



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, November 29, 2018

Day 56

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature

Fourth Session

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

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

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

Party standings:

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

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

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

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

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Deputy Chair: Mrs. Schreiner

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| Cyr | Horne |
| Dang | McPherson |
| Drever | Turner |
| Ellis | |

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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

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

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

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| Fraser | Renaud |
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| Luff | Woollard |
| McKitrick | Yao |
| Miller | |

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

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| Littlewood | |

Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

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| Cooper | Piquette |
| Dang | Pitt |
| Drever | Westhead |
| McIver | |

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Chair: Ms Kazim
Deputy Chair: Connolly

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

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Ms Fitzpatrick
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| Carson | Loyola |
| Coolahan | Miller |
| Cooper | Nielsen |
| Goehring | Nixon |
| Gotfried | Pitt |
| Hanson | van Dijken |
| Kazim | |

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Mr. Cyr
Deputy Chair: Mr. Dach

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| Carson | Nielsen |
| Clark | Panda |
| Gotfried | Payne |
| Hunter | Renaud |
| Kazim | Turner |
| Littlewood | |

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

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| Clark | Nielsen |
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| Fildebrandt | Payne |
| Hanson | Rosendahl |
| Kazim | Schreiner |
| Kleinsteuber | |

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 29, 2018

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

Introduction of Visitors

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been humming *La Marseillaise* to myself all day today because I'm pleased to rise and introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly the ambassador of France to Canada, Her Excellency Kareen Rispal. As well, she's joined by Mr. Philippe Sutter, consul general of France in Vancouver; Mr. Fabien Agenès, also from the consulate; Mr. Anthony Bertrand, the honorary consul of France in Edmonton; and Mr. Xavier Bonnet, from the embassy of France.

Mr. Speaker, Her Excellency's visit is an opportunity for Alberta and France to explore how we can expand on our strong relationship. The potential for our two jurisdictions to expand bilateral trade and collaborate is high, especially with the Canada-EU comprehensive economic and trade agreement now provisionally applied. We look forward to working with Her Excellency on further developing and strengthening our relationship with France. I'd like the ambassador and her guests to please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Introduction of Guests

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

Ms McPherson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's really my pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly four grade 6 classes from the Simons Valley school. This is in the wonderful constituency of Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill. There are 108 students, parents, and teachers here today. It's really big; there are four classes. The students are accompanied by their teachers Shane Spriggs, Andrew Cull, Luc Mackay, Colleen Nabata, Laurie Reeve, Vanessa Blyth and by their parent chaperones Brad Bliok – and I apologize for mispronouncing any names – Mana Abbas, Peter Locke, Bahareh Taghipoor, Andrea Kehler, Jennifer Ruff, Joan King, Maegan O'Brien, Julia Bassendowski, and Pamela Chan. If they could all rise, please, and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome. A big school.

Are there any other school groups today, hon. members?

The hon. Member for Peace River.

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce on your behalf someone who's familiar to most of us as one of the many hard-working and dedicated staff members employed by the Legislative Assembly Office. Judy Bressmer has worked as the bills and *Journals* clerk for nearly 19 years and has her retirement clock on her desk in countdown for her 20th anniversary. Judy is one of many of the staff at the Legislature who puts in long hours processing the many amendments and bills of this House. Without the unsung efforts of staff like Judy, the business of this House would simply grind to a halt. I'd like Judy to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome. Thank you for your service. There may be a few people in this Chamber that might want to use that counting on the clock that you have for other reasons.

The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions. First, it's my pleasure to introduce the artists who have their art featured this year on my Christmas card. The first – and I'll welcome her to rise as I say her name – is Ella MacNaughton. She's a grade 1 student from Holy Cross school, which is in Edmonton-Glenora. She's joined by her parents, Cindy and Jason, and her little brother Charlie as well as her grandparents, Dan, Denise, Gary, and Yvonne. If they could all stand.

The second artist is Seva, who is a grade 6 student at Brightview school. He's joined by his mom, Natalia – please also rise – as well as his brother Mykhael and his teacher, Tyson.

Both of these schools are in my constituency, and I'm very proud to be part of a government that engages with parents, teachers, and all Albertans in supporting students in achieving their full potential. I'm so proud to have their art featured on my Christmas cards. Thank you very much for sharing your talents and for being here today. Colleagues, please join me in welcoming these students and their families.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms Hoffman: My second introduction today is to honour and introduce five guests who are in the members' gallery from HIV Edmonton. This coming Saturday, December 1, is World AIDS Day. I know that my colleague from Edmonton-Centre and all of my colleagues will share in recognizing this day this weekend, and I believe that my colleague from Edmonton-Centre will be doing a member's statement.

This government shares HIV Edmonton's goal of zero stigma or discrimination, zero new infections, and zero AIDS-related deaths. I am very proud of the work that we did with them in moving forward on PrEP earlier this year. I ask that Shelley Williams as well as Heather, Manpreet, and Thomas please rise and receive the warm welcome of our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think my guests are not here yet.

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

Mr. Nielsen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a real pleasure to be able to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly two very outstanding individuals. Today with us we have Sarah McCrimmon and Caitlin Fleming from Edmonton Meals on Wheels. Sarah and Caitlin work in fund development and communications. I've had the privilege of partnering with Meals on Wheels by collecting cards made by many of the students in my constituency so that they can be delivered to clients that are facing isolation. I would like to thank Sarah and Caitlin for their service, and I would ask them to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Ms Littlewood: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly guests from the St. John's Institute in Edmonton. Later today I will

be speaking about the 100th anniversary of St. John's Institute and their legacy of service. I ask my guests to rise as I call their names: board chair Tania Mysak; treasurer Bill Skorobohach; board members Ivan Lypovyk, Diane Pysyk, Myrna Kostash; former board members Orest Fitzowich and Don Lutzak; and last but certainly not the least favourite, the executive director of the institute, Suzanna Brytan. [Remarks in Ukrainian] and thank you so much for joining us here in our Legislature. I would ask all of my colleagues to extend the traditional warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Ms McKittrick: Merci, M. le Président. I think I should speak French today in honour of our guests from France, my country of birth, but my guest in the gallery doesn't speak French, so I'll speak in English.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a resident of my constituency of Sherwood Park, Mr. Randy Richards. Mr. Richards approached my office with his concerns over window-tinting regulations for vehicles. He has taken the lead in collecting signatures for a petition asking for changes to this regulation, that I will be tabling this afternoon. As the MLA for Sherwood Park it is my pleasure to support residents in engaging with the legislative process. Thank you, Randy, for your initiative and perseverance. I would ask you now to please rise and receive the traditional welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Are there any other introductions? The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise to introduce two guests in the gallery from Fort Myers, Florida. Please welcome Marivic and Isabella Gamez, who are visiting Edmonton for the first time. They came up here for the weather. Marivic is originally from the Philippines, so [Remarks in Tagalog], and Isabella is a professional pairs figure skater who previously won the silver medal at the U.S. national championships and skated for Spain. I would like to ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome. You might find better ice here than in Florida.

Are there any other introductions, hon. members? The Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to introduce some great public servants from the Ministry of Service Alberta, starting with Darwin Barber, Giancarlo Palazzo, and Mathew Neuman from the mailroom. They work to keep our documents moving smoothly between the various departments and buildings in Alberta. Also here are Julie Barber, Louisa Andrews, and not here but one we all know is Zenek from the fleet vehicle department at Service Alberta. For anyone who knows me and cars, you know that we have a very long conversation every time they come into the room. Lastly, from our IT service department we have Cory Kuehn, Richard Dobbin, Garrick Smith, Harpreet Sadhrey, and Ashish Patel. They're, again, from our IT service department. They're the ones who politely tell me when I phone them up that I need to take my phone out of airplane mode. Thank you very much. If they could please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the House, these hard-working public servants.

The Speaker: Welcome.

1:40

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

St. John's Institute Centennial

Ms Littlewood: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perogy, holubtsi, kubasa, a nalysnky, all smothered in golden fried onions and dill cream sauce. Do I have your attention yet? The Ukrainians who arrived in Alberta over 100 years ago as trailblazers and nation builders had foresight to create a haven, a home away from home, for their children attending postsecondary education. That haven, St. John's Institute, still stands proudly.

In 1918 the institute, originally named for Mykhailo Hrushevsky, was built. Parents and students from Alberta farm communities could breathe easier because of quality housing, home-cooked meals, and the offering of cultural life and faith programming in the spirit of the Ukrainian Orthodox tradition. As Alberta grew, a new home was chosen in Edmonton's university area. The cornerstone and chapel of the new building were blessed by the Most Reverend Metropolitan Ilarion on June 8, 1959, and the organization facility was renamed St. John's Institute. On March 29, 1963, a group of community advocates enshrined the charitable goals and purposes of the organization in An Act to Incorporate St. John's Institute, an act proclaimed by Alberta's Legislature.

In 2009 a new board of directors shepherded the institute into the 21st century. This converted the institute into a source of provincial affordable housing, with first-rate meal services, meeting and event space, and support for other nonprofits and charities. Through social enterprise SJI flourishes as a hub of art, culture, education, and human services, where they regularly host organizations of every faith, culture, ethnicity, and recreation. It is a gathering place for generations young and old, for alumni and their children, and for the new faces of Alberta.

As our Premier said following her remarks in attendance at the 100th anniversary celebrations hosted at SJI this past September 8, "For 100 years, with the innovative spirit that has long defined the contributions of Ukrainian people to our province, the St. John's Institute has been [a] . . . beacon of hope, opportunity, warmth and goodwill in our community."

Here's to 100 more for this life-changing organization.

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

Provincial Response to Crime Statistics

Mr. Ellis: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We in the UCP had to pull this NDP government kicking and screaming to the awareness that a dangerous spike in crime was taking place. The Justice minister spent two years denying that there was even a problem. Now, through newly released stats, we're aware that she would have known all along that crime took a dangerous uptick about three years ago.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me bring some experience to bear on this very sad situation. I served as an incident commander with the Calgary Police Service, and this is what occurs when we become aware that there is an actual threat to public safety. First, we collect all of the facts as quickly as possible. While they're coming in, we're already mobilizing officers on the ground, and we're communicating effectively and establishing a command post, because the "public" in "public safety" means that people will need to be informed. Yes, we tell them when we are in a crisis. As we gain information, we assess and deploy the necessary resources. We then call in specialized teams if necessary, we relay information to

officers on the ground, and we liaise with other police services and agencies as required.

In short, we use all the appropriate tactics and adjust them accordingly based on the growing knowledge of the situation. We don't sit back and mutter, "Nothing to see here" or "Move along" or just hope that everything goes away. We find out what is happening, and we react rapidly. We use all of the resources available to protect our citizens because, Mr. Speaker, that is our paramount responsibility. I suggest that the minister should have taken some steps when crime first spiked in 2015, when it climbed further in 2016, and when it clearly got out of control in 2017. As we say in incident command: your response to this crisis is a fail.

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

29th Legislature Reflections

Mr. Fraser: Welcome, sports fans, to the proceedings of the 29th Session of the Alberta Legislature, otherwise known as the Bitumen Bubble Classic. Right off the bat we have a lineup change. The Premier is not on the front line of the government. She's been called up to the big leagues federally, where she has yet to make an impact.

The puck is dropped. The Leader of the Official Opposition opens with a question posed by the Alberta Party weeks ago about oil curtailment. The Deputy Premier takes a shot from the UCP leader, stickhandles into the NDP corner. She's cycling the puck and cycling and cycling. Here we go. She takes a shot back, unwilling to accept responsibility after three and a half years in government. It's another weak shot.

Another UCP member attempts to take the shot, but it's stolen by the leader. The leader for the UCP takes a big windup, shoots again, aiming for some other minister of the Crown. The front bench of the government looks back and forth as to who is up in the rotation, and it's back to the Deputy Premier, who takes the question, keeping her teammates seated on the bench.

The UCP leader fires back again with the same question, hits the crossbar. Back in the NDP corner the Deputy Premier seems to be cycling the question in her own corner again. It's an unusual strategy if you thought you had the mandate to forecheck for Albertans.

As we reach the half, we'd like to recognize the contributions of some of the amazing players in this Legislature and hope that one day their jerseys are retired in the rafters of this place: the Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti, the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster. Their character, principles, and dedication to this province are commendable. They have served Albertans with dignity, passion, and truth. I will miss them. Alberta will miss them.

Okay, folks. Back to the game. Possession is back with the UCP. It appears they're having some trouble with bench depth, so back to the leader, who fires a shot. He seems to be taking the same shot over and over again, hoping to slip one by, but the government is standing firm and refusing to give an answer. Again the NDP Deputy Premier cycles back in the NDP zone, refusing to answer the question. Hold on. The Deputy Premier shoots. It's on target. Both teams crash the net. The puck is lost in the scrum. Folks, we need to go to video replay. It looks like both teams are so busy fighting each other that nobody managed to get the puck over the line.

With that, the game ends, and Albertans are wondering if both sides have forgotten who they're playing for.

Retrospective by the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster

Dr. Starke: Mr. Speaker, to everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven. Now, some of us will remember those words from *Turn! Turn! Turn!*, a '60s folk tune popularized by The Byrds. Pete Seeger wrote *Turn! Turn! Turn!*, but the rest of the words were lifted word for word from King Solomon's Book of Ecclesiastes. Now, that scripture has personal importance to me. It was the sermon text at both my father's and my mother's funerals, and it guided the decision I announced yesterday.

Now, I've used these member's statements a lot of different ways, but for what is likely my last one, I just want to say thank you.

First, to the people of Vermilion-Lloydminster: twice you've entrusted me with the tremendous privilege of being your representative. It has been the honour of a lifetime, and I thank you.

Second, to my colleagues of the 28th and the 29th Legislatures: our disagreements, of which there were many, were never obstacles to respect and understanding. I am a better person for having learned from your passion for our province, and I thank you.

Third, to the amazing people who've worked with me, both here in Edmonton and back home: I'm blessed to have worked alongside such passionate people, their dedication and commitment to serving Albertans, and I thank you.

Finally and most important, to my family. To Roland, to Alastair, to Sarah: when I said that I would chase this dream seven years ago, you said that you'd stand behind me, and you've been true to your word. To my wife and my teammate, Alison: seven years ago, when we left veterinary practice together, I said that we'd be moving on to something else. Well, it's been something else, and I look forward to our next something else on our journey together.

As for final words of wisdom, well, Mr. Speaker, I can only think of the words we always recited at TUXIS youth parliament before every sitting: let us pledge ourselves anew in an unselfish quest for the best in our homes, in our churches and communities, in our places of work, remembering always that life is not a goblet to be drained but a measure to be filled. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

To the students, particularly, that are in the Legislature today: you will see exchanges and different opinions shared on the floor here, but you also see a respect for each other. So if there is anything that I would urge that you take away from this event, it's that you recognize that this commitment to democracy also has a human side, a very important aspect of this job. What you saw evidenced here in the last few minutes was exactly that.

1:50

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The Leader of Her Majesty's Official Opposition.

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank that member for his service as well.

Oil Price Differentials

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, today Alberta oil is selling for its lowest price in history, \$10 a barrel. Yesterday it was \$12. Last week it was \$15. It is taking a nosedive. It's worth less than a bottle of water or a can of pop. Employers are burning through cash and may be on the cusp of announcing major layoffs. When will the government act not for railcars in 2020 but to stop a crisis in the Alberta economy from unfolding right now?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member is right that the differential is hurting Albertans, and nothing is more important than fixing this problem soon and with lasting results. The only long-term solution is access to international tidewater, a Canadian pipeline to a Canadian port. But in the medium term, as the Premier announced yesterday, we'll be moving oil by rail to clear the bottleneck and make sure that it doesn't creep back upon us, and in the short term all options are on the table to choose a path that will best close the price gap. We will have more to say on that very soon.

Mr. Kenney: I appreciate that answer, Mr. Speaker. However, if the government is to follow the recommendation to impose mandatory curtailment of production to bring our market back in balance, which could increase the price, it's estimated, from \$10 to \$30 a barrel, it would need an amendment to the Mines and Minerals Act, section 85. This House is scheduled to rise a week from today. Will the government co-operate with the opposition to adopt that amendment expeditiously – we could do it this afternoon or on Monday – to get that in place at least so the government has an option to curtail production and prevent a potential catastrophe in our economy?

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

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to reiterate that all options are on the table when it comes to getting fair value for our resources. We certainly welcome all members of this House, on an issue of such critical importance, to participate. I appreciate that clearly the member has taken a big departure from his ideology and the ideology of his party, which has championed even as recently as last week and definitely for many years – I know that there are members from his own caucus that went to jail because they fought so freely for the free market. I appreciate that that must have been very challenging to change his position on this matter. We'll continue to have more to say in the days to come.

Mr. Kenney: Facing what some call a five-alarm fire or financial catastrophe, that minister can't help herself but be partisan and chippy. It's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker.

I think we should put aside the politics to find common ground to stop potential massive layoffs for Albertans. Given that the Premier's envoys won't be apparently reporting back until tomorrow and that the Legislature is scheduled to rise next week, will the government at least work with us on potentially expeditious passage of legislative amendments allowing for curtailment of bitumen together with the already existing powers for curtailment of...

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I very clearly answered the question, and I will continue to do so. There's nothing more important than making sure that Albertans get fair value for their resources. Certainly, much could have been done in the decade that the member spent sitting around the federal cabinet table to make that happen, but today he is here. Today our Premier is in Ottawa fighting and taking on the job that the member could have done when he was in Ottawa, when he failed to save pipelines more than once in the House of Commons because he said that it wasn't his job. On this side of the House we know it's all of our jobs. I appreciate that this must have been very difficult for the member,

to divide so far from his ideology and the values that his party was founded on to come up with a solution. We'll continue to work to the betterment of all Albertans.

The Speaker: Thank you, Deputy Premier.
Second main question.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, it was actually small "c" conservative governments that used the power of production controls in the past to protect the interests of the owner of the asset. Talk about property rights: property that belongs to the people of Alberta is now being given away.

On this point, there is speculation that the government will incentivize curtailments in production through royalty writeoffs. Mr. Speaker, does the government not understand that that will take time to design and doesn't have a certainty of outcome? We need certainty and action now. Are they considering potential mandatory curtailment to get the action we need to save Alberta jobs?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's interesting to hear "certainty and action" when two days ago the member was calling for voluntary reductions. The week before he was calling for a free market, and today he's calling for arguably changing the way that we engage with the free market. All options are on the table. What I was acknowledging is that, unless the member wants to correct me on history, Conservatives have always talked about the free market. Members of his own caucus, earlier this week, talked about the free market. I appreciate that this must be challenging for many members of the caucus, but the solution here is – whatever decision we make is going to have lasting impacts. We need those to be ones that close the gap, protect jobs, and keep people working.

Mr. Kenney: Well, perhaps the minister didn't hear the question, so we'll try this again, Mr. Speaker. There's been speculation that the government does not intend to support mandatory curtailment, which has been used through most of the history of Alberta's energy industry, but rather royalty writeoffs. We're getting zero royalty for our oil right now at \$10 a barrel. If we do have curtailment, the price, it is expected, will triple. All the companies will actually be generating some revenue, some cash flow, some profits. Why would the government give them a royalty writeoff? The people of Alberta deserve something for this resource that belongs to them.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our Premier is working on all fronts to make sure that we close the gap in the price differential. This is for no reason – it's not for one person's political benefit or another person's political benefit; this is for the benefit of all Albertans. Eighty million dollars a day is what this is costing us. It is costing Albertans certainty, it's costing the market certainty, and it's certainly impacting the bottom line of those employers. All options are on the table. We will continue to fight each and every day for the people of Alberta. That's our goal, to make sure that we support all Albertans.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, the government has spoken about adding additional railcars in 2020, which will not alleviate the crisis we are facing today. Can the government tell us: how much does it budget on spending on those railcars? Private-sector industry leaders: none of them have indicated to me that they're asking the government to buy railcars. The private companies are adding rail

capacity to ship oil out of Alberta, so what is the rationale for the government buying those railcars, and how much will it cost?

Ms Hoffman: Certainly, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to fighting for Albertans, getting fair value, we've said before that nothing is off the table, and we've shown that. The member has shown that on this issue and many others related to oil and gas, he continues to flip-flop. While we are going to make sure that we – we said that we would buy a pipeline if that's what it took to get our product to tidewater. The federal government has acted on that: Canadians now own a pipeline and are working to get that expansion. That's the long-term solution. The interim solution is making sure we get fair value and can move our products east and west, because over a decade in Ottawa the member opposite failed to secure that with a pipeline. The short term: we'll have more to say in the days to come.

The Speaker: Third main question.

Mr. Kenney: Once again wrong, Mr. Speaker: four pipelines, 1.73 million barrels per day in additional movement, most of those pipelines opposed by the NDP. We can keep doing it every day, this ridiculous exchange, but it doesn't get any Albertans back to work.

Unemployment

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, according to a report today from the University of Calgary the duration of unemployment in Alberta has tripled over the course of the past decade. On average an unemployed Albertan is waiting for 20 weeks to find work again. Is the government proud of that record, and does it think that higher taxes, higher debt, and higher regulation have helped in terms of this unemployment crisis that we're facing?

Ms Hoffman: It's interesting because the member in his earlier questions was talking about us having more involvement and making sure we get full value, and now he's talking about less involvement. But what I can tell you is that no matter what, our Premier and this government have the backs of Albertans. We want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity of full employment. That means that no matter what the price of oil is, we're going to keep fighting and make sure that we drive it up while protecting important front-line services, Mr. Speaker. Instead of fighting for a \$700 million tax giveaway to the top 1 per cent, the extremely wealthy, we're investing in all Albertans. We're investing in things like two trains, 120,000 barrels per day, to make sure we can get our product to tidewater and fair value.

Mr. Kenney: The minister says that they're investing in trains, but they can't even tell us how much money they're talking about. This is incoherent, Mr. Speaker. I take it that the minister, the government are indifferent about the fact that the duration of unemployment in Alberta has tripled in the past decade, from seven to 21 weeks. Today the Global Petroleum Survey indicated that Alberta has fallen from the 14th-best place to invest in the world to the 43rd-best place during the NDP's government. What has the NDP done to turn that around, to stop the nosedive in Alberta's . . .

The Speaker: Thank you.

2:00

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, I want to reaffirm that nothing could be further from the truth in terms of standing on this side for regular working folks. We are fighting every day to make sure that we get the best price and the best value, and that means the best jobs and the best benefits for all Albertans. Whether you're one of the people actually building the pipeline that's going to be able to pay your

family's mortgage from that job or whether you're one of the people who's working in a hospital or a school that will benefit from the additional revenue that the province of Alberta and the country of Canada gets, we are working on the short, medium, and long terms to make sure that we both address the differential and get full value for the resource that we all own for the benefit of all Albertans.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, if the government's policies are working for ordinary Albertans, why has unemployment gone up for each of the last six months to the highest level outside of Atlantic Canada? Why are 184,000 Albertans looking for work? Why has the duration of unemployment tripled from seven to 22 weeks?

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

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We do know that in 2017 90,000 full-time jobs, mostly in the private sector, returned to this province after the worst recession in two generations. We are focused on a number of other initiatives to get people back to work, to support people in their training, and that is having a positive effect as well. We will continue to have the backs of Albertans, as the Deputy Premier has said, as we go forward because we know that a full-time job is the most important thing for a sustainable life with your family.

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

Energy Industry Jobs Oil Price Differentials

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Official Opposition has joined with us in calling for mandatory production cuts in order to address the oil price differential. We've been arguing that this is the best short-term answer to depressed oil prices for weeks, but hopefully the growing consensus will convince this government to act. However, even with immediate action on the differential we are still in danger of another round of job losses because of low oil prices. To the Deputy Premier: is there a plan in place to deal with further job losses in our energy industry caused by low oil prices?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thanks, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Certainly, our priority is to make sure that every Albertan has an opportunity for full employment, fair compensation, and a good job. That's why our Premier is in Toronto today working with the board of trade and with other job creators and employers to make sure that they know what we're doing in Alberta to address the pressures and the impact that the drop in the price of oil and the increase in the differential have had on those types of employers and others. We're going to keep working to make sure that we address short-, medium-, and long-term impacts of the differential, that we're also diversifying our economy, and that we're investing in health care and education instead of laying off 4,000 teachers and 4,000 nurses.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We in the Alberta Party caucus believe that mandatory curtailment is the right response to the oil price differential, but we also know it will come with costs. Although curtailment will be a net benefit for Alberta, there will be those who lose work because of lower production. Instead of playing catch-up and helping affected workers like this government

did with the coal phase-out, let's be proactive and make sure there are supports in place for those workers. To the Deputy Premier: will you ensure that any plan for curtailment will also include measures to support affected workers?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We're certainly keeping working people as top of mind as we continue to have these important discussions. That's why we're not flip-flopping. We're not rushing. We're making sure that the decisions we make are grounded in the best outcomes for Albertans. When one is in government, you know that those decisions you make or those news conferences you hold impact real people, real families, so we're working diligently to make sure that we follow the best path to support job creators, to support working people, and to make sure that we get full value for our resources.

Mr. Fraser: With the current low price of oil every day without action could be more potential job losses. While the Premier has said that they plan to purchase more railcars, that is neither a long-term nor immediate solution. We need pipelines, but we also need immediate action from this government, not railcars that won't be ready for over a year. To the same minister: when can we expect your government to take real, immediate action on the differential?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We've been taking action for weeks and months. We've been working directly with employers and with industry. We've created an envoy that is engaging in important discussions and important research to make sure that we make the right decisions moving forward. We've acted on our lobby around Keep Canada Working 2.0, making sure that everyone in Ottawa and everyone across this country knows the impact of failing to have a pipeline, and making sure we're investing in rail to increase the export of our product. We'll have more to say on the differential soon.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Stony Plain.

Organ and Tissue Donation

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The donation of organs or tissue to another person is literally the gift of life. I think every member in this House was moved by the donation of Logan Boulet, who died following the Humboldt bus tragedy. Logan's choice saved six lives and led to a fourfold spike in registration rates here in Alberta. We know this issue is both deeply emotional and highly complex. To the Minister of Health: what is the current state of organ donation here in Alberta?

Ms Hoffman: I want to begin by thanking the member for important work and advocacy on this issue, Mr. Speaker. Organ donors in 2017 saved 462 lives, which has increased every year since 2015, and more than 550,000 Albertans have registered with the Alberta organ and tissue donation registry since it was launched. About 2,500 Albertans register every week. We are heading in the right direction, but there's definitely more progress to be made.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: what work is the government doing to improve registration and donation rates, and what barriers remain to those increased donation rates?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've embarked upon an audit of the donor system, and that is nearing completion. We're specifically looking at ways to make sure that we are taking full advantage of every donation opportunity, and we're also developing stronger information systems to manage donations more effectively throughout our province and our country. Despite all this great new technology, a requirement to mail or fax your consent documents was written right into legislation under the previous government, and the truth is that many young people have never seen a fax machine, let alone used one, so there are certainly areas where the legislation could be modernized.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm looking forward to working with Alberta Health to address these ongoing barriers.

Beyond government policy, what can Albertans do to help ensure that organ and tissue donations are there when we need them?

Ms Hoffman: I'm so proud to work with this hon. member, Mr. Speaker. We certainly have a lot of work to do to optimize our system on the government side, but my main message is to talk to your family, to every Albertan. Families are the final trustees of their loved ones' wishes, and it's absolutely vital to make sure that your family knows what your wishes are. A very close friend of mine received a liver, actually the same week his wife gave birth to their daughter, and last week he walked her to school instead of having her grow up without a dad. So, please, have these conversations with the people you love and make sure that you give the gift of life if you do come to that difficult situation.

Election Advertising Financing

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

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is facing some very serious issues, and that is why it is so upsetting that our politics are so messed up. In 2015 the Premier passed laws that were supposed to take big money out of politics, but instead they introduced U.S.-style PACs that have made our politics uglier and less transparent. Now big unions and corporations can play dirty politics, and political parties can pretend to be innocent. Will the Premier admit that bringing PACs to Alberta was a mistake and that these shadow parties hurt our democracy?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour and democratic renewal.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I believe very strongly that Albertans deserve to know who is trying to influence their opinions. That is why our election system is made more transparent by taking big money out of politics, imposing strict spending and contribution limits, and we now have new accountability measures for third-party advertisers, which is how Albertans know who is behind the various campaigns. It's clear from what we've seen lately that the Conservatives are still hell-bent on getting around these rules and returning Alberta back to the same system of entitlement that Albertans rejected last election.

Mr. Gill: Mr. Speaker, PACs are now calling the shots in Alberta politics, and that isn't right. Given that unelected and unaccountable PACs now dominate political party nominations and our leadership contests in parties like the UCP and given that instead of

transparency and accountability we have gotten dirty tricks and the secretive funding of party politics, will the Premier admit that her changes to political funding have failed and fix things before we go into a U.S.-style mess of an election next spring?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Albertans said clearly that they wanted dark money taken out of politics. They wanted a light shone on where the money was coming from and who was speaking. We did just that, and we brought in some of the strongest and most aggressive regulations against PACs in our country. We're ensuring that elections are fair and balanced and that it's regular Albertans deciding the outcomes of the election, not those who spend the most money. Transparency is what we brought to our electoral system.

2:10

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that it isn't just the provincial politics that PACs have invaded since the government has introduced a law which will result in the creation of PACs in municipal politics and given that the changes proposed will make municipal political fundraising less transparent and more like the failed system that we now have provincially, will the Premier admit that her changes to political fundraising will make things worse, not better, and will she withdraw the proposed legislation?

Mr. S. Anderson: This is rich, about ethics, coming from this member, Mr. Speaker. Albertans have the right to know who is influencing their . . .

Mr. Gill: Point of order.

Mr. S. Anderson: . . . elections, which is why rules around third-party advertising are vital. Mr. Speaker, we're making third-party advertisers register with each local jurisdiction they intend to advertise in to disclose their finances. Albertans asked for it, and we are doing it.

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

Provincial Electoral System Government Caucus Question and Voting Practices

Ms Luff: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Canada majority governments are often elected with less than a majority of votes, including this one we have here. The last elections in Ontario and Quebec are good examples, with majority governments getting elected despite having less than 40 per cent of the popular vote. Many provinces across Canada have begun to look at changing their elections to a proportional representation model. This is something many Albertans are interested in and many of my constituents are interested in. Given that it would ensure that every vote counts, to the minister of democratic renewal: has your ministry begun any work on looking into models of proportional representation or into consulting Albertans on this important matter?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud of the work that we've done to strengthen and improve democracy here in Alberta: banning corporate donations, bringing in new spending limits, making PACs more accountable, and thanks to our government voting will be easier and more accessible than ever. We

will continue to work to make sure that ideas and not bank accounts decide our elections.

Ms Luff: I'm going to take that as a no, Mr. Speaker.

Given that proportional representation has many benefits, including increased voter turnout, increasing diversity in elected officials, electing Legislatures with more parties, more diverse voices, and given that 80 per cent of OECD countries use some form of proportional representation and given that proportional representation was on the NDP platform in 2012, why is Alberta lagging behind the world and the rest of Canada in improving our democracy?

Dr. Starke: Because they won, for a change.

The Speaker: Order.

Given the speech earlier I'm going to move on past making any comments.

The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I've had very constructive conversations about proportional representation with people like the member from our Liberal caucus, and we continue to have conversations about these topics. But I have to say that when I'm out at the doors, people are concerned about the price differential; people are concerned about pipelines; people are concerned about jobs, putting food on their family's table, health care, education. I have yet to knock on a door and have someone tell me about mixed-member proportional representation.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Ms Luff: I just had a town hall where at least half of the people who attended asked me to ask about this.

Given that my constituents are concerned about the state of democracy and given that they feel their elected representatives are more concerned about loyalty to their party than to their constituents, does the minister for democratic renewal believe that whipping all votes and scripting all the committees is good government policy?

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, you know, it's very interesting to listen to that hon. member ask a question like that. Clearly she doesn't do well under the team-play situation that we deal with in this House, but that's the nature of this Assembly. The Assembly is designed for teamwork to create teams that can form a government. That's what it's about. It's not about individual members following their pet projects. [interjections]

The Speaker: Students, there are no recesses in this place.

The hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

Carbon Levy and Pipeline Development

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "Social licence doesn't mean complete consensus. It means a majority of people are prepared to go along with it, and that's what we're still working for. That's what it means to me." That's what the Premier said in *Maclean's* magazine in December 2016. Today the majority of Albertans consistently oppose the carbon tax, a job-killing tax that was supposed to get social licence for pipelines. Those pipelines were cancelled or delayed, leading to today's crisis, \$80 million a day. So why are Albertans still stuck paying a carbon tax?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, carbon pricing is an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. If one believes climate change is real, then the next question is: what is one going to do about it? The folks across the way believe that we're not to do anything about it, it seems, because they have not been clear about what that plan might be. Our plan carefully balances economic development with environmental protection because we on this side do believe that climate change is real. We also believe there is a tremendous amount of economic opportunities that go along with climate action, and I'll be pleased to discuss those in the supplementals.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, the economic crisis is real.

Given, Mr. Speaker, that the new Premier of New Brunswick has proposed a multiprovincial holding corporation to shepherd the Energy East pipeline through the National Energy Board hearings before handing it back to the pipeline company for construction and given that time is of the essence with Bill C-69, the no-more-pipelines act, threatening resource-producing provinces courtesy of the NDP government and their best friend Justin Trudeau, to the minister: do you support Premier Higgs' proposal, and if not, why not?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We've been very clear from the beginning that we are willing to work with all provinces or municipalities or others who want to see Canada's economy grow through tidewater access for Alberta's energy resources because of the tremendous benefits that accrue to the rest of the country when that happens. That particular individual is welcome to reach out to us any time. As for our approach to pricing carbon and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and our contribution to climate change, we're doing things like investing in Calgary's green line, that will create more than 12,000 jobs. We're investing in . . .

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

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. B.C. announced earlier this week that they are intervening against Saskatchewan's court challenge against the carbon tax, siding, again, with the NDP's friend Justin Trudeau. Given the crisis of our economic situation, to the Premier: why are you refusing to join Saskatchewan's court challenge and scrap the carbon tax?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On this side of the House we don't believe it's necessary to back a dump truck of cash onto the lawns of high-priced lawyers in order to tell us that the Constitution is real. What we are doing here is focused on our own plan, which is reducing greenhouse gas emissions, growing the economy, taking our environmental challenges seriously, and working productively with other jurisdictions who share those values. We're not interested in fool's errands that are legal challenges that we see elsewhere. We're focused on our own priorities.

Oil Price Differentials and Provincial Revenue

Mr. Barnes: The NDP government has projected that their \$8 billion deficit this year is based on a modest \$22 differential. Even though the NDP seem not to be concerned about where their revenue is coming from or if it's even coming, we, the responsible adults in this room, are concerned. To the minister: with this disastrous differential growing daily and assuming that you are not in the dark about what is happening within your own ministry, can you state exactly what your deficit will be under the current \$40 differential?

Mr. Ceci: Well, I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the deficit for this year is \$7.8 billion, and in Q2 we'll update everybody again with regard to where the deficit is. We have dropped the deficit \$3 billion since our first budget, \$3 billion through the worst recession in two generations. We're finding savings that were left behind, savings that we actually took out of the budget because that side was benefiting CEOs with golf memberships. They had a private air force and . . .

The Speaker: Thank you. [interjection] Thank you, hon. minister.
2:20

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, given that this horrendous problem with our growing differential cannot be ignored, postponed, or deflected and given that not giving a direct answer and spouting repetitive rhetoric would be an insult to the 275,000 hard-working Albertans who depend on oil and gas to put food on their table, again to the minister: how much revenue will Albertans lose because of the NDP-Trudeau alliance that failed to gain pipeline access?

Ms Hoffman: Sorry. I just can't help but address the question around a Trudeau alliance. What we've done on this side of the House is create a made-in-Alberta solution that invests in energy efficiency, invests in ordinary folks, and invests in diversification. On that side of the House they're arguing for us to throw it all out and implement – what? – the plan Justin Trudeau has created, Mr. Speaker. I can't help but say that I think somebody else might be best friends with the Prime Minister. On this side of the House we're fighting for ordinary Albertans to come up with Alberta solutions.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that not long ago they used to protest pipelines and given that now the government's response is usually based in rhetoric, future promises, or plans that repeat past failures and that Budget 2018 put Alberta on track for a staggering \$100 billion in debt by 2023: how much does this government expect our debt to be past \$100 billion because of our current \$40 differential?

Mr. Ceci: Mr. Speaker, if he wants to ask about past failures, all he has to do is look two spots over to his right and ask about the deficit that was accumulated under that person's watch: \$56 billion in one year alone, hundreds of billions of dollars put to the federal government debt, and interest payments amounting to hundreds of billions of dollars. We've cut the deficit \$3 billion already under the toughest – the toughest – financial situation that Alberta has been in in a long time.

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

H.A. Kostash School in Smoky Lake

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In 2012 a RECAPP facility evaluation report was done for the H.A. Kostash school in Smoky Lake, in the Aspen View school division. That report recommended that extensive repairs were required to maintain the integrity of the school roof to prevent leaks. To the Minister of Infrastructure or of Education: were the recommended repairs carried out, and if so, why are pails and garbage cans required to catch water in the hallways and classrooms during rains?

The Speaker: The Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and answer on behalf of the Minister of Education. I can't speak, of course, to the particulars of this file, but what I can tell the member opposite and all members of this House is that our government has been engaged with the largest school construction project in the history of this country. We've built over 240 schools all across this province to make sure that we have room for the students who need to go to school.

What won't help the constituents of that member's riding is \$700 million in cuts that they plan to give away to the millionaires and billionaires of this province in addition to the planned cuts that they want to make to the . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Hanson: Well, thank you for that non answer, but it's raining in Smoky Lake.

Given that Alberta Infrastructure had a feasibility assessment and life cycle cost analysis conducted by AECOM – unfortunately, that report is not dated – that shows many deficiencies in the current building and indicates either modernization or a total rebuild, Minister, can you confirm for the students, parents, and teachers at H.A. Kostash whether they can look forward to a modernization or a rebuild and, more importantly, when, and where does this sit on the priority list?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nothing is more important to this government than making sure that our students have modern, new schools to learn in. That's why we've been engaged in the largest construction project of schools in this country's history.

You know, the member opposite says that it's raining in the school in his constituency. If he had the opportunity to form government with his colleagues across the way, they would have no school in his constituency. He has been very clear that the cuts that he plans to make to the education system are going to hurt, and that's going to hurt the students in Smoky Lake.

Mr. Hanson: Just to be clear, Mr. Speaker, the school is actually in the constituency of Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater.

Given that I have personally received over 200 letters from concerned parents, students, and teachers, which I'll table later, and given that the Premier, both the ministers of Education and Infrastructure as well as the MLA for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater have also received these letters, Minister, why has no one, especially their MLA, responded to the valid concerns of these constituents?

Mr. Piquette: Oh, give me a break, Dave. You know damn well I already . . .

The Speaker: Hey, hey.

An Hon. Member: Point of order.

The Speaker: Did somebody say "point of order"? Noted.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know what kind of response the Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills has made to those parents, but I can imagine it goes something like this. "Dear parents of concerned students of Smoky Lake: if you elect a UCP government, you can be guaranteed billions of dollars of cuts to education, making sure that the students in Smoky Lake won't get a new school and, in addition to that, that the teachers are going to be put out of work." Our government has done a lot to invest in education. We've got 240 new schools and 4,000 more teachers because of the investments that we've made in education and that those guys want to reverse.

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

Genetic Test Information Use

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two years ago the Senate of Canada and the House of Commons passed Bill S-201, the Genetic Non-Discrimination Act, which protects folks who want to get genetic testing done in order to be aware of their health risks and prepare accordingly. Individuals who have genetic markers for specific diseases can be charged higher premiums for insurance or denied insurance coverage altogether. To the Minister of Health: is your government aware that some Albertans are being discriminated against simply based on genetic characteristics?

Ms Hoffman: I want to thank CIJA and all members of the Israeli and Jewish community for their work right across this country, Mr. Speaker. I had the honour of meeting with representatives from CIJA this morning, and we reaffirmed our government's commitment to continue to support the federal legislation as it continues to move forward. It's important that no form of discrimination is tolerated.

Mr. Speaker, when members of Alberta who are involved in a number of organizations are behaving in a way that's promoting hateful views, that leadership is to call that out and make sure it has no place in politics or in public service.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that stakeholders like the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and the Jewish Federation of Edmonton and the Talmud Torah Society have told us how this can impact their communities and given that people will avoid getting tested for genetic markers if it means insurance will be more expensive or unavailable, to the same minister: will you ensure Albertans are protected from genetic discrimination by insurance companies?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and again to the members of CIJA, who are doing this work on behalf of all Canadians. There is federal legislation working its way through. We certainly respect that legislation. We want everyone to know that in Alberta we do not tolerate hate, antisemitism, or discrimination in any form. To the members of CIJA: thank you for your tireless advocacy on this matter. Our government has your back.

Mr. Fraser: Given that Jewish-Canadians are not the only group that is especially affected by genetic diseases and therefore genetic

discrimination and given that it would be a help to many communities affected by genetic diseases if they were protected from discrimination and given that genetic testing gives people time to focus on their health, if needed, to the same minister: will you commit to bringing forward legislation similar to the federal legislation to protect Albertans from this kind of genetic discrimination?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, in the meeting that I had this morning with folks from CIJA, I made it very clear that our government fully supports the federal legislation. It applies to all jurisdictions across our country. We believe that it's important that it be enforced from coast to coast to coast. Everyone deserves an opportunity to have proper health information and make good, informed decisions for themselves without risk that it could result in discrimination that could hurt them in the future. So we continue to stand with CIJA and members of the Jewish community.

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

Calgary Board of Education Construction Project Management Costs

Mr. McIver: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, over the past two years the Calgary board of education covered \$43 million for schools on behalf of the government of Alberta, including \$20 million in actual construction costs. When I asked about this two days ago, both the Infrastructure minister and the Education minister refused to give a straight answer, so let's try the Finance minister: do you even acknowledge that the government of Alberta owes the Calgary board of education over \$40 million?

Mr. Schmidt: Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to answer again on behalf of the Minister of Education and reinforce the fact that every child in Calgary and across Alberta deserves an education that prepares them for success in a fast-changing world. By fully funding enrolment growth, we've put tens of millions of dollars more into the CBE than would have been the case under the Conservatives. As such, I expect the board to balance its budget and continue to provide the excellent education that it's been expecting. What should be made clear is that under their plan the CBE would be experiencing a hundred million dollar deficit in its budget, which would clearly negatively affect the . . .

2:30

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. McIver: Well, given that so far the minister has refused to acknowledge that the government owes the board of education in Calgary over \$40 million and given that over \$1.7 million in interest has been paid that would otherwise be earmarked for classrooms, for kids of Albertan families, and given that two ministers and now a third have refused to answer questions on this important matter, let's go back to the Finance minister. Why does the government of Alberta expect school boards to fund construction costs out of reserves which are meant to be spent on kids in classrooms?

Mr. Schmidt: Well, Mr. Speaker, I just want to refresh the member's memory on some of the investments that we've made in the Calgary board of education. We've increased by \$63 million their operating fund. We've provided them \$18 million to fully cover the cost of reducing instructional and transportation fees, \$13 million in additional funding to classrooms, and over a hundred

million dollars in capital investment. If the Member for Calgary-Hays is so concerned about the state of the Calgary board of education's facilities and students, then why is he campaigning on a \$700 million tax cut to millionaires and billionaires in addition to firing 4,000 teachers?

Mr. McIver: Well, Mr. Speaker, we just heard the minister say that he depends upon schools to balance their budgets, but he obviously depends on the government to balance its budget on the backs of those schools because he won't pay his bills. Again, this is kids in classrooms.

Given that I've asked about kids in classrooms and the minister talks about anything except kids in classrooms, which actually matters, to the minister: do you even acknowledge that your government owes the Calgary board of education \$40 million plus?

Mr. Schmidt: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can reiterate the significant investments that we've made in the Calgary board of education and the students of Alberta all across this province, yet I have yet to hear the member opposite admit that he is campaigning on a \$700 million tax cut to millionaires and billionaires that would have no positive effect on the students, and he would include cancelling a bunch of construction projects in Calgary and all over the province of Alberta. I am looking forward to him campaigning to the students of Alberta on that platform because they're going to . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Agricultural Concerns

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of late my office has been getting plenty of inquiries on several important issues that could have far-reaching consequences for Alberta farmers and ranchers. Today I'm hoping to get some clarification for their sake. Minister, recently a cow coming from the interior of B.C. and slaughtered here in Alberta was discovered to have bovine TB. What impact could this have on cattle producers here in Alberta?

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

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the very, very good question. He realizes that we had our own bovine tuberculosis scare here last year or the year before, very close to your own neighbourhood, Mr. Speaker, as well. So we recognize that this can be very stressful for ranchers. This is a file that is led by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. It's my understanding that with the portion of this animal that was discovered, nothing has entered the food chain, there is no risk to human health, and it should not affect our bovine tuberculosis free status. But as minister I will keep a close eye on this file.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that pests may take many forms in Alberta and given that the federal government's pest management regulatory agency is looking at banning the use of strychnine in Canada, used extensively to control Richardson's ground squirrels, commonly known as gophers, Minister, what is the status of this possible ban, and what are you doing to advocate for Alberta farmers and ranchers?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the member for the very important question. I understand very well that strychnine

is used to control Richardson's ground squirrels, gophers, throughout the province. It had been registered, you know, some years ago. That proved to be disastrous. There were a lot of crop and forage losses, especially in southern Alberta, so I absolutely hear from producers across the province about how important that is, a tool in their tool box to control the pests. So I have told the federal government that we do not support the proposed ban until some other, more effective methods are developed.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Strankman: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Given that I am also getting plenty of calls on the federal PMRA's possible banning of the use of neonics used to control flea beetles in canola fields and given that this may result in farmers doing more spraying, leading to higher costs and lower yields while also increasing the possible unintended environmental risks, Minister, what help are Alberta farmers getting from your office on this file?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the member for the very important question. The government is committed to supporting Alberta's farmers and making their lives better. We know that farmers, you know, throughout the history of farming in Alberta have been very good stewards of their land. They understand the importance of protecting their environment. It protects their crops as well. But discussions with the PMRA are based, I believe, on limited information that does not necessarily align with the reality here, so again our department is going to share those experiences, sharing our science that we have here in Alberta, with the federal government to ensure that Alberta's concerns are taken . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Bighorn Area Land Use

Mr. Schneider: Mr. Speaker, concerns have arisen from companies currently carrying on activities in the public land-use zones in Kananaskis Country. They are under constant threat of legal action, and they are constantly having to defend themselves from environmental groups focused on stopping legitimate and legal economic activities in the public land-use zone. Minister, by creating a huge, new public land-use zone in the Bighorn, are you at all concerned that you will create the same kind of dynamic in the west country public land-use zone?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to congratulate the Minister of Environment and Parks for the work she's done on creating parks for us all to enjoy here in Alberta. As with Kananaskis, with Bighorn there are a number of public engagements that have been going on. There will be a public engagement, a telephone town hall type thing, you know, for feedback on that, and stakeholder groups will be invited, as will all Albertans, to participate.

Mr. Schneider: Mr. Speaker, given that the minister has recently claimed that broad consultation on the Bighorn has occurred but given that the feedback provided to the Official Opposition has cast doubt on the accuracy of that claim, to the minister: did your office consult with affected forestry or energy companies doing business in the Bighorn area and the new public land-use zone prior to the launch of this proposal last week?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As with many things our government does, we absolutely consult with all stakeholders in those areas, and I certainly have a number of great quotes here from different municipalities and stakeholders. One is, quote: a positive step forward. That's Jim Duncan, who is the reeve of Clearwater county in his comments welcoming infrastructure spending to boost tourism in the Nordegg-Rocky Mountain House-Drayton Valley area. Other comments, quote: I am writing to ask you to keep the government's promise to protect . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister. [interjection] Thank you. Time is up.

Mr. Schneider: Mr. Speaker, given that there is direct impact on these economic activities that help to drive the economies of communities like Drayton Valley, Rocky Mountain House, and many others, will the speaker clearly state for the record that existing logging, mining, and energy extraction in what will soon be the west country public land-use zone be allowed to continue those activities in the future?

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

Ms Phillips: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That's no problem at all. Certainly, public land-use zones allow for a number of different activities. They balance recreational uses, which are happening right now, and plan them appropriately with logging activities, with extraction of various oil and gas or other mineral resources as well as existing grazing leases. Public land-use zones accommodate all of those various uses. They are a planning tool that allows us to make sure that we've got a working landscape, but people can also enjoy themselves.

Health Care Patient Information Portal

Dr. Turner: I've been practising medicine for over 40 years and have relied on Alberta's world-class laboratory medicine and diagnostic imaging to provide accurate and individualized diagnosis and therapy for my patients. In 2002 Netcare was introduced to Alberta, and it remains the best lab information system in Canada. It facilitates referrals and is essential for quality medical care. To the Minister of Health: the data collected in Netcare belongs to the patients, who have been asking for a patient portal. Please provide the House with an update on making a patient portal available to all Albertans.

2:40

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much to the member for this important question, Mr. Speaker. This member has been a tireless advocate for his patients and for all Alberta patients not just for the 40 years that he's practised medicine but also as a member of this government caucus, and I want to commend him for that work.

He's right that Albertans have been waiting for too long for a time where they have a digital tool in their own possession with their own health care information. They have that in almost every other aspect of their lives, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to be sure that when we launched this portal, Albertans will immediately find it useful, and I look forward to doing that soon.

Thank you.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Dr. Turner: Thank you. I'm very much looking forward to that.

Given that the pharmacy information network is on the same platform and can be accessed by health professionals, including pharmacists and nurse practitioners, will the PIN also be available to patients through the patient portal?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans will be able to see their pharmacy records among other health records, and Albertans will be able to have a wide range of features to help them track their existing records and upload new data that they have from their own mobile devices. Probably many people in this Chamber are wearing Fitbits at this time, and that information could be useful to incorporate from a patient perspective into their own electronic health record. This kind of modernization of personalization of health care is only possible when you have a government that makes health care a priority and invests instead of cutting. I'm proud that this side of the House has chosen to do that.

Dr. Turner: Will the patient portal be useful in integrating the personal directives such as the organ donor consent, that we heard about earlier, into the electronic medical record for Albertans?

Ms Hoffman: Thanks again for this important question. We plan on rolling out the digital tool, and like with many digital tools, there will be updates in the years to come and months to come. I think it's a good idea. I know that the member has worked on these concepts for many years. Albertans maybe don't always know it because we've had many of these conversations in person, Mr. Speaker, so I'm glad to be able to update the House with some of the tremendous work he's done on this effort. When we do get a time to announce, very soon, I hope all Albertans will recognize the contributions from you, hon. member, and many colleagues that have worked with you on this effort for many, many years.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I have a request for unanimous consent for introductions.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Introduction of Guests

(continued)

The Speaker: Go ahead, Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce today to the Assembly a group of nattily attired visitors, the board of governors and executive leadership team at Portage College. Access to higher education for rural and indigenous learners is incredibly important to me as well as to Portage College. Portage is a leader in opening doors to higher education for rural and indigenous Albertans. I want to thank my guests for their tireless efforts to make sure that we have an excellent college in northeastern Alberta and for their contributions to the postsecondary system in Alberta as a whole. I'd ask that they please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce guests today from the Pakistan Canada Association of Edmonton, which has existed for 45 years as a community hub for Pakistanis around this city. Through its programs the PCAE has helped many new Canadians integrate within the greater community while

promoting the cultural heritage of Pakistan. I have attended many of their events, and I have to say that the food is always my favourite part. Between the Minister of Labour and democratic renewal we have a number of guests that we'll be introducing, but I'll call, first, Ziad Memon, who's a director for the youth wing, who leads a mentorship program; Khalid Aziz and his wife, Ayesha Aziz – Khalid is the general secretary and works behind the scenes to ensure community concerns are addressed – and my good friends Jamil Shaikh and his wife, Rehana Parveen. Jamil is the chairman for the hall committee and an avid community leader. I'm so happy that my guests could join us today. Please give them the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Labour and democratic renewal.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure as well to introduce members of the Pakistan Canada Association of Edmonton. As I call their names if they would please rise: Mr. Salman Naseer, the president, and his wife, Mrs. Rabia Naseer; Mr. Muhammad Haseeb Khan, who is the director of finance and grants; Mr. Omer Choudhary and Mr. Jawad Choudhary. If there are any other members of the Pakistan Canada Association who have not been introduced, please rise. From organizing cultural festivals, food drives, and major community events, PCAE has contributed greatly to Alberta society. I'm very proud that I and my office work very closely with their dedicated team, be it proclaiming Alberta's first Islamic Heritage Month or working with the association's women leaders. It's wonderful to have community partners like yourselves. I ask you to now please receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

We have another introduction, from Community and Social Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I actually have two brief introductions. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this House Ms Andrea Silverstone. Andrea is the executive director of Sagesse Domestic Violence Prevention Society and the co-chair of Calgary Domestic Violence Collective. For over 20 years Andrea has advocated and taken action to combat domestic violence and invest in prevention. I met Andrea earlier today to discuss how we can collaborate together to deal with this issue. Thank you for your leadership and dedication. I ask Andrea to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Sabir: Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I also want to introduce Mr. Jason Loewer. Jason is the executive director of EmployAbilities and a strong advocate for persons with disabilities and their families. I was pleased to meet Jason today and hear about his organization's amazing customized employment program. Our government supports inclusive employment and proclaimed October as Disability Employment Awareness Month to recognize this issue. I ask Jason to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

It's an introduction? Okay.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With your indulgence I have two groups to introduce to you today. It's a privilege to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly

Cosette Dubrûle and Celena and Randy Campbell. If they'd please rise. Celena and Cosette are cofounders of All Cycles Edmonton, a nonprofit here that acquires menstrual products for homeless and income-insecure people across the gender spectrum. Their grassroots project helps the most stigmatized and vulnerable people within the entire city of Edmonton. I want to thank them for the great work that they do, and I ask that they please receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Dang: Mr. Speaker, also in the gallery today is my constituency assistant, Matthew Callaway. He doesn't want to be introduced, but I have to introduce him because he's the one that keeps me on track and on time, or tries to keep me on time, for all of my appointments. If he'd please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome as well.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

Mr. Rosendahl: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the Bubik family, who are here to observe third reading of Bill 25. Peter Bubik is an engineer in the renewable energy business and cofounder of Turning Point Generation, the company behind the Canyon Creek pumped hydro energy storage project in Bill 25. He is here with his wife, Corrie, their children Matthias, Nellie, Tobias, and Linnea Bubik. Often it's families that carry the unprecedented burden of business ventures, and they deserve to be recognized. The Bubiks are here to witness the historic moment of Alberta's first ever pumped hydro energy storage project and hope the project will serve as a testament to our willingness to be responsible stewards of our environment. I ask the Bubiks to rise – and they already have – and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome. I think I see Cinderella's dress up there. We will have Members' Statements continue in 15 seconds.

Members' Statements (continued)

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

2:50 Government Caucus Practices

Ms Luff: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As everyone knows, the NDP kicked me out because I spoke out against their wishes. I wouldn't do what they told me. Luckily, they have 50-plus others who will. The NDP leadership refuses to speak with me. To them I no longer exist. This is how they treat people that disagree with them. What did I do to deserve this mistreatment? I expressed how I felt. I asked for an independent investigation into what I saw as wrongful behaviour. Their response was to ignore and silence. They're continuing with this behaviour. They have removed me from a committee with an action that the NDP themselves described as thuggery just a few years ago.

All I am asking for is transparency and honesty. I'm urging the government again to put in place an independent third-party process that can be followed in cases of bullying to ensure for future governments that MLAs and staff won't be mistreated. I'm asking for them to put in place policies that allow more autonomy for MLAs to represent their constituents. This government is refusing to make it easier for constituents' voices to be heard in this Legislature. They're upholding mistakes of the past. Saying that this is just how it is is unacceptable.

When I ran in 2012 and 2015, I did so because I felt the NDP was different. I told people on doorsteps that the NDP was different. Yet as soon as they became government, they began to run roughshod over democracy and to replace the old PC cronies with new NDP cronies. They feel it's their right as the government even though they railed against Conservatives for the same behaviour for years, and I have no doubt that the UCP would be exactly the same.

My constituents overwhelmingly tell me that they don't believe in politicians, that politicians are all the same, that they don't listen. They're not alone. Nearly half of Canadians don't vote regularly, and recent polls have shown that less than half of Canadians trust their government. Politicians complain about uninformed voters, about lack of engagement. They say that the public needs to change. I say that politicians need to change. Politicians need to represent their constituents. Instead, they hide behind the status quo and point to the structure of the system as a scapegoat.

Well, if the system isn't honouring Albertans – and it's not – then the system needs to change. As MLAs we owe it to Albertans to change it.

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

HIV/AIDS Awareness

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This coming Saturday will be the 30th observance of World AIDS Day, founded on December 1, 1988, to unite people around the world in fighting HIV and commemorate those who live with or have died from an AIDS-related illness. The first clinical cases of HIV appeared in the early 1980s. Today fewer people are becoming infected, and although there's still no cure, treatment and care are helping most people with HIV stay healthy, avoid AIDS, and live long lives. But while we've made significant progress, there is still work to do. Far too many living with HIV also live with unnecessary stigma and isolation. Today we remember them, and we commit that we will continue to work to ensure that they have the support and dignity that they deserve.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to recognize the many individuals and organizations working in my community to do that work and advocate for those in need and help to curtail the further spread of HIV: HIV Edmonton, Living Positive through Positive Living, the Ribbon Rouge Foundation, team ARCH at the Royal Alexandra hospital, Streetworks, and the Edmonton Men's Health Collective. It's in part because of their work and advocacy that our government recently introduced universal coverage for PrEP, a drug that is up to 99 per cent effective in stopping the transmission of HIV. They have also been promoters of and advocates for making testing more accessible in the community and promoting the adoption of harm reduction such as needle exchanges and supervised consumption sites to support those struggling with substance use.

But most importantly, Mr. Speaker, World AIDS Day is about hope, the belief that through research, support, and education we can slow and prevent the spread of HIV, that we can support those living to do so in health and dignity, and that we can one day find a cure.

This Saturday our city will remember the 36 million lost worldwide by dimming the lights on the High Level Bridge and lighting 11 buildings red, including the Alberta Legislature, to remember those living with the disease. It's my hope that all Albertans will join in this remembrance and wear a red ribbon in support.

Notices of Motions

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 34(3) I'm rising to advise the House that on the next available Monday written questions 6, 7, and 8 will be accepted. Additionally, Motion for a Return 18 will be accepted, and Motion for a Return 19 will be dealt with.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: Hon. minister, you get a second opportunity.

Bill 31

Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2018

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to request leave to introduce Bill 31, the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2018.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has been circulated to the opposition parties, and I believe there is consensus on all of the clauses of the bill, so it is our hope it can be passed, therefore, without debate in the House.

[Motion carried; Bill 31 read a first time]

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Bill 32

City Charters Fiscal Framework Act

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise and give first reading to Bill 32, the City Charters Fiscal Framework Act.

Calgary and Edmonton are two of the fastest growing municipalities in Alberta, and to support this growth, the cities need permanent, predictable funding for their local infrastructure priorities. This legislation is about establishing a historic partnership that helps Edmonton and Calgary build the infrastructure they need in a way that the province can afford. This framework delivers certainty to the cities by recognizing that they are partners in our growing economy and should share in both the good and the tough times.

The province is also delivering on the long-term transit needs of Calgarians and Edmontonians in legislating long-term transit funding. This historic long-term transit funding will allow Calgary and Edmonton to build out their transit networks, create jobs, reduce greenhouse gases, and make our cities better places to live and work.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of Bill 32. Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 32 read a first time]

Statement by the Speaker

Statements during Tablings

The Speaker: Hon. members, I'd just like to make a few comments. Yesterday there was an exchange in the House which resulted in some points of order with respect to the process for tabling reports and returns. It has been a long-standing practice of this Assembly that members should only give a brief description of the item they wish to table and not read the item itself.

I'm learning every day. If you would allow me one more opportunity to say that context always applies, almost always. I myself have indicated, as was quoted yesterday, that there have been statements that I've made in this Legislature that were not less than other speakers. I want to just remind the House of the brevity of the issue, and keep that in mind when you're introducing and tabling documents.

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: I believe I have Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I will try to be brief. These two tablings resulted from a conversation I had at the FCSS breakfast this morning, where we discussed the utilization of their services and how it's increased over the last three years. I'd just like to point out that FCSS is celebrating their 51st year, so hardly an NDP invention. The first document I have here is 2018 Beyond Food Revisited. It's a report about the Edmonton food bank. It shows from 2015 to 2018 an over 40 per cent increase every month in the utilization of the food bank in Edmonton.

The second document is from Food Banks Canada, HungerCount 2016. This is just a brief summary of it, where it shows Alberta's utilization of the food banks increased 136 per cent from 2008 to 2016 while the rest of Canada increased by only 28 per cent.

The Speaker: Brevity. Brevity.

Hon. Government House Leader, we may well be going past 3.

Mr. Mason: Yes. I'd like to advise the House that we're going to continue with the Routine past 3 o'clock.

3:00

The Speaker: Thank you.

The Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the appropriate number of copies of the Law Enforcement Review Board's annual report for 2017.

The Speaker: Are there any others? The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the five requisite copies of a petition that was presented to my office by Mr. Randy Richards. I'd like to once again thank him for being here in the Legislature with us today. The petition calls for changes to Alberta's motor vehicle regulations in relation to tinted windows. I would also like to note for the record that there are currently two online petitions on this subject that have collected 18,000 signatures to date.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Now, I believe that we are at three points of order today.

The Member for Calgary-Greenway.

Point of Order Language Creating Disorder

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this point of order. In question period today when I was asking questions about the impact of political action committees in our politics provincially and also their impact municipally, I asked the government a very simple question. Like, we see the ads of political action committees everywhere, and we see how the

Official Opposition has been using political action committees and the government is using their big unions. The question was: what is the government doing so that this culture, these policies do not impact municipal politics? And the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs said, "This is rich . . . coming from [that] member." Under Standing Order 23(i) and (j): "imputes false . . . motives" and "abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder."

My question was just speaking on behalf of Albertans, like, that we do not convert Alberta politics into the United States style of PAC-driven politics. I think that it's a simple question, and the minister should have given a simple answer instead of attacking me personally. So I ask the hon. minister to withdraw his comment and apologize.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Oh, Mr. Speaker, I really wonder what the minister could have been referring to when he was saying that a question about preserving democracy coming from Calgary-Greenway was rich. Well, it's clearly a matter of debate and not a point of order. There's nothing wrong with saying that something is rich. It's not abusive. But, you know, in case the member has forgotten, the reason he's sitting where he's sitting is because he left the UCP caucus because there were allegations that he stuffed ballot boxes in an annual general meeting of his constituency.

The Speaker: Hon. member.

Mr. Mason: This is all on the public record, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Speak to the point of order.

Mr. Mason: Well, you know, I guess I believe it is. It's a matter of public record. This was investigated by a retired judge for the UCP, and the result was what were termed to be credible allegations, and the hon. member is sitting now as an independent.

Mr. Speaker, the question of whether it's rich or not, I think, is a matter of opinion between members. I happen to share the opinion of the Minister of Municipal Affairs that it is a bit rich to be lectured by that member . . .

Mr. Fildebrandt: Point of order.

Mr. Mason: . . . on preserving democracy in our province, Mr. Speaker. On that basis I don't think there's anything to withdraw, nothing to apologize for.

The Speaker: Any other members? I unfortunately cannot see my Standing Orders document here, but the specifics of the case, as I see it, is that this is what was said. "This is rich, about ethics, coming from this member, Mr. Speaker. Albertans have the right to know who is influencing their . . ." And it's at that point that the Member for Calgary-Greenway raised the point of order. I believe that in this particular instance what comes into play, Government House Leader, is 23. As I understand, it talks about "impute" in the House, that this would cause disorder. I find that a comment like that from what I know to be a very professional and committed minister and MLA – upon reflection, he might have thought that that particular comment was not contributing to the constructive dialogue that takes place in this place. I'm not sure if the minister has any reflection comments that he might wish to make on the matter. You do not?

Well, I believe in this particular instance, Government House Leader, that there was a point of order, and it is based upon context. Second point of order.

Point of Clarification

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, in section 13(2): "The Speaker shall explain the reasons for any decision on the request of a Member." I am making a request. You know, to suggest that somebody saying something is rich is a point of order, I just don't understand that. I don't understand why if it makes you uncomfortable or it makes any member of the House uncomfortable, that means it's out of order. It either violates the rules or it does not.

The Speaker: The rules are, Government House Leader, that 23 implies: is it going to cause disorder? Is it disrespectful? That's what I understand it to mean. My explanation is based on the fact that I have determined in this situation that that does, and therefore that is my reason under 13(2).

The hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be extremely brief. Your ruling that there was, in fact, a point of order as it concerns the comments of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, I think, is well taken, but those comments were repeated and affirmed by the Government House Leader. So I think that it's appropriate to find that there would be essentially a duplication of this point of order about the comments made.

The Speaker: Hon. member, you're at a point in the jurisdiction that I make the decisions I do independent of whether in any member's opinion that's good or bad. So I don't know that the point you're raising now is going to contribute in any way to the decision that I might make. I will therefore keep moving on.

By the way, I just got a note: we should refer to 318 in *Beauchesne's* to the point I just made.

The other point of order. The hon. Member for Airdrie.

Point of Order Parliamentary Language

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise under Standing Order 23(h), (i), and (j). Earlier when my colleague from Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills was asking a member of the cabinet questions today in regard to a school that's in dire repair, all members of this Assembly very clearly heard the Member for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater using extremely unparliamentary language in this Assembly. I know that you heard it because you did make a stern look in his direction, but I would ask that that member apologize not only to my hon. colleague from Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills but also to members of this Assembly and to members of the public that most definitely, assuredly, heard that through their television screens.

The Speaker: Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater.

3:10

Mr. Piquette: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do believe that, with your indulgence, I do owe the House an explanation and an apology. I do understand the importance of keeping parliamentary language. Generally speaking, I think I've been very cognizant of these rules. I have to say that I was surprised and provoked by the audacity of the Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills' statement regarding H.A. Kostash school and that I hadn't been doing anything about it.

This is a school that I have visited on multiple occasions. I've worked closely with the school board to advocate strongly to the Minister of Education for replacing the school. I've had this at the top of my riding priority for the past three years. I've also worked

with the town and the county on the same issue. I've spoken to many parents. As a matter of fact, I was at the letter-writing workshop where many of these letters came from, and I actually gave them tips on how to write effective letters, and I wrote my own strongly worded letter to the minister, which I would be happy to table on Monday. I would've tabled these letters from parents, but unfortunately they were received in my office this week and I haven't been back to my constituency yet.

That's a bit of an explanation of why I lost my temper, but I do understand that it is unacceptable. So I would like to retract the word and apologize to the House and to members in the gallery for my language.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member. I appreciate that very much. I think the House does as well. That's another example of how those comments made sometimes cause reactions across the hall, across the aisle. My sense was, in your case, sir, that the emotion took over, but let's be cautious about what you say because you may be getting that reaction back.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders

Third Reading

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Bill 25

Canyon Creek Hydro Development Act

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is indeed my honour to rise today to move third reading of Bill 25, the Canyon Creek Hydro Development Act.

It's a further honour that we have the owner of Turning Point, Peter Bubik, and his family here today to witness this third reading. This act arises out of requirements in sections 9 and 10 of the Hydro and Electric Energy Act. The passage of this bill would allow the Alberta Utilities Commission to issue authorization to construct the Canyon Creek pumped hydro storage project near Hinton. It would also allow the AUC to authorize operation of the facility at the appropriate time. While this act meets our legislative requirements to grant the appropriate authority to the AUC, it does not remove any of the regulator duties of that body or the Alberta Environment and Parks approval requirements, and that's important. As we know, this project brings real economic benefits and opportunities, which I know are exciting for the local area and exciting for the Member for West Yellowhead, who is a cosponsor of this bill.

It's also important that the environmental processes are still in place. I understand that the opposition questioned the province's system of environmental approvals and timelines during discussion. I want to address that and be clear. Albertans deserve to be confident that our regulatory system works to protect and manage our water resources properly, but they also deserve to know that this system imposes no unnecessary delays that would undermine opportunities for economic development. Albertans can be confident that we are doing everything we can to marry both those objectives.

When we took government in 2015, the Water Act approvals process had been aggravated long before that and was further aggravated by the floods of 2013. When we came to office, we found a system that was fraught with delays and complexities, but we took action. Since 2016 we have reduced the backlog of applications by 20 per cent. This is despite the fact that the volume of applications in the last two years was higher than in previous

years. Not only are more works planned and under way in Alberta, which is a good sign for economic recovery, but we are processing those applications more efficiently.

Still, given the system that we inherited, some applications continue to take longer than we'd like, and that's why we're doing the long overdue work of improving our systems and streamlining our processes, like moving to online applications. It's also why we have developed an environmental approvals plan to reduce times for approvals under the Water Act, Public Lands Act, and EPEA. We are tackling this backlog and confident that we will eliminate a problem that we did inherit. The Canyon Creek project along with hundreds of others we received this year are benefiting from the improvements that we made in that process.

With that, I'd like to thank all my colleagues in the House for supporting this bill and allowing the private-sector proponents of this project to move forward in their development efforts. Again, it's not often we actually see the face of a project, and I want to thank the Bubiks for coming here today. Lastly, I'd also like to thank my cosponsors. I'm very glad to join with my cosponsors and our House here to promote this strong and good project.

With that, Madam Speaker, I conclude my remarks. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Mr. Dreeshen: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would just like to comment again on this third reading of Bill 25 – and I rise to speak on it – the Canyon Creek Hydro Development Act. The fact that we've had to have this debate in this Assembly just shows the serious indication of red tape in this existing legislation. Turning Point Generation received approval from the Alberta Utilities Commission back in August for a pumped hydro energy storage project on Crown land 13 kilometres northeast of Hinton in a former Obed mountain coal mine site. The project is 75 megawatts of green energy capacity, over 37 hours of full capacity generation, acting as essentially a battery with 80 per cent efficiency.

Now, Madam Speaker, it's November 29. The NDP held up this bill. We could have had this passed a lot sooner. It's already been delayed by red tape for three months, so let's not delay this project any further. I hope Alberta Environment and Parks will not be holding up water and land-use permits for this project. However, that minister has protested and opposed Alberta energy development in the past. But I hope that won't be the case going forward. Let's pass this bill and watch over \$200 million in private investment, which, again, I think is a foreign concept to this government. Three hundred construction jobs near Hinton will have a great impact to that local economy.

I do appreciate the opportunity, Madam Speaker, of speaking to this important bill. Thank you.

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

Mr. Piquette: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I also would like to rise and speak in support of Bill 25, the Canyon Creek Hydro Development Act. I will try to be brief. The other speakers have already spoken on a bit more of the details of the project. What I'd like to do is highlight what is admirable about it and, you know, also how it demonstrates a clear contrast between ourselves and our predecessors. It's almost a metaphor for, you know, the direction that we're taking in this province compared to the direction it had been previously.

Before I talk about that, I would like to very strongly commend the MLA for West Yellowhead for his advocacy for this project. He's done his legwork, and it was because of that that I felt quite comfortable being able to cosponsor this. I know he'd spoken to the

stakeholders, you know, on the initial thing and that the community was definitely behind it. In fact, this is very welcome.

3:20

Now, on what I was looking into, the wording of the bill. You know, it's a beautiful concept. It's my understanding that Ontario has had a similar type of hydraulic battery storage system that's been in operation since the 1950s. I know the United Kingdom has a very large, significant facility that's been set up, tasked specifically to be able to store the excess for wind power and to be able to balance out power draw, which does go to show that all the naysaying that renewable energy, especially wind power and solar power, was unrealistic and unworkable for the province – some of this was actually put about by our opposition – and that there are simple technological fixes that are environmentally friendly, sustainable, and quite affordable to be able to balance demand with power capacity.

Now, as I go back to it, when I was looking at the location for this new project, as the hon. member just pointed out previous to my speaking, it's at the old site of the Obed coal mine. I remember this site quite well, Madam Speaker, because I live in the community of Boyle, which, like many of the communities in my riding as well as many communities, period, draws our water from the Athabasca River. All of us were horrified on October 31, 2013, to discover that a dam holding up a tailings pond burst on the Obed site, dumping almost 1 billion litres of toxic slurry into the Athabasca River, causing the water to be undrinkable for about the first 40 kilometres. The long-term effects of this spill remain to be determined. My family drinks this water, as do thousands of other Alberta families, and it was something that was obviously upsetting to us.

What was also very upsetting was to discover in 2015, due to the auspice of the Auditor General, that, in fact, this dam had never even been registered by Alberta environment. It had never been inspected. You know, they had no record of this, so there was no due diligence, there was no oversight. When it burst, there was no warning, and whatever steps might have been taken couldn't have been taken because nobody was watching. After this fact, of course, the coal company was fined 4 and a half million dollars.

The Auditor General's report was damning on this in 2015. Basically, it pointed out that there were over 1,500 dams within the province of Alberta and that the government did not know where these dams were, they did not know the status of these dams, and they didn't even know how many had been registered. Of course, of the ones that they did know about, many of them hadn't been inspected until the 1980s or 1990s. Our Premier, a private member at the time, characterized this as gross negligence, and I think that was a very apt description of it.

Now, why do I think that this project in that sense stands as a metaphor for, you know, the type of situation we find ourselves in as a province? Well, the previous member talked about red tape. You know, this is a theme that the opposition likes to harp on: "Get rid of red tape. Get rid of red tape." They're promising to roll back the long overdue changes to regulations, to consumer protections, to environmental protections that we've brought into force, all on this weird ideological quest to give the impression that any type of government oversight, any type of due diligence, any type of looking out for the public interest is something to be avoided. I think that this bill gives you kind of an objective lesson in what can happen when you don't, you know, do due diligence and when you're lackadaisical with your responsibilities as a government, which unfortunately characterized our predecessors far too often. Even more unfortunately, the opposition promises to bring this back to the province if they become the government in 2019. You know,

I don't think that's a good direction for the province to be going in, obviously.

What type of direction should we be going in? Well, we should be going in an environmentally friendly, sustainable way. We should be acting progressively rather than regressively, and we should be supporting projects like this that make sense to the community, that make sense environmentally, and make sense to, in fact, humanity by responsibly doing what we can to reduce our carbon usage while being able to maintain our economy and, you know, all the good things that that economy brings to us.

I'm a big fan of this project, and I urge all members to support it. It was an honour to be able to speak on this.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Any questions or comments under Standing Order 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, the hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to everybody who's speaking about this. I just wanted to say to one of our newest members, from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, that I want to thank you very much for your passion on this and having just so much knowledge that you're showing in this very small amount of time that you've had in this Legislature. Thank you so much for that work. It's pretty impressive.

I wanted to actually mention to the hon. member across the way: you were talking about a metaphor, and what you just described – thank you very much for bringing that up. It's a very, very important piece of information. You're right. There are absolutely things that are needed to be looked at with the environment, that need to be fixed and changed, absolutely no doubt. However, what I find interesting is that you speak about that with such passion and legitimately so – you lived there; it was your drinking water, absolutely – yet you're okay with your government postponing this bill and with pushing it forward with the red tape that's actually disallowing this kind of infrastructure to go forward. This is like a piece of low-hanging fruit. This is a fantastic idea, so why are we waiting? Why isn't this going forward? To your point, I'm not quite sure I understand the red tape that's holding this up at all. Again, I thank the Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake for bringing that forward.

Part of the issue that we have with so many of the things that are going on is the inability to actually get things done like this. I mean, there's a regulatory burden, and the AUC had already approved this project. So if the AUC had already approved this project, to bring it into legislation to debate it at this level, I'm not quite sure I understand why because of how the hydro and electricity act is written. If somebody could please explain to me that piece of it, I would be very, very grateful. If the AUC approved the project and the proponent is waiting for their permits under the Public Lands Act and the Water Act from Environment and Parks so they can proceed, so proceed. Correct? Am I understanding this correctly?

The thing is that if that has already been okayed, why aren't the permits issued? Maybe that should be the question that we're asking in here. The question should be about the regulatory burden, about the permits not being issued so that this project can go forward, right? I'll give you a chance to answer in just a second.

The other thing, too, that I wanted to mention, from the member across the way, is that you talk about the metaphor. A metaphor is saying one thing is like another, correct? I'm assuming that you are trying to put us into a metaphor of whatever it was that you were talking about, about the past and past decisions.

Well, one thing I would like to say is that I'm extremely proud of our industry, hundreds of thousands of jobs. They were able to bring

oil out of sand. This is an industry that is the greenest in the world, and if you have not figured out yet that it is our responsibility to tout the energy industry in this province, you are sorely mistaken. Our energy industry is the best, cleanest, greenest, most incredible industry in the world, and it happened long before any of us were in this Legislature. If the members on the government side are still going to continue to advocate against the very people of this province that grew this province, to the privilege that all of us have to be here right now, it brings into question whether or not you actually understand how this province was built.

I would like to thank the government for this piece of legislation. However, the red tape that it took us to get here is a little bit disturbing considering that this project was already passed by the AUC and only required the approvals and permits to be issued by Environment and Parks.

Thank you.

3:30

The Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments under Standing Order 29(2)(a)? The hon. Member for Airdrie.

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll just be very brief. I would like to offer some comment, more importantly saying hello, to Molly and Brady, my children, who are watching online right now.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other questions or comments under Standing Order 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, any other speakers to the bill?

Seeing none, the hon. minister to close debate.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's been an honour to stand and speak to this bill. I have to assure all members that it is a requirement that we have to put through this law. It was faster to do it this way than to change the law, so we have worked expeditiously. I also want to say that we co-ordinated third reading today so that we could accommodate the Bubik family to be here for it today. I urge everyone in this House to please pass this bill so that they can get on with their project.

[Motion carried; Bill 25 read a third time]

Bill 24

An Act to Recognize AMA Representation Rights

The Deputy Speaker: I'm looking for someone to move third reading. Banff-Cochrane.

Mr. Westhead: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to rise this afternoon to move second reading on behalf of the hon. Minister of Health for Bill 24 . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, you're moving third reading?

Mr. Westhead: Yes.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Westhead: Oh. I apologize. I said second.

I'm moving on behalf of the Minister of Health third reading of Bill 24, An Act to Recognize AMA Representation Rights.

This is a bill that, we all know, formalizes a long-standing relationship that has existed informally between the AMA and the Alberta government. This is something that doctors have overwhelmingly spoken to us about and said that they'd like to have this move forward, so I'd encourage all members to vote in favour.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to speak in opposition to third reading of Bill 24, An Act to Recognize AMA Representation Rights. Bill 24 is slim, only four pages long, even though it is amending the Alberta Health Care Insurance Act, which is important to individual doctors and patients alike. The concern with slim bills like this one is that they leave almost every detail to the minister to determine through regulations. In effect, this bill gives the minister a blank cheque. She gets to fill out all the details.

Madam Speaker, during Bill 24's passage through this House we in the opposition were hoping to learn more about it than what we found out in the four pages, but our well-intended questions went unanswered. Let me point out that we were asking these questions on behalf of physicians blindsided by the bill and patients, who today still have no idea of its existence. UCP members in this House did due diligence by checking with the physicians in our communities about their awareness of Bill 24. We were alarmed that they did not know about it, yet the government had presented a different scenario. That sent up red flags for us.

It's important for us to respect that this bill makes the AMA the representative of all doctors, whether they want it to be or not. The more we asked doctors about whether they voted in favour of this bill, the more we heard that they did not vote on it. They didn't even know about it. I would think that physicians would have been interested to know that this bill is a blank slate, and they would also have preferred the opportunity to weigh in on it before cabinet makes arbitrary decisions behind closed doors that fill in the empty spaces in it.

Actually, when we look at the many vague subsections in Bill 24, the regulations will probably end up being much longer than the slim bill itself, and what else might the government decide to include in regulations while it's making them? Hardly anyone scrutinizes orders in council. The fact is that they generally go under the radar. Is the minister counting on this? The UCP is also concerned about patients' awareness of the changes. Patients seem to be a forgotten factor in this bill. We brought forward an amendment to bolster transparency for patients, but the government rejected it.

To sum up, Madam Speaker, the lack of consultation with physicians and their awareness of this bill, the bill's lack of content, and the government's dismissal of patients' right to know what's going on are all reasons I am voting in opposition to Bill 24.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and to both members who just spoke on this matter and particularly to my caucus deputy whip for standing in in my place. I specifically want to respond to the reference to there being outstanding questions. We did respond to questions in second reading and in committee, and they certainly are in *Hansard*. I don't want to spend more time reiterating those same responses.

I will give the general theme, which is that this is something that the previous Conservative government committed to in 2011 through discussions that looked a lot like negotiations. They weren't necessarily negotiations, but there was back and forth, and there was an agreement reached that they would embark upon this process. They didn't. In 2016 we reached an amending agreement with the AMA. This came up again, but it wasn't part of the amending agreement. In the final, new agreement, Madam Speaker, in return for a lot of the concessions that were made, this is one of

the asks that was given, that there be formal recognition so that in the future the kind of constructive relationship . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. minister, my apologies. I understand we've got a little procedural thing that got messed up.

Ms Hoffman: Because he moved on my behalf?

The Deputy Speaker: Exactly. You can't speak right now. You'll have to just close debate.

Mr. McIver: She's not closing it, right?

The Deputy Speaker: No, no.

So, you know, we'll start over again. Is there any other member who wishes to speak? The hon. Member for Calgary-Hays.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak on Bill 24, the government's bill intended to recognize AMA representation rights. That is what they call it, An Act to Recognize AMA Representation Rights.

Now, Madam Speaker, not the minister but the previous speaker from the government side actually had the, I'm trying to think of a polite word, courage – that's a polite word – to say that there was overwhelming support. Now, with all due respect, I don't think the hon. member knows whether there was or not. The government continually points at some 89 per cent vote, but the 89 per cent vote, we've come to learn from doctors that have talked to us, was not on the topic of AMA representation. Further, when that vote happened, only 30 per cent of the members were in attendance. So they got 90 per cent, apparently on a different topic, of 30 per cent. So they had 27 per cent, if you do the math, or just under 27 per cent of a discussion on a different subject matter, and the government turns around and calls it overwhelming support. Sorry, but that's ridiculous.

We've heard from doctors across Alberta that were somewhat dumbfounded to hear about the legislation because they hadn't even been let know about it, let alone been aware that they had a voice or a vote on it. I guess it would seem that potentially zero per cent of doctors had a vote on it if you go by the 30 per cent vote that the government keeps waving around and calling overwhelming support.

Madam Speaker, you can hardly blame Albertans and you can hardly blame the opposition for not taking the government's word for it on this or on any piece of legislation where they constantly stand up and talk about how well they've consulted and then get proven time and time and time and time again to have not done so, to have exaggerated the comments. I would say to people on this topic and other ones that sitting in the same room answering e-mails while someone is talking and not listening to them and then saying, "The time is up; you've got to go" doesn't really qualify as consultation, and too many ministers of this government, I believe, think that that does pass for consultation and have represented that as passing for consultation for some time over the last three and a half years.

3:40

Here are a couple of examples. An ophthalmologist from Calgary:

I'm writing to express concerns on Bill 24 . . . [before the] final vote in the Alberta legislature.

So I guess the letter got here on time.

The main objective is to . . . recognize . . . the [AMA] as the sole representative.

It says that medicare and the Canada Health Act have always considered physicians as independent contractors.

The doctor considers that to be a fundamental principle.

One needs to ask why the need for change and why the rush for change.

In fact, even if what the minister said just now is true – and I'm not challenging her on the part of her remarks when she said that some form of this has been talked about for some time – perhaps the reason the previous government didn't do it was because there wasn't the overwhelming support that the government talks about having at this point. That would be, actually, a good reason for not doing it.

This letter talks about how this law

has not received the consent from the AMA physician membership.

Even the doctor here says:

It has been stated [that] 89% of physicians approve . . .

While that number can be seen as . . . impressive, it is not unanimous. Also, only 30% of all AMA members voted on second agreement to amend the AMA agreement in which the above clause is contained. Thus, effectively only a quarter of all AMA physician members

were demonstrated to be in favour of this.

It also says in this letter:

It must also be recognized that clause 1(h)b) speaks of the need for "further input from others will be required."

Well, apparently, the government is going ahead without further input from others even though that is in the communication from the AMA to the doctor.

You know what? The government hasn't really met the test of showing that they've done their work. They haven't met the test of showing that they have consulted in a way that they can demonstrate that the majority of doctors want this.

Here's another communication, from the Alberta Society of Dermatologists. It says:

We've been apprised that the sole representative of doctors will be the AMA, as mandated by Bill 24. We feel the mandate was achieved without the full knowledge or agreement of physicians of Alberta, and we feel that sections of the AMA should be consulted and represented in any negotiation with the government. If the AMA truly represents its members, no legislation is necessary to force its membership to accept the AMA as its representative.

Isn't that a fair comment? If you are forced into a relationship where somebody is talking on your behalf and you don't agree to that relationship, I'm not sure that that is a healthy relationship. Yet these are the grounds upon which this government is passing legislation forcing that relationship on, potentially, a majority of doctors in Alberta, that do not want this exact relationship. Yet they are going to get it delivered onto them, whether they like it or whether they do not, by this NDP government, this government that so very consistently doesn't consult the way they say they do.

You know what? This is textbook from this NDP government. They roll in here with a piece of legislation, talking about the consultation that they did, and then the next thing you know, whoops, all this evidence that they didn't do it actually comes forward, and they just can't bring themselves to admit that what they said wasn't so, as with several pieces of legislation. I certainly remember a piece of legislation that the Minister of Municipal Affairs brought through this House not long ago. He ranted up and down that everything was perfect and walked in the next day with major amendments to the bill. Bill 6 comes to mind, where they talked about what great consultation they did. The next thing we knew, we had thousands of people on the doorstep. This is a pattern

of behaviour by a government out of touch with Albertans, and this is one more example today.

You know what, Madam Speaker? Here's the silly thing. It could be that the majority of doctors do want this. The fact is that the government hasn't done the work to actually know whether they do or whether they don't. You'd think it would be incumbent upon the government of a province of Canada, if they make a statement about that level of support, to actually be able to demonstrate it in a way that is credible. They have not met that test.

Madam Speaker, I can't support this. No one should because it's making a permanent change, forcing a relationship that quite potentially the majority of doctors in Alberta do not want. It's irresponsible under those circumstances to vote for it, and I will not. I recommend to other members of the House that they shouldn't be voting for it either.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments under Standing Order 29(2)(a)? The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Just to follow up, I do want to rearticulate and ask a question. Hon. member, I hear that the main reason why members of the opposition don't feel like this is valid consultation is because even though physicians were notified through the monthly newsletters of the AMA and had an opportunity to vote on ratification of the contract, the majority didn't choose to vote on ratification. It was less than 50 per cent who voted on ratification. While I understand that that can be frustrating, even in the most recent by-elections the Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake had over 80 per cent support of the constituents who voted. They voted for him, but only 31 per cent showed up to vote. The Member for Fort McMurray-Conklin had 32.6 per cent voter turnout in her riding. While clearly the majority of constituents didn't vote for those two members, the majority of people who did vote did clearly vote for those two members, and as a result they have the right to take their seat in this Assembly.

It's the same when we have democratic processes around organizations that represent people. Whether they see themselves as a contractor or a member of an organization or an employee, they have an opportunity through a democratic process to have their voice heard, and certainly that was the case in the AMA ratification of the agreement. Again, this has been communicated to members since 2011 in various iterations based on discussions that were had between the government and the AMA. This is about reaffirming that relationship and actually putting it in legislation, something that I think is fair.

We've had an excellent relationship with physicians in the province of Alberta even during the difficult economic downturn, when we asked them to put money back on the table so we could put it towards expanding front-line services instead of individual compensation. They have worked with us along the way, and I think that we owe it to them to continue to have fair and respectful discussions when it comes to compensation as we move forward. That's what they've asked for in this agreement. They have taken zeros, they've put money back on the table, but they want us to say that we will enshrine the relationship, which has a duty to consult. Again, a vast, vast majority of those who did choose to vote, a greater percentage than either of the by-election percentages and a greater percentage turnout.

Either way we still respect the democratic process. I guess my question to the hon. member is: if you disagree that this was democratic, how do you feel about your colleagues sitting in this Assembly in the seats that they've earned through their by-elections?

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. McIver: Madam Speaker, let me point out to the hon. member – and I'm grateful that she admitted that she doesn't know if the majority of doctors support this or not. I'm grateful that we finally heard that out loud from the minister.

But here's what's different. Both of our members who won in the by-election won by bigger numbers than this NDP government did, but there's another key thing here, too. When an election happens, there is no system in place that goes on. The mandate of the previous MLAs expires, and you actually need to have a government there. The mandate of the AMA has not expired, so you're actually not required to put something in place that you can't demonstrate the majority of doctors want. That's a fundamental difference, minister. A fundamental difference.

At the end of this term someone will become government. It might be your side, it might be our side, it might be somebody that we haven't heard of yet, but the point is that all of our mandates to govern this province expire at the time that that election comes, and you actually must put somebody in place. You have to go with the system. That's what's different. The AMA isn't going anywhere. That's why you don't force a new mandate upon all the doctors. They're not going anywhere either. At least we hope they're not because we need them. Albertans depend upon them.

I think the minister asked a fundamentally sound question. I'd like to think I'm giving her a fundamentally sound response because it's completely different. You leave an important institution with no representation, which is what would happen at a general election or even a by-election with the province, whereas with the AMA and the doctors you are not leaving a vacuum when you make a decision that the majority of the doctors may not want. There is a system in place. There are doctors that can negotiate on their own. There is the AMA that, if doctors want, can negotiate for them.

3:50

You know what? Again, I'm grateful that the minister has finally acknowledged what the opposition has been saying since the beginning of this debate, that the government truly cannot demonstrate that the majority of doctors in Alberta support what the government is doing today. That is exactly our argument. It's not our only argument, but it's certainly the biggest and most obvious one. It's that the government's main claim cannot be substantiated. Again, we got letters from doctors that actually are making exactly the same complaint as the Official Opposition.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other speakers to the bill? The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

Mr. Dreeshen: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just to comment on the Deputy Premier's comment about my by-election in Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, yes, it is true that I got over 80 per cent of the vote and the NDP did get less than 10 per cent of the vote in that by-election. I think her point was that not over 50 per cent of everyone in the riding actually voted and that the turnout was low. Again, I would like to remind her that it was the Premier that called that by-election during the middle of summer. It was the heart of July and it . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, are you speaking to the bill?

Mr. Dreeshen: Sure. I was just commenting on the point of voter turnout, Madam Speaker.

With that, there was a clear ballot-box decision, there was a clear question put to the voters when they came out and had their voter turnout in my by-election. The fact that doctors in this situation were not given a clear question, a clear decision of what they were

actually voting on I think is the biggest issue and, again, something that my colleagues on this side of the House are addressing.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments under Standing Order 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, any further speakers to the bill?

Seeing none, the hon. minister to close debate.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I just want to reiterate that I'm very proud of the positive relationship that has enabled us to stabilize health care spending, improve patient care, and focus every dollar that we invest on expanding those front-line services. If passed, Bill 24 will provide the Alberta Medical Association with statutory representation for physicians in Alberta. This new legislation, of course, would formalize existing processes that have been in place between government and the AMA, and it clearly establishes and articulates the roles and responsibilities of the AMA.

The question that was asked to physicians is: do you support ratification of the agreement? This was one of the pieces that we had to hold up in ratifying this agreement. That being said, I'm very proud of the fact that our government made a promise, that we're living up to that promise, and that we continue to do that, Madam Speaker, on this side of the House.

We know that physicians are a critical part of Alberta's health care system, and I want to thank the AMA and all physicians for the work that they've done with our government to meet Alberta's health care needs. I ask that we have the support of all members regarding third reading of Bill 24 so that we can not only fulfill our

promise to the physicians through the AMA but also make sure that we move forward establishing that relationship that is built on trust and collaboration and having fair dialogue as we continue to move forward, Madam Speaker.

Thank you very much.

[Motion carried; Bill 24 read a third time]

The Deputy Speaker: I've had a request to revert briefly to Notices of Motions. Is anyone opposed to the request?

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Notices of Motions

(reversion)

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It appears that when I was providing notice of written questions, I may have omitted to mention that the government intends on accepting Written Question 9. Pursuant to Standing Order 34(3) I'm rising to advise the House that in addition to the items given notice earlier today, Written Question 9 will be accepted.

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

Mr. Westhead: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Seeing the progress we've made today and the hour, I would move that we adjourn the House and reconvene at 1:30 p.m. next Monday.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:55 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, November 29, 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.*), 1667 (*Oct. 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1763-65 (*Nov. 1, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Nov. 19, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force November 19, 2018; SA 2018 c14]

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.*), 2000-05 (*Nov. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

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*)

Royal Assent — (*Nov. 19, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force November 19, 2018; SA 2018 c16]

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*)

Royal Assent — (*Nov. 19, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force November 19, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 c15]

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*)

Committee of the Whole — 2005-16 (*Nov. 20, 2018 aft.*), 2158-69 (*Nov. 27, 2018 aft.*), 2171-76 (*Nov. 28, 2018 morn., adjourned, amendments agreed to*)

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.*), 1974-82 (*Nov. 20, 2018 morn.*), 2018-28 (*Nov. 21, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2123-26 (*Nov. 26, 2018 eve.*), 2176-81 (*Nov. 28, 2018 morn., adjourned, amendments agreed to*)

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.*), 1969-74 (*Nov. 20, 2018 morn.*), 2028-31 (*Nov. 21, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2058-63 (*Nov. 21, 2018 aft.*), 2156-58 (*Nov. 27, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2244-47 (*Nov. 29, 2018 aft., passed*)

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

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

Second Reading — 2017-18 (*Nov. 21, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2057-58 (*Nov. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2242-44 (*Nov. 29, 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*)

Second Reading — 2078-86 (*Nov. 22, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2200-09 (*Nov. 28, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2220-21 (*Nov. 29, 2018 morn., passed*)

Bill 27 — Joint Governance of Public Sector Pension Plans Act (Ceci)

First Reading — 1995 (*Nov. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2127-34 (*Nov. 27, 2018 morn., passed*)

Bill 28 — Family Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Ganley)

First Reading — 2044 (*Nov. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2134-40 (*Nov. 27, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2209-13 (*Nov. 28, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 29 — Public Service Employee Relations Amendment Act, 2018 (Gray)

First Reading — 2044-45 (*Nov. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2153-56 (*Nov. 27, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2181-84 (*Nov. 28, 2018 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 2215-20 (*Nov. 29, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

Bill 30 — Mental Health Services Protection Act (Hoffman)

First Reading — 2152 (Nov. 27, 2018 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 2221-25 (Nov. 29, 2018 morn., adjourned)

Bill 31 — Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Mason)

First Reading — 2240 (Nov. 29, 2018 aft., passed)

Bill 32 — City Charters Fiscal Framework Act (S. Anderson)

First Reading — 2240 (Nov. 29, 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)

Bill 211 — Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act (Schneider)

First Reading — 2196 (Nov. 28, 2018 aft., passed, referred to Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship)

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For inquiries contact:

Managing Editor

Alberta Hansard

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875