of my colleagues. I know that this has been a very important bill for, I imagine, all of us. I look forward to us being able to spend time in our constituencies this next week telling our constituents about the important work of this House.

While I think we've done a great job talking about what everyone on the floor of this Chamber who's elected has done to bring us to

this point, I want to also recognize all of the staff who were part of the work in drafting the original bill, making sure that we worked on amendments, and making sure that we brought it to this conclusion today of third reading. Lastly, I want to recognize the table officers and the Chair/Speaker/Chair/Speaker for her amazing ability to adapt today and help navigate this process. I imagine this is something that she probably wanted to speak to as well, so I look forward to hearing what she tells her constituents about this important legislation once we rise today.

Thank you very much to all members.

With that, I close debate at third reading of Bill 21.

[Motion carried; Bill 21 read a third time]

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank all members. This is as close as legislating comes to clockwork precision. Here we are with 20 minutes left on the clock, but I will move that we call it 4:30 and that the House adjourn until 1:30 on November 19.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:10 p.m. to Monday, November 19, at 1:30 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, November 8, 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.*), (*Oct. 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

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.*), 1828-35 (*Nov. 6, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1845-65 (*Nov. 7, 2018 morn., 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.*), 1835-43 (*Nov. 6, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*), 1900-10 (*Nov. 8, 2018 morn., recommitted, adjourned*), 1924-28 (*Nov. 8, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*), 1928-29 (*Nov. 8, 2018 aft., recommitted, passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1899-1900 (*Nov. 8, 2018 morn., recommitted to Committee*), 1928 (*Nov. 8, 2018 aft., recommitted to Committee*), 1929-32 (*Nov. 8, 2018 aft., passed*)

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 23 — An Act to Renew Local Democracy in Alberta (S. Anderson)

First Reading — 1778 (*Nov. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1809-12 (*Nov. 6, 2018 morn., adjourned*)

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

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

Second Reading — 1799-1809 (*Nov. 6, 2018 morn.*), 1881-97 (*Nov. 7, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 25 — Canyon Creek Hydro Development Act (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 1879 (*Nov. 7, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 26 — An Act to Combat Poverty and Fight for Albertans with Disabilities (Sabir)

First Reading — 1923 (*Nov. 8, 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.*), 1780-92 (*Nov. 5, 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*)

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