



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, December 6, 2018

Day 60

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 29th Legislature

Fourth Session

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

Aheer, Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Rocky View (UCP),
Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition
Anderson, Hon. Shaye, Leduc-Beaumont (NDP)
Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (UCP)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (NDP)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)
Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne (NDP)
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (NDP)
Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (NDP)
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP),
Alberta Party Opposition House Leader
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawwood (NDP)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (NDP)
Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP)
Cortes-Vargas, Estefania, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (NDP),
Government Whip
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake (UCP)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (NDP)
Dreeshen, Devin, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UCP)
Drever, Deborah, Calgary-Bow (NDP)
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UCP)
Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (NDP)
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (UCP)
Feehan, Hon. Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP),
Deputy Government House Leader
Fildebrandt, Derek Gerhard, Strathmore-Brooks (FCP)
Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (NDP)
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (AP)
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., Calgary-Buffalo (NDP),
Deputy Government House Leader
Gill, Prab, Calgary-Greenway (Ind)
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)
Goodridge, Laila, Fort McMurray-Conklin (UCP)
Gottfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)
Gray, Hon. Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)
Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (UCP)
Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (NDP)
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)
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Panda, Prasad, Calgary-Foothills (UCP)
Payne, Brandy, Calgary-Acadia (NDP)
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Piquette, Colin, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater (NDP)
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Official Opposition Deputy House Leader
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)
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Sabir, Hon. Irfan, Calgary-McCall (NDP)
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Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (NDP)
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Sigurdson, Hon. Lori, Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)
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Starke, Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC)
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (UCP)
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)
Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (NDP)
Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)
Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (UCP)
Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)
van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (UCP)
Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (NDP),
Deputy Government Whip
Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (NDP)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)

Party standings:

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

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 6, 2018

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Hon. members, let each of us reflect or pray, each in our own way. On this National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women let us remember the 14 women who were killed on this day 29 years ago at l'école Polytechnique in Montreal, Quebec. Today we remember Geneviève Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne-Marie Edward, Maud Haviernick, Barbara Klucznik, Maryse Laganière, Maryse LeClair, Anne-Marie Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michèle Richard, Annie St-Arneault, and Annie Turcotte. Hon. members, these were the loved ones, the women, the daughters, the wives, the mothers. We must not forget that our work in this place must make sure that everyone in our province is safe and never at risk.

Please be seated.

Introduction of Visitors

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly a number of distinguished indigenous leaders in the province of Alberta seated in your gallery. I ask that the chiefs rise as I call their names: Treaty 8 Grand Chief Arthur Noskey from Loon River First Nation, Treaty 8 Deputy Grand Chief Gerald Giroux from Swan River First Nation, Treaty 8 Secretary Treasurer Chief Ramona Horseman from Horse Lake First Nation, Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Grand Chief Albert Thunder from Whitefish Lake First Nation, and Chief Rupert Meneen from Tallcree First Nation.

These chiefs work hard in their communities every day to make life better for all their people. They have come here today to remind us of all of their constitutional rights to be consulted before actions are taken that might impact their treaty rights. They're also here to show their willingness to work with Albertans on a new relationship, one built on trust, respect, and understanding. This can only be achieved if rights are respected and efforts are made by every Albertan to build positive relationships. If we could all offer them the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: Hon. members, there are staff from constituency offices who will be attending in the galleries later this afternoon. I would anticipate that there will be a request for unanimous consent to continue introductions following OQP.

We do have some school groups here today. The hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Dr. Starke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my very great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly 27 students and their teachers, Rolanda Beaudette and Ted Wheat, from St. Jerome's school in Vermilion. St. Jerome's has marked a couple of milestones in the last few years, its 50th anniversary just a few years ago and the completion of a major renovation and

refurbishing that was started under our administration but completed under the current Education minister's administration; therefore, he claims credit. Nonetheless, I'm very pleased to invite these 27 students and their teachers to rise and receive the very warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you today to members of this Assembly the parents, the teachers, the staff, and the grade 6 class of H.W. Pickup school. I'm beginning to sound like a bit of a broken record, I think, but once again with this class today I have colleagues that I have taught with, I have students that I have taught, and I have the kids of students that I have taught. The only thing that I don't have and that I have had at times is the grandchildren of students that I have taught. Could the staff, the parents, and the students of the grade 6 class at H.W. Pickup please stand and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

I'm surprised that at your age, hon. member, you haven't taught some grandchildren.

Ms McKittrick: M. le Président, c'est avec fierté que je me lève à la Chambre aujourd'hui pour vous présenter 66 étudiants et étudiantes avec leurs enseignants de l'école Our Lady of Perpetual Help school. Ces étudiants parlent très bon français, et je suis fière d'eux. These students speak really good French, and maybe one day you'll speak French in this Assembly. Les étudiants sont accompagnés de leurs enseignantes, Mme Miller, Mme Taylor, et Mme Brown, ainsi que de leurs chaperons, Mme Klinck, Mme Houle, M. Hall, Mme Ramsay, et Mme Bonsant. Est-ce que vous pouvez vous lever, s'il vous plaît, pour recevoir la bienvenue chaleureuse de l'Assemblée.

The Speaker: Au revoir.

The hon. Member for Peace River.

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on your behalf to introduce to all members of the Assembly members of your family who are seated in your gallery. First of all, your eldest daughter, Shauna Wanner Crowley, who is a stay-at-home mom, one who challenges all the nieces and nephews in the French language as she's the only family member who is completely bilingual. With her is Vincent Crowley, her husband, who is Canadian Fertilizers' chief steam engineer in Medicine Hat; Ella Crowley, who is in grade 9 and enjoys playing the horn and the piano and is an avid volleyball player; and Maiah Crowley, your oldest grandchild and the person who said that her grandfather needed to run as an MLA in 2015. Maiah graduated grade 12 last year and is still deciding what the next chapter in her life will be. Missing is Cian Crowley, who is in grade 12 and felt his studies came first. They're also accompanied by your wife, Joan Emard-Wanner, and grandson Josh Bjorndahl. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome. It's nice to have you here.

The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly someone who you need no introduction to, Megan Ducker. She is the Office of the Speaker's special assistant to you and has proven herself as a

dedicated worker day to day in your office. I know that many of you already have a similar appreciation for Megan's work, so I'd ask everyone in the Assembly to give her the traditional warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome, Megan, and thank you.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow.

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is an absolute honour to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly someone who makes sure that I know where I'm going, that I know when to be there, and that I know what to say when I get there. It is not easy, I can assure you. I know all of you have such tremendous respect for your constituency managers. Jodi Christensen is here today. Jodi is joined by Barb Currie. Barb Currie is the heart and soul of the Alberta Party caucus research staff, Alberta Party caucus employee number one. Barb has a long, long history here at the Assembly and has done a tremendous amount of work on behalf of many members and helps make this place go. If I could please ask Jodi and Barb to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

1:40

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you and through you members of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board. We talk a lot about the importance of collaboration and co-operation for the success of our municipalities. These folks are walking the walk. They're an amazing group of people who are working hard with that positive change in their communities and setting a fine example.

Members of the board are seated in the members' gallery, and I ask that they rise as I call out their names: board chair Dr. Jodi Abbott, board CEO Ms Karen Wichuk, Mayor William Choy from the town of Stony Plain, Mayor Rod Frank from Strathcona county, Mayor Alanna Hnatiw from Sturgeon county, Mayor Cathy Heron from the city of St. Albert, Mayor Ray Ralph from the town of Devon, Mayor Rod Shaigec from Parkland county, Mayor John Stewart from the town of Beaumont, Mayor Barry Turner from the town of Morinville, and Mayor Bob Young from the city of Leduc. I ask that all members join me in providing them with the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

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

Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you some very special guests who are working hard every day serving the needs of children and families who need those supports the most. From the beautiful constituency of Lesser Slave Lake I'm pleased to recognize the compassion and dedication of Angela Mulholland, who is a registered nurse and mental health worker who helps support the needs of patients and families through her work at the family care clinic. She's also a mother of five, two of whom are adopted, and I've seen first-hand just how passionate she is about work and family as she's a former co-worker of mine, and I'm proud to call her a friend.

I'm also pleased to be joined by Terri Skinner. Through her work as a home visitation co-ordinator at the Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre in Edmonton, Terri is making a difference to the well-being of the many families who are supported by the centre every year. About 3,000 families benefit, many of whom are in

extremely difficult circumstances. I was so glad to see the tremendous impact of the centre when I visited there.

I invite Terri Skinner and Angela Mulholland to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to introduce Rose Seerey and Richard Kennedy, who are amazing volunteers who are always willing to lend a helping hand. They both help out in my office regularly and at community events, and when community leagues call to say that they need help with casinos, they're the first two to help volunteer, and we really appreciate it. I'm proud to have Richard, Rose, and Heather, who's my constituency manager, here today. They're all residents of Edmonton-Glenora. Please join me in giving them the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three sets of introductions. It's my pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you members of the Association of Islamic Charitable Projects Calgary. This group has been supporting Muslim Albertans since 2012. The AICP provides a space for the Muslim community in Calgary to get together for congregation and prayers and a forum to address issues facing the community. I want to thank this group for their commitment and service to the people of Alberta, and I now ask my guests – Maher Habbas, Shaykh Nasser Ghanem, and Shaykh Walid Badwaki – to stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Sabir: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to also introduce to you and through you Balwinder Kahlon, Rajesh Angral, Manjit Singh Piasa, Chand Singh Sadioura. These guests are here from Calgary and are part of an organization called the Drug Awareness Foundation. They work tirelessly to build healthy communities and prevent alcohol- and drug-related problems in society. Every year they hold multiple blood drives to build awareness and bring the community together for a good cause. They're also friends with the Member for Calgary-Greenway. I would like to thank them for their work and ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Continue.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to introduce to you and through you Ms Renée Vaugeois. Renée has worked to advance and promote human rights through education, dialogue, and community building in Edmonton and abroad for the past 15 years. I wish to congratulate Renée on her recent win of the Ram Krishna Bajaj memorial global award and thank her for all the work she has done to make our communities, make our province a better place. I ask Renée to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

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

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise today, and I'd just like to take a very brief moment to thank all of

our Legislature security, who do such a wonderful job of keeping us safe and greeting the public. But for my introduction I'd just like to focus on one particular security guard who does a wonderful job, Garet Bonn. Thank you for everything you do. I also understand that your \$20 payment to the Legislature security social fund is currently due.

The Speaker: For a moment there I wondered where that political contribution was going.

Are there any other introductions today, hon. members? The Member for Sherwood Park.

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Dana Francis, who is a constituent of Leduc-Beaumont. Ms Francis has been instrumental in spearheading a petition asking for an amendment to the Cemeteries Act to allow for emerging technologies to be used in place of conventional cremation methods. I would like to thank her for her hard work and enthusiasm. I will table the petition later today. Dana, I ask you to please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Any other introductions?

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly someone who did not want to be introduced here but someone who plays a very integral role in helping myself and another MLA in our caucus to do what we do. I'd like to have Shannon Hamelin please stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, I believe there will be an introduction for constituency assistants later today.

Ministerial Statements

The Speaker: The Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Treaty 8 Recognition

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise today. I'd first like to acknowledge that we're here on Treaty 6 territory. I rise today on something very important, and it's a rare honour for me. I rise to recognize and acknowledge Treaty 8 Grand Chief Arthur Noskey, Deputy Grand Chief Gerald Giroux, Secretary-Treasurer Chief Ramona Horseman, and KTC Grand Chief Albert Thunder, Chief Billy Joe Laboucan from the Lubicon Cree Nation, and Chief Rupert Meneen from Tallcree First Nation. In particular, I want to formally congratulate Grand Chief Arthur Noskey from Loon River Cree, who this summer was appointed as the very first full-time grand chief in Treaty 8's history.

I want to update the House on this historic relationship. In addition, marking a first for me, I've been asked to read a statement from Grand Chief Noskey to all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. His letter:

Treaty No. 8 was agreed to in 1899 between the Dene, Beaver and Cree Peoples and the Crown, Queen Victoria. This Treaty agreement ensured that our ways of life would continue as if we never entered Treaty. Our way of life included Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Gathering.

Recently it has been suggested that Alberta should sell crown lands in order to help deal with our deficit. In 2005, the Supreme Court in *Mikisew* ruled that there is a Duty to Consult First Nations. *Mikisew* Cree First Nation is a Treaty 8 First

Nation and all Albertans should understand and respect our Treaty and the relationship with the Crown before making such statements.

We are challenging the Province's assumption of crown lands. The Treaty people have always had a different position on this. These lands have always been our treasury, our food source, and our pharmacy since time immemorial. When it comes to what is considered Crown land, it is critical that any Government understands Treaty. When government looks ahead, does it plan for the next 7 generations as our First Nations do? Or does it see an environment occupied with nothing but Industrial Development? We worry that some people may intend to undermine Treaty by dealing on things that affect Treaty without consulting First Nations.

I acknowledge that the Province of Alberta is finally recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and I extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of Alberta for its leadership and commitment towards its implementation. An important part of that Declaration is Article 19 that refers to "Free, prior and informed consent."

Good work has been accomplished by this government especially the resolving the land claim of the Lubicon Lake Band. To complete an 85-year process in their short time in office is an accomplishment to be commended. However, there is a current outstanding land claim settlement with the Beaver First Nation in the Peace Country that must be addressed as a priority by government.

The Treaty 8 First Nations in Alberta are not opposed to economic development, pipelines or beneficial opportunities within the oil and gas sector. We are always open to dialogue regarding sustainable resource development that ensures the protection of our Treaty and Inherent Rights and our way of life.

Grand Chief Arthur Noskey.

1:50

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to have been able to do that on behalf of the grand chief and all the assembled chiefs. Indeed on this side we respect indigenous consultation. We don't take the word lightly. We know what meaning it carries and how past governments failed to give it proper attention or its deserved respect. In my role, which is unique, I think, with respect to my colleagues, I have the honour of speaking with and listening to indigenous leaders and their peoples each and every day. It's meant some amazing conversations and led to some groundbreaking accomplishments. Sometimes it's things that have been in the works for many years, like the Lubicon Cree land agreement, a historic conclusion to a long-standing concern; sometimes it's recognizing the hurt and the suffering that has happened over the generations and apologizing for our past, like we did with the residential schools and the '60s scoop; and sometimes it's exploring new opportunities for collaboration, that for too long went unheard, like supporting indigenous participation in Alberta's energy market, co-operative management agreements for new parks, new housing and health initiatives, or finally bringing clean water to people on reserves, all of which we have done.

Then there's the work that continues, the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and murdered and missing indigenous women. Government is not perfect. We are not perfect. Trust takes time. It takes effort and commitment. All members need to understand that consultation is not just required; it is crucial.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I am very concerned that in this whole session the opposition has not asked one single question of the Minister of Indigenous Relations regarding any issue for First Nations people. Your silence is deafening. That's why I thought the grand chief should be able to share his words. Consultation is not

an open-and-closed book. It's not something to get bogged down by. It's not something to throw your hands into the air and say: enough is enough. It's work. It's trust. It's healing. It's listening. It's moving forward together.

It's important to me, it's important to the chiefs, and it's important to all indigenous peoples, and indeed it should be important to all Albertans. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to stand and respond. On behalf of the United Conservative caucus I would also like to welcome and recognize our guests here today from the Treaty 8 First Nations. Our caucus recognizes and respects the importance of engagement, consultation, and continued relationship building with the indigenous peoples of Alberta. We are pleased that Treaty 8 Grand Chief Arthur Noskey, Deputy Grand Chief Gerald Giroux, Secretary-Treasurer Chief Ramona Horseman, KTC Grand Chief Albert Thunder, Chief Billy Joe Laboucan of the Lubicon Cree, and Chief Rupert Meneen of Tallcree First Nation could join members in the Legislature today.

I would also want to offer the most sincere congratulations of our caucus to Grand Chief Noskey on his historic appointment. I thank you very much for the invitation. I much enjoyed the swearing-in ceremony that I attended this fall.

We look forward to working collaboratively on many issues that affect the Treaty 8 peoples, Alberta's wider indigenous community, and all Albertans. We know the importance of the relationship between the elected representatives of Alberta, Albertans, and the many diverse indigenous communities in the province.

We also know that, like people all over Alberta, recent years have been very hard on Alberta's indigenous communities. We know that the economic circumstances that we find ourselves in impact indigenous people every day. United Conservative MLAs hear from their indigenous constituents, and we hear their concerns about rural crime, unemployment, and fleeting economic opportunity that makes it harder to provide full and prosperous lives for their families.

What we can tell these indigenous families is that our caucus will continue to work tirelessly to expand prosperity and opportunity for indigenous Albertans and our entire province. We are here to listen, we are here to engage, and we are here to work with you towards a better future for Alberta's Treaty 8 people.

Again, congratulations and welcome to our Legislative Assembly. Hay-hay, masi chok.

Mr. Mason: I would like to ask for unanimous consent of the House to allow a representative of the third party to respond to the ministerial statement.

[Unanimous consent granted]

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

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Treaty 6 First Nations and Métis Nation zone 4. Thank you to Grand Chief Arthur Noskey, Deputy Grand Chief Gerald Giroux, Secretary-Treasurer Chief Ramona Horseman, KTC Grand Chief Albert Thunder, Chief Billy Joe Laboucan from the Lubicon Cree band, and Chief Rupert Meneen from Tallcree First Nation. And thank you to the Minister of Indigenous Relations for sharing these words here today. They are so important for us to hear.

Our caucus wants to be very clear. Reconciliation is the responsibility of each and every Albertan. We are all treaty people, and we must work to ensure that the nation-to-nation dialogue with indigenous peoples is a partnership and that our conversations are respectful and fulsome. We stand with every member of this House in working toward reconciliation in recognition of treaty rights. We recognize that reconciliation isn't possible without acknowledging the truth of our shared past and acknowledging the historic wrongs that were visited upon indigenous peoples. Recognizing and implementing the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples is the minimum that all treaty people should expect of any provincial, territorial, or federal government, and that includes consulting with First Nations before making any announcements about plans for disputed lands.

Indigenous brothers and sisters, thank you. We are grateful that you allow us to walk the path with you.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order.

Oral Question Period

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

Unemployment

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, in May of this year 6.2 per cent of Albertans were unemployed. In October 7.3 per cent were unemployed: six straight months of growing unemployment. Will the government acknowledge that this is the result of the failure of high-debt, high-tax NDP economic policies?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and to any Albertan who is feeling the impacts still lingering from the economic downturn, we absolutely are working hard for them. We're fighting for them to make sure that we have an economic recovery that's built to last and that impacts every single Alberta family. Since the depths of the recession we have more than 100,000 new full-time jobs in the province of Alberta. That's certainly a step in the right direction, but we know it doesn't go far enough. What would make it absolutely worse, though, is to fire 4,000 teachers and 4,000 nurses to give a \$700 million tax giveaway to the top 1 per cent.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, when the NDP came to office three and a half years ago, 139,000 Albertans were unemployed; now 184,000 Albertans are unemployed, a growth of 45,000 Albertans looking for work. Will the government acknowledge that this is the result of the failure of high-tax, high-debt economic policies of the NDP?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, once again I'll say that for anybody who doesn't yet feel the full impacts of the economic recovery, we're fighting for those families every single day and for all families. Since the depths of the recession we've added more than 100,000 new full-time jobs. We know that the recovery hasn't been felt by every family yet, and that's why we can't take our foot off the momentum that we're building in this province. What would absolutely do that and move the depths of the recession back to where they were is to lay off thousands of public-sector workers, including 4,000 teachers and 4,000 nurses. That certainly would be the wrong direction, and we won't follow the Leader of the Official Opposition's advice on that one.

2:00

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, when the NDP came to office three and a half years ago, 62 per cent of young Albertans were employed. That's down to 56 per cent, a huge decrease in youth employment. Sixty thousand women were unemployed when the NDP came to office, and now 76,000 Alberta women are unemployed. Will the government acknowledge that this is the result of the failure of high-tax, high-debt NDP economic policy?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, certainly, for anyone who is feeling the impacts of the downturn in the economy, we certainly are working to make sure that that isn't lasting and to make sure that they have opportunities for full employment. The opposition leader recently quoted Professor Tombe. I will paraphrase what he said when he pointed out that the rate of unemployed Albertans continues to decline. The rise in employment, he said, is due largely to workers coming from places like Saskatchewan, where policies like the member opposite has proposed have failed.

The Speaker: Second main question.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, when the NDP came to office three and a half years ago, unemployment in Calgary was 5.8 per cent. Now in Calgary it is 8.2 per cent, the highest unemployment of any major city in Canada. Will the government acknowledge that this is the result of the failure of high-tax, high-debt NDP economic policy?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, we're certainly fighting for the people of Calgary every day, fighting to make sure we get access to tidewater, something that the member opposite said wasn't his responsibility when he was in Ottawa for a decade around the cabinet table and a decade before that when he was supposed to be representing the people of Calgary. This side of the House will absolutely fight for the people of Calgary and for all Albertans. Again, Dr. Tombe said that people are moving here from Saskatchewan because of the kinds of impacts of policies that the hon. member is proposing. We're not going to act on that. We're going to fight for ordinary families and make sure that we have an economy built to last.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, when the NDP came to office three and a half years ago, 7.8 per cent of Albertans were unemployed for a year or longer. That's now 15.6 per cent. We have seen a doubling of the number of Albertans unemployed for a year or longer during the three-and-a-half-year tenure of the NDP. Will the government acknowledge that this disaster is a result of high-tax, high-debt NDP economic policies?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, we're fighting every day for ordinary Albertans to make sure they get the things that matter to them like a pipeline to tidewater, that the member opposite said, quote: wasn't my job when I was in Ottawa to fight for that pipeline. It couldn't be further from the truth. Three and a half years ago when we came into government, the city of Calgary had been screaming for a Calgary cancer centre for decades, and they were given the runaround by Conservatives year after year after year. You know what? We've invested in Calgary. We're building that cancer centre. We're putting people to work. There are four cranes on-site today. We're going to make sure that we have an economic recovery that helps people in health care, that helps people in construction, and get that pipeline built.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, since the NDP came to office three and a half years ago, the per capita gross domestic product of Alberta

has declined by 7 per cent. That means the average Albertan is 7 per cent poorer since the NDP came to office. Monthly payrolls have declined from \$12.7 billion when they came to office to \$11.8 billion today, a billion dollars less in income for Albertans. Will the government acknowledge that Albertans are poorer today because of the failure of high-tax, high-debt NDP policies?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, we're fighting every day for every Albertan. That side of the House wants to fight for a \$700 million tax giveaway to their wealthy friends and insiders. On this side of the House we are investing in ordinary folks. We're making sure that we're building things that matter to people in the province of Alberta. In Saskatchewan, where the member likes to spend time and say his great mentor, Mr. Moe, to the east, they brought in a tax on construction, a tax that certainly impacted ordinary folks working on the front lines. On this side of the House we're building, we're investing, we're freezing tuition to make life more affordable. Austerity provinces like the Official Opposition wants to model . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Deputy Premier.
Third main question.

Provincial Fiscal Policies

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, when the NDP came to office three and a half years ago, Alberta's debt after 110 years of history stood at \$13 billion. It now stands at \$56 billion, climbing towards a hundred billion dollars. We are spending more on debt interest to bondholders than we are on services for 19 of the 22 Alberta government departments. Will the government acknowledge that this fiscal catastrophe is the result of high-debt, high-tax NDP fiscal policies?

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, it's difficult to take advice from the hon. member given his record. When he was in government in Ottawa, there were six straight deficit budgets. There was a \$56 billion deficit in just one year, and they added \$145 billion to the national debt. Will the opposition leader stand up and justify that now?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, since the NDP came to office three and a half years ago, food bank use is up, crime is up, poverty is up, bankruptcies are up, unemployment is up, debt is up, taxes are up, but incomes are down. Will the government acknowledge that this disastrous record is the result of high-tax, high-debt NDP economic policy?

Mr. Mason: Well, Mr. Speaker, you know, it's interesting. The previous government was here for 44 years, and they failed to diversify the economy, remaining dependent on a very volatile natural resource for 30 per cent of Alberta's program spending. Everyone knows that the price of oil goes up and down except, apparently, Conservatives.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, given the total failure of the NDP and given their overseeing and provoking economic decline in this province, will the government commit not to come back to this place in the spring with a lame-duck, high-tax, high-debt budget but to allow the people of Alberta to pass judgment on this government's record at the earliest possible date by calling an election on February 1, 2019?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There certainly is a law in place around an election period. We know that Conservatives in Alberta never followed the law when it comes to calling elections, but this side of the House plans on doing so. You know what we also plan on doing? Things that the Leader of the Official Opposition said weren't his job, fighting for pipelines. House of Commons for 20 years and said the word "pipelines" once because it, quote: wasn't my responsibility. You know what, hon. member? You couldn't be further from the truth. The reality is that it was your responsibility. You failed, and we look forward to making sure we get the job done.

Mrs. Pitt: Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order noted.

Ms Hoffman: That's why our Premier is in Montreal fighting for pipelines at this very moment.

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

Medical Laboratory Service Costs

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NDP has failed to focus our health care system on its core business, and that is delivering patient care. First, it was bringing laundry services in-house at great expense. Then they decided to take over the efficient and professional outsourced lab services. The cost of building Edmonton's superlab has doubled, and now we're learning the impact that moving lab services in-house will have on Alberta's bottom line. Through a document leaked today to the Alberta Party caucus, we discovered that management positions inside AHS will expand significantly when labs are brought back in-house. Not surprising. To the Minister of Health: why are you increasing administration at a time when Albertans are demanding that we save?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the member opposite sits in close proximity to the Official Opposition, so sometimes he might hear their accusations louder than reality. Well, let me give the reality. The reality is that we stopped the privatization of lab services to a multinational corporation. We stopped the privatization of laundry services, which are in communities throughout all of our ridings, hon. members, ridings in your communities that you represent, hospitals in your communities, good jobs in your local communities that were going to be privatized under the Conservatives. We stopped that. We kept jobs in your ridings. We're proud to do so and to work for all Albertans because that's our job.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, the new org chart for the megalab is called towards a brave new world, which seems like a fitting title given that the original book is a cautionary tale of what happens when government is in control of absolutely everything. The org chart lists 6,218 positions. To the Minister of Health: how many positions exist in labs today, and how many brand new positions will be created by moving the lab into AHS?

Ms Hoffman: Just to go on a trip down memory lane, lab services, we know, impact 70 per cent of health care decisions. Making sure we get lab results right drives good decision-making for health

outcomes for patients and, of course, for the bottom line by reducing duplication. Mr. Speaker, Ralph Klein didn't like the results of privatizing the Calgary lab services. He looked at what the reality was, and he brought those services back into a public system. Ralph Klein knew that there were too many things at risk to have patient care entrusted to a multinational private corporation. I am happy to follow that one example that he gave us.

2:10

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Clark: Truly through the looking glass, Mr. Speaker, when the NDP is praising Ralph Klein.

In addition to that ballooning head count, though, Mr. Speaker, I'm really interested in what this is going to cost Alberta taxpayers. The current model undeniably works, and it won't be improved by adding thousands of managers to an already top-heavy Alberta Health Services. Once again the NDP has set out to solve a problem that we don't have. Again to the Minister of Health: how much do we currently spend on lab services, and how much more will your new model cost to deliver the same service or possibly worse?

Ms Hoffman: If the member thinks there isn't room for improvement in terms of health care, I absolutely think there's room for improvement. I think there are opportunities for even greater outcomes. Mr. Speaker, when I met with the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster just yesterday, we talked about things like people not being able to have their lab results when they move from one part of the province to another part of the province. That certainly is inefficient, and it's not in the best interest of patients. That's why having one lab system that will be able to ensure that those results follow patients throughout the province is something that I'm incredibly proud of. It will be more efficient and lead to better health outcomes. It's a win-win-win.

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

ESL and Literacy Programs for Immigrants

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my questions through you to the Minister of Labour. A very large number of newcomers whose first language is not English live in my riding of Edmonton-McClung. Many seek English as a second language training classes that are easily accessible and meet their needs. How do we help immigrants and refugees find available ESL programming so that they can get gainful employment sooner rather than later?

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

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our government has the backs of newcomers, and we're fighting for what matters to them. That includes making sure they have access to the services and supports that they need. That's why not only are we supporting community organizations and delivering settlement, language, and integration programs but we also recently expanded our training programs to ensure families have even more opportunities for training and skills development. Through our training-for-work programming newcomers can access training to link their education and experience to the Canadian labour market.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again to the same minister: can ESL programs adapt to offer part-time, targeted literacy classes?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and for the important question. Ensuring that newcomers get the language training they need is a priority for our government. We currently support a number of literacy programs through Advanced Education, including ESL and foundational learning options, and the Alberta settlement and integration program provides funding to language support services such as English language assessment services, ESL drop-in centres as well as funding innovative projects that support and enhance the ESL system as a whole. We also know that some newcomers face barriers to learning English in regularly scheduled ESL classes, so ESL drop-in centres are available.

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

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the province offer funding for programing for industry-specific language development; for example, level 1 child care or hotel hospitality services?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We believe strongly that no matter where someone is from or what their background is, everyone deserves the same opportunities for success and employment. That's why we fund organizations that help immigrants and refugees gain the language and skills needed for certain industries such as hospitality and child care. Programs like the Multicultural Health Brokers' first steps to employment are already providing language, cultural supports, and training to help refugees and immigrants get and keep jobs in the hospitality industry. We know that programs are making a positive impact in the lives of many newcomers. We're going to keep fighting to ensure that they get the support they need.

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

Political Action Committees

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a chance that this might be my last question in this Assembly, so please bear with me. In 2015 the Premier passed laws that were supposed to take big money out of politics, but instead they introduced U.S.-style PACs that have made our politics uglier and increased the power of party leaders. Now the party leaders can use PAC money to do dirty politics and shrug their shoulders and pretend to be innocent. Is the Premier aware of reports that PACs are being directly run by Alberta political parties to hide money and get around the law?

Ms Hoffman: No, Mr. Speaker, and certainly if the hon. member has any evidence or information that he'd like to bring forward, I would certainly be very concerned if that were the case. I appreciate him raising this. If he has any information that could bring light to this, I think it is deeply troubling.

The Speaker: The hon. member. First supplemental.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Party leaders and the PACs they control now call the shots, and that is not good. Given that there are rumours that the party leaders have used envelopes full of undisclosed PAC cash to interfere with the leadership contest in parties like the UCP and given that instead of clean politics we have gotten more dirty tricks than ever before, has the government asked the Election Commissioner to investigate whether PACs were involved in illegal activities in the UCP leadership race?

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud of the race that we had. We had three fantastic leadership candidates, who ran very fair and reasonable campaigns, and I'm very proud of the kind of democracy we've built through a leadership campaign in our party rather than what it sounds like the hon. member is referring to. Certainly, any time people are making negative kinds of promises based on underhanded concerns, that's very concerning to me. I certainly would welcome the hon. member to raise his concerns with the Ethics Commissioner or an elections officer.

Mr. Gill: Mr. Speaker, given that it appears that there were more than \$40,000 in very suspicious donations made to a UCP leadership candidate who attacked Brian Jean in the UCP leadership race and who ultimately endorsed the Leader of the Opposition and given that there are rumours that this money actually came from a PAC associated with the Leader of the Opposition, can the government confirm that the Election Commissioner is investigating this PAC and these questionable donations?

Ms Hoffman: I can't, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, the Election Commissioner reports to all members of this Assembly, but if the hon. member has information about that that he is hoping to highlight, I imagine it would be best to go to the Election Commissioner. We know that some people like to say, you know, that things that are alleged fraud belong with internal party mechanisms. I think that alleged fraud belongs with the police, and if there are concerns about alleged fraud in political activities, then it should be brought to the police. I think that if the hon. member has concerns about elections, then he should certainly bring those as well to the election officer.

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

Support for Students with Special Needs

Ms Luff: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Too often I hear from parents and teachers that children with special needs are not getting the supports that they require in Alberta public schools. I regularly meet with parents who tell me that they struggle to get their child properly tested. This happens because schools have a limited number of psychological assessments they can offer a year, and these usually go to the students with the most severe behaviours. This can mean that students with less overt needs, who could be helped by early intervention, fall through the cracks. Imagine being the parent of a struggling child who can't afford the thousands of dollars it costs for private assessment. To the Minister of Education: why is there a limit on psychological assessments for students who need them?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks very much for the question from the hon. member. Certainly, we know that assessing students' special needs is very important. We have built a structure that allows us to bring in special-needs assessment when it is required and when it is asked for by teachers and from schools. In this last year, for example, we have invested more than \$66 million in the regional collaborative service delivery program, which has allowed us to hire more speech pathologists, social workers, nurses, and other front-line staff. Certainly, there's more work to be done, but we're heading in the right direction.

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

Ms Luff: Thank you. Given that there are numerous early learning screening tools available and given that universally applying these tools could find children who need intervention sooner and at lower cost than traditional testing and given that when children have access to early intervention, they have better outcomes, why are we not applying this kind of screening province-wide?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we know that by assessing and using screening procedures, we can help to identify issues that require extra attention. I have been working to strengthen those every step of the way, and our entire caucus and government have been working to strengthen that by making the necessary investments in education. You have to put in money and time and effort in order for these things to happen. You certainly can't do it by cutting.

Ms Luff: Given that there are many things that schools need, from playgrounds, furniture, computers, and instruments to education assistants, nurses, and counsellors, and given that many schools have to fund raise for things that should be considered essential and given that this can cause major inequities between schools across Alberta and that every student deserves the same quality of education despite their postal code or their parents' income, will the minister commit to reviewing the per-student funding model and also commit to defunding elite private schools?

2:20

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, there's a lot in that particular question. We know that, say, for example, playgrounds are a very important part. That's why our government, for all new school programs, is building a new playground as well. It goes with that. That allows us more money to make investments for other communities, building new programming so that we can reach into places where they're having difficulty raising that money. We do all of these things because we believe in education. We believe in investing in education. You can't make cuts and compromise the future of our students.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

NDP and Pipeline Development

Mr. Loewen: We hear the same messages from the government day after day. They keep telling us they are great supporters of our oil and gas industry. They keep telling us that they want to get pipelines built. The fact is that they can repeat these lines over and over again, but it doesn't make them true, and it won't change their record of opposition to critical pipeline projects. It won't change the fact that their ministers used to show up to protest our prosperity. It won't change the fact that a minister's name appears as a contributor to a book designed to impede our economic progress. What might be a good first step forward is an apology for this policy. Will the minister of environment start with an apology for protesting Northern Gateway and for her other . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.
The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, from day one our government has fought for what's important, and that's our energy industry and the good jobs it brings to Albertans and indeed

the country. We have worked hard, as all members know, on pipelines and diversifying our energy here in Alberta because we know that that's a long-term solution for our industry. In the meantime we're fighting very hard to get more railcars to get the excess supply that we have out. Just this week we announced a curtailment, which will be a short-term solution to that.

Mr. Loewen: Given that it seems an apology isn't forthcoming and given that I'm sure they will continue to tell Albertans that they are champions of pipelines and given that Albertans want the government to prove that their support consists of more than just empty words and given that the Premier has already admitted on CBC that she was wrong for opposing Northern Gateway – it makes me wonder why she said that she's been supporting it since day one – will the Premier at least take responsibility, provide Albertans in this House with the same level of honesty that she provided the state broadcaster in Ottawa, and tell us that the NDP government was wrong to oppose Northern Gateway?

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

Ms Phillips: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to go back to the Federal Court of Appeal decision that threw out the Northern Gateway decision. Paragraph 255 said that after providing false information to indigenous people, the federal government, of which this member's leader was a part, was "less than willing to hear the First Nations on this and to . . . correct the information."

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to take lectures on how to get pipelines or large projects built from a group of people that have that kind of record when it comes to indigenous consultation, when it comes to upholding the honour of the Crown, especially when we had all of the Treaty 8 chiefs here today.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Loewen: Given that a sign of a humble government would be to admit where they got it wrong and take responsibility instead of lashing out and blaming Conservatives for NDP failures and given that the failure of the NDP-Trudeau alliance to get pipelines built ultimately means that Albertans are worse off, with thousands of jobs gone and billions in revenue lost, looking forward, can the government commit to Albertans that they will cease both their apathy in some areas and support in other areas for Trudeau's continual barrage of anti-Alberta policies?

Ms Hoffman: I'm incredibly proud of our Premier's and our ministers' record on fighting for the people of this province. MEG Energy corporation's chief executive officer, Derek Evans, said that his company was considering laying off workers and slashing production at its Christina Lake project by 30 per cent until Alberta's mandated oil production cut-offs lifted Canadian heavy crude prices. He said, quote: we were looking at laying off people; we were looking at how we were going to make it through this first quarter and the first half of 2019. He went on to say: the Premier's plan has taken away the belief that we're going to have to lay off people right before Christmas. This Premier is fighting for ordinary folks and fighting for their jobs, Mr. Speaker, and we're not going to back down.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Energy Policies Bighorn Area Land Use

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three questions today about energy. Alberta is an energy province, and despite the best

efforts of environmental radicals and the lacklustre efforts of our federal government, that energy will include fossil fuels for years to come. We need pipelines to get some of the cleanest, most ethically produced oil on the planet to world markets. To that end, my constituents in Drayton Valley held a rally and circulated a petition this week. They're coming to Edmonton on Monday to present that petition to the Legislature, and I would like to know which of the government's ministers will be willing to meet with them to receive that petition.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, it's interesting because I had a meeting today with the Treaty 8 chiefs. We met with them even though the Leader of the Opposition refused to. They said: "We don't oppose economic development. We want pipelines. We want to share in the benefits of the great natural resource gifts . . .

Mr. McIver: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Ms Phillips: . . . that we have in this province," and that's what we're focused on. We're focused on prosperity for everyone, but we're also focused on what we know are our constitutional obligations. In part, it is a duty to consult.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Smith: I would still like to know if it's going to be the Minister of Energy or the minister of environment.

This is also an energy-related question. Given that Alberta is an energy province and given that the renewable energy company Ever has identified over 20,000 orphaned and abandoned wells suitable for geothermal production and given that I have been putting this concept of geothermal baseload energy before this government for two years and given that repurposing these wells could keep drilling and well-service workers busy for at least 20 years, what possible reason could there be for this government's inaction on this file?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's rather rich coming from a side of the House that has derided renewable energy, that has spread false conspiracy theories about renewable energy. All of a sudden now, because they want economic development, renewable energy seems like a good idea.

We're moving forward with the regulatory framework for geothermal, Mr. Speaker. We have already funded a couple of pilot projects with respect to the Hinton development. I will have more to say throughout 2019. The fact of the matter is that you take action on renewable energy when you believe that climate change is real.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Alberta is an energy province and given that the government's Bighorn plan extends new regulatory controls over an area bigger than some European countries and given the significant forestry, energy, and recreational activity that currently occurs in the proposed west country public land-use zone and given that assurances to stakeholders regarding the Castle region plan were not honoured, how can the industrial and recreational users be confident that they're not being bamboozled on the Bighorn?

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

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, I think it's strange that folks don't want economic development in

their constituencies. I would like the opposition, actually, to write me a letter that indicates that they don't want investment in their constituencies, that they don't want an extension to tourism lease terms, that they don't want a trail pass system for off-highway vehicle users, something they've been asking for for years, and that they don't want indigenous comanagement in parks. That might seem obvious to us all now. I would like it written down in a letter that they don't want us to invest meaningfully in their own ridings.

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

Provincial Third-quarter Fiscal Update

Mr. McIver: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the second-quarter fiscal update covered a period prior to the spike in the oil price differential, and the minister has acknowledged this fact. The next fiscal update will report on government revenues from October to December. It was during this time that the oil discount hit a record high and our resource revenues plummeted. To the Finance minister. Albertans will need an honest look at our finances this spring. When will the minister release the third-quarter fiscal update?

Mr. Mason: I can tell the hon. member that the third-quarter fiscal update will be released by the Minister of Finance at the appropriate time.

You know, Mr. Speaker, we've had a really tough hand dealt to us, and it's been made worse, quite frankly, by the previous government's failure to diversify the economy and its failure to diversify the sources of revenue for this government, becoming far too dependent, as we had been telling them for years, on volatile royalty revenue to pay for the costs associated with the government of this province. It's a challenging situation. They've left us a terrible mess to clean up, and we are doing a great job . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. McIver: Mr. Speaker, it's kind of rich that the minister would say that when this government has become more dependent upon the price of oil and, as a result, has a higher deficit than has happened in as long as almost anybody remembers. Given that the third-quarter fiscal update is crucial to providing Albertans with the full financial impact of the oil differential and given that the NDP's balanced budget counts on revenues from at least 2 out of 3 proposed pipelines and given that the government's pact with Justin Trudeau has brought zero pipelines, to the Finance minister: will you commit to releasing the third-quarter fiscal update before March 1?

2:30

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, the fiscal update is an important measurement of how the province is doing. The Finance minister, I know, takes it very seriously, our government takes it very seriously, and we will make sure that that fiscal update is released at the appropriate time. But I do want to say that these are challenging times. Our government has risen to those challenges. We have brought the price of oil back by this timely intervention that the Premier made with respect to the differential. We're going to continue to do the right thing for Albertans and their jobs.

Mr. McIver: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that I have to ask because the minister actually failed to provide a second-quarter update in 2015 even though the law required him to do so at that time and given that the third-quarter update will reinforce other economic indicators that show almost no growth in wages and salaries this

year and given that the NDP might see the lack of happy economic news as a reason for delaying the third-quarter fiscal update with an election coming, to the minister: will the minister commit to release the third-quarter fiscal update even if we are in the midst of a general election?

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, I don't know when the election is going to be, but I know that the Minister of Finance is very concerned with making sure that we have a good understanding of the economic situation facing this province. It is a difficult economic situation, made far worse by the previous government's repeated failures to do anything about an overdependence on one commodity to finance government operations. They left this province in a terrible mess, and we've improved the situation significantly, and we're going to continue to do that in term 2.

Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault

Ms McPherson: Yesterday the government announced a three-year pilot program through the Elizabeth Fry Society to provide free legal advice to survivors of sexual violence. Two years ago Bill 2, An Act to Remove Barriers for Survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence, removed time limits to bring forward civil claims. Does the Minister of Status of Women agree that removing time limits is effective in encouraging women to come forward to report sexual assault?

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

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the very important question. We were very proud to move that bill forward with respect to removing the barriers. At that time the conversations I had with the survivors that I spoke to indicated not that they would necessarily bring forward claims but that they liked to have the option available to them so they didn't feel like they were forced into a decision at a time when they were still traumatized.

Thank you.

Ms McPherson: Given that sexual assault has often devastating effects on survivors and given that becoming strong enough to report an assault can take years, decades in some cases, and that creating the opportunity to come forward should encourage more survivors to report historic sexual assault, what outcomes indicate the success of Bill 2 since 2017, and what are the expected outcomes of this pilot?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. You know, in general with these sorts of instances, to us what indicates success would be survivors feeling better supported moving forward. They've certainly indicated that these are the things that will make them feel better supported and better able to make their own decision. At the end of the day, this is about agency. This is about giving the survivors of sexual violence agency in their lives, the ability to make the decisions when they're prepared to make the decisions and to engage in the way that they're prepared to engage.

Ms McPherson: Thank you to the minister for the answer.

Given that we agree that no time limit is a good thing for survivors to be able to bring information forward in the legal system and that the pilot is a good idea, is there a reason that this pilot does

not include women who live south of Red Deer, and what, if any, alternative supports are available to women in southern Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and again to the hon. member for the very important and informed questions. Certainly, this is a pilot project, and these supports will be available initially on a limited basis for a few years. We've done a number of other things. Certainly, as the member referenced, we have removed the time limits on bringing forward sexual claims. Another thing that I'm very proud of is that we've worked with police services to put in place guidelines for dealing with victims who do choose to come forward to the police and to seek that particular route. It's important that they be respected at every step of that process, and I think everybody agrees on that.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Trampoline Safety Standards

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The growing popularity of trampoline park facilities has raised serious safety concerns, with several high-profile injuries and, sadly, one death in B.C. having taken place in recent memory. Currently these facilities aren't subject to any regulations that set standards for them. I met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs last spring to discuss what can be done to improve safety in these parks. Minister, what progress has your department made in developing regulations to make trampoline parks safer?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti for the question and his continued advocacy on this issue. We've had a few discussions, as he said, on this file now, and I appreciate his passion for ensuring the safety of Albertans. We have been working very hard on this file over the past few months. We've been consulting with industry and stakeholders on this file because we want to make sure we get this right. Ultimately, the safety of all Albertans is our top priority.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that spinal cord injuries are common injuries sustained on trampolines and given that specialized first aid training could mean the difference between life and death, to the same minister: will you consider creating regulations that would require employees at trampoline park facilities to have this first aid training?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you. You know, the member is right. We want to make sure parents and children alike can enjoy these parks with the comfort of knowing they're regulated and that their safety is top of mind. It is something we have heard from folks out there when we're doing consultation, and I can share with you that we're very close to having new rules in place and a proper regulatory system in place for trampoline parks. I look forward to sharing the details with the folks in this House and all Albertans in the near future.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that trampolines send an average of four Alberta children to emergency rooms across the province each day and given that the majority of these injuries are sustained on backyard trampolines, to the Minister of Health: what consideration has your department given to launching a public awareness campaign to educate parents on the dangers of backyard trampolines?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things we have done is to be in contact with the Minister of Health on these types of things and consulting.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity – I’m not sure if I’ll get the chance again – to say this. I’d like to thank the Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti for his service. He’s spent a lot of years in public service. He’s an honourable, respectful, hard-working person. I have an immense amount of respect for him, and I think I speak for all of us in here: from the bottom of our hearts we wish him all the best in the future. Thank you, Member.

The Speaker: Well, that doesn’t happen very often.
Agreed. I think I speak for the House, hon. member.

Labour Relations Board

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, since the NDP took government, the Alberta Labour Relations Board has been granted wide, sweeping powers. The purpose of the ALRB, according to their website, is to be an “independent and impartial tribunal responsible for the day-to-day application and interpretation of Alberta’s labour laws.” We have seen an alarming spike in remedial certifications granted by the ALRB. To the Labour minister: do you believe that the ALRB, with all the changes you have made, is still an independent and impartial tribunal to both the employee and the employer?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I’m happy to inform the member that he may have noticed a spike because the ALRB did not have the powers of remedial certification prior to the changes in the law. So, yes, they are now able to do something they could not do before. The Labour Relations Board is absolutely an independent arbitrator. They are there to ensure that both employers and workers are operating on a fair and balanced playing field. I’m very pleased that we were able to update labour laws that were woefully out of date and out of step with the rest of Canada as part of our changes to workplace legislation.

2:40

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, given that the ALRB’s role is to serve both the employees and employers fairly and given that when I went through the bios of each of the 34 board members, I could only see about a maximum of seven members, one-fifth of the board, that had any private-sector job-creating experience and given that a large majority of the ALRB’s board members are past or current members of unions, does the minister still believe that the ALRB can operate as an impartial tribunal?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much. I believe very strongly that the Alberta Labour Relations Board does operate fairly and impartially. We updated the workplace legislation for the first time in decades and brought in clear rules, making sure that employers and workers

were able to nominate individuals who would then be chosen for consideration for appointment to the board. We’ve been including employer representatives in this appointment process as well as labour representatives when it comes to worker representatives on the Labour Relations Board. Mr. Speaker, making sure we have a fair and balanced board is . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, given that David Harrigan, Rick Eichel, Thomas Hesse, Nancy Furlong, and Lyle Kane, all members of the ALRB board, have donated massive amounts of money to the NDP this year alone, does the minister still believe that the ALRB is impartial, and is she concerned that these board members are in a conflict of interest? [interjections]

The Speaker: Order, please.
The hon. minister.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member there seems to be accusing some very upstanding and dedicated servants of impropriety, and I think that’s an inappropriate use of his time here in this building. We know the Conservative plan for workers. We’ve seen it for decades. We saw Albertans falling through the cracks, not getting fairness and justice because their workplace laws were 40 years out of date. We’ve updated the legislation. We are making sure that the Labour Relations Board is properly resourced. These are wonderful people who are fighting on behalf of both workers and employers, and I’m very proud to . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Fort Saskatchewan Area Road Construction

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The northeast river crossing, or NERC, was a project identified in 2011 to serve the Edmonton capital region and Alberta’s Industrial Heartland. Four municipalities and Alberta Transportation partnered on a \$1.4 million study to identify the location of a future river crossing west of Fort Saskatchewan, but mid-study Alberta Transportation pulled a fast one on the municipalities and announced a \$90 million upgrade to the Vinca Bridge for heavy haul instead. Minister, did you betray the voters of the four municipalities, especially Fort Saskatchewan, who have not given up on the building of the NERC?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, this member couldn’t be more out of touch with the people of Fort Saskatchewan, you know, if he lived on the moon because the people of Fort Saskatchewan spend an hour every morning and an hour every afternoon in congestion because there’s not a crossing that’s a four-lane crossing in their city. We have provided exactly what they want, exactly what they need. That bridge should have been twinned nearly 20 years ago because the traffic counts are so high. We have done what Fort Saskatchewan and its people want, and that member doesn’t understand it at all.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Hanson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Given that the minister and the MLA for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville announced the upgrade of the Vinca Bridge to handle heavy loads for the heartland but given that the landowner adjacent to both ends

of the Vinca Bridge has called us and complained that no one has called him about the project and the impacts to his land, Minister, is the Vinca Bridge project actually real, and if so, will you and the MLA call the landowner to address his concerns around the project?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, the location of the Vinca Bridge will take heavy- and high-load traffic between the Industrial Heartland and Fort McMurray. It's critically needed. We did a careful study of the entire high- and heavy-load corridor in the province, and this was part of it. So that is well supported in the region as well. I'm sure that the landowner will be contacted in due course about the expansion of that bridge – it's an existing bridge, I might add – because we are working really hard to promote real economic development for northeast Alberta.

Mr. Hanson: Given, Mr. Speaker, that the MLA for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville believes in twinning the highway 15 bridge so much that she's been making sure the traffic count stays high, as witnessed by her 80,000-kilometre mileage claim, and given that there is a lot of dirt being moved around up there right now to fix the intersection at highway 37 but the bridge twinning has not yet commenced and given that the 2018-2019 capital plan does not have any special breakout line items for any bridge twinning to Fort Saskatchewan, are the minister and the MLA for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville announcing projects to the voters of Fort Saskatchewan that are not really grounded in reality?

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, first of all, in terms of the preamble it was uncalled for and rude and so flippant that it really debases the question. Yes, we have done careful studies and careful consultation with the surrounding municipalities on these needs. If that member thinks that that project isn't needed, I invite him to come to the middle of Fort Saskatchewan and stand on a street corner and tell people that because, you know, they're going to laugh him right out, and he'll be laughed right out of the next election. I know he says that it's going to hurt, but – you know what? – we're here to make it better.

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

Arts and Culture Industries

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the recent commitment from the city of Calgary's budget to invest in creative industries through stable-based funding for arts and cultural organizations and since the industries are a key pillar of their economic development strategy, it appears that Calgary is poised to attract some top talent within the growth sector. My question is to the Minister of Culture and Tourism. What are the plans to support cultural industries and further diversify the economy?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Miranda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Our government recognizes the important economic role that cultural industries play in Alberta not just in times of prosperity but in times of economic challenges as well. That is why we've increased funding to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts by \$5 million in Budget 2017. This is a commitment that will allow the AFA to continue supporting this growing sector. The UCP wants to provide \$700 million in tax cuts, and we know from their policy proposals that we would see the funding to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts all but disappear.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that our creative sector helps diversify the economy and create economic growth, I'd ask the minister: in what other ways is the government supporting creative industries in Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Miranda: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. In this government we know that the arts contribute to the economy. In 2016 Alberta exported over \$777 million of cultural products, and the industry contributed approximately \$1.3 billion to our provincial GDP. That is why in just a few weeks we will be proclaiming January as the Month of the Artist in Alberta to recognize the important work that artists do to strengthen our society and our community.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask what could be the final question of the session, I'd like to congratulate the minister on the news of his nuptials over the Christmas holidays.

I'd like to ask him this final question – and to the Member for Strathmore-Brooks: brace yourself – how will the proclamation of the Month of the Artist help the creative industry here in Alberta?

Miranda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for those kind words. During the month of January there will be numerous artist appreciation events. We will also release our guidelines to ensure that artists are properly compensated for their work. We'll be naming our first artist-in-residence program in our province's history, and all artists in any discipline who would like to represent and reflect Alberta in their work are encouraged to apply before December 10. The info can be found on the ministry's website.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: I thought maybe you were going to consider unanimous consent.

Mr. Mason: Oh. Well, I have something to just announce first, Mr. Speaker, if I may. Under Standing Order 7(8) we will be continuing Routine past 3 p.m.

I would then ask that we have unanimous consent to revert to introductions, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Introduction of Guests

(continued)

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River.

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three introductions. First, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and all members of the Assembly Brian Walters. Brian recently joined the Medicine Hat constituency office and has proven to be a valued asset to the Medicine Hat team. Brian previously worked as an educator and musician. His wife, Shauna, is a guitar instructor and piano teacher. His son and daughter are both pursuing degrees at universities

within Alberta. He is seated in your gallery – he’s already risen – and I’d ask that he be given the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

2:50

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms Jabbour: Second, it’s my great pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly Michelle Huley and Barb Wendt. Michelle and Barb manage my two offices in the Peace River constituency and succeed in co-ordinating communication across the largest constituency in the province, which is a real challenge given that I’m always on the road and they never see me in person. Michelle Huley is a long-time resident of Peace River, a former journalist, and a dog show junkie. Barb Wendt is a former chief of Beaver First Nation. She’s a community advocate and a devoted mom and grandma. They’ve risen. Would you please give them the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Ms Jabbour: I also would like to introduce to you and through you a very important group of individuals in the galleries today who play a key role in the democratic process in the province of Alberta. Our constituency assistants are often the first point of contact for the people in the communities that we serve. Their jobs can be very rewarding, but they’re also demanding and difficult. We’d like to take a moment to thank them for their dedication to all Albertans. They are here today participating in the winter constituency employee learning and development seminar, which is developed each year with their unique roles and requirements in mind. The seminar provides an opportunity to network with each other and obtain an overview of the numerous programs and services available through the Legislative Assembly Office. Each year the service and contributions of these individuals are celebrated with an employee recognition dinner, which you, Mr. Speaker, will be holding later this evening. Today over 83 constituency office employees are with us from all corners of the province. I would ask that they all please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: A special welcome to all of you, I think, collectively on behalf of all of the members. This place would have challenges without people like yourselves.

Any other introductions? The Minister of Children’s Services.

Larivee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know there was a collective introduction, but throughout all of my time in the Legislature I’ve not had the opportunity to introduce my two incredible constituency assistants, Merry-Lee Newcombe and Cathy Wilcox, helping me out with an office both in Slave Lake and in High Prairie. You know, it’s kind of isolated sometimes in the north, and they work really hard to continue to stay connected with constituency assistants across the province. They do an incredible job serving my offices in both Slave Lake and High Prairie. Thank you for the opportunity to recognize them. I ask that they rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s a privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislature my constituency office staff. I have two ladies working for me in the Barrhead office, my office manager, Audrey Neuman – she has

been working in the constituency office for the better part of 30 years and has never had the opportunity to be introduced here – and also her assistant, Julie Tomm. They do incredible work for me in my constituency office. I’d like them to please rise and accept the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Calgary-MacKay-Nose Hill.

Ms McPherson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly my constituency staff that are here today from Calgary-MacKay-Nose Hill. Carol-Lynn Darch and Bronson Ha have both recently started in my office, and I have the utmost appreciation for them, keeping me on track and also serving the people of Calgary-MacKay-Nose Hill. If they could please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I had this sense that this might happen this afternoon in spite of my pleadings to make a group introduction, but who am I to control the emotions of the House?

The Member for Lethbridge-East.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I did kind of seek the permission of our caucus so that I could make this introduction. It is my privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly my senior CA, Arie deValois. He is compassionate, organized, patient, and an absolute political junkie. I thank you, Arie, from the bottom of my heart for all that you do to support me. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Chestermere-Rocky View.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to introduce my calendar angel, as I like to refer to her, Vicki Welsh. If you could please stand and receive the warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Drayton Valley-Devon.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you my assistant in my office, my office manager. You know, anybody that can keep me going from appointment to appointment and figure out where I need to be and who I need to be talking to is a much better person than I am. I would like to introduce to you Mrs. Wendy Snow. If she would rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Mr. Speaker, for the second time today I would like to collectively introduce to all members our constituency assistants here today and ask that you give them the warm welcome of the House collectively.

The Speaker: Well, that was unusual.

Hon. members, we will in 15 seconds move to Members’ Statements.

I may not get the opportunity personally to express for my family an appreciation of the festive season. I think all of you deserve a break, and I hope you have a very peaceful and relaxing new year.

Members’ Statements

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

Human Rights

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the universal declaration of human rights 70 years ago. Every year since, on December 10 we observe Human Rights Day. The declaration is critically important in establishing the equal dignity and worth of every human being, regardless of their race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status.

Eleanor Roosevelt famously said of the declaration: "Where . . . do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home . . . Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere." Those words are still very true today, Mr. Speaker.

Hate groups with a goal of attacking the rights of others are establishing themselves across our province, groups like the Soldiers of Odin or the Worldwide Coalition against Islam, who felt comfortable promoting their hateful message on the steps of Calgary city hall. It is deeply concerning that Alberta has seen an upsurge of extremist views. So many Albertans are vulnerable when hate groups are emboldened.

On this side of the House we've got the backs of newcomers, of cultural communities, and of LGBTQ and gender-diverse Albertans. We're fighting for what matters by making real, concrete changes that are making life better for all Albertans. I am proud to be part of a government that has been active in addressing systemic racism and bigotry and protecting the rights of LGBTQ youth, something that previous Conservative governments didn't prioritize.

As leaders and legislators we must be firm and united in our condemnation of anyone or anything that threatens the human rights of our citizens. Eleanor Roosevelt also said, "Without concerted citizen action to uphold [human rights] close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world." On this side of the House on Human Rights Day and every day we proudly stand in action.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Carbon Levy

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house

Not a light was turned on, and the furnace was out.
The stockings weren't hung. The chimney was bare.
You see, the NDP taxman would soon show up there.

The children were covered by quilts on their beds.
Their stockings were wrapped round their shivering heads.

Mama in her kerchief and I in my cap
Tossed and turned; it was too cold to nap.

Then out on the lawn, there arose such a clatter
I jumped out of bed to see what was the matter.
I hoped and I prayed, but it was not to be.
The NDP taxman had finally found me.

With a line item there and a fuel tax here,
I checked on my bank account totals with fear.
More rapid than eagles those taxes they came
The NDP penance for climate-guilt shame

No carbon, no fuel, no coal, and no gas,
No driving, no heating, no hockey, no class.

To the top of the tax hikes, to the top of them all,
Now tax away, tax away, tax away all.

3:00

As the taxman laughed before my empty account,
The costs of living, they began to mount.
Up to the top the expenses they grew,
And before we knew it, the neighbour's broke, too.

You see, the Christmas season is especially hard
For families that are struggling to pay a credit card.
And for those folks it doesn't seem funny
When it's the carbon taxman taking all of their money.

No presents for kids, no treats for the dogs,
No tax breaks for gas; we can't afford logs.
The carbon sales tax is making life heavy.
When I told the NDP, all they said: "It's a levy."

It's going to be hard with kids to explain
The government is causing this Christmastime pain.
But hope is near. This I do know.
A new government in waiting when the snow will go.

The UCP will come one day soon
And chase away that taxman and horrible gloom.
They will make life better and keep taxes low.
The UCP will give that tax a heave-ho.

So a leader and team are here to explain:
This is the last year of carbon tax pain.
Sorry if I bored you with this carbon tax fight.
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

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

Alberta Party and Official Opposition Policies

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. With increasing frequency the Leader of the Official Opposition has taken credit for Alberta Party initiatives. Last spring the Alberta Party introduced a sunset clause amendment to Bill 12. Imagine our surprise when we heard the hon. member claim on national television that it was his idea.

Fast-forward to this fall. An Act to Protect Patients bill hit the floor with a mere five-year requirement before doctors could reapply for their licence. I worked really hard on that amendment for a lifetime ban, and I introduced it as soon as the bill entered Committee of the Whole. I did it because no health professional should ever get their licence back after assaulting a patient. Again, on social media what I found was the Leader of the Official Opposition claiming responsibility for the exact same amendment.

On November 17 my colleague from Calgary-Elbow asked the government about curtailment, and weeks later the UCP took credit for the idea after abandoning their potentially illegal voluntary curtailment suggestion.

Even today, in the year-end presser, the Member for Calgary-Elbow asked that the NDP release the third-quarter results before calling an election, and lo and behold, we heard exactly that same request in question 10 today.

Now, if you're wondering what the UCP will be talking about later today or in two weeks, listen to what the Alberta Party has to say.

Christmas Reflections

Mr. Fildebrandt: Mr. Speaker, Santa is putting the finishing touches on his naughty and nice list, and he has asked me to share an exclusive copy of it with the hon. members here today.

First on his naughty list is the Minister of Labour, who, having passed card check legislation, turned Santa's workshop into a closed shop, unionizing it without even allowing the elves a chance to vote.

On the nice list is Canada Post. Going on its yearly strike at Christmastime has undercut his biggest competitor, grandma and grandpa.

On the naughty list is Prime Minister Trudeau. Having attacked the North Pole for its culture of toxic masculinity, the new gender-based analysis on the effects of Christmas on Mrs. Claus has ended in the banning of one of Santa's favourites, *Baby, It's Cold Outside*.

On the nice list is the Minister of Finance's AGL Ceci, whose open market on cannabis sales ensures that the milk and cookies will taste better than ever this year.

On the very naughty list is the Soldiers of Odin for their overly literal understanding of the words to *White Christmas*.

Santa has also assured me that I will be on the nice list this year for not shooting any more of his reindeer.

Collectively on the naughty list are the NDP, Tories, and Alberta Party for imposing supply management on toy production when we all know the answer is more sleighs. Speaking of sleighs, also on the naughty list is the hon. Premier, whose \$30 a tonne carbon tax has grounded Santa's sleigh.

But naughty or nice, agree or disagree, I believe that every hon. member here today is honourable and trying to do what they think is right. As we all head home this afternoon to our families, I want to thank each and every one of you for a rigorous debate, Standing Order 49 closure notwithstanding, and I want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.
Calgary-Greenway.

Retrospective by the Member for Calgary-Greenway

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Premier calls an election early or the spring session is short, then this might be the last time ever I speak in this beautiful Assembly, so please be patient with me today.

As I consider my career, I think about how my two children will look upon it in later years. I've been here less time than most other members, and I take a moment to think about my friend Manmeet Bhullar, whose untimely death is the reason why I'm here. Manmeet was Sikh, just like me, and he provided the example that led me into politics. As I possibly leave politics, I wanted to speak out about service and what is important.

As a Sikh I thank God for all his blessings on me and my family, and my faith has led my effort to treat everyone equally in the world and in this Chamber. My faith has also driven my approach to politics. Sikhs reject the notion that any faith, even our own, has a monopoly on all spiritual truth. Likewise, I have approached politics in a gentle way, always seeking to hear others and understand their point of view. I've been well served in politics by listening and not thinking that I have all the answers or the only truth. That's a lesson that leaders should follow. My faith also leads me to service since looking after the less fortunate and serving others is extremely important, as is conducting oneself in an honourable fashion. Where I come from, if you seek someone's help and support, you keep your promises to them.

Mr. Speaker, I wish I could tell you that everyone in politics is honourable and they do not lust for power or hide their truths from the world, but that is not so. But I can say this. Those who pursue power for its own sake are doomed to failure. Those who live righteous lives, who practice honour, try to serve others, and create community and fellowship: those people will be loved.

In the end, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my mother, my wife, my two beautiful children, my community, my supporters, and all of you guys for giving me courage to serve. Thank you very much.

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

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was a cold day in Montreal on December 6, 1989, but it became bone chilling for the engineering students attending an evening class. The males in the class were ordered to leave by a man, Marc Lépine, who entered the room. The learning stopped. The piercing sound of bullets rang through the air. Fourteen women dead, 14 others injured, and countless more family, friends, and community members traumatized by the evening's horror.

Why did it happen? In the days that followed, we learned that he had a long list of women's names in his pocket that evening, women he considered to be feminists. His victims were targeted. Before the perpetrator fired, he was heard to say: I hate feminists. Monique Simard, who was on that list, said that for a long time December 6 made women afraid to admit that they were feminists. But today it's not shameful to be a feminist, and even if it was, Mr. Speaker, I proudly call myself a feminist.

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is held every year on this date in commemoration of those 14 women murdered at l'école Polytechnique in Montreal. We must remember this horrific event. It has become the basis to recognize and support action against widespread violence committed against women in our society.

Why does violence continue to prevail? I believe that until societal attitudes change, until all people are valued and respected in society, until we think about the words we use and how we use them, until we all treat others as we wish to be treated, it will not change. I commit to treating others as I wish to be treated, as I have always done. Will you?

Thank you.

3:10

Presenting Petitions

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to present a petition today. The petition is on options for human burials. The petition prayer states:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to introduce legislation to amend the Cemeteries Act to explicitly allow for alkaline hydrolysis and other emerging green technologies as approved methods for the disposition of human remains.

Earlier I introduced the person who spearheaded this petition.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Bill 214

Traffic Safety (Safe Distances for Passing Bicycles) Amendment Act, 2018

Ms McKittrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I nearly wore my cycling jersey today, but I just wore earrings in commemoration of this

important bill that I'm asking leave from you to introduce. I'm asking you leave to introduce Bill 214, Traffic Safety (Safe Distances for Passing Bicycles) Amendment Act, 2018.

Mr. Speaker, Albertans deserve to be safe on our roadways no matter how they choose to get around even in winter, once these cyclists are on the roads, even commuting to the Legislative Assembly. As a frequent cyclist I have frequently felt unsafe when passed by motorists. Bill 214, Traffic Safety (Safe Distances for Passing Bicycles) Amendment Act, 2018, will ensure that cyclists on Alberta provincial roadways are safe and free to travel by mandating a minimum passing distance for motor vehicles overtaking a bicycle on a provincial road.

I wanted to thank all those cyclists who have asked me and worked with me on making this bill possible.

Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 214 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Mason: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table five copies of letters, a letter from the Minister of Finance to the chair of Public Accounts Committee and a letter from the office of the Auditor General to the Minister of Finance. I want to do this in order to clarify comments made yesterday by the Minister of Finance, and these letters will help set the record straight on the government's decision to improve its year-end reporting. While the decision was not based on a recommendation made by or advice given by the Auditor General, the letter states that the OAG has reviewed the proposed changes and agreed that key financial information is being retained.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I have one tabling this afternoon. I rise to table five copies of the 2017 Legislative Assembly Office annual report.

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, I have five copies that I'd like to table of an earlier comment that I made in my question regarding the donations that were made to the NDP party earlier.

The Speaker: Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater.

Mr. Piquette: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table the five requisite copies of a letter to the Premier from the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta concerned about the sale of Crown land and the UCP's plan to sell that land.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: I believe we are now at points of order. First of all, I'm advised by the Member for Airdrie that she has withdrawn the second point of order.

The Member for Calgary-Hays.

Point of Order Imputing Motives

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to be brief. I don't know if the opposition will accommodate me on that or not.

At some point during the question the hon. member from the other side made a statement about how the Leader of the Official Opposition had refused to meet with the chiefs that were here today. Under 23(i): "imputes false or unavowed motives to another Member." You know what? I'm sure that the hon. member that said that may have some example where the chiefs have tried to get a

meeting with the Leader of the Official Opposition and haven't been able to do so yet, and if they wanted to raise that issue in some attempt to embarrass the Leader of the Official Opposition, I suppose that's fair game. But to claim that the Leader of the Official Opposition is refusing to meet the chiefs is beyond what's fact, and that's what imputes false or unavowed motives. You know, the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition was looking forward to meeting with the chiefs at some point in the future. On that basis, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that you would hold that it's a point of order because it's an unavowed motive applied to a member of the House under 23(i).

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the Blues, but I do believe that the minister of environment indicated that the Leader of the Official Opposition had refused to meet with the chiefs in question. While I don't think that it's a matter of a point of order – it's a matter of debate – I do think that the minister misspoke. I've had a chance to discuss this with her. Her understanding is that the Leader of the Opposition had indicated he would not be able to meet with the chiefs today. I think that that was somewhat misinterpreted as a refusal to meet. The minister understands that and wishes to apologize to the Leader of the Official Opposition, and I'm happy to do so on her behalf.

Mr. McIver: Thanks to the minister.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. members.

Orders of the Day

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. McIver: Do tell. What are the orders of the day?

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much. We've got some great new legislation for you, but that will come later, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to start by thanking you, Mr. Speaker. This may or may not be the last day of sitting of this term. I suspect we will be back in the spring, but I don't know that, so I want to take the opportunity to thank you, in particular, for your work and your patience in this place and making sure that the place runs as well as a place like this can run. So thank you.

I'd also like to acknowledge all of the hard-working LAO and Chamber staff for their work in making sure that this place runs in a more or less orderly fashion and that the decisions of the elected representatives are translated into the legislation and the decisions that we've made. So I want to thank them very much.

I want to thank the pages for their hard work. I think they move faster than just about anything I've ever seen. I've worried that they're going to trip sometimes. But they are very, very helpful to us and make sure that this place runs well and that we can communicate with each other.

The Speaker: The new pages who are here, hon. minister, have been told about an experience that one of them had in 2015.

Mr. Mason: I'm sure they have, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The application of health and safety.

3:20

Mr. Mason: But, you know, they make sure that this place runs well and that nobody drinks coffee without a lid.

I'd like to thank security as well.

I'd like to thank the MLAs, from all parties, for their contributions. I think we've had a very, very successful session and a number of sessions before that, and I'd like to thank them for their thoughtful contributions. In particular, I want to thank those of them who've indicated they will not be running again. It's been an honour to serve with them.

And, Mr. Speaker, if I may say, it's been a wonderful 18 years for me in this place. [Standing ovation] Thank you very much, members. For all of the conflict, I think we've developed constructive relationships. With all of the very strange and arcane rules by which this place runs, I love this place, and I'm going to miss it very much and all of you.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally advise the House that pursuant to Government Motion 31 the business for the sitting is concluded.

Merry Christmas.

The Speaker: Thank you, Government House Leader. I think, as is evidenced by the applause that you received, that there is no division upon the contribution that you have made to this Assembly, and I personally would like to thank you on all of their behalf. I am a little uneasy, though, about who will add that humour to this sometimes too in-depth discussion. I do hope that someone else steps up to the plate.

I'd also like to echo the comments of the House with respect to our staff of this place and all the public servants. This building does not exist if they are not there.

So, hon. members, pursuant to Government Motion 31, agreed to on October 30, 2018, the House stands adjourned until February 2019.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:23 p.m. pursuant to Government Motion 31]

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Bill Status Report for the 29th Legislature - 4th Session (2018-2019)

Activity to Tuesday, December 11, 2018

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

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

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

Bill 1 — Energy Diversification Act (McCuaig-Boyd)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Reading — 243-46 (*Mar. 20, 2018 morn.*), 294-96 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft.*), 314-25 (*Mar. 22, 2018 morn.*), 411-12 (*Apr. 4, 2018 aft.*), 702-05 (*May 1, 2018 eve.*), 928-33 (*May 9, 2018 morn.*), 1061-68 (*May 15, 2018 morn.*), 1101-04 (*May 15, 2018 eve.*), 1163-67 (*May 16, 2018 eve.*), 1202-06 (*May 17, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1253-58 (*May 29, 2018 morn.*), 1288-97 (*May 29, 2018 aft.*), 1299 (*May 29, 2018 eve.*), 1379-82 (*May 30, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1492-94 (*Jun. 5, 2018 morn.*), 1510-23 (*Jun. 5, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2018 c8]

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

First Reading — 184 (*Mar. 15, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 221-26 (*Mar. 19, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 261-68 (*Mar. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 296-98 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 28, 2018; SA 2018 c1]

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

First Reading — 165 (*Mar. 15, 2018 morn., passed*)

Second Reading — 226-32 (*Mar. 19, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 268-75 (*Mar. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 298-301 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 28, 2018; SA 2018 c2]

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

First Reading — 200-201 (*Mar. 19, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 360-62 (*Apr. 3, 2018 morn.*), 482-87 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 847-54 (*May 7, 2018 eve.*), 1084-88 (*May 15, 2018 aft.*), 1361-64 (*May 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1418-21 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018; SA 2018 c12]

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

First Reading — 448 (*Apr. 9, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 533-34 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft.*), 669-79 (*May 1, 2018 aft.*), 1010-13 (*May 10, 2018 aft.*), 1101 (*May 15, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1158-63 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1360-61 (*May 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2018 c7]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Reading — 374 (*Apr. 3, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1639-45 (*Oct. 30, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1645-53 (*Oct. 30, 2018 morn.*), 1667 (*Oct. 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Reading — 528 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 611-12 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft.*), 643-50 (*May 1, 2018 morn.*), 761-72 (*May 2, 2018 eve.*), 973-81 (*May 9, 2018 eve.*), 1049-54 (*May 14, 2018 eve.*), 1180-87 (*May 17, 2018 morn.*), 1242-47 (*May 28, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1287-88 (*May 29, 2018 aft.*), 1299 (*May 29, 2018 eve.*), 1374-79 (*May 30, 2018 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1555-71 (*Jun. 6, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2018 c6]

Bill 11 — Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2018 (Gray)

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

Second Reading — 612-13 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft.*), 650-56 (*May 1, 2018 morn.*), 772-74 (*May 2, 2018 eve.*), 967-73 (*May 9, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1157 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Reading — 606 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 746-53 (*May 2, 2018 aft.*), 808-16 (*May 3, 2018 aft.*), 855-64 (*May 7, 2018 eve.*), 947-57 (*May 9, 2018 aft.*), 1169-80 (*May 17, 2018 morn.*), 1247-50 (*May 28, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1322-34 (*May 30, 2018 morn.*), 1397-1404 (*May 31, 2018 morn.*), 1449-79 (*Jun. 4, 2018 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1573-92 (*Jun. 7, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2018 c10]

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

First Reading — 590 (*Apr. 18, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 718-24 (*May 2, 2018 morn.*), 915-19 (*May 9, 2018 morn.*), 1098-1101 (*May 15, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1319-22 (*May 30, 2018 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1421 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2018 c5]

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

First Reading — 610 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Second Reading — 683-89 (*May 1, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 753-56 (*May 2, 2018 aft.*), 757-60 (*May 2, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 776-85 (*May 3, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 14, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 14, 2018; SA 2018 c3]

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

First Reading — 879 (*May 8, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1010-13 (*May 10, 2018 aft.*), 1105-22 (*May 16, 2018 morn.*), 1155-57 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1258-64 (*May 29, 2018 morn.*), 1299 (*May 29, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1421-22 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 c4]

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

First Reading — 806 (*May 3, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 864-65 (*May 7, 2018 eve.*), 1014-15 (*May 10, 2018 aft.*), 1058-59 (*May 14, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1157 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1364 (*May 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 c13]

Bill 18 — Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Mason)

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Reading — 1621 (*Oct. 29, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1667-81 (*Oct. 30, 2018 aft.*), 1690-1701 (*Oct. 31, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1718-28 (*Oct. 31, 2018 aft.*), 1828-35 (*Nov. 6, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1845-65 (*Nov. 7, 2018 morn.*), 2000-05 (*Nov. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force February 1, 2019; SA 2018 c19]

Bill 20 — Securities Amendment Act, 2018 (Ceci)

First Reading — 1621 (*Oct. 29, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1681-84 (*Oct. 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1716-18 (*Oct. 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1765-66 (*Nov. 1, 2018 aft., passed*)

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

Bill 21* — An Act to Protect Patients (Hoffman)

First Reading — 1666 (*Oct. 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1685-90 (*Oct. 31, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1729-32 (*Oct. 31, 2018 aft.*), 1835-43 (*Nov. 6, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*), 1900-10 (*Nov. 8, 2018 morn., recommitted, adjourned*), 1924-28 (*Nov. 8, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*), 1928-29 (*Nov. 8, 2018 aft., recommitted, passed with amendments*)

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

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

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

First Reading — 1714 (*Oct. 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1735-49 (*Nov. 1, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2005-16 (*Nov. 20, 2018 aft.*), 2158-69 (*Nov. 27, 2018 aft.*), 2171-76 (*Nov. 28, 2018 morn.*), 2328-32 (*Dec. 4, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2376-78 (*Dec. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force February 28, 2019; SA 2018 c24]

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

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

Second Reading — 1809-12 (*Nov. 6, 2018 morn.*), 1974-82 (*Nov. 20, 2018 morn.*), 2018-28 (*Nov. 21, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2123-26 (*Nov. 26, 2018 eve.*), 2176-81 (*Nov. 28, 2018 morn.*), 2332-37 (*Dec. 4, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2384-85 (*Dec. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force various dates; SA 2018 c23]

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

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

Second Reading — 1799-1809 (*Nov. 6, 2018 morn.*), 1881-97 (*Nov. 7, 2018 aft.*), 1969-74 (*Nov. 20, 2018 morn.*), 2028-31 (*Nov. 21, 2018 morn., passed*)

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

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

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 11, 2018; SA 2018 c22]

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

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

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

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

Third Reading — 2242-44 (*Nov. 29, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 11, 2018; SA 2018 cC-2.2]

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

First Reading — 1923 (*Nov. 8, 2018 aft., passed*)

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

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

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

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force January 1, 2019; SA 2018 c17]

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

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

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

Committee of the Whole — 2287-93 (*Dec. 3, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 2372-76 (*Dec. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 11, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 cJ-0.5]

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

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

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

Committee of the Whole — 2209-13 (*Nov. 28, 2018 aft.*), 2304-05 (*Dec. 4, 2018 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 2327-28 (*Dec. 4, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 11, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 c18]

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

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

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

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

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

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 1, 2019, with exceptions; SA 2018 c21]

Bill 30* — Mental Health Services Protection Act (Hoffman)

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

Second Reading — 2221-25 (*Nov. 29, 2018 morn.*), 2275-82 (*Dec. 3, 2018 eve.*), 2297-2300 (*Dec. 4, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2346-56 (*Dec. 5, 2018 morn., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2378-84 (*Dec. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force January 1, 2019, with exceptions; SA 2018 cM-13.2]

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

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

Second Reading — 2282 (*Dec. 3, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2287-93 (*Dec. 3, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 2338 (*Dec. 4, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 11, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 c20]

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

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

Second Reading — 2282-87 (*Dec. 3, 2018 eve.*), 2301-04 (*Dec. 4, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2339-46 (*Dec. 5, 2018 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 2357-58 (*Dec. 5, 2018 morn., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force April 1, 2019, or an earlier date determined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council; SA 2018 cC-13.3]

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

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

Second Reading — 201-14 (*Mar. 19, 2018 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future*), 1620 (*Oct. 29, 2018 aft.*), 1780-92 (*Nov. 5, 2018 aft.*), 2268-71 (*Dec. 3, 2018 aft., motion to concur in report, adjourned*)

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

First Reading — 179 (*Mar. 15, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 549-63 (*Apr. 16, 2018 aft., defeated on division*)

Bill 203 — Long Term Care Information Act (Schreiner)

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

Second Reading — 632-40 (*Apr. 30, 2018 aft.*), 829-33 (*May 7, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1221-30 (*May 28, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1434-41 (*Jun. 4, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018; SA 2018 cL-22]

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

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

Second Reading — 833-41 (*May 7, 2018 aft., adjourned*), 1031-37 (*May 14, 2018 aft., reasoned amendment agreed to*)

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

First Reading — 1008 (*May 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1037 (*May 14, 2018 aft., deferred to Monday, October 29, 2018*)

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

First Reading — 1008-09 (*May 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1037 (*May 14, 2018 aft.*), 1441-47 (*Jun. 4, 2018 aft.*), 2267-68 (*Dec. 3, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Bill 207 — Municipal Government (Legion Tax Exemption) Amendment Act, 2018 (Rosendahl)

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

Bill 208 — Public Recreation Areas Consultation Act (Westhead)

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

Bill 209 — Strategies for Unemployed and Underemployed Albertans Act (McPherson)

First Reading — 2321-22 (*Dec. 4, 2018 aft., passed*)

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

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

Bill 214 — Traffic Safety (Safe Distances for Passing Bicycles) Amendment Act, 2018 (McKittrick)

First Reading — 2401-02 (*Dec. 6, 2018 aft., passed*)

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