



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature  
Fourth Session

# Alberta Hansard

Monday afternoon, December 3, 2018

Day 57

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-St. Anne (NDP)

Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (NDP)

Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (NDP)

Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP),

Alberta Party Opposition House Leader

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Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (NDP)

Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP)

Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (NDP),

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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),

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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)

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Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (NDP)

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Sabir, Hon. Irfan, Calgary-McCall (NDP)

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van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (UCP)

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Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (NDP)

Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)

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

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## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Monday, December 3, 2018

[The Speaker in the chair]

### Prayers

**The Speaker:** Good afternoon.

Let us reflect or pray, each in our own way. Today the Assembly hosted a ceremony to commemorate the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Let each of us take a moment to think of how we may meaningfully engage with and lead by action for the positive inclusion in our society those living with disabilities, their families, and their advocates, including those disabilities that may not always be obvious to us.

Hon. members, ladies and gentlemen, we will now be led in the singing of our national anthem by Mr. R.J. Chambers. I would invite all of you to sing along in the language of your choice.

**Hon. Members:**

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

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

### Introduction of Guests

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

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly a group of grade 6 students from Hillview school. They are seated in the members' gallery, and today they are joined by their teachers, Herman Chang and Rebecca Price. I would like them to rise, please, and have the traditional warm welcome of the House.

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

**Dr. Swann:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions today if I may. To you and to the House I want to introduce Leah McRorie. I'll ask her to stand. She's a long-standing advocate for seniors and people with disabilities in the community and was here for the celebration today. She's also our candidate in Edmonton-West Heday. Let's give her a warm welcome.

I'm also privileged today to bring in at least half of my grandchildren. They're in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. I'm blessed that my two daughters are here with them, and I'll ask them to stand: Kirsten and her three – four. Four. Sorry. On the right is Kloe; Kiel, a hockey player from Calgary; another hockey player, Uzziah, from the other family; and Konnor, who's an all-sports kind of guy; Uzziah's mom, Tandela, and Eden are there; and on her right is Rafayel. They're all here to wish me well in my next phase of this journey. Oh, there's one more. Oh, yes. Don't ask me their birthdays, Mr. Speaker. And this is half of them. On the left is our premier danseur, Koen, also a graduate of Alberta Ballet School. Let's give them the warm welcome.

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, I'd just like to remind you that Christmas is coming. Knowing names is going to be very important.

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

**Larivee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House the Metis Settlements General Council executive and the General Assembly and their fantastic staff who support them in doing their good work. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the very special relationship between Alberta and the Métis settlements. When the Métis Population Betterment Act was enacted, for the first and only time in Canadian history Métis people had a land base to call home. It is an honour to stand here and introduce all of these Métis leaders today, who are working so hard for the community every day, for the protection and development of Métis culture, identity, and language. I'm fortunate enough to know many of these Métis leaders here today personally, and I consider them my friends. They represent three of the settlements: East Prairie, Gift Lake, and Peavine. Métis people in Alberta are an integral part of our province's history and our future, so please extend the warm welcome of the House and join me in a round of recognition for our guests, the Metis Settlements General Council and the Métis leaders and their incredible team of staff that supports them right across Alberta.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for St. Albert.

**Ms Renaud:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. As such, it's my great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly some people from St. Albert, from the Lo-Se-Ca Foundation and Transitions. I would ask that my guests stand as I say their names. Here from Lo-Se-Ca are Tracy Hughson, Cheri Lefebvre, Dan Huising, and Sue Duffhues; from Transitions, Dan Atkinson and Megan Poltorak. I thank all of my guests for their service to the community, and later today I will speak more about supporting people with disabilities. I ask that my guests receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

With the indulgence of the House, there's a visitor that I believe the Leader of the Official Opposition would like to introduce.

**Mr. Kenney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce my friend Elaine Taylor, former Deputy Premier of the Yukon Territory. She represented Whitehorse West in Yukon's Legislative Assembly and was a very formidable opposite minister to me in labour markets and employment. First elected in 2002, she served until 2016, having won re-election in 2006 and 2011. She's accompanied by her son Will and her brother Cory Raketti, who is an Edmontonian working with EllisDon. I would ask that they rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Community and Social Services.

**Mr. Sabir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three sets of introductions. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. This group of exceptional advocates provides advice about inclusion and opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate equally and fully in society. The council is made up of 15 members with a broad range of diverse disability issues,

representing regions across Alberta. Two representatives of the council are here today in honour of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities along with the great secretariat staff that supports the council: Mr. Cam Tait, a member from Edmonton; Ms Vicki Bertoia, director of council secretariat; Mr. Doug Darwish, manager of council secretariat; and Mr. Devon Winters, staff member. I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

1:40

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

**Mr. Sabir:** My second introduction, Mr. Speaker, through you and to you, is the Persons with Developmental Disabilities Review Panel. For the last two months the PDD panel has been travelling across the province to seek input from people with developmental disabilities, their families and guardians, agencies, and community leaders. This week they are in Edmonton. Five representatives of the panel are here today. I ask my guests to please rise as I announce their names: Dr. Dorothy Badry, co-chair and mother of a young adult that receives PDD services; Mr. Ryan Geake; Mr. Lloyd Thornhill; Mr. Dan Huising; Mr. Johnathon Red Gun. I ask my guests to receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

This is my last introduction. Through you and to you, Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce Alberta's first disabilities advocate, Mr. Tony Flores. Mr. Flores is the first-ever Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Alberta and is doing a great job. The advocate's office opened last month and is very busy helping Albertans. Mr. Flores is a strong advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, and he joined us for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities celebration in the rotunda today. I want to thank Mr. Flores for all his work and the work of his office to assist Albertans with disabilities. Please extend a warm welcome to Mr. Tony Flores.

**The Speaker:** Welcome to all of you, and thank you for your service.

The Minister of Environment and Parks and minister responsible for the climate change office.

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly J.P. and Danielle Fortin. They operate Pursuit Adventures, based in Red Deer since 2010. Pursuit Adventures' goal is to make sure Albertans are able to find their unique adventure in our mountains, snowshoeing in the winter, today, hikes in the summer. Among their many tours J.P. and Danielle offer special excursions in the Bighorn for international visitors. They've been waiting for more than five years for government to support this region and to provide investment certainty, and they're looking for a real plan on the table that supports their business west of Red Deer. I now ask J.P. and Danielle Fortin to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

**Ms McKittrick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly members of the Eastside Grannies. On December 1 it was World AIDS Day. The Eastside Grannies are a group of local volunteers who work in partnership with the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign. Grandmothers to Grandmothers was launched in response to the crisis faced by African grandmothers who care for millions of children orphaned by HIV and AIDS. The

Eastside Grannies raise money for the campaign in a number of creative ways like their Annual Rhubarb Rally and the Scrabble tournament called Good Words for Africa. They will always be glad to take your unwanted rhubarb and turn it into amazing jams. I would like to introduce today Charlotte Bragg, Cora Rolph, Lynn Wilson, Gladys Teske, Lesley Ratcliff, Shirley Reid, and the creator of Good Words for Africa, Carol Maier. I would also like to add that these incredible women are also involved in the Canadian Federation of University Women, the ecumenical mission of Strathcona county, and are world travellers. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Member for Strathcona-Sherwood Park.

**Cortes-Vargas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To follow up the Member for Sherwood Park, I would just like to also introduce a few other members from the Eastside Grannies, who have been raising money for decades, and to thank them for their work. Since 2006 the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign has raised over \$33 million, and 90 per cent of that money has been sent directly to community-based organizations. I would just like to introduce to you and through you Joyce Armstrong, Etty Cameron, Colleen Middleton, Vivian Cloutier, Helen Rawa, Iona Froehlich. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

The hon. Deputy Premier and Minister of Health.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions. First, it's my pleasure to introduce a group of medical students who are here from both the universities of Alberta and Calgary, and they're seated in the public gallery. Today is their annual public education day at the Legislature, and each year a group of students from both programs visits the Legislature to meet with MLAs and the Minister of Health and talk about their vision for health care. We had an excellent discussion earlier today about increasing awareness and specifically the number of organ donors here in Alberta and successful donations. These leaders make me very excited about the future of our health care system. I now ask that Kaylin, Angela, Harleen, Naik, and their other colleagues who are here please rise and receive the warm welcome of our Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

**Ms Hoffman:** For my second introduction, Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce to you Basically Babies, a registered charity that's in the riding of Edmonton-Glenora that I have the honour to represent. They are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. They provide the utmost care in assembling beautiful layettes to help provide clothing, blankets, and, of course, a few special extras that are all colour co-ordinated to newborn babies and their families to support that first year and making sure that that's something that those families don't need to worry at all about. It's a great way to support families. I know there are a number of parents in this Assembly who probably are holding on to some special keepsakes, and if you want to pass them on to a family in need, I encourage you to consider doing that for Basically Babies. I ask that their founder, Shannon Stewart, please rise, along with Rod, Sawyer, Donna, Jeff, Arlene, Chelsea, Donna, Shannon, Candace, and Gillian, their board members and volunteers, and if I missed anyone, please also rise. Thank you so much for what you do for our community.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much and welcome.

The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. S. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Minister of Labour, it is an honour to introduce to you and through you 15 staff in the Ministry of Labour, who are here today to participate in a Labour policy team-building activity group. These public servants work hard to keep our workplaces safe for all Albertans, and it is my distinct pleasure to thank them for that. They are seated in the members' gallery this afternoon, and I would ask that they rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Welcome.

### Members' Statements

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-St. Albert.

#### Métis Settlements 80th Anniversary

**Mr. Horne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This year we celebrate the 80th anniversary of Métis leaders and the Alberta Legislature coming together and setting aside land specifically for the Métis. In 1938 the province enacted the Métis Population Betterment Act, marking the beginning of a new relationship between Alberta and Métis people, with a vision for Métis self-governance and self-determination. As a proud Métis person and a member of this Assembly I am honoured to speak to the historic relationship between Alberta and the settlements, acknowledge our achievements, and look to the future of our strengthening relationship.

In the 1930s the provincial government held a royal commission, the Ewing Commission, to investigate Métis socioeconomic issues. They came together and decided on land settlements as a solution to economic problems and as a way to protect linguistic and cultural identity. This led to the first and only land allotment specifically set aside for the use of Métis people in Canadian history. A place that Métis people could call home was the vision of Gabriel Dumont and Louis Riel, who spent their lives fighting bravely for their people. This was also the vision of the 1975 Métis leaders Adrian Hope, Maurice L'Hirondelle, Lawrence Desjarlais, Sam Johnston, and Richard Poitras of the Alberta Federation of Metis Settlements, who in 1989 signed the Alberta-Metis settlements accord, which promoted Métis advancement and preserved Métis identity and heritage.

We celebrated the anniversary of this accord on November 1 and raised the Metis Settlements General Council flag. On the 80th anniversary of the settlements I am inspired thinking about the future of the relationship between Alberta and the Métis. I'm excited about the work ahead as the Métis settlements continue to develop in local autonomy and self-determination. It is important to acknowledge the contributions that Métis people have made to the development, success, and history of our province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### 1:50 Energy Industry Opposition

**Ms Goodridge:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta's oil industry is in crisis. The oil price differential is causing us to sell our quality oil at a massive discount, hurting Alberta jobs and our economy. It's truly sad to see Canadian companies targeting our oil and gas industry in these times. However, this is exactly what Lush cosmetics is doing, leading fear-driven campaigns aiming to land-lock our oil by protesting pipelines, the safest, most environmentally friendly way to move oil.

They are a so-called ethically conscious company calling for a tanker ban off the west coast, attacking the oil sands, and proudly funding eco-activist organizations. They even celebrated after Keystone XL and Northern Gateway were denied and took credit for these decisions. For a company that claims to pride itself on taking ethical stances, they seem to have no issue operating storefronts in countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran, two countries that have absolutely atrocious human rights records and basically nonexistent environmental standards.

This is exactly why Alberta needs a fight-back strategy to counter the misinformation being shared by these anti-Alberta, left-wing eco-activists. As such, I applaud all those who are taking a stand and are choosing to purchase their bath bombs and lotions elsewhere. I would hope that all members of this Assembly choose not to support this anti-Alberta company. Personally, I have not made a purchase at Lush since they took a stand against the oil sands many, many years ago.

While I understand that the glitter and the smells can be enticing, I would urge all Alberta shoppers, especially as we enter into this holiday season, to choose to buy their products from stores that celebrate and support Albertans. I would hope that all Alberta companies such as Lush that want to see hundreds of thousands of hard-working Albertans lose their jobs and livelihood are avoided. This Christmas I hope that Santa leaves some quality Alberta oil sands in Lush's stocking in place of the coal that they deserve.

### Oral Question Period

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

#### Oil and Gas Production

**Mr. Kenney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to commend the Premier on the very difficult but necessary decision that she announced last night to give some short-term relief to our energy sector and save jobs. I would also like to thank the government for having approached this in a nonpartisan manner. I think we've demonstrated to Albertans that when it comes to our vital economic interests, sometimes we actually can work together in this place. Some people are concerned, however, that this will be a permanent new level of intervention in energy markets in Alberta. Could the Premier confirm that there is effectively a sunset clause on the mandatory curtailment?

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

**Ms Notley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let me also say that on this side of the House we appreciated the constructive contribution to the conversation that we received from both the Official Opposition as well as the third party in the House on this important matter. With respect to the sunset clause, by moving forward by way of regulation, we have committed that the matter will be reviewed every month with a view to dialling back the amount of curtailment and the volume of curtailment and moving off of it as quickly as possible.

**Mr. Kenney:** I thank the hon. the Premier for her response and confirmation that this is a temporary measure. Mr. Speaker, would the Premier join with me in calling on the government of Saskatchewan to follow Alberta's lead insofar as Saskatchewan produces about 15 per cent of Canada's crude oil? It's understood that a portion of their market in the Bakken and the southeast is fully integrated into the U.S. market, but would the Premier agree with me in principle that it would be helpful if the government of

Saskatchewan were to replicate the call made by the Premier last night?

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

**Ms Notley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I mean, there's no question we've reached out to Saskatchewan, and we've indicated to them what we are doing. Of course, it would be great if they joined with us, but what we also know from our work and from our research is that the size of the Saskatchewan market is not of such a nature that it would have much impact on the work that we are doing and that the curtailment that we have engaged will be adequate to bring about the objective that we're seeking. If they joined us, that would be great, but it's not actually necessary.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Kenney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In responding to this disaster of a \$40 price differential in Alberta oil, we should not lose sight of an equally problematic differential loss of value in our natural gas. Alberta natural gas typically is selling at 80 or 90 cents per bcf today, but in Chicago at the Henry hub market: \$8 per bcf. Does the Premier have any plans to address this massive loss of wealth to our natural gas markets?

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

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, we have been meeting with industry players in the natural gas sector. We have established a working group, and we are talking with them right now to look at the depth and breadth of the problem there. It's not as urgent as what we're dealing with right now in the oil sector. But, nonetheless, the work is there, and we are waiting to receive advice from that working group.

### Oil and Gas Transportation

**Mr. Kenney:** I thank the Premier for her answer. Mr. Speaker, many leaders in the Alberta energy industry have indicated that one of the reasons we got to this absurd \$10 giveaway fire sale of Alberta oil last week was because of mischief in commodity markets, where commodity traders have been nominating barrels of oil for the Enbridge main line, barrels that do not actually exist, pushing many real barrels back into storage through apportionment. They're calling for more rigorous regulation to ensure that only real barrels are nominated for real destinations. Will the Premier agree to look into this matter?

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

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, we have been engaging with industry leaders on the matter of apportionment, and in fact, as the member opposite probably knows, there is a committee of industry players in Alberta that is working on that matter right now and is very close to coming up with a consensus set of recommendations.

On one hand, we're going to observe how the action that we announced yesterday impacts the market. On the other hand, we're going to continue to work with that industry group to determine whether there is additional work that we can do on their recommendations, much closer to consensus than they were on the other matter.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Kenney:** Pleased to hear that, Mr. Speaker. The government has announced the intention to acquire railcars that would come into service in 2020 to move an additional estimated 120,000 barrels per day, but the industry has already announced contracts that would add about 200,000 barrels per day of shipment out of Alberta at their cost. What will the cost of these government railcars be, and by intervening in that market, are we going to end up elevating the price of the railcars that the private sector is bringing onboard?

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

**Ms Notley:** Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the intended acquisition of additional railcars by the private sector is part of the overall need that we have established and has been worked into the formula that we used to come up with the numbers that we're pursuing.

Part of the reason that we are also engaging in it is because not all producers can actually get access to the railcars that the big, big producers can afford to bring online. As a result, we are also doing that work. In the long term we think it will help us clear the market and keep it cleared in that time between line 3 and TMX.

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, the federal government is accelerating the phase-out of the jacketed 1232 oil cars, which are the mainstay of the fleet currently moving Alberta oil by rail. Would the Premier join with me in calling on the federal government to explore extending the life or maintaining the original lifespan of those cars, which could be repurposed to shipping bitumen, which has a lower flashpoint than light crude? They could move bitumen safely, it is widely believed in the industry. Would she join with me and the opposition in calling on the federal government to review this matter not to take these cars out of service if not strictly necessary?

**The Speaker:** Madam Premier.

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the work and the conversations that we've been having with people in the rail industry suggest that that's not necessary, that they can meet our needs and also meet the new safety standards that have been put in place by the federal government. Of course, it's fundamentally important to ensure that we do maximize safety as much as possible as we significantly increase the amount of crude by rail. At the end of the day, we know it's more expensive, more greenhouse emissions, and not as safe as pipelines. Of course, the irony is that those who fight pipelines on behalf of the environment are now actually creating a less safe situation.

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

Third main question.

2:00

### NDP and Pipeline Development

**Mr. Kenney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaking of fighting pipelines, I do recall that the Premier opposed the construction of the Northern Gateway pipeline, saying that, quote, we're against it, referring to it by saying that there's no realistic objective of its construction. Last week, being interviewed in Ottawa, the Premier was asked: do you think you were right to oppose Northern Gateway? She said: no; I think we should have kept all of our options open. To clarify, does the Premier think it was a mistake for the government to have opposed the construction of Northern Gateway?

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



**Ms Notley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The comments that the member opposite is referring to are my comments with respect to Bill C-48 and the tanker ban. You know, the Northern Gateway project, as the member opposite knows because he was in government when the decisions of his government were rejected by the court, was rife with challenges, and it was probably not fixable. That being said, the subsequent decision of the federal government to ban tanker traffic off the west coast means that a better project cannot get started. We need to consider that. We need to keep those options open because we ultimately need to be able to get our product to tidewater.

**Mr. Kenney:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we all make mistakes. We have a very capable Premier, but I think that perhaps she might admit that she made a mistake in this respect. I commend her because on November 28, when asked by Vassy Kapelos, quote, “Do you agree with the decision not to approve that pipeline?” Northern Gateway, the Premier responded: no; I think we should have kept all our options open. To clarify, does the Premier now recognize it was a mistake for her initially to oppose Northern Gateway?

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, as I’ve said, I believe I’ve answered that question. The issue that we are raising now is the matter of keeping options open with respect to Bill C-48. I mean, everyone makes mistakes. The member opposite was in Ottawa for many, many years and was part of one of the many successive federal governments that failed to get us a pipeline to tidewater. You know, there’s a long list of mistakes to be shared around this room, I’m sure. But right now the key is that we act on the current issue, that we engage in curtailment, that we invest in rail, that in the long term we get that pipeline to tidewater, and that we build our upgrading because that’s what the people of Alberta need to happen.

**Mr. Kenney:** The only coastal pipeline to come before the Harper cabinet was Northern Gateway, which approved it while the NDP was opposing it.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP also opposed Keystone XL. In fact, the Premier called it a threat to Alberta’s natural resources in September 2015. Would the Premier now stand and recognize that it was an error for the NDP to oppose the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline?

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

**Ms Notley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify, the decision of the Harper cabinet around Northern Gateway was the subject of an extensive critique by the Federal Court because of numerous errors that were made and failures to consult, failures to consider environmental issues, failures to consult with the community. That is why the project failed.

Now, that being said, with respect to Keystone there is no question that as we got to the point where pipeline capacity was being threatened, our government reconsidered the matter, as we need to do on behalf of the people of Alberta. We invested in Keystone, we supported it, and we still do, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Oil Production Curtailment

**Mr. Fraser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lack of market access has led to a crisis for our energy industry, and low prices are hurting our provincial revenue. The steps the Premier announced yesterday

are necessary, and I want to thank the Premier and all the members of this Assembly for listening to our call for curtailment. It’s a reminder of what we can accomplish when we focus on Alberta first with an Alberta-made solution. To the Premier: how soon will we begin to see the effect of curtailment on resource prices?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to echo the Premier’s thanks to both the opposition party and the third party for their input on this most important decision. As was mentioned, we’ve been fighting all along for a pipeline, which is going to be the long-term solution. You know, we’re taking steps to upgrade our product, more value-added, in Alberta, which is, again, a long-term solution. In the medium term, as was discussed, it is crude by rail and railcars. Certainly, the moves that we made yesterday are going to help the differential in the short term.

**Mr. Fraser:** The timeline of when we will see results is important because every day at current prices costs us \$80 million. It’s also important because it shows the need to approach problems proactively. Premier, in the March fiscal plan you identified that supply would exceed our oil takeaway capacity in 2018 and that this would have a negative impact on oil prices. To the Premier: if your government knew about this impending crisis, why are we playing catch-up now, and why weren’t plans developed when this first appeared on the horizon?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would say that we have been working on a number of solutions. Certainly, the solution that was announced yesterday is not our first go-to. We struck a committee to look at the natural gas sector, crude by rail. We have engaged immensely with industry on all of these. I have to say that yesterday was a very serious move. We didn’t take it lightly, but we are taking it because we know that leadership matters, and we need to fight for Albertans.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Fraser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A call for curtailment came as a result of consultation that our own caucus undertook with the energy industry. I understand that the opposition party eventually consulted with the industry and came to the same conclusion. In a briefing ministry officials also stated that they’d consulted with industry last summer and that that informed yesterday’s decision to curtail production. Clearly, curtailment was the best short-term solution for dealing with depressed prices. Respectfully, Premier, at \$80 million a day, was it worth waiting for Brian Topp to tell you what you and everyone else already knew?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we first engaged in talks with industry about other options, we weren’t at the \$80-million-a-day figure. It was much lower. As with anything, there was disparity in what some of the options were, so we struck the committee not that long ago to see if we could bridge some of those opposite sides. Again I want to reiterate that this is a serious decision we took yesterday. It’s not one we would take lightly, and it wasn’t our first go-to to jump into.

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

## Energy Policies

**Mr. Kleinsteuber:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday our Premier made a difficult decision. She announced the short-term reduction in oil production to defend Alberta jobs and the value of energy resources owned by all Albertans. To address the excess supply, starting in January 2019, Alberta is reducing or curtailing production by 325,000 barrels per day till we have enough shipping space to clear the current glut and improve prices. This is expected to take three months. To the Minister of Energy: why did the government decide this difficult decision was necessary?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've mentioned many times in this House, we had a number of years of people not having that vision to look at getting pipelines to tidewater. All of our pipelines were going south, and we needed to expand our markets. That said, we are in a situation where we have one customer and an excruciating differential right now. In the last few weeks that's reached epic proportions, so we made the difficult decision yesterday to start moving the backlog of what we have and draw down our supply.

**Mr. Kleinsteuber:** Mr. Speaker, given that the decision to moderately and temporarily curtail oil production to clear the glut in the market was a difficult one and given that this is only a short-term solution to defend Alberta jobs and increase the value of Alberta resources, again to the Minister of Energy: what steps is the government taking to close the price differential in the medium and, more importantly, in the long term?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, as was announced yesterday, the short-term solution is curtailment. You know, that will draw down the supplies. We are full. We need to manage our supplies going forward. But, again, you're right: that's short term. The long term, absolutely, is pipelines. We need to get other markets. We need our pipelines to go both east and west. We need them operational. But in the meantime another option is our crude by rail, to try to ship that extra supply until we can get those pipelines built.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Kleinsteuber:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Albertans have long believed that we don't get enough value for our oil and gas and given that successive provincial governments since Premier Lougheed have failed to make upgrading and adding value to our resources a priority, to the Minister of Energy: what is the government doing to diversify our economy to get Alberta off the boom-and-bust price roller coaster?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, Premier Lougheed was the first Premier in my voting life, and at that time he painted a wonderful vision of value-add here in Alberta and made a good start when their government provided incentives for NOVA Chemicals. But that vision was lost. In the meantime we're the government picking that vision up. We've announced PDP programs, energy upgrading, and there'll be more to come on that. But it's good news for Alberta because the money is staying here.

2:10

## Oil Production Curtailment

(continued)

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** For weeks now the Tories and lobbyists have been demanding that draconian supply management be imposed on the oil industry. If these measures had been first proposed by the NDP rather than the Tories, they would have been denounced as Chavista economics. The Premier's announcement last night was dangerous and destructive but was bizarrely less intrusive to the market than other proposals, with a less extreme production quota. Why has the government decided that a supply management reduction of 325,000 barrels is preferable to the proposed reduction of 400,000 barrels?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. As has been noted, the government, the Official Opposition, and the third party have all agreed that it's important that at this time we engage in supply management to ensure that we get the right price for our commodity. We didn't engage in this decision lightly, that's for sure. This side of the House looked at all of our options. Long term the only solution is more market access through pipelines, in the interim increasing rail, and of course in the short term it was necessary for us to engage in supply management, which the Leader of the Official Opposition supported.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Now, try as I might to warn the NDP that their beer tax tariffs violated our free trade agreements and the Constitution, they assured us that everything was all right until they lost in court half a dozen times. The NDP-Tory plan to impose supply management on oil production runs the very real risk of violating our obligations under the USMCA, raising the possibility of retaliatory measures from the Americans, yet the Premier assures us again that everything is all right. Is the government as confident in their oil supply management as they were with their beer tax tariffs in free trade agreements?

**The Speaker:** The Deputy Premier.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Premier's announcement on curtailment yesterday we've already seen a positive impact on the differential. We will continue to monitor the situation closely, but we are fighting every day to protect and to improve opportunities for employment in Alberta in all sectors, of course including the oil and gas sector. This morning our cabinet firmed up rules that have given the Alberta Energy Regulator the power to curtail, and we will revisit this regulation and the amount of curtailment every month because it's important to us that we protect jobs and we protect the wealth that belongs to every single Albertan.

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, you've noticed that in the last few days the House has been more tolerant around supplementals and maybe some matters, but I would just use this example to all of you, particularly to yourself right now, to try and stick by the minimization of the supplemental issue and focus on the policy question if you wouldn't mind.

Please proceed.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Mr. Speaker, there's nothing so permanent as a temporary government program. When Milton Friedman said that, he could have been talking about dairy supply management, the Wheat Board, or the income tax, but he very well could have been

talking about the NDP-Tory supply management plan for oil. When governments grant themselves new powers, the market conforms, special interests take hold, and governments seldom give them up. Extreme government control over the economy always takes place in times of crisis in a matter of weeks, but undoing those controls takes decades. Does the government believe that supply management has ever worked?

**The Speaker:** Maybe I should stand up this time. Again I urge the House: please try and focus on policy. This is the time for question and answer – this isn't Members' Statements – so please focus on that. I apply that to all members, not just the Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our government believes that it's important that we protect the resources that belong to all Albertans, that we work with industry to make sure we get full value, and that, of course, there are times where supply management is an important necessity. Even the Leader of the Official Opposition and members of his own caucus who have gone to jail fighting for free-market access have acknowledged that it's important that we engage in making sure that we get full value, because for a decade, while the Leader of the Official Opposition was in Ottawa, he failed to get pipelines. That's the only long-term solution, a pipeline to tidewater, and I know that he's had a decade of failure. That's why it's important that we react on short-, interim-, and long-term solutions.

#### Provincial Fiscal Update

**Mr. Barnes:** Mr. Speaker, one of the first things this government did after being elected was increase taxes on corporate job creators by 20 per cent. The opposition warned this would result in a decrease in revenue, and that's exactly what happened. In this Finance minister's second-quarter update corporate taxes were budgeted for \$4.5 billion, but only \$4.1 billion were collected. When will this Finance minister quit hiding and start recognizing the damage that his tax policies are doing to Alberta's wealth creation?

**Mr. Ceci:** You know, Mr. Speaker, what the hon. member didn't say is that personal taxes went up in the second quarter. We will see more of those as a result of the actions that we are bringing in to diversify the economy, to support people in good jobs in this province, and to make sure Albertans know we have their backs every step of the way. We were dealt a tough hand with the collapse in oil prices, but we're coming through the worst recession in a generation, and we're going to balance in 2023. That's the important part of all this.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Barnes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Finance minister's update also doesn't recognize the fact that because of the differential Albertans are receiving no value for our world-class oil and that a corporate and economic slowdown is intensifying and given that the minister refuses to acknowledge in his estimates that Albertans' paying billions of dollars of carbon tax have failed to increase pipeline takeaway capacity, will the minister quit hiding and conduct an economic assessment and objective budget forecast so Albertans know that our social programs and front-line providers will be protected?

**Mr. Ceci:** Mr. Speaker, just Friday I gave the second-quarter fiscal update. By the end of February I have to give the third-quarter fiscal

update, and I'll follow that. You know, he talked about tax advantages or competitiveness of Alberta, and I can say that there's no sales tax, no payroll tax, no health care premiums. Alberta is the best place in the country to do business, and we are getting back to growth in 2019, again, at 2 per cent, which is a good cruising rate.

**Mr. Barnes:** Mr. Speaker, given that Alberta's fiscal report card also shows \$52.8 billion in debt, almost \$2 billion in annual interest expense, and now the Alberta government is borrowing at 3.3 per cent, why is this minister hiding from the fact that the significant transfer of wealth to rich Bay Street bankers could have been used – could have been used – instead to hire thousands of nurses, teachers, or addictions counsellors?

**Mr. Ceci:** Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. I want you to know that instead of the deep cuts and privatization that that side always wants to do and make sure happens in Alberta, we won't let that happen. We're focused on the issues that matter for Albertans, and that is jobs, diversification, health care, and education. Our plan is working. We've cut the deficit by \$3.2 billion already from our budget of 2015, but we know there's more work to do. We'll continue doing that for Albertans each and every day.

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

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago I asked the Finance minister if he was bracing for Alberta's seventh credit-rating downgrade on his watch. The minister assured us the soon-to-be-released second-quarter fiscal update would bring good news, but the best he could muster last Friday was an evidence-free claim that his government is on track to balance the budget. To the Finance minister: how can the minister deny our credit rating is poised to fall again when billions of dollars in expected resource revenues are just plain not coming in?

**Mr. Ceci:** Mr. Speaker, our borrowing costs are lower than B.C. and Saskatchewan and Ontario, and Alberta has the best balance sheet of any province in the country. That will still be the case in 2023, when we balance. We've dropped the deficit \$3.2 billion already. That side, to drop the deficit, would have fired 4,000 teachers and 4,000 nurses, and that would be just the beginning.

**Mr. McIver:** Well, Mr. Speaker, given that the minister is doing his best to erase that advantage and given that the Finance minister's press release cited revenue losses to the Canadian economy but did not reveal losses to the provincial economy – you know, the one he's in charge of – and given that the Finance minister continues to hide the fact that Albertans must be losing at least \$60 million a day in resource revenues, to the Finance minister: does the minister not realize that this shell game will not work with credit-rating agencies and that the truth really is out there?

2:20

**Mr. Ceci:** You know, Mr. Speaker, again, somebody is attacking Alberta and our competitiveness. I want you to know that when the Leader of the Opposition was in India recently, he said of Alberta's tax advantage, in fact: we are competitive; we have low taxes and low power prices. I think that's really accurate. Why doesn't the member over there listen to his leader?

**Mr. McIver:** Mr. Speaker, given that the minister is still trying to erase the advantages he's talking about and given that every time our credit rating drops, we pay more to service the growing NDP debt, and given that debt payments cost almost \$2 billion a year now and that money is lost for government programs and services,

to the minister: when Alberta's credit rating drops the next time – and it will – how much heavier will debt payments be on the backs of Alberta families?

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

**Mr. Ceci:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, we put forward a plan to balance a budget in 2023 without firing thousands of teachers and nurses, something that side would do, a repeat of 1993, when they cut budgets 5 per cent across the board and thousands of people were out on the streets protesting all of that. We're putting jobs and the economy first. We're backing up Albertans to make sure they have the supports they need to get through this recession. We're into recovery, and in 2019 we will grow 2 per cent.

#### Workers' Compensation Sustainability

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, recently I was reading through the 2019 premium rates employer highlight report published by WCB, and I noticed that fully funded claim costs had risen almost 40 per cent since 2015 whereas assessable earnings have decreased in this same period. The fully funded claim costs have risen from \$768 million to over a billion dollars since this government took office. Is the minister aware of this, and can she tell us: why the increase?

**Mr. Ceci:** Mr. Speaker, with regard to WCB we are continuing to support Albertans. Claim costs are one thing, of course, that – employers contribute to WCB to make sure that workers have all they need. We'll continue to watch this as we go forward.

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, given that the highlight report also brought to light that WCB will not be able to collect enough dues to cover the costs accumulated for 2019, can the minister tell us how many times in past years this has happened, and can she provide this House with assurance that WCB is sustainable and that large rate increases are not imminent?

**The Speaker:** The Justice minister.

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. WCB is, of course, a program that is absolutely critical to workers throughout the province. We're very proud of the changes we made to that program to make sure that we have the backs of workers and that we'll continue fighting for them. These rates are set independently of government, and they're set based on the financial sustainability of the plan, and they will continue to be so in the future.

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, given that the NDP's Bill 30, passed in 2017, made changes to the WCB by removing the previous cap on insurable earnings, which we now see has increased claim costs by 40 per cent, Minister, does your government not see that their poorly thought out policies like those made with the electricity system, the expensive carbon tax, and also now with the WCB premiums are making things more expensive and unsustainable for Albertans?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we know, WCB premiums in Alberta have been lower than anywhere else in the country for quite a long time. These rates are, as we've said, set independently. At the end of the day this government is a government that has the backs of workers and has the backs of families, and we're not going to apologize for that.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

#### Justice Services in Indigenous Communities

**Mr. Hinkley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Justice: as many First Nations reserves do not have courthouses, thus requiring their people to travel off-reserve, what is Justice doing to ensure fairness and reduced discrimination in the court systems for indigenous constituents?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the incredibly important question. We work closely with indigenous communities and organizations in the courts to ensure that the justice system takes into consideration the cultural and personal experience of indigenous people. That's why the indigenous court worker program is available in 37 provincial court locations across the province. I think we've made real progress with Gladue reports under this government, and we will continue working with those communities to ensure that everyone feels respected in the system.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mr. Hinkley:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the proximity of courthouses impacts the outcome of court cases for people living on reserves, does the minister have any plans to put either courthouses or courthouse processes at Maskwacis, where the population is greater than neighbouring communities, which each have a courthouse?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Well, the courthouse renewal initiative does not include funding to establish a courthouse in Maskwacis currently. We are open to continuing discussions with all four nations regarding a court facility in Maskwacis. I was happy to meet with the member and with members of those nations to discuss this issue just last week. As discussed there, there are several complicating factors, but we're happy to continue to work with those nations to ensure that where we can make services available in a way that's accessible to them, we do that.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Mr. Hinkley:** Yes. Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank to the minister for meeting with the Maskwacis chiefs, the councillors, and the justice committee members. Can the minister provide some insight into possible viable steps for on-reserve court processes, control of civil enforcement, and fine redistribution?

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

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we are working with those nations on some of those issues and also many others. At the end of the day, we will continue to work with those individuals to make sure that we are creating a process that is respectful of everyone. At the end of the day, the justice system relies on individuals to buy into it. That is a system that is there for everyone, and therefore that system must be respectful of everyone.

Thank you.

## NDP and Pipeline Development

(continued)

**Mr. Loewen:** In recent months this NDP government has launched a campaign to convince Albertans that they are fighting for pipelines. They are trying to sell a message that they have been advocates for our industry in expanding market access. Luckily, we have the ability to look at their record, like the Premier opposing Northern Gateway and Keystone. We can also look at what they laid out as priorities in their past throne speeches, and – you know what? – I looked back, and in 2015 they didn't mention pipelines once. In 2016 the word "pipeline" only appeared two times. Obviously, pipelines weren't a priority for this government at that time. To the minister: is the NDP really committed to pipelines, or did you just start supporting them as the election started to draw near?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our record on tidewater access, on upgrading and refining, on strengthening our oil and gas sector through this recovery from a devastating recession: all of these things speak for themselves. We had a very nice nonpartisan moment with respect to the conversation around taking action on the differential. Now it would be great to have a nonpartisan moment on protecting the environment or acknowledging that climate change is real.

**Mr. Loewen:** Given, Mr. Speaker, that in the last couple of years the NDP have started to claim that they are all about pipelines but given that they have not seen a single pipeline completed on their watch and given that what has happened is that Northern Gateway and Energy East were cancelled, Keystone and Trans Mountain significantly delayed and given that we have seen the NDP prematurely claim victory despite saying that they wouldn't celebrate until oil started to flow, how can this NDP government claim that their record on pipelines is anything but one of failure?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the Leader of the Opposition had 10 years to get action on tidewater access, and he failed. He failed Albertans. He failed Canadians. Now, on this side of the House we understand how important it is to get those pipelines not only approved but built. We understand how important things like indigenous consultation are. These are lessons that the folks across the way could use, both in opposition and in their time in government in Ottawa.

**Mr. Loewen:** Given that on October 27, 2015, a notable Albertan said, "Can the Premier tell us what the strategy is going forward: leave it in the ground or get it to market?" and the same person asked the Premier, "Will you back away from these beliefs and act to protect Alberta jobs?" and given that she went on to ask, "When are you going to . . . start selling Alberta and its industries the way we desperately need you to now?" and given that this notable Albertan is the Member for Calgary-North West – sorry; I mean the Minister of Infrastructure – can anyone in government explain why they didn't support our oil and gas sector when the opposition was begging you to?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure members in this Assembly that we have fought for market access from day one. I have worked personally very hard, as have my

colleague the Minister of Environment and Parks, our Premier, many of our ministers, to engage with industry on a number of matters, but the most important one has been on pipelines access. Yesterday, when we made our announcement, we immediately had validations from Nexen, Cenovus, CNRL, many small industry players who support what we're doing. Derek Evans from MEG Energy commended us for . . .

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

## 2:30 Environment and Parks Minister

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Mr. Speaker, last week ministers had to rise in QP to take blame for the Premier and the minister of the environment for opposing and protesting Alberta oil pipelines for over a decade while from 2006 to 2015 Conservative governments supported and approved pipelines. The 2008 Tar Sands Campaign strategy said, "land-lock the tar sands so their crude could not reach the international market where it could fetch a high price per barrel." Is the minister of environment satisfied that her activism achieved its objective of a historic oil price differential and the current financial situation the Alberta government is in today?

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. I will help him with his trip down memory lane. Last week his leader, the Leader of the Official Opposition, who spent 10 years in Ottawa at a cabinet table and two of those as the minister responsible for employment, said it wasn't his job to fight for pipelines. Guess what? This side of the House disagrees. I think Albertans disagree. I think they'd be shocked to hear that somebody who's campaigning to be Premier and who sat around the Prime Minister's cabinet table failed to fight for pipelines, only mentioned the word once in his 10 years around the cabinet table and 10 years before that in the House of Commons as well. That is our record. This side of the House is fighting hard for pipelines.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Mr. Speaker, it seemed like it was his job because four pipelines were completed in Alberta under the Harper Conservative government despite the decade of pipeline protests under the NDP. Given that a fifth pipeline was actually approved to tidewater despite the Premier saying, "I think Gateway is not the right decision" and the well-known fact that the environment minister protested it, did the minister, from her time as a Greenpeace activist, introduce concepts from the tar sands campaign to the NDP cabinet and the environment department?

**Mr. Mason:** Mr. Speaker, you know, we saw the Premier last night on television. Albertans see her in Ottawa, they see her in New York, they see her in Toronto, everywhere fighting for pipelines, the fantasies of some members on the other side notwithstanding. They're not listening to that nonsense; they are listening to the Premier, and they're seeing her in action and this entire government fighting for pipelines day after day after day.

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Mr. Speaker, we don't see the Premier actually advocating for pipelines here in Alberta when she was protesting outside the Legislature.

Given that the minister of environment went to the NEB to oppose Northern Gateway, given that she invited federal MPs to protest it with her, and given this government's record of attacking our oil industry, is it safe to assume they are still opposing it, just

more quietly given that the Premier said that she has a hundred per cent confidence in her minister of the environment? Given the fact that investor confidence in Alberta has nearly vanished, what confidence would the Premier be referring to?

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

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll put my record as a private citizen up against the hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake's any day of the week given that he did spend 10 months of his life campaigning for Donald Trump on team Breitbart. Now, here's the actual record of his leader and the cabinet table that he sat around. Here's what the federal court had to say about Northern Gateway. The FCA went on to say that the Harper government, at paragraph 186, "failed to make reasonable efforts to inform and consult . . . fell [way] short of the mark," "was less than willing to hear the First Nations on this," that their errors were massive in size, that they fell . . .

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. minister.  
The hon. Member for Airdrie.

### Pipeline Development and the Carbon Levy

**Mrs. Pitt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the sake of my constituents and all Albertans I'm glad that this government took advice from the United Conservative Party, experts, and industry by announcing a temporary reduction of oil production in response to the price differential that is costing our economy \$80 million a day. We need to get our oil to new markets. Minister, why did your NDP government offer no opposition to the Trudeau Liberals' decision to scrap the Northern Gateway pipeline?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, thank you to my hon. colleague, who pointed out that we did engage, in fact, with a number of people on a number of matters. As we've outlined, we have a long-term solution, which absolutely is pipelines. Medium term: rail capacity, increase that. Another long-term solution is upgrading. The short term is what we announced yesterday. We know that that matters. We know that Albertans expect leadership, and they're seeing leadership from this side of the House.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Mrs. Pitt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are not showing leadership on the Northern Gateway pipeline given that the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers said, and I quote: if Northern Gateway had come on as planned, we wouldn't be in this situation. End quote.

Given that our oil and gas companies are fighting to stay afloat and that the NDP's carbon tax has clearly not helped us get a pipeline and given that many Albertans are struggling to just make ends meet, Minister, my constituents want to know why they're still paying a carbon tax to put gas in their cars and to heat their homes.

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're talking about the Northern Gateway, had the job been done properly, we would have had it. To be fair and clear, the job that was missed was the federal government's with the opposition leader in that cabinet, who failed to do their due diligence to consult with indigenous, to do their proper work. That's what the Federal Court of Appeal said.

At the end of the day, that pipeline was dead in the water because of their failures.

**Mrs. Pitt:** Mr. Speaker, given that I have constituents that are expressing deep discontent with the Trudeau Liberal government and given that our Prime Minister doesn't show any compassion or respect for our oil industry and its workers and given that the NDP's carbon tax is hurting Albertans, Minister, why do you continue to stand even now with the Trudeau Liberals, and why won't you join us and other provinces against a carbon tax?

**Ms Phillips:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In actual fact, we have a made-in-Alberta climate change plan in this province, that provides an on-site processing exemption. It provides robust methane policies, investment in clean technologies for the oil and gas sector. Contrast that with the opposition plan, which is to have the Trudeau plan imposed on us, to roll out a red carpet for Ottawa to make decisions on our oil and gas sector here in Alberta. I know whose side I'm on, and that's Alberta's.

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

### Oil Production Curtailment

*(continued)*

**Mr. Orr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday the publisher of BOE Report published an open letter to the Premier calling for production cuts to reduce the oil price differential caused by the lack of pipeline capacity. He said, and I quote: if this continues, historic, record-setting layoffs will be coming within weeks, and \$12-a-barrel oil is the most efficient, aggressive job killer there is. While our leader supports the government's actions, my question is: why did it take so long for your government to act?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said many times previous to today and today, we spent the time to get this right because we know that what we announced yesterday is precedent setting. We used powers that we already had, but it was important to get it right. We consulted with industry. When we first started consulting, the differential wasn't as wide as it has become recently, but we took that decision from early accounts from industry. It was the right decision. We're going to monitor things closely, and we're also going to keep fighting for pipelines and upgrading.

**Mr. Orr:** Given that in the same letter to the Premier, BOE says that this job loss will be coupled with historic, record-setting bankruptcies and all the terrible economic changes that will follow and given that businesses are seriously at risk, why has this government not enacted a curtailment that takes effect immediately but, rather, waits until January 1, leaving industry to bleed another 30 days, losing a potential \$2.5 billion more?

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

**Ms McCuaig-Boyd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason that we are starting January 1: that's when the curtailment will start, but we took action today, last night and today, because industry is planning for January. It's important that we get this in place today so they have the assurance that this is where we're going forward. They know what the rules of the game are. They helped us with that, and we're providing that certainty for them, but they're doing their planning now. They don't just wake up on January 1 and decide what they're going to do that day.

2:40

**Mr. Orr:** I think that the BOE publisher also cites the effect the loss of revenue will have on the provincial coffers, with billions lost. When can Albertans expect to get a deficit and debt update that actually takes into account the loss of revenue to the provincial government caused by this massive failure of government policy?

**Mr. Ceci:** Mr. Speaker, I've laid that out in the past, and I'll just lay it out again. We had a Q2 update on Friday. That takes us to the end of September. We're two-thirds of the way through, two months through the next quarter, the third quarter, and we know that the impact on our deficit is that we've dropped it \$3.2 billion and perhaps even more at the next update. We will continue to monitor the situation. As we go forward, a path to balance will be included. Budget 2019 certainly is our path to balance, and we'll show more then.

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

### Highway 15 Fort Saskatchewan Bridge

**Ms Littlewood:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For 40 years highway 15 has been a subject of discussion in this House, with issues in my area going back to the former Social Credit MLA Walter Buck's time. My constituents of Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville are hoping for an update on the highway 15 Fort Saskatchewan bridge, a badly needed infrastructure project neglected for years by each and every Conservative government. To the Minister of Transportation: would you be able to give us an update on when the intersection beside the new bridge will be complete, share with us where the plan is, and also let us know if the final bridge design will require any homes to be moved?

**Mr. Mason:** Well, thank you very much for that question. Unfortunately, the people in Fort Saskatchewan had to wait a long time to get rid of the PC government, but that's now happened. I want to thank the member for her question. The highways 37, 15, and 825 project is now in the construction phase. It's in winter shutdown, but it's 70 per cent complete, and it will be finished in August 2019. The design of the bridge is complete. No homes will be required in order to complete this project.

**The Speaker:** First supplemental.

**Ms Littlewood:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that very welcome news. Given that residents and businesses expressed concern that the project will require a disruption of the rail service that runs over part of highway 15 and given that the Ministry of Transportation has been in discussions with CN to try to mitigate this issue, would the minister be able to provide us an update on whether there will be any rail disruption as a result?

**Mr. Mason:** Well, I want to thank the hon. member for that follow-up question, and I want to particularly thank her for her advocacy on behalf of this project. She's been a very effective MLA for the people of Fort Saskatchewan, and this is largely due to her work. I'm pleased to report that there will be no disruption because CN – we'll be able to do the work during blocks of time when they have no rail traffic, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Second supplemental.

**Ms Littlewood:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: given the lack of a few connection points to the Trans Canada Trail,

residents also want to know if the new bridge will have, for the first time, pedestrian access, and they would like to know who's paying for it. Could the minister provide to this House an update so that I can inform constituents who have been long advocating for hiking and cycling paths that connect the region?

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

**Mr. Mason:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker, and thanks for the question. I can confirm that the River Valley Alliance, the city of Fort Saskatchewan, and Sturgeon county have entered into an agreement to raise funds to provide for pedestrian access. Ultimately, funds will flow from them through Alberta Transportation for this. Discussions are ongoing. The design will be the responsibility of the alliance, and they're working on it as we speak. I hope that we can provide more information to the member's constituents in the future. It's very important. We have 25,000 vehicles that go across the bridge every day.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, in 30 seconds we will continue with Members' Statements.

### Members' Statements

*(continued)*

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

### International Day of Persons with Disabilities

**Ms Renaud:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1992 December 3 was proclaimed International Day of Persons with Disabilities by the United Nations General Assembly. This year's theme is Empowering People with Disabilities and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality. Nice words. The work of ensuring inclusiveness and equality is complex and requires dogged determination and focus. Words are nice; action is vital.

Creating communities that are inclusive and equal demands that we use a specific lens in all of the work we do and all the decisions we make. Using inclusivity and equality as a measure of success is not easy, particularly in an environment where forces exist that flirt with populism, austerity, and a return to a pull yourself up by the bootstraps mentality.

Still in 2018 people with disabilities face rates of unemployment that far exceed the numbers of peers without disabilities. People with disabilities make up almost 40 per cent of self-reported incidents of violent crimes. These numbers increase to 45 per cent when we look at female victims. Poverty is all too familiar of a life-defining reality for people with disabilities. Financial exploitation, isolation, and segregation of Canadians with disabilities exist.

On this day, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we must recommit to action because words without action don't mean much. We must all commit to supporting inclusive education and employment. We must work towards building a barrier-free community and province. We must address the alarming rates of violence against people with disabilities. We must acknowledge the pervasive poverty of people with disabilities and be courageous in the steps we take to address this reality. So today, on International Day of Persons with Disabilities, I hope all members of this House will join me in committing that no one be left behind.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to wish a Happy Hanukkah to all those celebrating in Alberta.

**The Speaker:** Hon. member, you're going to get your time back. I think I might have screwed up the order again.

The Member for Airdrie. My apologies.

### Support for the Energy Industry

**Mrs. Pitt:** Mr. Speaker, politicians would be wise to heed the words of notable Canadians who are valiantly fighting for our energy sector. One of them, Rex Murphy, recently addressed Albertans at a conference in Red Deer. He called for the onus on jobs and development to be reversed. He asked thoughtfully: why do those who offer development, technology, and jobs have to stagger through years of hearings, assessments, protests, court cases, and appeals to get permission to supply a basket of incontestable benefits? What are protestors bringing to the table that merits them standing?

Another notable Canadian, independent researcher Vivian Krause, has been bringing awareness to how some American foundations like the Tides Foundation are funding the fight against Canadian oil sands and pipelines. She estimates that as much as \$90 million U.S. dollars have been used to oppose our energy industry in the last decade. These foundations are focused on destroying the Canadian energy industry, not the American energy industry.

Being complacent is no longer an option if we want an economy that allows families to flourish. We follow the highest possible standards in Canada, and there's no reason we should resign ourselves to sit on the sidelines while the United States, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Norway reap the benefits of our oil.

Tim McMillan, CEO of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, says that a lack of pipeline capacity is now costing the economy as much as a hundred billion dollars per year. Think of what that money could be used for, Mr. Speaker.

Charities like the David Suzuki Foundation should not be allowed to engage in activities aimed at hampering job creation and economic growth in Canada.

Citizens can play their part by shopping at businesses that support our vital energy industry. Unfortunately, a few companies like Lush cosmetics side with the bogus charities.

It is time to stop being a soft target and fight back against the foreign meddling in our energy industry, do the right thing, and get pipelines built.

**The Speaker:** Now Edmonton-McClung.

### Hanukkah

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to wish a Happy Hanukkah to all those celebrating in Alberta. Yesterday at dusk I was honoured to participate along with you, sir, as well as Chabad Edmonton's Rabbi Drelich, Rabbi Claman from Beth Israel synagogue, our Deputy Premier, the MLA for Edmonton-Centre, and a large crowd on the Legislature Grounds. The lighting of the candles represents the spread of light, wisdom, enlightenment, and faith throughout the world. Hanukkah celebrates and commemorates the strength and perseverance of the Jewish people and their struggle for religious freedom. It is a demonstration of how every individual has the ability to change the world for the better.

2:50

As dark voices rise around the globe, with the growth of right-wing hate groups which threaten to invade mainstream politics, let us all take this time to remember that a little light goes a long way. We must never be afraid to stand up for what's right, to call out hate

and anti-Semitism, and to embrace our differences. Alberta's long history of cultural diversity makes us strong.

As the MLA for Edmonton-McClung I am proud to represent a diverse constituency that overwhelmingly welcomes everyone into the community. McClung is home to two synagogues and the Talmud Torah school that has been educating Edmonton Jewish children for over a century.

The Jewish community in Alberta has a long and proud history of contributing to the growth of our province. In fact, 2019 will mark 130 years since the first permanent Jewish settlers made Alberta home.

I hope that this year as we celebrate the holiday season in our own special ways we take a moment to acknowledge that Alberta Jews feel threatened in their own communities and places of worship. The right to worship without fear is a right that we must vigilantly protect by standing against hate and injustice with love and with light. Our NDP government caucus is resolutely committed to doing just that. While making that pledge, let me express my hope that everyone celebrates Hanukkah together with family.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

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

### 29th Legislature Reflections

**Mr. Hanson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we approach the end of the 2018 fall session, this may be my last opportunity to wish Albertans a very Merry Christmas. Unfortunately, for many Albertans this Christmas will be anything but merry. Let's talk about this government's record over the last three and a half years and where it has left the good people of this province, especially at Christmas.

While we constantly hear that things are better, that the sun is shining, you get a totally different picture when you actually get out and talk to Albertans. I attended an FCSS breakfast last week. Speeches given by the Minister of Children's Services and the Minister of Community and Social Services made it fairly obvious that an election is just around the corner, which may be the best Christmas gift this government could give Albertans. I also heard at that breakfast that services provided by FCSS in our communities are seeing ever-increasing demands.

Last week I tabled in the House some statistics from Food Banks Canada and the Edmonton food bank. I'd like to take a moment to discuss some stats from those tablings. Where do our food bank stats sit nationally? 2015-2016 saw an increase of 17.6 per cent in food bank usage across the province. Overall, from 2008 to 2016 we saw an increase of 136 per cent, the highest in the country. If we want to focus on Edmonton, over a four-year period from 2015 to 2018 we saw a monthly average increase of 40 per cent per month. In addition, the Edmonton Christmas Bureau announced last week that they expect to provide 24,000 hampers, which is up 7,000 from last year.

These are just a few examples of the organizations that have been hit hard by the economic downturn and the carbon tax. I know that the Minister of Finance claims that we have the highest growing GDP of any province, but if there is actually a recovery in progress, then average Albertans are not feeling it. Tell that to those Albertans facing layoffs three weeks before Christmas.

### Notices of Motions

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.



**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I wish to give notice that I will be presenting a motion under Standing Order 42 requesting an emergency debate on issues before us today that are obviously very pressing concerning the oil differential and different policy proposals that have been presented.

I'll present written copies right now if Mr. Speaker will allow.

**The Speaker:** Yes. My apologies. You're required to read the motion. If you would.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Yeah. Thank you. I'll be introducing the following motion.

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly support facilitating market-oriented development of Alberta's diverse, abundant, renewable, and nonrenewable energy resources as a key driver of economic prosperity, ultimately benefiting all of Canada, and in restoring the independence of our energy regulators from political interference and that this Assembly rejects any attempt to impose supply management on Alberta's energy industry by the use of quotas or any other legislative or regulatory measures to curtail production as proposed by the government and Official Opposition.

### Tabling Returns and Reports

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

**Mr. Ceci:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table the required number of copies of the Report of Selected Payments to the Members and Former Members of the Legislative Assembly and Persons Directly Associated with Members of the Legislative Assembly, also known as the MLA report. This is tabled for the year ended March 31, 2018, pursuant to the Legislative Assembly Act and the Conflicts of Interest Act. This disclosure of MLA payments ensures that all remain accountable with public dollars, ensuring they are spent responsibly and in line with legal and ethical standards. Information listed in the report includes salary, expenses, benefits, allowances, fees for serving on standing committees of the Legislative Assembly, and travel expenses while travelling on MLA or government business.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Are there any other documents to be tabled? Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

**Mr. Hanson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have three tablings today. Last Thursday during question period I made reference to letters written from students, teachers, and parents from H.A. Kostash school.

The second tabling is also in that same question I referred to, a RECAPP facility evaluation report done for the Aspen View region that recommended roof repairs.

I also referred to an executive summary where they did a cost analysis of either a rebuild or upgrades to the school.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the requisite number of copies of the 2008 Tar Sands Campaign strategy which I made reference to in my questions to the environment minister earlier, where many of my constituents are concerned about the environment minister's involvement as a Greenpeace activist. In the

strategy that I'm tabling, the main strategy of it, which was to land lock the tar sands so their crude could not be . . .

**The Speaker:** I think we've got it, hon. member. I think we've got it.

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** Yeah. I hear a point of order.  
Point of order, hon. member.

### Point of Order

#### Points of Order

#### Allegations against a Member

**Mr. Mason:** Under 23(h), (i), and (j) I want to be clear for the hon. member. That's the second time he's said that the environment minister was a member of Greenpeace. That is not true, and I would ask the hon. member to check his facts before informing the House incorrectly about the previous history of hon. members of this House.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, apparently the practice has been that you would make those points of order at the end of the Routine, but I am at this point now, and I suggest that we keep going.

**Mr. Nixon:** I think, Mr. Speaker, we discussed this last time. That's a separate issue, I guess. But at this stage, I thought your instructions were to us that the points of order would be at the end of question period so we didn't interrupt question period, but we're past that, so that might be part of the confusion. I await your instructions, though. Would you like to wait until after?

**The Speaker:** I'd like to proceed. That was the point that we discussed last week.

**Mr. Nixon:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wouldn't want to not comply with the instructions.

First of all, I think this is a matter of debate, but the hon. member did not say that. I didn't hear him say that she was a member. He did say that the minister of the environment was an activist associated with Greenpeace. There's been lots of things that have been tabled to document that, so I'm not really sure what the argument is on that. With that said, I do think it's a matter of debate, and we should move on.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, even though this is a relatively small issue, maybe, I would in fact like to think about that position being made, and I might well be asking for a discussion with the House leaders with respect to the length, the preamble issues, these sorts of related questions as well. I think we need some more discussion in this House if for no other reason than to give me greater guidance of the House's expectations on these kinds of matters.

### 3:00 Motions under Standing Order 42

**The Speaker:** I believe we are under Standing Order 42, with the Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

Just to remind the member, your task here is with respect to the urgency of the matter and the pressing necessity of the matter being discussed today. Hon. member, please proceed.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** So this is speaking to the necessity of the debate right now, Mr. Speaker?

**The Speaker:** Yes.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Thank you.

### Energy Policies

**Mr. Fildebrandt:**

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly support facilitating market-oriented development of Alberta's diverse, abundant, renewable and nonrenewable energy resources as a key driver of economic prosperity ultimately benefiting all of Canada, and in restoring the independence of our energy regulators from political interference, and that this Assembly reject any attempt to impose supply management on Alberta's energy industry by the use of quotas or any other legislative or regulatory measures to curtail production, as proposed by the government and the Official Opposition.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that in the very number of SO 42s and, I believe, 30s, the various different forms of emergency debates in this House, there has been disagreement over time about the level of urgency, and many of those things are political differences. But I think it is very fair to say that this is the single most urgent issue facing Alberta today. There seems to be at least some degree of political consensus if not economic consensus but certainly not unanimity. This is an incredibly important policy decision and debate, currently supported by the government, the third party, and the Official Opposition, obviously not supported by the rather lonelier FCP caucus, but it is a debate of incredible importance to Albertans.

It is largely unprecedented in Alberta history to be going down this road. For some time the Alberta opposition parties and various lobbyists have been calling for this, and the Premier made an announcement just last night, a significant announcement. And you can tell how significant it is if a government decides to purchase advertising time to make an announcement on television, which the Premier did last night, obviously demonstrating the urgency of it. It is very rare that a government would make a paid major announcement on prime time television on a Sunday. That obviously refers to the government's own belief in the necessity of this, that it had to happen on a Sunday, which is quite extraordinary and rare.

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, point of order.

**The Speaker:** Point of order. Cite the rule here.

### Point of Order

#### Language Creating Disorder

**Mr. Nixon:** Standing Order 23(h), (i), and (j), language to create disorder. The Premier did not do a paid announcement; neither did the Official Opposition. They had a press conference. The facts that the hon. member is presenting are very far from the truth, and we should get that clear, I think.

**The Speaker:** I have a sense, hon. member, that this might be with respect to the interpretation of the events. Nonetheless, try and keep it on the urgency and necessity issue.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** With regard to the point of order it was my understanding that this was paid time on networks, but the Government House Leader informs me with his facial expressions that that was not the case. If, in fact, it was a regular TV slot and not paid time, then I would withdraw those remarks as incorrect.

### Debate Continued

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** But it certainly does not change my primary point, that the Premier made a rather extraordinarily timed address on prime time on a Sunday, which is very rare. This is obviously a major issue facing Albertans and has not been debated before this House in any kind of detailed manner.

I would just conclude by stating that since there is no bill coming forward on this and that these changes proposed by the government are to be regulatory in nature and that there will not be a bill coming before the House but that it is still a very significant piece of policy, I think it behooves us to at least take a little bit of time here to debate the issues today. I would certainly be in favour of making my point and keeping it as short as possible so that the government and private members can get on to other business that they have if they were to agree.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, Standing Order 42, as you may recall, requires unanimous consent to proceed with the motion as proposed by the Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

[Unanimous consent denied]

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** Mr. Speaker . . .

**The Speaker:** Yes, hon. member.

**Mr. Fildebrandt:** I believe we can call a division on any vote before the House.

**The Speaker:** The question was on unanimous consent. There is no vote on that. Unanimous consent was not granted, and we need to move on.

### Orders of the Day

#### Written Questions

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

[The Acting Clerk read the following written questions, which had been accepted]

#### Power Purchase Agreements

- Q6. **Mr. Panda:**  
From May 1, 2015, to May 31, 2018, how much money has been spent by the government, broken down by contract, to terminate power purchase agreements before the agreement expiration date?

#### Trans Mountain Pipeline Construction Costs

- Q7. **Mr. Panda:**  
How will the government fund the up to \$2 billion commitment on potential cost overruns for the construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, as referenced in the government news release dated May 29, 2018?

#### Service Dogs Qualifications Regulation

- Q8. **Mr. McIver:**  
Between August 1, 2017, and June 1, 2018, what organizations have been added to the qualified list, as referenced in the service dogs qualifications regulation, Alta. reg. 59/2017?

### Orphan Well Association Contracts

- Q9. Mr. Panda:  
Does the government collect information on which companies have received contracts from the Orphan Well Association to reclaim orphan well sites or orphan pipeline segments, and if so, what companies have received these contracts from April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018?

### Motions for Returns

[The Acting Clerk read the following motion for a return, which had been accepted]

### Orphan Well Association Correspondence

- M18. Mr. Panda:  
A return showing copies of all correspondence between the government and the Orphan Well Association from April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018, concerning the Orphan Well Association's criteria for awarding contracts to companies to reclaim orphan well sites or orphan pipeline segments.

### Electricity Price Cap Documents

- M17. Mr. Panda moved that an order of the Assembly do issue for a return showing copies of all documents, including tables and graphs, prepared between May 5, 2015, and May 31, 2018, in connection with the projections and forecasts used by the government to determine the 6.8 cents per kilowatt hour price cap on electricity.

[Debate adjourned November 26: Mrs. Aheer speaking]

**The Acting Speaker:** Are there any members wishing to speak?  
Seeing none, I will call the question.

[The voice vote indicated that Motion for a Return 17 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:08 p.m.]

[Fifteen minutes having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

For the motion:

Dreeshen	Hunter	Nixon
Goodridge	Loewen	Pitt
Hanson	McIver	

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Goehring	Nielsen
Babcock	Hinkley	Payne
Carlier	Hoffman	Phillips
Carson	Horne	Piquette
Ceci	Jansen	Renaud
Connolly	Kleinstauber	Rosendahl
Coolahan	Larivee	Schmidt
Cortes-Vargas	Littlewood	Schreiner
Dach	Loyola	Shepherd
Dang	Malkinson	Sucha
Drever	Mason	Turner
Fitzpatrick	McKitrick	Westhead
Ganley	Miranda	Woollard
Totals:	For – 8	Against – 39

[Motion for a Return 17 lost]

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

**Mr. McIver:** I think the government goes first, don't they?

**Mr. Mason:** Yes.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker:** Hon. Government House Leader, I just need the hon. member to move it first, and then I can address you.

**Mr. McIver:** Okay. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate that.

### Service Dogs Qualifications Regulation

- M19. Mr. McIver moved that an order of the Assembly do issue for a return showing copies of all policy documents and recommendations prepared by Alberta Community and Social Services or its predecessor between January 1, 2016, and August 1, 2017, in connection with the development of the qualified list, as referenced in the service dogs qualifications regulation, Alta. reg. 59/2017.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.  
The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would wish to inform the House that the government is going to recommend rejecting Motion for a Return 19. The reason, primarily, is that it is a request for recommendations to the minister that the minister received and considered before making his decision. As such it's an excluded category under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. So the government is recommending rejection.

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

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the motion? You've already moved the motion, hon. member. You can close, but if there are any other members that would wish to speak first – the hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

**Mr. Nixon:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think the hon. Member for Calgary-Hays did not quite understand what was going on there because of the confusion, but I will attempt to stand in for him.

It's interesting to hear the government's comments – actually, you know what? Alberta regulation 59/2017 is the service dogs qualifications regulation. The document requested by the hon. Member for Calgary-Hays will aid in answering many questions such as some of these. Section 1(2) requires that the minister establish a "Qualified List" of accredited organizations to provide service dog training in Alberta. Since then 12 organizations have been accredited and are listed on the government's website.

How did the minister develop the training standards in subsection (2)(b)? Did the training standards meet the national and international standards? Seems like a reasonable question. How many of the 12 organizations on the current qualified list had been performing service dog training prior to the province announcing it would create this list? How many organizations actively training service dogs prior to Alberta regulation 59/2017 applied and did not qualify for the qualified list? Is there an appeal process? Do organizations seeking accreditation for the qualified list need to display a track record of successful training in partnership with clients? Organizations are required to include proof of incorporation in their application for the qualified list. Is that information made available to the general public?

Section 1(5) states: "The Minister shall publish and maintain the Qualified List and the Training Standards referred to in subsection

(2) as the Minister considers appropriate.” What was the minister’s rationale for including the 39 specific qualifications outlined in the Alberta service dogs qualifications assessment? According to subsection (5) the 39 assessments exercise are those the minister considers appropriate. Were there some deemed not appropriate? Another reasonable question. What consultation was involved to create the qualifications assessment list? Was any consideration given to provide flexibility for the list for the service dogs assisting with unique conditions? If so, how is that reflected in the 39 qualifying exercise? The mitigation tasks are blank. Does that mean they are at the discretion of the assessor? What kind of medical information is required by assessors to determine if the service dog is able to meet the needs of the person it is assisting?

Seems like lots of reasonable questions, which is why the hon. Member for Calgary-Hays has brought forward Motion for a Return 19, that says:

copies of all policy documents and recommendations prepared by Alberta Community and Social Services or its predecessor . . .

The reason he has to add “its predecessor” is because, as you know, the Premier had to split the ministry in two when the government fumbled the Serenity file, so what the hon. member is looking for is from both those departments now.

. . . between January 1, 2016, and August 1, 2017, in connection with the development of the qualified list, as referenced in the service dog qualifications regulation, Alta. reg. 59/2017.”

All of us in this House have heard from people associated with both training of service dogs and people with needs for service dogs and some of the frustrations that surround getting dogs at appropriate times, some of the issues around that. I think we all also know how important it is for people who ultimately are able to obtain service dogs to help them in their everyday life.

3:30

I don’t have much experience personally with service dogs, but I do remember when former Leader of the Opposition and former leader of the legacy party that I belonged to, Heather Forsyth, a long-time cabinet minister in this place, had a service dog, and the members that were here back in the 28th Legislature will remember Quill. In fact, Madam Speaker, it had its own Twitter account, and before I was an MLA, I would follow Quill’s Twitter account, fascinating to me. It seems that Quill always interpreted the day very differently than the members of the Assembly. But that service dog helped my good friend Heather Forsyth to be able to hear. She had some trouble with hearing, still does, and Quill is still around. I saw Quill not too long ago, a pretty cute dog, actually. He used to sit on this Chamber floor to help that hon. member as she did her work.

We know and we hear stories like that all the time, and I think that it’s important that the member brought these questions forward. I suspect that when he closes debate, he will have more to say about that. But I think it is disappointing that the government will not cooperate with such a simple request for information on – well, really, I can’t see this being a partisan issue such that the minister would want to not provide accurate information to this House. It seems to me the Government House Leader’s argument was that the minister does not have to provide this information because it was provided to the minister as advice. Well, I don’t think that’s fair, and I do think that the Government House Leader could still provide that to this House even if there is a rule that would allow him not to. I’m not sure. I’d have to check into that. But I certainly think that he still could if they so chose. One would have to ask why they would not want to talk about something as simple as this, and hopefully somebody over there will explain why as this debate progresses.

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

Are there any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

**Ms Littlewood:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I hear that the hon. member is asking many good questions. However, as I understand it, there doesn’t seem to be any reason that asking for these briefing documents would bring any of the further information that he is requesting. However, I am sure, as I understand it, that he would be able to submit these things as written questions, and I do believe that if he were to submit them as written questions, they would produce many of the answers that he is in fact seeking out.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the motion? The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

**Mr. Loewen:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Yeah, I’d like to take a moment to talk on this, too. I guess I thought it was kind of interesting that the member opposite suggested that the reason they can’t answer this question is because it’s excluded by FOIP. That’s kind of the point of the operation here, to get information to provide some clarity on different things going on in government. To use that excuse I thought was maybe kind of a little bit strange, but whatever excuse they want to use, I guess they can. But when I was kind of looking through this, too, myself, I think there are a lot of questions that we could answer by having this information. I think the Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre had mentioned some of the things, the questions that could be answered had we had this information.

But when I kind of looked through here myself, I looked at the regulation itself, and under Qualifications it says:

A dog has the qualifications of a service dog for the purposes of the Act if

- (a) the dog has successfully completed a training program delivered by a school or institution that is accredited by, or that has candidacy status with, Assistance Dogs International Inc., or
- (b) the dog has successfully completed
  - (i) a training program delivered by an organization identified on the Qualified List referred to in this section, or
  - (ii) a test administered by an organization identified on the Qualified List referred to in this section.

Madam Speaker, there are some guidelines, I guess, there, and those guidelines don’t necessarily answer the questions that we would like to find here today. But if the government would provide these documents and the recommendations, then we would know exactly, you know, what process was used to get to this point.

Now, it goes on to talk about a “Qualified List” here under Qualifications in subsection (2).

The Minister shall, by order, establish

- (a) a Qualified List, and
- (b) the Training Standards that must be met for an organization to be eligible for the Qualified List.

It brings up these training standards, and that was one of the questions we had as far as the training standards. Where did they come from, who helped to make recommendations, and, you know, how did this all come about?

Now, when I look at the training methods, the list that’s created here on the government’s website: training methods and standards for dogs. Of course, this is the information that we’d be looking for, the documents and recommendations prepared by Alberta Community and Social Services or its predecessor between January 1, 2016, and

August 1, 2017, in connection with the development of the qualified list as referred to in the service dogs qualifications regulation.

Getting back to Training Methods and Standards for Dogs, that the government has listed on its website, it says:

1. The organization uses training methods that support the ethical and humane treatment of service dogs that do not cause fear, pain or other negative responses in the dog, for example, no shock collar, prong collar or similar equipment is to be used in the training or testing of a service dog.
2. The organization has a service dog training or testing program that ensures dogs that are trained or tested meet the following standards.

It goes on to talk about health, public appropriateness, behaviour, basic obedience skills, advanced skills. Under Health – again, this is under the Alberta training standard that the government has listed here – the dog is between the age of 18 months and nine years old, has current vaccinations, has been spayed if female or neutered if male, have an operating microchip that is a full duplex type conforming to ISO standards. That’s on the health end of things.

Then under Public Appropriateness:

1. Are clean, well-groomed and do not have an offensive odour.

Of course, that would be pretty valuable if you have your dog in public.

2. Toilet only in appropriate circumstances and locations.

Also good if you’re in public.

3. Display a jacket, cape, harness or other equipment to indicate that it is a working animal assisting a person with a disability.
4. Present as healthy and able to work.

Now under Behaviour:

1. Do not solicit attention, visit or annoy any member of the general public.
2. Do not disrupt the normal course of business.
3. Do not vocalize unnecessarily, i.e. barking, growling or whining.
4. Show no aggression towards people or other animals.
5. Do not solicit or steal food or other items from the general public.
6. Work calmly and quietly in a harness [or] leash.
7. Are able to perform tasks in public without showing distress or avoidance.
8. Are able to lie quietly beside the handler without blocking aisles, doorways, etc.
9. Stay within 24 inches of their handler at all times unless the nature of a trained task requires them to be working at a greater distance.

Madam Speaker, my wife actually has been working in child care for some years now, pretty much her whole life. She retired from that just this year, and she decided that she was going to take up volunteering for search and rescue. We both have a love of dogs, and particularly we like Jack Russells, and right now we have a Jack Russell-German shorthaired pointer cross, which, of course, is a high-energy dog but pretty intelligent, actually. That kind of interested my wife as far as maybe a search and rescue dog and the training that it would take to do that.

Now, I wish I would have paid a little closer attention when she was talking to me the other day and explaining to me the process to be able to have a dog trained for search and rescue, but I know it was very extensive. In fact, I think it even took a year or two of working with somebody that had a trained dog as a helper kind of thing in order for you to be able to handle your own dog on your own. I know the training was extensive for the dog, and I know the training for the handler was extensive, too.

We have a situation where we have these guidelines here for these dogs, these service dogs, and we know, like I say, and I’ve

heard how extensive the training is to have a search and rescue dog and what the handler and the dog have to go through, so it’s interesting to see the guidelines that the government has here. I think that’s why we would like to see these documents and these recommendations, so that we would know exactly how the government came up with this list.

**3:40**

Now I’ll go back to the list of the requirements for the dog. Under Basic Obedience Skills the dogs:

1. Are able to demonstrate mastery of basic obedience skills sufficient to support a disabled person having public access with that dog.
2. Are able to focus on the person with a disability despite distractions, such as children running, loud noises, flashing lights, traffic, and presence of food, balls, toys or other attractants.

I know one thing about Jack Russells: if you throw a ball out there, then the chances are that that’s going to take the attention of the dog. So, obviously, service dogs can’t have that issue.

3. Have prompt recall directly to the handler.
4. Respond to commands 90 per cent of the time on the first command in all public environments.
5. Exhibit good canine citizenship and be able to demonstrate that the dog is safe to be in a public setting.

And under Advanced Skills. Of course, I think a lot of these things that we’ve discussed here so far are fairly basic for a dog to have in public.

1. Have mastered the Basic Obedience Skills set out above.
2. Are capable of performing three (3) or more tasks in order to mitigate aspects of the handler’s disability, i.e. performing specific tasks which the handler is unable to do themselves due to their disability.
3. Have received a minimum of 240 hours of advanced training.

That’s a fair number of hours there for advanced training.

Madam Speaker, again we go back to this motion for a return. The request is fairly simple: “policy documents and recommendations prepared.” I don’t feel that there should be a big issue with providing this. I don’t think this is anything that would be out of the ordinary to provide. There’s nothing to hide here from the public or from the opposition. This should be nonpartisan. I don’t think the excuse that, “Well, it’s excluded from FOIP, so we’re not going to do it” is really a justifiable answer as far as being able to answer some of these questions.

We don’t know what consultation was involved to create the qualification assessment list. We don’t know if there was any consideration given to providing flexibility for the list for service dogs assisting with unique conditions. We know that the people that these dogs are for could have a variety of disabilities, and we don’t know what kind of flexibility was allowed on that list for that. Also, what kind of medical information was required by assessors to determine if the service dog is able to meet the needs of the person it is assisting? You know, when we look at these training methods and standards for the dogs, I think we need to be sure.

Thank you.

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

Are there any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for St. Albert.

**Ms Renaud:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, so I’m thrilled to stand up and speak to something that is sort of peripherally related, service dogs. I don’t know about you all, but when all of this came out quite some

time ago, I read through all of the lists and information that you just proceeded to go through. I am happy to talk about service dogs any day of the week. I do so in St. Albert, I do so online, and I do all the time. We talk about it. I understand it. I've gone to see the organizations that work. I know the testing standards, as do we all, because we actually understand this information.

So I'm kind of left with: what are you doing? I get the feeling sometimes that on Mondays, when it's supposed to be private members' business, we need to talk about really important things other than what your question is and, you know, your ability to run the clock out, talk about bills like private members' bills that address hate groups that want to register in Alberta. So I just wanted to stand up and say that I think service dogs are vitally important. I always have. I'm amazed and I'm thankful for the work that we've done. I know we're going to continue to do the work. I know we have lots of work to do in the future, so I hope we can wrap this up and move on to some private members' business, which is what Monday afternoons are all about.

Thank you.

**The Acting Speaker:** Are there any other members wishing to speak to the motion?

Seeing none, I will call on the hon. Member for Calgary-Hays to close debate.

**Mr. McIver:** Well, thank you. I appreciate the introduction from the previous speaker. As is usual here, the previous speaker is wrong about almost everything she said, starting with the fact that she's talking about the opposition bringing this item together on a Monday and making suggestions about why that is. But it occurs to me, if I shuffle through my papers here and find the Order Paper for today, that this was actually due last week. As it turns out, it was the government's decision to do this today, so the main complaint by the member across is entirely unfounded.

**Ms Renaud:** We didn't ask you to read the rest.

**Mr. McIver:** Huh?

Of course, when you file a motion for a return, I'm not sure that anybody looks at what day it will come to the House. You have a question, you ask it, and it comes when it comes. So the hon. member's comment is completely unfounded and off base, but that's not a surprise.

But what she was right about is that this is the international day of people with disabilities. It's kind of apropos, really, that we should be talking about service dogs today, and I'm proud to have raised this important issue. Now, as my good friend and hon. colleague from Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre pointed out, there was a member in this House at one point that had a service dog, and certainly I became somewhat acquainted with that member and other people with service dogs, too.

It's also appropriate to raise it today, Madam Speaker, because it wasn't very long ago that a person was not allowed in the Legislative Assembly with their service dog. The only thing I'll say about it is to acknowledge that my understanding is that there are legal proceedings on that right now as a result of the person not being able to stay in here, which is probably another good reason to have a discussion about this. I won't be talking about that particular case. That would be inappropriate.

The fact is that what you have is a Government House Leader stating that he won't give the information because he doesn't have to, and you have a government backbencher saying that everybody knows. Well, if everybody knows, then the government backbencher should probably be pushing the minister to release the information

that everybody knows. [interjection] Now, the hon. member had her turn to speak, but she's not done yet, so I think perhaps we'll hear more at another time.

There are several questions here, and some of my colleagues, Madam Speaker, touched upon those. They're legitimate questions. I think it's fair to ask how, when this thing came forward, the minister developed the training standards and whether indeed those training standards meet the national and international standards because, of course, people with service dogs, like the rest of us, live their lives where they want to, and if they travel from province to province, it would be certainly convenient if the standards were the same across the country and internationally. That would have been a simple question for the government to answer, and they had the opportunity but chose not to.

Again, how many of the 12 organizations on the current list had been performing service dog training previous to the government announcing that they were going to create the list? It's a legitimate question. In other words, how many of those operators are long-time, professional, experienced operators that are just registering now that it's time to register, and how many started in the business – it could be zero, or it could be 12; I don't know – just because the government was creating the list?

Another legitimate question might be that we would have hoped to know, with communication between the government and others on this: the 12 organizations, do they all train the dogs themselves, or do some ship the dogs out to somebody else or subcontract someone else to train those dogs? Now, if they're supposed to be qualified, it's a legitimate question about whether they would actually send the dogs out somewhere else or train them themselves.

You know, really, the question that the hon. backbencher from the government asked was: what is there to know? I guess the question I would ask is: what's there to hide? That's the real question here. When the government backbencher is claiming that everything is so simple and well known, yet the government won't disclose it, one really has to ask, Madam Speaker: what, indeed, if anything, does the government have to hide? Of course, when they refuse to give any information, we can't answer that question.

Again, organizations: do they display a track record of successful training in partnerships with clients? How often does the government check on them? What was the government's motivation for making the rules that are there? Another question that one of my colleagues asked, that I think is a fair one, too, is: how much health information is asked of the person that needs and requires the service dog? One would think that primarily they would only need to know the fact that they qualify for a service dog.

Members of the House, the government . . .

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

[The voice vote indicated that Motion for a Return 19 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:50 p.m.]

[Fifteen minutes having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

For the motion:

Dreesen	Hunter	Nixon
Goodridge	Loewen	Orr
Hanson	McIver	

Against the motion:

Anderson, S.	Hinkley	Payne
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Babcock	Hoffman	Phillips
Carlier	Horne	Piquette
Carson	Kleinstauber	Renaud
Ceci	Larivee	Rosendahl
Connolly	Littlewood	Schmidt
Coolahan	Loyola	Schreiner
Cortes-Vargas	Malkinson	Shepherd
Dang	Mason	Sucha
Drever	McKitrick	Turner
Fitzpatrick	Miranda	Westhead
Ganley	Nielsen	Woollard
Goehring		
Totals:	For – 8	Against – 37

[Motion for a Return 19 lost]

### Public Bills and Orders Other than Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

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

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am requesting unanimous consent of the Assembly that notwithstanding Standing Order 8(1) Bill 206 in second reading be the first private member's bill we discuss going forward today.

[Unanimous consent granted]

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

[Debate adjourned June 4: Mr. McIver speaking]

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

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am rising in support of Bill 206. I think we can all agree in this House that the promotion of hate and bigotry in our society is unacceptable, and the United Conservative Party stands resolutely against it.

Alberta has been successful because it's been a welcoming place for all people from all backgrounds. This needs to be protected. It needs to be maintained, and it needs to go on into the future. This has to be a place where everybody is fully part of society, with all the rights and privileges. We need to stand against those that would promote hate and bigotry in every case. It's a positive step, in my view, that we as a Legislature are making that statement and making that stand through this piece of legislation today. I commend the member opposite for bringing it forward. Thank you.

You know what? There's just so many reasons. The fact is, Madam Speaker, that society hasn't fully learned this lesson. We see examples all the time where people need to be if not reminded, then to learn the lesson of equality in the first place. We will know, when we are finished this debate, that the Legislative Assembly of Alberta has stood for equality not for most Albertans, not for some Albertans, but for all Albertans. That is something where, on the one hand, it is sad that it has to be said; on the other hand, it's a very positive thing that it is being said.

Madam Speaker, it's certainly my feeling that this will set a tone that's positive, that sends a message not only to people coming to Alberta but in some cases to people that have lived here their entire life that we need to, in order to stay strong, remain a place that's welcoming to everyone.

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

I hesitate to interrupt the hon. Member for Calgary-Hays, but under Standing Order 8(7)(a)(i), which provides up to five minutes for the sponsor of a private member's public bill to close debate, I would like to invite the hon. Member for Calgary-Klein.

**4:10**

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is great to rise to close debate on Bill 206, Societies (Preventing the Promotion of Hate) Amendment Act, 2018. It's been a long time to get here, but I'm glad we're here. I believe this piece of legislation, although simple, is a very important one. Since it has been several months since we have discussed this, I thought I'd take a few minutes to refresh our memories on the purpose of Bill 206. This bill seeks only to keep hate groups from becoming societies in Alberta and to keep them from becoming legitimized under the law.

Madam Speaker, Bill 206 amends the Societies Act by adding the term "lawful purpose" in subsection (1). This is the most important part of this legislation as it gives the registrar the ability to consider the purpose of an applicant to become a society from a perspective that considers whether its intentions are for a lawful purpose. While this seems obvious, as I've noted before, the KKK, the Ku Klux Klan, was a society until 2003, and without passing this legislation, there is nothing to stop this infamous hate group from reregistering as a society in Alberta.

The second primary change in Bill 206 is that it puts the onus on the director of a society that the group applying for society status has a lawful purpose and to ensure that this is not only valid at the time of application but that this declaration is carried out in perpetuity.

Now, a very important and positive consequence of the changes being proposed in Bill 206 is the fact that without being able to become a legitimate society, hate groups will not be able to accumulate wealth as a society. Societies are able to own and inherit property, and much like with any other organization, Madam Speaker, it is money that enables a registered society to sustain itself and grow.

We recently saw the hate group Soldiers of Odin show up at a UCP fundraiser to take selfies with the three UCP nomination candidates. Two of these candidates claim to not have known who the Soldiers of Odin were or what they represent. If we take this at face value, it lends more importance to ensuring that Bill 206 is passed in this Assembly. If potential political candidates aren't aware of an infamous hate group – apparently, they've changed their name again – why would we expect registrars to be familiar with organized hate groups? Which is why, as I stated last session, registrars will be encouraged to have a relationship with hate crime units to keep apprised of what hate groups are operating in the province and under what names.

Madam Speaker, as we know, there has been a disturbing rise in organized hate groups around the world, and unfortunately, this is very true right here in Alberta. They have become emboldened, and they've become highly visible. The fact is that hate groups appear to feel that it's a good time to rise, and Albertans should be concerned and appalled. It is the brazenness of these groups in Alberta that was the impetus for me bringing Bill 206 forward. Seeing groups such as the World Coalition Against Islam, or the WCAI, openly promote their message on the steps of Calgary city hall was very disturbing.

Now, I think we have seen good bipartisan support for this bill, as it should be, and I thank the previous speaker for his comments. I do hope that this continues. Bill 206 is a small but important part of combatting hate and hate groups in Alberta. It's small in the sense that it's not going to really reach into systemic hate, Madam

Speaker. We know that. However, we cannot as a society legitimize these groups by allowing them to become a society under the law.

With that said, Madam Speaker, I encourage all members of this Assembly to support this bill, move it forward, and send the message to these hate groups that they are not welcome and will not be legitimized as societies in Alberta. Thank you.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion for second reading carried unanimously]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 4:15 p.m.]

[Fifteen minutes having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

For the motion:

Anderson, S.	Hanson	Nielsen
Babcock	Hinkley	Orr
Carlier	Hoffman	Payne
Carson	Horne	Phillips
Ceci	Hunter	Piquette
Clark	Kleinsteuber	Renaud
Connolly	Larivee	Rosendahl
Coolahan	Littlewood	Schmidt
Cortes-Vargas	Loewen	Schreiner
Dach	Loyola	Shepherd
Dang	Malkinson	Strankman
Drever	Mason	Sucha
Fitzpatrick	McIver	Turner
Goehring	McKittrick	Westhead
Goodridge	Miranda	Woollard

Totals: For – 45 Against – 0

[Motion carried unanimously; Bill 206 read a second time]

**Motion to Concur in the Report  
from the Standing Committee  
on Alberta's Economic Future**

**Bill 201  
Employment Standards (Firefighter Leave)  
Amendment Act, 2018**

[Debate adjourned November 5: Mr. Hunter speaking]

**The Acting Speaker:** The hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner.

**Mr. Hunter:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a privilege to be able to stand and speak to this bill, that was brought forward by our Member for Highwood. One of the things I wanted to talk about, first of all, really quickly, is that we had on September 11, 2001 – 9/11, the infamous day of 9/11 – a terrible event that happened in the world, but in 2017 on September 11 another terrible event also happened, and this was the Kenow fire in my riding.

What happened was that the fire came from B.C. When I came to check on the firefighters that were there, in anticipation they had done the necessary preparations. They had done the work that they needed to do in terms of being able to protect the townsite, to protect the park structures, and to protect one of the landmarks in that area, the Prince of Wales Hotel. What was interesting was that there were 135 firefighters that had come to help in that support. Sixty of those firefighters were structural firefighters from many jurisdictions outside of that area. They came with one purpose, and that was to protect heritage and history and to protect the property of Albertans. Many of them were volunteers. Some of them were not volunteers

– they were professional firefighters – but many of them were volunteers.

When I went to visit them, I looked into their eyes and I could see that they were concerned. This was a very fast moving fire, as we found out on September 12. When it actually came down over the Akamina Pass, it came so fast, because of the wind, that there was fire that was actually, I think they said, over a hundred feet above the treetops. It moved at breakneck speed, Madam Speaker, moving directly towards the town. They had done their necessary preparations. They had set up sprinkling units all around the outskirts. They had set up units that would immediately get to areas where these fireballs were falling from the sky because of the size and immensity of this fire, and they were able to respond quickly.

These units would actually go around to the different homes and watch the roofs and make sure that the roofs weren't on fire. If there was fire that was falling, even on them, they still got in there, and they made sure they put those fires out. They didn't lose one of the structures that they had originally planned on not losing. It was amazing to see. And it was amazing to see the brotherhood and sisterhood that was felt by all that were doing this, that were actually fighting this fire. This event showed to me the value of our hard-working and devoted firefighters.

I know that when the Member for Highwood brought forward this bill, he brought forward the bill with the intention of being able to help those firefighters, with the intention of being able to say: "You know what? We need to recognize that if they're going to step up, if they're going to stand up and do this sort of act of heroism, we need to make sure that we protect them." He had heard concerns, that had been brought forward by some of the firefighters, that perhaps if they did step up, if they were willing to be able to take the time – and even in the preparation for this Kenow fire that these firefighters had to go do, they had to take time away from their work, time away from their families. They had to sleep out there because they didn't know when it was actually going to happen, when that fire would come down over the Akamina Pass.

When the call was made, they were ready, and they were willing. What's interesting about this bill is that it was designed to address that. So, in good faith, this is the reason why the member brought this bill forward. He brought it forward with the best of intentions, but here's what happened, Madam Speaker. He brought it forward, and then we went to committee. It was sent to committee in order to be able to find out if there are any unintended consequences to this bill.

What we heard was a lot of information from business owners that if we were to pass this bill, the business owners would be, under legislation, at a disadvantage. So they implored us to take a second look, a sober second look at this bill and to try and focus on the fact that – you know what? – generally speaking, whether you're an employer or you're a reserve firefighter, Albertans are good people, and we'll rally around each other. This was what we heard.

Now, the importance of this process is that we have seen how this House can work, where you bring forward a best-intentioned bill, and then you take that best-intentioned bill and you vet it. You find out whether or not there are any unintended consequences. What we found was that this bill had some unintended consequences that we hadn't seen, that the Member for Highwood had not intended. So we took a step back and we said: "You know what? We shouldn't have this thing go forward. We should believe in Albertans that they can do the right thing when it comes to not firing our volunteer firefighters." This was a good process, Madam Speaker.



Unfortunately, what we've seen in the last three and a half years is that we have brought forward these concerns and asked this government to bring their bills to committee so that they can be properly vetted. What we've seen, unfortunately, is a complete disregard for that vetting process. Now, in this House we have the opportunity of being able to do some back and forth when we get into Committee of the Whole. That is a committee – I grant them that – but it is not where we can have a stakeholder or someone who's going to be affected by these unintended consequences come forward and give material evidence that it will be a problem for them.

We've had this discussion and conversation a few times, but I wanted to bring your attention, Madam Speaker, to the fact that we have now seen how the process can actually work properly and effectively. I think that the value of being able to say, "Let's vet these bills; let's take them back and see whether or not there are any unintended consequences" can only benefit Albertans, can only benefit the people whom we decide we're going to add a regulatory burden onto. I hope that the government has had the opportunity to be able to see this process, to be able to see it and how it can be effective, and I hope that they'll reconsider future bills.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

4:40

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

Anybody else wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm happy to rise today in the House to speak on the concurrence motion for Bill 201, the Employment Standards (Firefighter Leave) Amendment Act, 2018, which was introduced, as was mentioned earlier, by my colleague from Highwood earlier this year.

This bill would have prevented employers from discriminating against employees who are volunteer firefighters, Madam Speaker. With this legislation employers could not dismiss employees based on their work as a volunteer firefighter. I commend my colleague for introducing this legislation. As the Member for Highwood has said, this bill was introduced after a volunteer firefighter was actually dismissed because of his role as a firefighter. His employer ultimately gave him an ultimatum, saying: you either give up firefighting, or you give up this job. This was obviously a very unreasonable employer. However, this situation did happen, and there is a possibility that a volunteer firefighter could be in this situation again. The Member for Highwood heard this concern and introduced this private member's bill as a response, which I give him credit for. That's what our role as legislators is. It's to listen to Albertans and to represent their interests in this Assembly.

Now, Madam Speaker, I have a great deal of respect for the firefighters of our province. There are few other occupations where workers sacrifice time away from home and away from their families to protect other Albertans, and firefighters are often putting their own lives on the line to ensure the safety of others. Answering the call as a firefighter means you have to be ready for anything, and you don't know what you could be facing. You never know the situation that you will end up in, and you never know the danger that you will be put in. However, the firefighters that I know would not have it any other way, and they are truly honoured to serve.

Now, the riding of Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, that I represent, covers a large rural area, and I know first-hand how volunteer firefighters in my riding and in other rural ridings across the province are vital to Alberta's economy. Industries located outside of major centres need to have fire services close by. However, in rural counties and small towns they simply cannot afford to staff a fully functional fire

detachment, and that is where volunteer firefighters come in. They are able to come in and assist when needed but are still able to work at a full-time job. Really, a volunteer firefighter is a story of being a good citizen. It's about helping your neighbour, and there are few better ways to serve your community.

In fact, just last month in my constituency a truck carrying hay bales caught fire just south of Innisfail on highway 2. Of course, everyone in this Assembly knows how busy highway 2 is and can be. Knowing that, they can imagine how many people could have been put at risk because of this fire. However, the hard-working firefighters from both Bowden and Innisfail, both in my constituency, answered the call and were able to secure the scene. They kept people out of harm's way, and after four hours they were able to extinguish the fire. A local farmer even came out to assist. Stories like these from firefighters: they happen every day, Madam Speaker. In Alberta we have to give a tremendous amount of respect to those front-line personnel. Again, on a personal note, last Saturday I was in Springbrook honouring firefighter Thomas Crozman with an Alberta emergency service medal, and two weeks ago I was at Glennifer Lake honouring firefighter Logan Dye with another Alberta emergency service medal.

Now, Madam Speaker, as a rural resident I know the struggles that rural and small-town fire departments face trying to recruit firefighters. Many of these firefighters are my friends, neighbours, and important community members. When fire detachments cannot find volunteers, they have to start looking for paid staff. This puts an increased burden on municipalities and their tax base as they don't have the population to support it. Businesses suffer, and residents have to pay more in taxes to support the fire department. This has a possibility to make municipalities uncompetitive to businesses and hurt their economy. We know that this current government has already taxed Albertans enough, so any measures that can help recruit volunteer firefighters and lower the tax burden are a good thing for Alberta.

Another issue that arises in rural areas is response times going up when there are not enough volunteers. This is also bad for businesses, but it can also be a serious safety issue if municipalities are unable to provide enough firefighters to adequately provide this service, which brings us to the bill that is before the Assembly. Bill 201 would attempt to make it easier to recruit firefighters by preventing employers from discriminating, losing them their job because of their involvement as a volunteer firefighter. This could solve this issue. Businesses would be more viable to recruit, and recruitment would be easier, and taxes would be lower, and our rural economy could thrive. If this bill could accomplish this, I believe that it would be a very noble and worthwhile cause.

However, as this bill was studied at committee, some concerns were brought up by stakeholders. One of the first concerns that was brought up was the creation of an adversarial relationship between businesses and the fire departments. Businesses do not want to be handcuffed with this legislation. The stakeholders that spoke expressed concerns for the unintended consequences of this bill if it was brought into law. As I mentioned earlier, there is a great concern with the recruitment of firefighters, and some felt as though putting this additional regulation on employers would make it more likely that an employee would not volunteer to be a firefighter as they would not want to damage the relationship with their employer.

Madam Speaker, further to this, a few rural fire chiefs expressed concerns that this bill would undermine the work that they have done to build relationships with local businesses and recruit firefighters. Rural fire chiefs know that they have to work hard to get recruits, which is why they try to create partnerships with employers that potential recruits actually work for. This is a strategy

that, according to stakeholders, is helping recruit additional volunteers. I have concerns that passing this bill would undermine some of that work. I trust that what the rural fire chiefs are doing is actually working and that they know the business. I believe that they know what is the best way to actually recruit firefighters.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the efforts of my colleague bringing forward this bill, and I appreciate that he was able to attempt to create a solution for this problem of recruiting volunteer firefighters. I believe that that was a worthwhile goal, and I respect that he was able to listen to Albertans in developing this bill.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future as it was able to study this legislation carefully and gather input from relative stakeholders. This is how legislation should be developed. The work of committee is very important in the legislative process, and I am happy that we were able to use it in the progression of this bill. I know that this government can actually take a few lessons from proper consultations, and listening to stakeholders is something that the NDP might actually be able to learn from. Maybe they wouldn't have put forward their carbon tax, that they never actually proposed to Albertans, or maybe they wouldn't have introduced Bill 6, which, again, was a disastrous record for consultation. But committees ultimately are set up to study legislation in depth, and it would be wonderful if this government would use committees to actually study its legislation. But at least this time around, for Bill 201 we were able to listen to stakeholders and do our due diligence to ensure that we got it right.

Bill 201 was a very well-intended piece of legislation, and its desire was the increase in availability for rural fire detachments to recruit and retain volunteers. However, Madam Speaker, I hope all members of this House and especially the government continue to consult with firefighters in Alberta and find out additional ways that we can actually support them. As I said earlier, firefighters have a very important role, and they sacrifice much to serve the community. As elected officials let's continue to reach out to rural communities and rural fire chiefs and study other ways that we can be of assistance to first responders in our province. They truly are the heroes of our communities.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Are there any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

4:50

**Mr. Cooper:** Why, thank you. It's a pleasure to rise today. I would just like to thank my colleague from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake for his thoughtful comments as well. You know, if there's one thing he knows about, being the son of a farmer, it's rural Alberta and the unique challenges that rural Alberta faces. He's done a great job in many respects here in the House already in his short time; as well, he has done a great job in the constituency of Innisfail-Sylvan Lake. I know that I have the opportunity to speak to lots of his constituents. As you know, Madam Speaker, our constituencies are side by side. Not yours and mine, but the Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake's and the constituency that I have the pleasure of representing are side by side, so we wind up with a number of different joint projects as well as constituents that share information with both of our offices. I just so much appreciate the collaboration and co-operation that can take place in that great central Alberta region.

The Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake has done a lot of great work on rural fire protection and has been a strong advocate for

volunteer firefighters in that region. I know that you know, Madam Speaker, the vital role that volunteer fire departments play not just in rural Alberta or in central Alberta but clear across our province. The vast, vast, vast majority of all those who protect our property from fire are actually volunteers.

In fact, just yesterday many folks in this very Chamber had the pleasure or the displeasure . . .

**Mr. Strankman:** Adventure.

**Mr. Cooper:** Adventure. I think my colleague from Drumheller-Stettler has hit the nail on the head here.

. . . the adventure of travelling to the capital. You know, we're so blessed and honoured to be able to do that week in and week out, and some weeks are more exciting than others, in particular yesterday, Madam Speaker, even here in Edmonton. I can only imagine that your commute was a few blocks, but for some of us, travelling up and down highway 2 can be an adventure. It certainly was that yesterday.

I know that the good, the outstanding volunteer fire department from Olds was out on the highway for an extended period of time yesterday protecting not just the lives of those who had been involved in a number of motor vehicle accidents but also protecting everybody else using the highway to ensure that they were also safe. I know that my colleague from Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills or Bonnyville-Cold Lake or whatever the new name is of the constituency was in Calgary this weekend and also travelled through that particular area of the province and saw the good work that our volunteer firefighters do. It's not just fighting fires, but it's also spending time saving lives, predominantly, at least in Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, along the provincial highways, in particular highway 2. Those of you who are from the east side of the province will certainly know they do a lot of work on highway 21 as well, these busy transportation corridors, protecting both those who have been in motor vehicle accidents and those using the highway.

One of the reasons why I was pleased to see my colleague from Highwood bring forward this particular piece of legislation, Bill 201, that protects individuals from loss of employment because they are or have become a part-time or casual or volunteer firefighter: I think that it's important that we respect and honour the commitment that these volunteer firefighters make and that we respect and honour the fact that they are putting their lives on the line. Some have experienced hardship in their employment situation as a result of that commitment to the public. I know that my colleague from Highwood was seeking to endeavour to create some solutions around this very problem.

Like the government so often does – and I know my colleague from Drumheller-Stettler is very familiar with this process, very, very familiar with the process with respect to private members' business. As they so often do, they send a piece of private members' business to committee, and that's exactly what happened here on Bill 201, as you know. I know some of my colleagues have chatted at some length about this particular bill and the fact that it wound up in committee. More often than not, with respect to government business anyway, members of the Official Opposition or other independents or whatever other folks here in the Assembly will make a recommendation to send bills to committee. The reason why they do that is for thoughtful consideration. I think that it really helps the process and creates certainty around the legislation.

Now, it's unfortunate, though, that the government, during this term of the Legislature anyway, has actually used committee as a place to send legislation – they would like to send it to die.

**Mr. Strankman:** Terminate.

**Mr. Cooper:** Terminate.

Really, more often than not, the legislation that the government has sent with respect to private members' business has been dead on arrival at committee, and I think that's also what we've seen here with Bill 201.

Now, I understand that there were a number of stakeholders who presented at the committee, particularly the professional firefighters. Let me just take a moment to thank those individuals as well, the men and women that protect our cities and the larger communities across the province, that put their lives on the line and do so in a professional manner. You know, they do incredible, incredible work. But in this case many of those associations and organizations, along with the professional firefighters, had some concerns about this legislation, and I think the government heard those concerns more than – sorry. I will apologize and withdraw that particular reference to the government because it certainly wasn't the government that heard those concerns louder. It was certainly the committee that heard those concerns louder than the concerns of some of the smaller rural fire departments or smaller rural firemen or -women that defend our smaller regions across the province.

The committee definitely, it would seem – and I know that you have read the report with, I would imagine, bated breath while you read it with anticipation of just exactly what was in the report, so you'll know that that report raised some significant concerns.

I think that it's important that we reiterate that across rural Alberta and in these smaller departments – you know, I think of departments like the communities of Carstairs and Didsbury and Three Hills, all of which would have less than 30 members, many of which have employment outside of the community. If we were just to use the example of Sunday's call, I know that the department was out on the highway for upwards of six hours while they cleared multiple vehicle accidents. So here's a situation where these folks have left their families and the ones that care the most about them to go out and stand in the middle of a blizzard to protect the needs of those who have been injured in this accident and to manage the highway for the rest of us.

While on this particular occasion it was on a Sunday, so there was no loss of employment and there were no concerns for most of them – obviously, some of them would work on a Sunday, but the vast majority of them would have not had to leave work in order to do that – should that have been any other day of the week, it does present a challenge for those individuals that have to leave work and could potentially have a negative impact on their employment. I was a little disheartened that the committee didn't take the concerns of those rural departments and the ability . . .

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

Hon. members, the time limit for the consideration of this item has concluded.

## 5:00 Motions Other than Government Motions

**The Acting Speaker:** I will now recognize the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

### Active Transportation

508. Mr. Shepherd moved:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to undergo an examination of government of Alberta websites, educational resources, and public information campaign print material to develop new content to encourage active transportation through physical activity

and to ensure that existing communications do not create barriers to engaging in active transportation through physical activity.

**Mr. Shepherd:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is indeed a pleasure to rise in the House today to bring forward Motion 508. Now, the reason I brought this forward is that one of the challenges we face as a very technologically engaged society, where it sort of is part of everything that we do, is that often we don't understand the full impact of adopting a new technology until well after it's become so fully adopted that we can't imagine living without it. By that point it can be incredibly difficult to make changes to counteract what may be some negative effects while hanging on to the positive changes.

One significant and transformative shift in the last century was the introduction of the automobile, bringing cars in. You know, they started out as a novelty, but as prices came down, more and more people started buying them. The number of cars on the streets started to increase, and we had to figure out how we were going to accommodate them in what was at that time a public space. In the 1910s and '20s there was a lot of fierce debate over how we were going to use our city streets because at that time they were a public space. They were full of pedestrians, street vendors, horse-drawn carts, and streetcars, and cars coming into that space changed that dynamic.

By 1925 we had nearly 16,000 people dying annually, mostly children and seniors, after being struck by cars. That's a 16-fold increase over 20 years previous. As we had more cars, we had more incidents of people dying, and we had to figure out how this was going to be addressed. Those accidents at the time were largely viewed as the fault of drivers in vehicles because they were the new piece on the road, and there began to be real advocacy amongst people for limits on vehicles, including putting limits on how fast a vehicle could go, building that right into the cars.

[Mr. Sucha in the chair]

Car companies, of course, got concerned that it could impact their sales. They mounted an intense campaign to change public perception. They implemented school safety classes, that they paid for, to teach children that streets were for cars and they should not play there. They lobbied for new traffic laws, creating the brand new crime of jaywalking, along with a public campaign shaming people who entered to cross a street anywhere but in a crosswalk. They spent money to influence newspaper coverage.

That was a perception that began to take root, so eventually we had that change in public perception. Streets became dedicated to cars, and as our cities grew, we began to design our streets and our communities around them. The result is that a vast majority of people now drive instead of walking, biking, taking transit, or using some other form of active transportation, and the unintended side effect is that as a result we're much less healthy.

We know that chronic conditions and diseases are responsible for about 80 per cent of health care costs, illnesses, and disabilities because of hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and family physician visits. Indeed, we know that the risk of obesity increases by 6 per cent for every hour that an individual spends in a car each day. Indeed, the Canadian physical activity guidelines note that being physically active can in fact help prevent many chronic conditions and diseases such as being overweight and obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, certain types of cancer, and stroke.

Even though we know that is true, we also know that 43 per cent of adults in Alberta are not in fact getting the recommended 150 minutes of physical exercise and activity per week that would

achieve those health benefits. We know that just even the simple act of walking to and from public transit can help an adult achieve 8 to 33 minutes more of physical activity each day. For 11- to 12-year-olds walking to and from school can contribute 22 minutes, or over one-third, of the total recommended daily moderate to vigorous activity to maintain their health.

With health care being the largest line item in the provincial budget and chronic conditions being a significant driver in the growth of those costs, it makes sense to me that the government of Alberta should want to encourage more people to use active transportation when and where they can. But at times, unfortunately, this hasn't always been true. I don't think that's intentional. I think it's more just a case that, understandably, sort of the patterns that we've built as a society, these longer term cultural biases, just happen to lead to these sorts of views appearing in some of the longer standing educational resources and safety campaigns.

A couple of years ago I had some constituents that reached out to me to express concern about an Alberta Health web page on cycling safety that suggested it was dangerous for parents to transport young children by bike because of the danger of falling or being struck by a vehicle. That's despite the fact that new equipment like bike trailers and cargo bikes greatly reduce the injury in a fall and that the growth of protected and separated cycling infrastructure gives many parents safe places to ride.

As Edmonton's downtown continues to be revitalized, with more and more people living and moving through our streets in my constituency, and recognizing that those streets can have a high volume of traffic, I've had constituents reach out to me to express concerns about the traffic safety messaging from Alberta Transportation that they felt suggested that the sole responsibility for safety lies with pedestrians.

As I noted in telling that story initially about how we got to the point where we are and the advent of jaywalking and some of these other things, the public messages we send and the priorities they communicate can have a real impact on how individuals perceive and choose to behave. That can ripple out and have far larger consequences. That's why I've brought this motion forward today to encourage the government of Alberta to conduct a review of all the materials it produces on the question of traffic safety and active transportation to ensure that it aligns with what is clearly a goal for all orders of government, to encourage and enable people to be more active in every aspect of their everyday life.

On that note, I'd like to acknowledge some of the progress we've already made on that front. In both of the instances I mentioned with Alberta Health and Alberta Transportation, I was able to reach out to them to share my concerns. In the case of Alberta Health they immediately removed the incorrect information from their website, and it was shortly replaced with updated and more accurate information. In the case of Alberta Transportation I had the chance to first reach out to and speak with and later have a meeting with some of the leads of the communications team in that department to discuss their pedestrian safety campaigns. We were able to work together to find some adjustments that helped improve some of their messaging.

I'm also aware that Alberta Transportation has been working with local municipalities to create standards and guidelines for active transportation infrastructure such as bike lanes and that Alberta Health Services supports and funds initiatives like the UWalk website, WalkABLE Alberta, and the Alberta Centre for Active Living, which work to help get more people out and get active in getting to work or around in their communities. My motion is intended to build on that good work in partnership with many in the community who are also advocating to make active transportation

a truly safe, accessible, and enjoyable option for Albertans across the province in all communities.

I've had the pleasure of working with my colleague the MLA for Sherwood Park in supporting a coalition of cycling organizations in preparing a report with recommended updates for cycling legislation. This came together after five cyclists were injured while on a group ride in August after being struck by a vehicle on the Sherwood Park freeway. I'd like to thank the Minister of Transportation and his staff for their willingness to hold an open dialogue on that work.

The city of Edmonton also continues to make improvements. They've recently implemented scramble intersections in some high-traffic areas of our city. Scramble intersections provide a light cycle that is only for pedestrians, where pedestrians can cross either on the diagonal or other ways. This reduces interaction between vehicles and pedestrians, making things safer and more efficient for everybody.

When Stantec, a major international engineering firm based here in my constituency, recognized that many of the employees they were recruiting wanted to live downtown and be able to walk and bike to work, they conducted a free study and analysis for a protected bike grid in downtown Edmonton. They presented it to the city of Edmonton, who immediately adopted it and funded it, and it opened last year.

I've also had many good conversations with Greg Christenson of Christenson Developments, a passionate supporter of walkable communities who works to design and build residences for seniors that incorporate infrastructure and are built in areas that allow and encourage them to be able to safely walk and be active as they go about their day.

I've had the chance to work and talk with folks in organizations like Safe Healthy Active People Everywhere, or S.H.A.P.E., Ever Active Schools, and others about their work to help establish programs to support kids to safely walk, bike, and wheel to school. Of course, I've had the opportunity to work with some of my local community leagues and folks like Bike Edmonton, Paths for People, and the Downtown Edmonton and Oliver community leagues, who all continue to raise and advance these conversations around safety and accessibility.

5:10

I'm very pleased to hear about the work that's being done in various ministries across government to promote and support active transportation, and it's my hope that this motion can support that work by ensuring that all government resources and communication support the goal of encouraging and enabling Albertans to find more opportunities to incorporate physical activity as a natural part of their everyday lives and does not discourage them from doing so.

I look forward to the debate here and hearing from some other members, and it's my hope that we will see this motion pass. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker:** Any members wishing to speak to Motion 508? The Member for Sherwood Park.

**Ms McKittrick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One thing I appreciate is that when the MLA for Edmonton-Centre speaks about active transportation, I know that he practices it. I think we all know that this MLA is dedicated to cycling to work. I really admire him because he's so passionate about active transportation and he lives out the talk. I think that as an MLA this is something incredible, and maybe we should all follow his example of doing that.

I really appreciate the motion because we all know the importance of active living. Since I'm an older adult, I have come

to really understand that if you don't start active living and if you don't start walking, cycling, or really rethink your attachment to your car when you are younger, as you get older you won't be able to continue to have an active lifestyle. I can say that this is one of the lessons that I personally have experienced, and I'm so glad that we have this motion that hopefully will incite the government to really start working not only on their websites but also with community to make sure that young people really start to have an active lifestyle earlier.

I don't know about you, but I wear a Fitbit, and if we were able to talk to each other in this Assembly, I'm wondering how many of the MLAs are attached to their Fitbit and make sure that they do their 10,000 steps every day. It's probably easy for us because we go between the Federal Building and the Assembly and we run up and down the stairs, so in a way we're very lucky. But I think that, apart from the Member for Edmonton-Centre and a few of the MLAs that live around the Legislative Assembly, we come here by car. Some of us, unless we are addicted like myself to our Fitbits and go up and down the stairs, probably have no opportunity to walk, and we might regret it in later years.

I've kind of looked at examples of what the government has supported in the past around active living and especially what communities have done around Alberta. The first thing I think today we heard a really perfect example of encouraging the government to be active in active transportation with the discussion that the Minister of Transportation had in response to my colleague from Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville when talking about how the river alliance is going to connect trails to a bridge. Having been on those trails that the river alliance has been working on along the river, I know that there are many hikers, walkers, and cyclists who are going to really use that connecting bridge to possibly make it easier for them to commute into Edmonton from Fort Saskatchewan or Sherwood Park. I think that's a really good example of what the Member for Edmonton-Centre is looking at.

I used to work for a university where if you cycled to work, you had an incentive. You could benefit from discounts and so on. That was a way that that employer used, through their website and through employee programs and so on, to incite the workforce and the students to use a cycle. Maybe the government, as it does the examination of its website, educational resources, and public information campaigns, might also develop some incentives to encourage people.

Then I think of an organization like folk fest. Now, I don't know about the Calgary folk fest, but I'm a huge attender at the Edmonton Folk Fest, where there is encouragement to bike or to walk because there are safe places to put your bike. Maybe through this information campaign the government could work with other organizations to make sure that there's safe parking for bikes and also that they encourage their patrons at other festivals to walk.

Then I'm looking at older adults. As I've said, I'm an older adult. I look to see what's happening with the older adult population. There's a club here in Edmonton. I'm sure there's probably the same one in Calgary. It's called the Rocky Mountain seniors club. What do you think these seniors do? During the spring and summer and fall months these seniors cycle, and they don't just cycle 10 kilometres and so on. They understand the importance of active transportation, and they cycle 40, 50, 100 kilometres. They do it every day. I could see that this website could give information about a club like the Rocky Mountain seniors club. This group cycles during the summer and spring, and then they ski in the winter.

Then I'm thinking about the work that the Member for Edmonton-Centre and I have done with the cycling coalition around safe cycling. One of the things that prevents people from cycling is

that they don't feel safe on the roads. The bike lanes in Edmonton are going to result in a lot more people looking at cycling.

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

Every time I see an adult cyclist on the sidewalk, I know that they're on the sidewalk because they don't feel safe on the road. If you're an experienced cyclist, you know that cycling on the sidewalk is often more dangerous than cycling on the road because nobody knows that you're on the sidewalk. So I'm very, very delighted by efforts of Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge, I think, and other municipalities. They really understand that if they're going to encourage people to cycle or to walk, then they need to make sure that we have the appropriate bike lanes.

When I look at the need, I also think of what's happening in schools. We know that we have built our communities so that it's more and more difficult for children to cycle or to walk to school. We have school of choice, and parents are transporting their children not by the bus. When I was more involved with the elementary school system, when my kids were younger, there was a really interesting program that's called the walking school bus, where parents got together to encourage children to walk to school. They pretended it was like a bus. There was a leader that was the bus driver, but it was a walking person – I can't remember the term – and then children all followed up in a bus. I could see this website helping parents or parent councils develop more walking school buses so that more and more children and parents feel safe to have their child walk to school.

I know that the Member for Edmonton-Centre has looked at the whole issue of safe bike racks for schools, right? If the parents and the children, the students, feel that they can cycle to school and that it's safe and that there's an appropriate bike rack for their bike, then they're more likely to cycle. There's nothing worse for a child than to cycle to school and then go and pick up their bike at the end of the day and find that their bike is gone.

There are all kinds of things that could happen through these enhanced websites and educational resources around looking at what the barriers are to active transportation, be it among the young people, adults commuting to work, or the older adults who really want to remain active. I know there's somebody that I know that's going to be coming later on this week to be introduced. This is an incredible lady. She's in her 70s, and she can do 100 kilometres per day on her bike. The reason that she can do it is because she's maintained an active lifestyle all through the years, and she really didn't just drive around the car without walking or cycling.

5:20

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I really appreciate this motion. It sounds like, at first ring, it's a motion that is status quo. But the more that you kind of look down at some of the existing barriers to active transportation among the various age groups, as you look at municipal planning issues, when you look where the schools are located, when you look at the lack of information, you realize what an important motion it is.

Thank you.

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

Are there any other members wishing to speak?

Seeing none, I'll ask the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre to close debate.

**Mr. Shepherd:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will take it from the lack of debate that there is general support for the motion in the room. I recognize that this is not something that perhaps rises to the level of some of the current issues that we're dealing with in the

province, whether those be some of the fiscal challenges and realities or the current crisis on the oil differential or some of these other things, but as I outlined, I think it is part and parcel of the work that we do as a government.

As I outlined earlier, I think the way that we communicate things, the way that we talk about things does have an influence on the behaviour that people choose. I think we are working now towards trying to adjust some elements of the culture that we've developed around transportation and the way we design our cities and other things in light of recognizing the impacts that have begun because small things ripple out and have larger effects. As I outlined, the kinds of health crises that we're facing, that we're dealing with, the kinds of challenges we're facing in our health care system: many of them are preventable, but it requires a new approach and some adjustments in our lifestyle. Part of how we help people adjust lifestyle is that we adjust how we think about some of the different systems and indeed the impact of design on people's everyday life. I know that many of our municipalities, the city of Edmonton and others, and indeed cities across Canada and around the world are beginning to have these conversations about how we better design our environments to provide people with incentives and natural opportunities to be able to change the way we move around.

Now, to be clear, Madam Speaker, I am not against cars. I own a vehicle. I've owned a vehicle steadily for many, many years. I recognize there are times when I need to drive. Indeed, this is probably the year when I've cycled less than I ever have before for a number of circumstances, some to do with health, some simply to do with my schedule and other issues. But I recognize that driving is a necessity, and it needs to be still supported and incorporated as part of how our cities move. Indeed, the lifestyle that we have depends on being able to move and transport goods and people by vehicle. That's important. But what I am saying is that it's important that we continue to work on what changes we are able to make to help people be able to live a healthier lifestyle by providing the supports and infrastructure that allow them and, in fact, incent them to use active transportation.

The city of Edmonton has been doing some great work on this. They've signed on to the Vision Zero campaign, which is a campaign that's working towards zero fatalities from collisions between vehicles and pedestrians or cyclists. The Vision Zero campaign works not by shaming anybody involved in that, whether that be drivers or pedestrians or cyclists, but on improving design. They've found many tried-and-true methods simply by changing how an intersection is structured or signed or how paint is laid on the road. It changes how people perceive, how drivers behave, and

indeed how pedestrians, cyclists, and other people that are engaging on the roadways act. These provide natural nudges, as it were, kind of like they do with advertising and other psychological nudges, that just create a safer environment and make it easier for everyone. I think that's incredibly important.

As my colleague the hon. Member for Sherwood Park noted, seniors, young people, that traditionally used to be much more active in the community, used to play in the streets, used to ride their bikes around the community – seniors want to be able to do that still. I have a number of seniors' residences downtown, and I often hear from them about their concerns about crossing busy roadways or changes in infrastructure that make it more difficult for them to get around and how that limits them. Then they end up having to stay at home more. They're not able to get around. That lowers their opportunities for social interaction and leads to degradations in their mental and indeed their physical health.

These are very important steps to take, and what this motion is about is simply recognizing that we ought to continue to update how we talk about this as a government, as one of the leading bodies that is working with health care providers, that is working with sports and recreation groups, that is working with the population, that we want to show leadership in using messaging that doesn't discourage people, that doesn't create further shame but instead helps advance that conversation for cyclists, for drivers, for pedestrians.

I really appreciate that groups like the AMA, the Alberta Motor Association, have been very active on this front. They've been working with the cycling coalition that the Member for Sherwood Park spoke about, that we've been working with. They've been showing real leadership in wanting to advance that conversation, improve our messaging, our education, and help move this forward as well. I really want to recognize all the folks that have been doing this work in the community.

Thank you, everyone, for this motion.

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

[Motion Other than Government Motion 508 carried]

**The Acting Speaker:** The hon. Member for Banff-Cochrane.

**Mr. Westhead:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Seeing the time and the progress we've made, knowing that we've got an evening ahead of us tonight, I would propose that we call it 6 o'clock and adjourn until 7:30 this evening.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 5:27 p.m.]

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For inquiries contact:

Managing Editor

*Alberta Hansard*

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875