



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
First Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, October 17, 2019

Day 29

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

**Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 30th Legislature**

First Session

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Milliken, Nicholas, Calgary-Currie (UCP), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
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Gray, Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)
Guthrie, Peter F., Airdrie-Cochrane (UCP)
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Williams, Dan D.A., Peace River (UCP)
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Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)
Yaseen, Muhammad, Calgary-North (UCP)

Party standings:

United Conservative: 63

New Democrat: 24

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Renaud
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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 17, 2019

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

The Deputy Speaker: Good afternoon, hon. members. Please be seated.

Statement by the Speaker

Persons Day

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, tomorrow, October 18, 2019, marks 90 years since the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council recognized women as persons under the law, a major victory for women's rights. While women had attained the right to vote in 1918 and were able to sit in the House of Commons as Members of Parliament, until 1929 they were denied appointment to Canada's Senate. The Persons Case ruling was the culmination of a legal challenge launched in 1927 by five women living in Alberta, now known as the Famous Five. I am proud to say that three of these women, these strong women – Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby, and Nellie McClung – were elected hon. members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in years prior to this monumental case. I am also honoured to acknowledge that for the first time in this Legislature we have an all-female table and a woman as chair.

Please join me, and thank you for joining me, in recognizing Persons Day and the significance of this landmark decision which redefined the legal status of women, promising greater equality for women upheld by legislative rights and protections.

Introduction of Visitors

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, as some of you are aware, this week the Legislative Assembly has been hosting a delegation of MPs from Kenya's National Assembly's Select Committee on Members' Services and Facilities. I am honoured to welcome our guests seated in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon. Please rise as I call your name: Hon. Ezekiel Machogu Ombaki, Hon. Janet Nangabo Wanyama, Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, Hon. Elisha Ochieng Odhiambo, Hon. Florence Chepngetich Koskey, Hon. Thuddeus Kithua Nzambia, Hon. Charity Kathambi Chepkwony, and the principal clerk assistant, Mr. John N. Mutega. Welcome, and thank you for joining us here today.

Introduction of Guests

The Deputy Speaker: We have a school group joining us here today from the constituency of Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville. Please join me in a warm welcome to the grade 6 students from Mundare school. Welcome.

Hon. members, it's an honour to introduce to you guests seated in the Speaker's gallery from my own constituency of Airdrie-East – some might say the best – Erin and Corey Kope. Welcome.

And today in the galleries are guests of the Minister of Health, five hard-working LPNs: Valerie Paice, Linda Stanger, Jeanne Weis, Tamara Richter, and Teresa Bateman. Welcome.

Also in the galleries this afternoon are guests of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and 2019 4-H Alberta Premier's award recipient and grade 11 student at Spruce Grove Composite high school, Ms Amanda Hardman. She is joined by her parents, Barb and Keith; her grandmother Frieda Hardman; 4-H club leader Pamela Fald; and 4-H regional specialist Stacy Murray. Welcome.

We also have guests of the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood. Welcome to Erin Armstrong and Blair and Eli Armstrong Tucker. Welcome.

Introduction of Visitors

(continued)

The Deputy Speaker: We have one more guest to introduce: the director of committees, Florence Atenyo-Abonyo, from the Kenya delegation. My apologies.

Members' Statements

Climate Change Strategy

Member Irwin: A few weeks ago I joined thousands of others gathered here in Amiskwaciwâskahikan on Treaty 6 territory to demand climate action. It was a moving experience; thousands marching down Jasper Ave. and then gathering right here outside the Legislature.

One of the most beautiful moments was when my constituent seven-year-old Blair Armstrong Tucker stood at the mic. Blair spoke about climate change and how important it is that everyone act, and not just young people. Kids like Blair are worried about this climate crisis and are demanding that governments act, but in the absence of adult leadership and responsiveness, young people are taking this on.

We see the local work of Blair and climate justice activists. We see indigenous water warrior Autumn Peltier. We see Greta Thunberg mobilizing millions to demand action. Greta is in Alberta now, and she'll be in Edmonton tomorrow.

The kids are leading while many adults do very little. Some minimize the importance of the issue, some full out deny the existence of climate change and that we are indeed facing a climate crisis, and some even mock. While this government might not care to act on climate change, might not think the demands of thousands of Albertans matter, might not believe that young people should have a voice, young people like Blair and Greta are going to keep pushing on this issue.

As Greta said:

Adults keep saying that "we owe it to the young people to give them hope." But I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you act.

I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if [your] house is on fire. Because it is.

I couldn't be prouder of Blair and of every young person out there who's standing bravely to say that we cannot wait to act on climate change. We're running out of time. Our houses are on fire. So let's have the maturity and the foresight to think about the world we're leaving for our kids' kids because I know Blair does, and if a seven-year-old gets it, what's stopping the rest of us?

Official Opposition Members' Remarks

Ms Glasgo: Madam Speaker, on Tuesday in question period the Leader of the Opposition said with gusto that "[the Premier] can deny it all he wants, but the communities of Brooks, Wetaskiwin, Barrhead, Sundre, Foothills, [and] Lacombe all oppose his plan."

Well, Madam Speaker, I've spent my summer and time away from the Assembly consulting with stakeholders in my constituency, including the city of Brooks. The Leader of the Opposition's comments just didn't sit right with me, so I reached out to Mr. Morishita, mayor of Brooks, myself. Turns out, what has become a pattern of behaviour from that side of the House was on full display

on Tuesday. This pattern of misleading Albertans, putting words in their mouth that they, in fact, did not say, has happened before.

I'm reminded of a time when the former Minister of Environment and Parks told this House about her extensive consultation on the Bighorn. Not to worry, the Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre corrected that. I'm reminded of a time when the former Minister of Children's Services, who was rightly fired by Albertans in April, stated that the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police did not support Serenity's law. Well, thank goodness, that mistruth was corrected by the Member for Calgary-West and the rest of the UCP caucus when they voted for this bill despite a lack of support from the NDP. And I'm reminded of just a few short months ago when the Member for Edmonton-Glenora was corrected in this House after sharing a conversation that she claims to have had with the superintendent of the Canadian Rockies school board. This was corrected by my friend from Banff-Kananaskis. You see, Madam Speaker, there's a distinct pattern here. The opposition misrepresents the facts, and this side of the House corrects them.

In a letter to the Leader of the Opposition the mayors of Brooks, Lacombe, and Wetaskiwin have urged the former Premier to take the time to rise above all that and correct those statements here. The mayor said:

Misrepresenting our views for political theatre is dishonest and unbecoming for any member of the provincial legislative assembly.

We respectfully ask you to correct your statement[s] for the record immediately.

If the Leader of the Opposition and her colleagues would like to have their record be one of deceit and an adversarial approach to humble Albertans, I have one request: leave my constituents out of it.

1:40

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall.

Kashmir

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to condemn the ongoing violations of human rights in Kashmir, which is a huge cause for concern for many Albertans in my riding and across this province. Kashmir is the subject of dispute between three nuclear-armed countries, but primarily this issue is about the future of 15 million people of Kashmir and their rights.

Last year the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported on human rights violations in Kashmir and directed the UN Human Rights Council to conduct an independent international investigation. A year later things have gotten worse. On August 5, 2019, Prime Minister Modi's government revoked the special status of Kashmir under article 370 of the Constitution and proceeded with the creation of two union territories under direct Indian rule. These actions were preceded by the imposition of Governor's rule, the suspension of state Assembly, massive troop deployments, an unprecedented lockdown, mass arrests, suspension of telephone and Internet services, and media blackouts. Since then the situation remains tense.

Madam Speaker, I recognize this issue is complex and politically charged. However, at stake here are basic human dignity and rights, democracy, people's right to self-determination, and fundamental freedoms such as freedom of conscience, belief, opinion, and expression, all of which are values that we all share and cherish. On behalf of all those concerned, I call on the Premier to use his decades-long friendship with PM Modi to influence this situation and urge the federal government to ensure basic human rights are protected for the people of Kashmir.

To all my colleagues in the House: let's speak up for those who have no voice and for all who are dispossessed of their rights both at home and abroad. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

Persons Day

Mrs. Allard: Well, thank you. As previously mentioned, Friday, October 18 is Persons Day. This date marks 90 years since the Canadian government included women in the legal definition of persons. Five bold women, the Famous Five from Alberta – Judge Emily Murphy, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Nellie McClung, Louise Crummy McKinney, and Irene Parlby – took the Canadian government to court so that they could be considered legal persons.

In 1929 the Privy Council of England, which at the time was Canada's highest court, ruled in favour of these women in a constitutional ruling that decided that women were, in fact, persons. This meant that women could no longer be denied rights based on a narrow interpretation of the law, and also ruled that women were eligible for appointment to the Senate. In 1867, the year of our Confederation, Canadian women were not allowed to hold nor run for public office, but on February 15, 1930, Cairine Wilson was sworn in as Canada's first female Senator, and in 2000 Justice Beverley McLachlin was appointed Canada's first Chief Justice.

It's hard to believe that 90 years ago tomorrow I and the other 25 women in this Chamber would not have been considered legal persons. The Persons Case was monumental, but it didn't fix everything for women. Until 1951 indigenous women were not allowed to vote without giving up the rights allotted to them under the Indian Act. The right to live free of discrimination on the basis of one's sex was not in Canada's constitution until 1981.

We've certainly come very far in the last 90 years, but there is still much that needs to be done. We need to keep working to see more women in traditionally male-dominated fields like STEM, the skilled trades, and, of course, politics. I am confident that we can address these issues, Madam Speaker, because there are thousands of women across this province who are working to get things done, 26 of whom are in this House.

To all the women listening, let's empower each other as we move forward. We owe it to the Famous Five and the female advocates who came after them to do just that.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul.

MCSnet Rural Internet Provider

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Alberta was built on innovation, the entrepreneurial spirit. Some of the most successful Alberta companies started from humble beginnings. Recently I attended a reception in St. Paul for a local company whose success quite literally started with a Pringles can.

Company owner, Leo VanBrabant, was experimenting with wireless delivery to augment his company's digital service line. Their very first successful connection, using homemade antennas, was a few kilometres at their home place. I quote: we'd make our own antennas, like using a Pringles can, put some little washers to create the exact frequency that we would need.

That was the beginning. Today the company Leo started in 1995, MCSnet, is Alberta's largest fixed wireless Internet provider, and it's based in St. Paul. MCSnet currently provides wireless and fibre optic services to 24,000 customers in an area that stretches from Westlock to Paradise Hill, Saskatchewan, as well as from Wandering

River in the north to Provost in the south, covering my entire constituency and beyond. They recently connected the entire community of Cherry Grove to fibre optics. They pride themselves on providing equal or better service than what is available in cities like Edmonton or Calgary.

Leo is now retired, and the company is run by his three sons and two sons-in-law. They strive to continue to seek out the latest innovation to bring more reliable service to more people and places in rural Alberta. MCSnet is proudly a family-owned and -operated high-speed Internet provider. MCSnet is a true Alberta success story that is serving the needs of rural Alberta, 24,000 customers, and it all started with a Pringles can. That is true innovation. That's what Alberta is all about.

Climate Change and Poverty

Ms Renaud: Today over 2 billion people, one-third of the global population, are poor or near poor. Two billion people world-wide have limited access to basics such as nutrition, water, shelter, and clothing as well as education, health care, sanitation, and electricity. The poor face consistent and growing threats to their livelihoods and survival because of climate change. Pope Francis summed up these alarming facts when he declared a global climate emergency and warned that failure to take urgent action would be a brutal act of injustice towards the poor and future generations.

To be clear, the last five years have been the hottest in the modern record. The consequences we see around the world today, that are attested to by the record temperatures, are rapidly melting ice caps, unprecedented wildfires, frequent so-called thousand-year floods, as well as devastating and more frequent hurricanes. Millions face malnutrition due to devastating drought, and many more will have to choose between starvation and migration.

The billions who live in poverty around the world, including right here at home in Alberta, will be disproportionately impacted by climate change. People who live in poverty are more susceptible to climate change. They're less resilient because they don't have the resources to mitigate the losses associated with climate change. They're more vulnerable to natural disasters that bring disease, crop failure, spikes in food prices, death, and disability. It's happening all around us. It's been suggested that we are witnessing the beginning of a climate change apartheid.

Madam Speaker, today is the day that we mark the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. We don't need fancy speeches; we need action. We need leadership, not self-serving partisan politics. We cannot tolerate austerity budgets and a \$4.5 billion giveaway that is delaying essential services that are vital to the people of this province. We need investment in poverty eradication. We need action now.

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

Oil and Gas Transportation

Mr. Guthrie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Are the federal Trudeau Liberals actually targeting and purposely trying to harm Alberta? To answer this question, let's look at a piece of legislation the Liberals passed which I believe is aimed directly at Alberta. Bill C-48, the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act, is specifically targeted to damage our economy. The bill only relates to the transportation of Alberta oil sands products off the northern coast of B.C. It outlaws the ability of Alberta oil sands producers and builders to create infrastructure to a deepwater port in northern B.C., which obstructs our ability to achieve market access.

TMX is a line being built into Burnaby, which is a shallow water port. The product headed down that line is not destined for evolving

markets in Asia but, rather, the heavy refineries in San Francisco. While TMX provides much-needed takeaway capacity and will help alleviate our buildup of storage, it is not meant for full market access. TMX is absolutely vital to Alberta's economy, and the urgency of that line cannot be overstated.

But the Liberals have purposely targeted Alberta and limited our ability to grow our economy by stalling market access and then passing Bill C-48, ensuring that we can never gain market access to Asia. It is unclear to me why the Liberals have targeted our beloved province. Our products are the most ethically produced, with world-leading environmental standards, and Alberta companies are instrumental partners in helping to solve the climate change challenge.

To answer the question I opened with, the evidence is clear: Alberta is a target. I ask all members of this House to stand and fight against these nonsense policies that are driving Alberta towards a deep anger and frustration.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

1:50

Oral Question Period

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora.

Corporate Taxation and Job Creation

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Premier ran a campaign full of big talk, claiming that his plan to hand \$4.5 billion to big corporations would fix the economy. But there are no new jobs, and there are actually 15,000 fewer jobs in the oil and gas sector. Things aren't getting better in the patch. Rig counts show an average of 91 active rigs per week, down more than a third from this time last year. Last year Alberta was bouncing back. How long before this Premier realizes that his corporate gift hasn't increased drilling and hasn't created jobs? When will he wake up?

Mr. Kenney: Well, Madam Speaker, there were 5,000 net new jobs created in September of this year. But let's talk about last year, because it was one of the five years of economic decline under the NDP's administration. Five years of economic stagnation and decline, the longest and deepest recession in our history since the Great Depression under the NDP's policies: obviously, no government is going to be able to turn around that disaster overnight, but we're doing everything we can. What's their alternative? To raise taxes on job creators, raise taxes on employers, and drive us to \$100 billion in reckless debt, mortgaging our future. Thank goodness Albertans fired them last April.

Ms Hoffman: Madam Speaker, the fact is that we are in one of the worst drilling seasons in Alberta's history. According to the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors each active rig represents about 145 direct and indirect jobs. This means that rigs are supporting around 7,000 fewer workers than they were this time last year: 7,000 fewer workers, Premier. His answer this summer was to kill shipping by rail and extend curtailment in the patch. Can the jobs-economy-and-pipelines Premier please explain why he's failing on all three fronts?

Mr. Kenney: Madam Speaker, I'm glad that the NDP has finally discovered the Alberta jobs crisis over which they presided and which they deepened in their four years in office. The reality is that we're doing everything that we can, pushing against the NDP, their Liberal allies in Ottawa, who cheered on the killing of the Northern Gateway and the Energy East pipelines, who bungled Trans Mountain, who surrendered to a veto on Keystone XL. If any one of those projects had been built – I'll tell you what – we'd be in a

totally different situation. Instead, we saw tens of billions of dollars of investment flee from our energy sector to that of the United States. We're working hard to bring it back.

Ms Hoffman: Madam Speaker, this Premier's \$4.5 billion no-jobs corporate handout is a failure, and he's looking to anyone to blame but himself. He promised increased rig activity, and in his platform he had some ideas that might have worked. But what did he do instead? Before the drilling season he rushed to give a \$4.5 billion corporate handout to shareholders, not to actually help people in the patch. Why did the Premier put shareholders and dividends ahead of Alberta workers?

Mr. Kenney: First of all, Madam Speaker, the \$4.5 billion figure is a complete figment of the NDP's imagination, as will be evident from the Finance minister's budget. Secondly, virtually every reputable economist in this province who has commented on it says that it will be a significant creator of employment and will help over time to actually increase government revenues. Professor Mintz says: 55,000 new jobs, Professor Dahlby says: 58,000 new jobs. But what's the NDP's alternative? Increase the tax burden on employers, killing jobs. They did it; that's why they were fired in April of this year.

The Deputy Speaker: On her second set of questions, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora.

Ms Hoffman: Well, none of those people are in the Premier's cabinet, and his own Energy minister has admitted that the \$4.5 billion corporate handout has not worked to create one single job.

UCP Fundraising Breakfast Budget 2019 Consultation

Ms Hoffman: It turns out that the talk of the UCP – when it comes to the upcoming budget, you only have to have a chequebook at hand. If you want to talk about the budget, that's the only way you're going to get face time with this Finance minister, because he's holding a UCP fundraiser breakfast for \$125 per plate the day after the budget is dropped. To the Minister of Finance: how do you justify forcing people to pay for face time with you on your terrible budget planning?

Mr. Kenney: Well, Madam Speaker, Albertans are not going to take any lectures from the acting leader of the NDP over the question of creating jobs. Professor Trevor Tombe said that the job-creation tax cut that we've introduced does indeed translate into about a 50,000 increase in employment. He further said that the long-run effect of the corporate tax cut, from 12 to 8 per cent, will be an increase in wages of 1.6 per cent. Professor Mintz said: a 55,000-person increase in employment. They were the all-time champions in killing jobs. This government is focused without relent on creating jobs in Alberta.

Ms Hoffman: The government's so-called budget consultation extended to two telephone town halls and one one-question survey posted online for about two weeks. On one of those telephone town halls the Minister of Finance told a nonprofit worker from Grande Prairie who was worried about the future of CIP and CFEP that Albertans will have to, quote, do more with less. To the Premier: does it really take thousands of dollars in UCP donations to get nonprofits a seat at the table? Is that the only way they can get face time and actually have a little respect from this government?

Mr. Kenney: Madam Speaker, we had the biggest public consultation possible last April, when a record number of Albertans voted on competing plans for the future, and they embraced a plan to create jobs, grow our economy, and bring our province's finances back to balance, partly through fiscal restraint and the job-creation tax cut. I understand why the NDP is angry with Albertans for firing them after four years, but we will keep the commitment that we made to Albertans in that historic consultation.

Ms Hoffman: Except that this Premier is failing on all three fronts. The fundraiser that's coming up is yet another example of the UCP using their government positions and titles to raise money for their party. This is something that the Government House Leader has twice promised in this House that the UCP would stop doing. To the Premier: will you immediately direct your Finance minister to cancel his fundraiser, something that your House leader actually committed to, and instead start consulting with Albertans on the budget? And I don't mean just the ones who have big chequebooks and credit limits on their credit cards.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Madam Speaker, it is just outrageous to watch the NDP continue with these bizarre tactics. It's not working for them. Let's be clear. The hon. Finance minister is attending a breakfast that is a tradition, that Finance ministers have attended for a long time, is my understanding. What I have committed to in this House is that we would not use our official Executive Council titles in fundraising letters and those types of things. My understanding is that that's not happening. That's what we committed to. But what's really important is that the NDP continue to just want to distract from their dismal record when it comes to the way that they managed the finances of this province. I will take our current Finance minister over their former Finance minister, who was the worst Finance minister in the history of this province, any day. I think Albertans agree with us, which is why they sent us here to govern this province.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora.

Climate Change Strategy Advocacy for Alberta's Energy Industry

Ms Hoffman: Tomorrow, Albertans will once again gather in numbers outside of this Legislature, and their message is on climate change. It's clear that it exists, that it's an existential threat to our way of life. Climate change is real. Our way of life in Alberta is threatened if we don't address it, even if the UCP wishes it wasn't. The gathering will be addressed by Greta Thunberg, whose advocacy for young people commands the world's attention. The eyes of the world will be on our Legislature tomorrow. To the Premier: will you be on the steps?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Madam Speaker, as I've said several times in this House, we will not be lectured by the NDP when it comes to managing emissions and climate change in this province. The NDP brought in the largest tax increase in the history of the province and then admitted – their own leader admitted – that it had no impact on emissions and just punished Albertans. It was all economic pain and no environmental gain. On this side of the House Alberta's government is actually focused on solutions. I'm looking forward to tabling TIER in this very place in the coming weeks, which is an innovative solution moving forward on a very important file. The difference between us and the NDP is that we focus on solutions. The NDP focuses on taxing Albertans.

Ms Hoffman: If there were ever an opportunity to make a case for Alberta energy, this is it. Tomorrow people will be gathering in person, on social media, through traditional media in huge numbers. Greta Thunberg is giving the Premier an unprecedented opportunity to speak up for Albertans and for the energy industry to a global audience. The lights are on, the cameras are rolling. Why is the Premier running away?

Mr. Kenney: Madam Speaker, I'm very, very happy to inform the acting leader of the NDP that I will be, tomorrow, attending the opening of a new natural gas pipeline that will allow the displacement of coal-fired power with natural gas power, one of the practical measures that Albertans are taking to reduce emissions.

Instead of calling for the shutdown of the entire modern economy, instead of calling for all the airplanes to stop flying and all the cars to stop driving, instead of calling on Albertans to stop heating their homes in the winter, we instead will be leading with practical measures to reduce emissions while continuing to fuel our future prosperity.

2:00

The Deputy Speaker: Last question, Edmonton-Glenora.

Ms Hoffman: It's a sad sight to see a Premier with no courage for his convictions. The Premier is spending \$30 million of taxpayer money on a dimly lit war room, where lobbyists can hide behind keyboards and post memes to one another. Meanwhile in the real world nobody in the UCP government is making a case for Alberta energy and Alberta's right to export our products. The Premier only talks to people who agree with him. Will the Premier please take this free opportunity – it's not \$30 million. You don't need to hire failed UCP candidates to do this work for you. The Premier can show up or send one of the members of his front bench to actually have a conversation with Greta. Why won't he do it?

Mr. Kenney: Madam Speaker, on the subject of standing up for Alberta . . . [interjections] You know, heckling doesn't do it, but I'll tell you what does: leadership. That's why this government is challenging today in the Legislature through a motion the federal NDP, the Liberals, the Greens, and the Bloc Québécois, all of whom are using Alberta as a punching bag in this campaign, who are trying to defame this province and the people who work in our energy industry, who are trying to land-lock our energy, including the NDP, the very NDP to which they belong. Will they have the courage to stand up and denounce the NDP and their friend Justin Trudeau for throwing Alberta under their campaign bus in this federal campaign?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Commercial Driver Training and Testing Standards

Member Loyola: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Following their meeting with the Transportation minister yesterday, one of our visiting Broncos family members, Shauna Nordstrom, wrote the minister a letter. I hope he's ready, and I hope he answers today some of her questions. Ms Nordstrom asks, quote, minister, since when do trucking companies get to put the price on my son's life and the lives of our loved ones driving on our roads? Minister, will you answer Shauna?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was pleased to meet with several of the Humboldt families yesterday, and they were very articulate and said how they feel. Of course, we all should

respect the pain that they've gone through. We are going to increase safety on the roads. We are going to put the MELT standard in place. The previous government failed to do that. We will not fail. We will get that job done.

Member Loyola: Ms Nordstrom writes, quote, our Premier was on Global News and said that he heard from a number of trucking companies who said the new training regulations will be too expensive. If money is the only barrier, well, we have a big problem. You are our government. You have the power to make this right, and you said that you would work with us, end quote. Minister, will you put aside your cost arguments and commit to road safety as your first priority?

Mr. McIver: Well, Madam Speaker, the hon. member got part of it right. I did say that I would work with the members. I actually spoke with one of their representatives about an hour ago. Madam Speaker, the fact is that cost has never been an excuse. It's a complaint that some people have, but it won't be accepted by our government as an excuse. What we actually need to do is talk about more cost-effective ways of delivering the MELT training; that's mandatory entry-level training, a higher level safety standard for truck drivers. We will have that engagement and that conversation with the industry so that we can help them deliver this important and urgent safety standard.

Member Loyola: Ms Shauna Nordstrom continues in her letter and writes, quote, I heard a lot of words yesterday. It's time for action. Please stand up and be clear on what you are doing, end quote. The question speaks for itself, minister. Will you stand up and be clear on exactly what you are going to do?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I've been clear. I've been clear in this House. MELT is here to stay. It's a United States requirement for truckers to go into the States from Alberta or anyplace else in Canada. It's a safety enhancement that we agree with and are implementing, regardless of the fact that the folks across the aisle had at least the second half of the four years to implement it and didn't do so. Even though they put roadblocks in front of us to get it done, we will get past those roadblocks, and we will implement MELT. It's happening right now.

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

Clare's Law

Ms Rosin: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Alberta has the third-highest level of reported domestic and intimate partner violence. We also know that a dozen Alberta women are killed every year in domestic disputes. It is clear that Alberta needs a concrete pathway to addressing and lessening these incidents. To the Minister of Community and Social Services: can you please tell us what the government is doing to help survivors of domestic violence?

Mrs. Sawhney: Thank you to the member for that question. Madam Speaker, Alberta has one of the highest rates of domestic violence amongst Canadian provinces. In fact, Alberta had 10,000 victims of domestic violence in 2017 alone. Disturbing as this number is, it is understated because it does not account for those instances of domestic violence that were never reported. Yesterday we introduced legislation that will give people the ability to request information about an intimate partner's violent past.

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

Ms Rosin: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Minister. Given that we can rely on the experiences of other jurisdictions in establishing this legislation and that the United Kingdom has already had years to track the success of this legislation and given that Saskatchewan values this legislation to the extent of introduction and further given the importance of enacting best practices when such practices can save lives, can the minister tell us how implementing similar legislation will protect individuals from domestic violence?

Mrs. Sawhney: Madam Speaker, in Canada half of all young women and girls who were victims of domestic violence homicide were murdered by someone with a prior conviction. These are needless deaths. Allowing people at risk of domestic violence to obtain information on a romantic partner's previous history of domestic violence or other relevant acts will save lives. This legislation will give people the right to know whether their intimate partner has a violent past.

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

Ms Rosin: Thank you. Given that Saskatchewan introduced its version of Clare's law this spring but has yet to proclaim it and further given the urgent nature of implementing legislation that addresses issues as critically important as combatting future incidents of domestic violence and protecting those vulnerable to these incidents, can the minister tell us when we can expect domestic violence disclosure legislation to be fully implemented and in place here at home?

Mrs. Sawhney: Madam Speaker, we introduced this legislation in the House yesterday and passed second reading today. Should the proposed bill pass third reading, we will then begin the second phase of stakeholder engagement to help inform the laws and regulations for day-to-day application. We anticipate that this legislation will be implemented by spring of 2020.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday.

Automobile Insurance Rate Cap

Mr. Carson: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. One late Friday this summer this UCP government quietly announced it was going to remove the 5 per cent insurance rate cap that our government brought in, just another example of this government favouring big companies over working Albertans who rely on their vehicles to get to and from their job. To the Minister of Finance: can you please inform this House who you consulted with before making this decision and how much it costs to get a seat at the table?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. We inherited, quite frankly, a mess in terms of automobile insurance from the previous government, who didn't have the courage to deal with it but instead put a Band-Aid on it, that ultimately failed, led to actually increased insurance rates for many motorists, and was incredibly unsustainable into the future. We will deal with this problem. We will be consulting with consumers and industry stakeholders to provide a long-term, sustainable solution for Albertans.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday.

Mr. Carson: Thank you very much. Unfortunately, consumers needed an answer yesterday, not in the future.

Now, given that Albertans immediately began feeling the pinch after this government pandered to insurance lobbyists and given that Edmonton resident A.D. Langvand wrote a letter to the editor describing how, as a result of this decision, his insurance premiums rose over \$400 despite never having an accident in 21 years, to the minister: can you explain to Mr. Langvand and countless others who are now paying more to keep their cars on the road exactly how this price gouging fits into your plan for Albertans?

2:10

The Deputy Speaker: I would like to remind all members of the use of preambles after Question 4. The hon. Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board.

Mr. Toews: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again we recognize that there are challenges with automobile insurance in Alberta, and we're committed to fixing the problem that the previous government didn't have the courage to take on. The Band-Aid solution that they put on, which was a rate cap, was not sustainable in the long term, was ultimately going to result in less choice for consumers, and had the effect of actually creating a situation where some automobile insurers couldn't even find the insurance they needed.

The Deputy Speaker: Supplemental. The hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday.

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that this government rushed to hand over \$4.5 billion to large corporations and given that they've also clearly chosen to side with insurance lobbyists over working people and given that Mr. Langvand and others deserve to know who drove the minister to make this heartless decision, to the minister: will you commit to tabling a list in this House of all of the meetings where government members have discussed the insurance file?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. Again, this government will take on this file. We will consult with consumers, industry stakeholders to develop an automobile insurance plan that will be sustainable and that will provide consumers with low-cost, affordable, effective insurance in the long term. What the members opposite left us was an unworkable mess. They simply didn't have the courage to fix it. We will fix it.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-North West.

Postsecondary Education Policies

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday I asked the Minister of Advanced Education if he plans to take the advice of the Premier's so-called blue-ribbon panel report and double tuition costs for Alberta's postsecondary students. Albertans definitely did not hear a clear answer from the minister, but what I did hear was so ridiculous that I want to give him a chance to clear it up. Is the minister really claiming that Alberta's postsecondary students actually want to pay more tuition?

Mr. Nicolaidis: Madam Speaker, I don't know how clear I can be. The NDP is continuing to engage in their usual tactics of fearmongering and misrepresenting the facts. No one is talking about doubling tuition. Our priority is to help ensure that students

have accessible options which is why in September we created a new scholarship to give students who excel in the trades more opportunities to access postsecondary education.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-North West.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well, given that the member yesterday said that he met with students who wanted their tuition to increase – I found that difficult to believe, but he didn't clear that up – and given that this government is not even creating jobs for young people – in fact, we've lost 27,000 jobs since this government came to power – and given that this is all hurting the ability for our students to earn a postsecondary education, to the minister: just how much is every student in this province going to end up having to pay to help to cover for your bogus \$4.5 billion handout to big corporations?

Mr. Nicolaides: Madam Speaker, how rich, really, it is to hear that member and the members from that side of the aisle talk about jobs, when they presided over the largest decrease in jobs and the largest economic decline in the history of this province. I won't and we won't be taking any lessons from them. One of the concerns that our students have is high-paying jobs at the conclusion of their programs. We are committed, of course, to jobs, economy, and pipelines to help ensure that they have rewarding careers at the end of their studies.

Mr. Eggen: Well, given that firing postsecondary board members and replacing them with UCP boosters and donors does nothing to help student learning and given that this same minister has even gone so far as to defend anti-Semitic speech on our campuses, my final question to the minister is very simple: don't you think that our students and staff deserve better?

Mr. Nicolaides: Madam Speaker, I agree that our students do deserve better and do need better, and we will create a stronger and more sustainable postsecondary system, not the one that we inherited from the NDP, a rudderless system that is driving costs through the roof, that is not increasing accessibility. We are going to fix it. Our students do deserve better, and they will get better.

Immigrants' and Minorities' Access to Health Care

Mr. Amery: Madam Speaker, new immigrants often have distinct needs and face linguistic and cultural barriers when it comes to accessing health care. Our government has committed to supporting new Albertans through initiatives like the fairness for newcomers plan, but we also need to ensure that Albertans are properly supported when it comes to accessing health care in this province. Can the Minister of Health please explain what he is doing to support new Albertans and their health care needs as they integrate into our province?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes. Alberta has a proud history of welcoming newcomers from around the world. We're not just open for business; we're open to people looking to build a better life for themselves and for their families. New Albertans do face barriers of language and barriers of culture in accessing health care, and they need supports. The health system does put a lot of effort into helping them. For example, AHS works with primary care networks, social outreach agencies, and organizations which serve immigrants and refugees.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Cross.

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Madam Speaker and to the minister for that reply. Given that Albertans deserve quality, accessible health care and given that this includes all new Albertans who have immigrated here, can the minister please elaborate on whether there are specific outreach services that target newcomers and other minority communities aimed at reducing barriers to accessing these services?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Yes, Madam Speaker. There is a wide range of programs. To take one example, there is a multicultural health program at the Grey Nuns hospital here in Edmonton. The program connects patients with services, including community multicultural brokers. That helps them access services like the healthy beginnings program for new mothers. It's not about the services themselves; it's about navigating, or wayfinding, and it's about knowing that the services are there and how to find them in a new place and in a new language.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Cross.

Mr. Amery: Thank you once again, Madam Speaker. Given that one of the most substantial challenges that immigrants face when coming to Canada is learning the English language and given that there is a demonstrated need for linguistically diverse health services in this province and given that many of these newcomers settle in my constituency of Calgary-Cross and in other areas nearby, can the minister please explain what information is available on how to access health services and other health-related information in languages other than English?

Mr. Shandro: Yes. There are currently, and we're going to provide more, Madam Speaker. AHS provides 24/7 interpretation and translation services for more than 300 languages free of charge. You can call Health Link and say the language you speak and be connected with an interpreter. At a facility as well, you can walk into any of them and do the same: say the language, and you'll be put in touch with their interpretation service. They're also planning at AHS to increase their advertising in ethnic media and are finalizing a project which will make content on their website available in eight languages.

High School Construction Capital Plan for Calgary

Mr. Sabir: Residents of northeast Calgary have been desperate for a high school for years, and the previous Conservative government talked about building the school for years but never did. In 2018 our government committed funds to see this project through, but now parents are worried that the UCP will not follow through on this project. To the Minister of Infrastructure: can you please inform this House on whether you are funding this high school? Yes or no?

Mr. McIver: Madam Speaker, the hon. member, I think, knows very well that the budget is set to be released next week, so the hon. member knows very well that that answer can't be given in this House today because it would break the rules. I know that it's not his first term in office, so perhaps by his third term he won't ask questions that he knows very well cannot possibly be answered.

Mr. Sabir: Given that the UCP platform committed to build new schools and given that this government rushed to cut a \$4.5 billion cheque to big corporations before the budget but have not said a

word about building the new school, to the minister: can you confirm that north Calgary will get a high school? Yes or no?

2:20

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We were elected with a very clear mandate to continue to build schools across this province. While we are still finalizing our capital plan for the upcoming year, I can assure this House that we intend to honour that platform commitment. More details will be brought forward when we table the budget on October 24.

Mr. Sabir: Given that this government's promises in this very House about education funding have not been followed through on and given that this government is warning of capital spending reductions of 15 to 20 per cent and given that these types of cuts are being signalled by the Premier's so-called blue-ribbon report, to the minister, right here for all the Calgary MLAs with constituents depending on the construction of this high school: will it be built? Yes or no?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I believe I've just answered the question, that we are continuing. We're committed to building schools. We will continue to build schools. Wait till we announce on October 24 what our budget is. More details to come.

Beekeeping Industry Concerns

Mr. Dach: Madam Speaker, 2019 has been a difficult year for Alberta's honey producers. Alberta's beekeepers are reporting a higher than average winter die-off as a result of the weather this season. Many producers are concerned about a partial to total failure of the 2019 honey crop and the imminent collapse of some beekeeper operations. During a meeting on October 7, the Alberta Beekeepers Commission proposed that the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry find money within the government of Alberta or apply to utilize federal ag recovery framework disaster funding to provide a financial lifeline to industry members struggling to survive. To the minister: which of these steps have you taken to provide urgent financial support to Alberta's important honey industry?

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

Mr. Dreesen: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I'd like to thank the member opposite for the question. I do appreciate that. The beekeepers, yes, have met with me. Like many farm groups, they are having a very difficult year. Their crops are low. It was a very cold, rainy year this year. We are working with AFSC and with the existing suite of programs that they have available to make sure that funding will be available to them.

Thank you.

Mr. Dach: Madam Speaker, given that honeybees play a major role not only in our honey industry but also a critical role in our \$25 billion canola industry and given that the canola industry relies on managed bee pollination to pollinate the 20 million acres of canola grown annually in Canada and given that, also, \$4.5 billion was handed out already by this government to profitable corporations yet nothing to rural Alberta beekeepers and honey producers, Minister, were you aware of the critical role that bees play in our agricultural sector, and if you were, why haven't you stepped in to

help this industry already to save thousands of Alberta jobs and our most important crop?

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

Mr. Dreesen: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, I am aware of the importance of pollinators. As a farmer that's grown billions of plants, I do understand that they are very important, and it's something that this government is proud of, all the hard work that farmers do. We will stand with them every step along the way throughout this very difficult harvest.

There is one more question coming, I do know, and I hope that the member opposite can answer who he'll be voting for on Monday in the upcoming federal election.

Mr. Dach: Madam Speaker, given that there is an average 20 per cent sustainable winter die-off of honeybees and given that this year the Alberta Beekeepers Commission has estimated that the winter die-off was 28.8 per cent, much higher than the 20 per cent sustainable average, and given that we are forced to rely on foreign suppliers, primarily New Zealand and Australia, to replenish our hives each year with bees bred there, is the minister planning to develop a provincial honeybee breeding program so that Alberta can reproduce our own local bee populations and even export them, creating jobs and growing our economy? If not, why not?

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

Mr. Dreesen: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. It's unfortunate that the member opposite didn't take the opportunity to answer that question that I had for him.

We are looking at red tape reduction measures on bees coming over from British Columbia and their blueberry harvest to be able to come over to Alberta at different times throughout the year. We are looking at other bees that come across the borders to make sure that we can actually have a stronger beehive population here in Alberta. Pollinators are very important to the agriculture sector, and it's something that this side, the government, with all our rural caucus members, understands the importance of. And we're making sure that our farmers are well taken care of by a government that supports them every step along the way.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

Natural Gas Export

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As the majority of us in this room are aware, carbon taxes serve only to reduce the competitive edge by taxing industry when our neighbours to the south are not. With the abundant supply of natural gas we have here in our province, we instead have an opportunity to have a real and positive impact on global emissions while improving our economy at the same time. To the Associate Minister of Natural Gas: does our government have plans to increase the amount of natural gas that our province can export in order to aid in reducing global emissions?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Associate Minister of Natural Gas.

Mr. Nally: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I can answer that question with a resounding yes. As you are aware, Albertans have an overwhelming hangover from four years of NDP mismanagement, and nobody has experienced a bigger headache than the natural gas

producers. I'm proud to tell you that Alberta's natural gas producers provide clean, affordable energy, and we're working hard to get it to international markets.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Associate Minister.

Given that Canada contributes only 1.6 per cent to global emissions compared to countries like China, that contributes over 25 per cent, and given that countries like China who currently use coal to generate power are looking to switch to natural gas fired electricity plants to produce up to 60 per cent fewer emissions and given that ramping up exports of natural gas would greatly benefit not only the global environment but our economy as well, can the associate minister tell this House: how soon can we be ready to ship natural gas to those international markets?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Associate Minister of Natural Gas.

Mr. Nally: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Albertans elected our government on an overwhelming mandate of jobs, the economy, the pipeline, and nothing fits that bill better than LNG. Canada's most promising opportunity right now is with LNG Canada, and we expect to start shipping natural gas in 2025.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Associate Minister.

Given that liquefying natural gas is the best way to ship this product and given that Alberta has an abundance of this product to liquefy and given the number of constituents in my area as well as Albertans across the province who have experience in the energy industry and who are ready to get to work, can the associate minister please tell us and this House what opportunities Alberta has to get our LNG to other jurisdictions?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Associate Minister of Natural Gas.

Mr. Nally: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Woodfibre LNG, LNG Canada, and Énergie Saguenay are just three of the opportunities that we're currently looking at. But I'm pleased to say that Pieridae announced today that it just recently secured a 20-year deal to provide Alberta natural gas to its Goldboro LNG facility in Nova Scotia. Alberta is going to be the primary supplier of that natural gas, and it's going to result in hundreds of jobs for Albertans.

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

Springbank Reservoir Flood Mitigation Project

Ms Ganley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In 2013 the city of Calgary was devastated by flooding. Sadly, lives were lost, and it caused \$6 billion worth of damage across southern Alberta. Flooding disrupted businesses, damaged critical infrastructure, and had a devastating emotional toll. We must protect Calgary for the future, but this Premier has continued to waver on his support for the Springbank dam. To the Premier: will you finish construction on the Springbank dam, or will this be another victim of your \$4.5 billion giveaway?

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

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. The reality is that we've been clear as a government with the process that we're working through when it comes to the Springbank dam. Let me also be clear that we recognize the importance of flood mitigation when it comes to the city of Calgary. With that said, what the hon. member is not bothering to bring up in this House, I do notice, is that she was part of a cabinet that we now know messed up in submitting documents associated with the Springbank dam, which is causing all sorts of trouble within the process and lands with them. Like so many other things, this government is focused now on, unfortunately, having to clean up the NDP mess, but Albertans can rest assured that they sent the right government here to get the job done, and we will clean up the NDP's mess.

Ms Ganley: Given that recently the Premier stated that this government will look at other flood protection options for Calgary but that any other option will take longer to build and will cost more money and given that this government rushed to support corporations with a handout that ultimately failed to create any jobs and has largely waffled on flood protection in Calgary, to the Premier: what is the timeline for the Springbank dam, and are you fully committed to this project?

2:30

Mr. Jason Nixon: Madam Speaker, I'm sure the hon. member – or at least I would hope – would know, as an MLA for Calgary and a former minister of the Crown inside the province of Alberta, that there are going to need to be multiple mechanisms for flood mitigation to the city of Calgary. There are multiple rivers that flow into the city of Calgary. Bringing up the need to have a discussion for different avenues for flood mitigation for Calgary shouldn't be something that shocks people. It would be completely appropriate. But, again, I do notice that the hon. member has dodged the question. The reason that you're in any sort of delay in a conversation around Springbank is because their government messed up on filing paperwork and presenting paperwork. Again, the NDP created a mess. It's their fault. We'll get it fixed.

Ms Ganley: The members across the way can misrepresent the past, but they're in government now, so given that the Premier campaigned on jobs, economy, pipelines and given that Calgary's downtown core is critical to the economic hub of the province and given that the Premier's corporate handout isn't creating any jobs and any future flooding in downtown Calgary would only serve to make the economic woes of this province worse, to the Premier: can you actually tell the people living and working in downtown Calgary what you have done to protect their homes and places of work? It's been six months. Can you please tell them where you stand?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, Madam Speaker, I think what the Premier would probably say in regard to that question is the following: Albertans fixed the problem. They replaced the NDP with the United Conservative Party, who's now Alberta's government. We are waiting on approval processes and other conversations that involve the federal government. Again, the NDP government that was just in office six months ago messed up filing the paperwork. That's what that comes down to. The hon. member: can she explain why she was part of a cabinet on an issue that was so important to the city that she represents and that cabinet couldn't even get paperwork filed properly? Calgarians spoke loud and clear on election day on who they trust to get this fixed, and they sent us here to do it.

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

Social Assistance Program Funding

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Last week we learned from Statistics Canada that close to 12,000 Albertans had simply given up looking for work. Now new data from the University of Calgary shows that the number of households on social assistance in Alberta is rising. We are now approaching the highest use of social assistance programs in the country. To the Minister of Community and Social Services: what support will you be providing for social assistance in the coming budget, or did all the money go to big corporations?

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

Mrs. Sawhney: Thank you for that question, Madam Speaker. Right now the best thing we could do in terms of providing more social assistance to vulnerable Albertans is to make sure that we revitalize our economy. We need to make sure that we put into place a very favourable fiscal environment that brings investment back into this province so we can get more people back to work. More people we have back to work means more revenue that we have to actually fund these very vital social services.

Ms Renaud: Wow.

Given that this minister's own government reimposed school fees, slashed funding for nonprofits, cancelled the insurance rate cap, and has left many small businesses fearing what's next as they work to impose the recommendations from their harmful MacKinnon report, to the minister: will you be ready, and will you provide more funding for these assistance programs instead of continuing to leach money from household budgets?

Mrs. Sawhney: Madam Speaker, I've said many times in this House that this government and my ministry is committed to serving the vulnerable in our province and those who are most in need. Absolutely, we will take care of those folks who need social assistance, but again, I think our focus has to be in understanding that we need to make sure that we create jobs. Creating jobs for vulnerable Albertans will help them get back to work, will offer them equality of opportunity, and a life of dignity.

Ms Renaud: Given that the previous government's record is clear – we cut child poverty in half – is this minister prepared to be the one who pushes thousands of children back into poverty?

Mrs. Sawhney: Madam Speaker, on the contrary. This government is working very, very hard to make sure that those in need are taken care of. We are taking a crossministerial approach, working with our departments to make sure that those who are most in need are getting the supports that they need and deserve.

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

Investment in Alberta

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The last four years have seen Canada's competitiveness take a serious hit. Inflows of foreign direct investment into Canada fell by two-thirds from 2015 to 2017, particularly due to investors fleeing Canada's uncertain and hostile regulatory environment created by the former NDP government and the federal Liberals working in tandem. Can the Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism please update this

House on what our government is doing to assure foreign investors that Alberta is a safe place to invest?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

Ms Fir: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. Our government is taking action to show investors that Alberta has the best conditions for investment and job creation. First we repealed the job-killing carbon tax, and then we introduced our job-creation tax cut, which will give Alberta the lowest taxes on job creators in Canada. The Premier also recently travelled to the United States, where he met with investors that have more than \$9 trillion under management.

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

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that Canada is a major producer of oil and gas globally and given increased competitiveness in the international markets, can the Minister of Energy please explain how our government will help create an economic environment whereby Alberta energy producers can remain competitive and attract additional investment?

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you for that question. It's been no secret for the past several years that our oil and gas sector has been struggling under the previous NDP government. To attract investment in the oil and gas sector, we need a competitive tax structure, we need a competitive regulatory environment, and we need a stable political environment with political leaders in Ottawa who support, not attack, our oil and gas sector. Just this morning, Madam Speaker, our government tabled Motion 34 to stand up to political attacks coming from Ottawa from three parties: from the NDP, from the Liberals, and from the Green Party. I would ask the members on the other side of the House which of those three parties they're voting for on Monday.

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

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that the investment in Alberta's oil sands declined under the previous NDP government and given that significant efforts are being made to signal to investors that Alberta is open for business, can the Minister of Energy please update the House on the progress this government has made to let investors know that they are again welcome in Alberta?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Mrs. Savage: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Since taking government, our government has been relentless in standing up for pipelines, fighting for jobs and the economy. As my hon. colleague noted, we have taken steps to lower the corporate tax rate to remain competitive with other jurisdictions. We're speeding up the regulatory approval process and cutting red tape to remain competitive with other jurisdictions, and we have launched constitutional challenges against a hostile federal government under Justin Trudeau to defend our exclusive constitutional jurisdiction. We're taking steps to defend our energy sector, unlike the previous government.

Educational Curriculum Review and Student Assessment

Mr. Toor: Madam Speaker, parents in my riding have voiced overwhelming support for grade 3 standardized testing. They provide

accountability for teachers and are an objective measure of success for students and parents. Our government has committed to reintroducing these tests. Can the Minister of Education inform this House as to whether students will write grade 3 provincial achievement tests this year?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Madam Speaker and the hon. member for the question. We were elected with a clear mandate to reform student assessment and improve outcomes for our students. To provide stability to the education system, we are making SLAs optional this year, and we will make them mandatory for the 2020-21 school year. New grade 3 assessments will be developed alongside the new curriculum.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Falconridge.

Mr. Toor: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that answer. Given that our government has committed to revamping the school curriculum to ensure that Alberta students have foundational skills and given that over the summer the Minister of Education appointed a panel to review this curriculum, can the minister please outline what opportunities parents and educators will have to voice their opinions to this panel?

2:40

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you again for the question. We value and appreciate the role parents play as the primary educators of their children. The Curriculum Advisory Panel has been tasked with drafting an updated ministerial order on student learning, which will modernize and strengthen how students are taught in the classroom. The panel's work will serve as the starting point for public engagement in the new year. I would heavily encourage any parent to participate in that engagement once it happens.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Falconridge.

Mr. Toor: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that Alberta has slipped dramatically in its ranking in a world-wide program for international student assessment scores and given that students need to be prepared with English and math skills that will prepare more students to compete for jobs in STEM fields, can the minister inform this House why our government is committed to ensuring that students learn foundational skills in subjects like math and English?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you again for the question. Education is a key priority for our government, and literacy and numeracy lay at the foundation for lifelong learning and future success. The new curriculum will have a stronger focus on literacy and numeracy, and student assessment tools will clearly identify how students are doing, not only for their teachers but for the student and for the parents as well.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, you have less than 30 seconds to do what you need to do before we carry on.

Members' Statements

(continued)

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, the hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod.

Louise McKinney Exhibit in Claresholm

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm proud to rise today in this House to share with you about the opening of a new museum exhibit at the Claresholm & District Museum. Claresholm resident Louise Crummy McKinney made history when in 1917 she was elected as the first woman to a Legislature in the entire British Empire, barely a year after women earned the right to vote and run for office. While historically significant in her own right, most of us are more familiar with her in her association as part of the Famous Five, five women who went all the way to the Privy Council in Britain to establish the right of women to be recognized as persons and therefore be eligible to be appointed as Senators.

The British North America Act of 1867, which set out the powers and responsibilities of the provincial and federal governments in Canada, stipulated that only a man could be a person and only qualified persons could be appointed to the Canadian Senate. The Persons Case began in 1927 when Judge Emily Murphy, an Edmonton women's court magistrate, upon realizing that women were not fully defined as persons under the BNA Act, called on four other Albertan women for support. McKinney was the second woman asked to sign Murphy's petition for personhood. The others, who would make up the Famous Five, include Irene Parlbay, Henrietta Muir Edwards, and Nellie McClung.

On October 18, 1929, came the landmark decision that Canadian women were indeed persons and eligible for appointment to the Senate and participation in the final stages of enacting federal laws in Canada. On July 10, 1931, the remarkable Louse McKinney was laid to rest in Claresholm, Alberta.

With the support of the United Farmers Historical Society, 88 years later the Claresholm & District Museum opened their own exhibit dedicated to the important work and inspirational life of Louise McKinney and her truly Albertan tenacity. I know our community will benefit from her exhibit and her very great example for years to come.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Red Deer-South.

Coal Transition Payments to Corporations

Mr. Stephan: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for that statement.

Today I'm going to make a statement on behalf of Alberta taxpayers. In 2015 the NDP imposed new costs on coal-powered plants producing electricity for Alberta consumers. As a result of their unilateral cost increases, these power providers were able to terminate contracts that had been in place for over a decade. Fast-forward to 2019. This week the Ministry of Energy attended the Public Accounts Committee to answer questions, including in respect of their last annual report. Page 78 of the report discusses the real-world consequences of these NDP actions and states: "The Ministry of Energy will make payments totalling \$97 million . . . to the three generators." These payments started in 2017 and "will continue for the next 12 years."

The NDP were fired but not before leaving Alberta holding the bag for more than \$1 billion. Alberta taxpayers may ask the following questions. What steps, if any, can our government now take to mitigate this NDP harm inflicted upon Alberta taxpayers?

Last of all, how could this have happened? This \$1 billion cost to Alberta taxpayers was completely avoidable. Was the prior NDP government negligent in respect of their contracts, or were they just indifferent about harm to Alberta taxpayers?

Thank you.

Introduction of Bills

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Bill 18 Electricity Statutes (Capacity Market Termination) Amendment Act, 2019

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to introduce Bill 18, the Electricity Statutes (Capacity Market Termination) Amendment Act, 2019.

Madam Speaker, our government promised to review the planned transition to a capacity market for electricity. We did that this summer, consulting with industry experts, including consumer groups, to determine the best path forward for Alberta's electricity market system. We heard loudly and clearly that investors and Albertans want what works, and that is Alberta's tried-and-true energy-only market, not the complex planned capacity market.

Madam Speaker, if passed, the electricity statutes amendment act will enable return to the energy-only market, a market which for more than 20 years has provided a reliable and affordable supply of electricity to investors with certainty.

Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 18 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Brooks-Medicine Hat.

Ms Glasgow: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have here the requisite number of copies of a letter sent to the Leader of the Official Opposition from the mayors of Brooks, Wetaskiwin, and Lacombe. In this letter I read a quote, and why not read it into the record one more time?

Misrepresenting our views for political theatre is dishonest and unbecoming for any member of the provincial legislative assembly. We respectfully ask you . . .

the Leader of the Opposition,

. . . to correct your statement for the record . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, we'll just table that. Thank you.

Are there any other members with tablings? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have the requisite copies of a tabling, a fundraising letter for the UCP for the fundraiser of October 25, \$125 or \$1,000 tables, with the hon. Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board including his name.

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

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd just like to table the requisite number of copies of an article from Science & Environment magazine dated September 22, 2019. The article is titled Climate Change: Impacts 'Accelerating' as Leaders Gather for UN Talks.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other members with tablings? Oh. So many of you. The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Member Loyola: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have the requisite number of copies of an article from the *Guardian* titled The Climate Crisis Explained in 10 Charts: from the Rise and Rise of Carbon Dioxide in the Atmosphere to Possible Solutions.

2:50

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

Mr. Nielsen: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today with the requisite number of copies of a report from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights titled Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Kashmir: Developments in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir from June 2016 to April 2018, and General Human Rights Concerns in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Official Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise to table the appropriate number of copies of a couple of pages from the Baker Hughes report, which shows that Alberta's drilling rig count is at its all-time low in the province.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have here the requisite number of copies of an article I referenced yesterday in question period written by Tanya Kappo entitled Stephen Harper's Comments on Missing, Murdered Aboriginal Women Show 'Lack of Respect': Prime Minister Says National Inquiry Not High on Government's Radar.

Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-North West.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I have to table this afternoon the appropriate number of copies of an article from *Vox* magazine. The article is very interesting and timely, talking about: Greta Thunberg Is Right: It's Time to Haul [Butt] on Climate Change. It actually doesn't say "butt," but I don't think that the word is appropriate parliamentary language. It's from October 4, 2019, by David Roberts.

The Deputy Speaker: There are so many tablings today. The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. This is related to questions that I asked the minister of labour yesterday. I have five copies of an article from the *Star* titled There's a Lot of Uncertainty: Coal Workers Unsure of Support Program's Fate as Alberta Budget Approaches, just sharing the concerns of workers in these affected communities who rely on these programs.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have five copies of an article entitled After Oil and Gas: Meet Alberta Workers Making the Switch to Solar. It's dated October 2, 2019, and it's from the *Narwhal*.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other members with tablings? Seeing none, we are at Ordres du jour.

Orders of the Day

Government Motions

Evening Sitzings

31. Mr. McIver moved on behalf of Mr. Jason Nixon:
Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 4(1) commencing upon passage of this motion the Assembly shall meet on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings for consideration of government business for the duration of the First Session of the 30th Legislature 2019 fall sitting unless the Government House Leader notifies the Assembly that there shall be no evening sitting that day by providing notice under Notices of Motions in the daily Routine or at any time prior to 6 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, Government Motion 31 is not debatable.

[Government Motion 31 carried]

Interprovincial Infrastructure Projects

34. Mrs. Savage moved on behalf of Mr. Jason Nixon:
Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly denounce all federal political parties that would enable a provincial government to unilaterally prevent the construction of interprovincial infrastructure projects of national importance, including natural resource pipelines.

Ms Hoffman moved on behalf of Mr. Bilous that the motion be amended by adding “and that would roll back progress on efforts to reach Canada’s current greenhouse gas emissions targets, including the abysmal federal TIER plan” after the words “prevent the construction of interprovincial infrastructure projects of national importance, including natural resource pipelines.”

[Debate adjourned on the amendment October 17]

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any members wishing to speak to the amendment on the motion? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

Ms Sweet: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. It is my privilege to stand and speak to the motion put forward by the government, led by this Premier, and the amendment as proposed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

[Mr. Milliken in the chair]

I’ve been reflecting on the circumstances that have led us to this very difficult time in federal-provincial relations. We are in a very unique and unfortunate circumstance. Canadian federalism, the formal and informal rules that govern our country, is under assault, and there is at this point in time no clear path forward. Albertans have a right to be frustrated. We are challenged to get our products to market, we are challenged to get a fair price for our resources, we’re challenged on the action on climate change, and we are challenged to think of ourselves as Canadians first as opposed to Albertans or British Columbians or Quebecers.

Mr. Speaker, I’ve been reflecting on the proximate cause of our national division. I’ve been asking myself: what sparked this? What was the spark that ultimately lit the flame of division? What decision was made that led to this roaring fire that has pitted region against region, province against province, and led to the fracture of our great Canadian federal state?

Mr. Speaker, before I get into that discussion, let me say a few words about the issue that led to this very unfortunate series of events, the fire that is putting Canada at risk. That issue was pipelines. For those of us in the west and in Alberta, no issue in federal-provincial relations has been more divisive than pipelines. On the pipeline file, we have been facing moving goalposts, provincial infighting, and an abdication of federal leadership. Now, the issue of pipelines and federalism shouldn’t be that complicated. Our Constitution lays out the responsibilities of provincial governments and of federal governments. If the orders of government adhered to their responsibilities and if the orders of government stayed within their lanes, we wouldn’t be faced with this messy, divisive, and unproductive period in federal-provincial relations.

So, Mr. Speaker, how did we get here? It’s an important question, and I think it deserves an answer. The government motion before us speaks to the issue of jurisdiction; in other words, what are the responsibilities of the provinces, and what is the responsibility of Ottawa? Or, to put it another way, who is responsible for what in our federal system of government, and much more importantly, what happens when one order of government abdicates its responsibility to make decisions?

Mr. Speaker, let me say a few words about the key discussion that ultimately led to the situation we find ourselves in today, the spark that lit the flame and burned our modern system of federalism to the ground. We don’t have to go back too far, because the year was 2012. The issue was pipeline approvals and, in particular, the famous five key conditions from B.C. The key players in these issues are well known. They included Premier Christy Clark from B.C.; Premier Alison Redford from Alberta; Prime Minister Stephen Harper, operating from Ottawa; and two pipeline proponents, Kinder Morgan and Enbridge. Of course, we had the current Premier of Alberta, the former senior federal minister and, more importantly, the political Alberta lieutenant in the Harper government.

So what happened in 2012? What was the decision that led us to this mess we face today? Well, in 2012 Premier Clark laid out five conditions to win B.C.’s support for the future pipeline expansion. It was an odd set of demands, to say the least. Interprovincial pipelines, of course, are a matter of federal jurisdiction, so naturally B.C. had no issue dictating to Alberta the conditions that would lead to their support for additional pipelines. B.C.’s demands shouldn’t have mattered. B.C. had no jurisdiction here. B.C.’s demands only mattered if the federal government failed to step up and assert their sovereignty over interprovincial pipelines.

But B.C., in an effort to reshape modern federalism, took a chance and laid out demands to see if they could surpass the federal authority over interprovincial pipelines. B.C. employed threats and coercion. B.C. wanted to get paid. It was B.C.’s way or the highway. This led to the decision or, rather, the lack of decision by the Harper government and his chief lieutenant, the political minister of Alberta and the current Premier. When B.C. made its demands, the federal government failed to assert its jurisdiction. It washed its hands of any responsibility. To put it another way, it abdicated its responsibility, and it left Alberta to fend for itself.

Now, this decision may have seemed small at the time, but it had an enormous impact on Canadian federalism, and the impact has been terrible for the economic health of our country. The failure of this Premier to intervene in 2012 and assert federal jurisdiction led to the idea that horse-trading among provinces was okay to get pipelines built, that legal manoeuvring by provinces in federal areas of jurisdiction was okay, that stopping permitting processes over pipelines at the provincial level was okay, that all of this was okay. That decision in 2012, that failure to act and stand up for the federal

government's exclusive jurisdiction over interprovincial pipelines, has led us directly to the terrible situation we face today.

3:00

Now, back in 2012 the federal government could have put a stop to all of this. They could have said no to the B.C. Premier before things got out of hand. They could have in no uncertain circumstances said no. They could have said that interprovincial pipelines were the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. But back in 2012 this Premier failed to act when he had the legal and moral authority to make the decision. This Premier failed to stand up and fight for the issues of jurisdiction, an issue that goes to the heart of our Canadian system of federalism.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude my remarks, I want to offer the Premier of this province a chance to apologize, to apologize to Albertans for the mess that his lack of action created and to apologize to Canadians for the havoc his lack of leadership created in tearing down our institution of federalism. I'd also like to ask this Premier: why? Why as the senior federal minister responsible for Alberta did he not stand up and fight for pipelines? Why did he open the door for B.C. to threaten our economy and our key industry? Why did he allow us to be taken hostage? Why did he fail to assert federal jurisdiction over B.C. when they were first testing these waters, and why did Alberta have to wait for the previous Premier, the current Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, to make the case on behalf of Alberta that it is the federal government that has the exclusive authority over international and provincial pipelines?

Today our Premier blames the current federal government for failing to step up, but he was the one who opened the door. He was the one who failed to show leadership, and he was the one who lit the spark that created the fire that now engrosses our politics. The problem is that now he's trying to fix a problem that he created. We'll debate the government motion, but let's not forget in this Legislature how we got into this problem of jurisdiction. That is the key issue facing this Assembly, the key issue facing this country.

With that, I will conclude my remarks.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Under 29(2)(a), I believe it is the hon. member for Edmonton-Clareview.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview: you can't forget the south end of the riding; they don't like that.

Thank you very much. I'm just rising to ask the member – I appreciate her comments, especially looking at the historical context and the role that our current Premier played when he was part of a federal government that very much had jurisdiction over other pipelines and the role that he played or failed to play in ensuring that Alberta and Canada increased its market access. I just wanted to ask the Member for Edmonton-Manning in regard to the amendment, I guess, her thoughts on balancing the economy and the environment, so taking meaningful action and still demonstrating to the world that, yes, Alberta is a world-class producer of our resources but acknowledging that we can bump that bar even higher.

If the Member for Edmonton-Manning can just talk a little bit about how the amendment would maybe be perceived across Canada by Canadians that are demanding that governments take more meaningful action on our environment. I mean, you know, our most precious resource is our Earth: our land, air, and water that we need to survive. Recognizing that, obviously, is absolutely critical not only for the Trans Mountain pipeline but for pipelines in all directions to get that market access, which is causing so much pain

to Albertans and Canadians and to our economy. This is about the livelihood of people. What role can the environment or those that are at the federal table have to ensure that we will see movement on things like pipelines and more support for the Canadian energy sector?

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning has the floor.

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I think it's important that we recognize that, you know, when we were in government, we proposed the climate leadership plan. We implemented it, and we were looking at how we can make sure that when our product goes to market, everybody across the country and internationally sees that we are also addressing the climate crisis that many people are concerned about. The key thing that I think is a concern here is that we've now seen that that plan is now being put aside by this current government. There really is no plan by this government to address the issues around carbon emissions and what they're going to do around the climate crisis that we have right now.

The other piece about it as well is that we also looked at diversifying our economy, so we were talking about the fact that, you know, we can't just only depend on the oil and gas sector to drive the Alberta economy. We're seeing that now in the job loss numbers that have come out in the last few days. Depending on oil and gas and looking at that is not the only way to drive Alberta forward, so we implemented looking at green energy – solar panels, wind energy – recognizing that there are other things that can be done in Alberta that will drive our economy moving forward. We haven't seen from this government – in fact, we've seen some of the green grants that were being offered to help companies diversify to look at solar, to look at wind cancelled. The question really is – and this is why this amendment is so important – that you can advocate for the oil and gas industry without completely ignoring the fact that we have to address climate change. That is the reality of this.

What we are saying to this government is that if you're going to have this conversation and you're going to put this motion forward, you also look at how you're going to address climate change. What we're seeing right now is that this government very clearly wants to take us backwards and not forward and doesn't want to address any issues when it comes to climate change. We've seen that with the refusal to even go out and talk to people who are outside this Legislature protesting and will be here tomorrow. If this government would like to demonstrate how they are going to address climate change and take it seriously, I welcome you all to come out and have a chat with people who will be at the Legislature tomorrow and maybe sit down with Greta and have a conversation with her and learn and share the information about Alberta.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. members, with 30 seconds left under 29(2)(a), any takers?

Seeing none, any members looking to speak to amendment A1? I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-North West.

Mr. Eggen: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to enter the discussion around Government Motion 34 and the amendment brought forward by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview on Motion 34. His addition is:

"and that would roll back progress on efforts to reach Canada's current greenhouse gas emissions targets, including the abysmal federal TIER plan" after "prevent the construction of inter-provincial infrastructure projects of national importance, including natural resource pipelines".

Mr. Speaker, I think that this is an essential addition to this motion. We know that there's a tremendous amount of controversy in all of the four compass directions around our province in regard to building pipelines to move Alberta energy products to market. This has been a source of frustration to our economy here now for quite a number of years. Certainly, it's been incumbent upon the previous to last government, I guess, the PC government and then our government and now this current, new government to look for ways by which we can build market access for our energy products to the United States, to eastern Canada, and to the Pacific coast as well.

I think that, you know, it's been all hands on deck in regard to attempting to secure these pipelines, I would say, from each of the three governments. You know, one thing that we learned over the last four years is that it's better to use a sense of diplomacy and conversation and argument to convince people of the importance of moving our energy products here in Alberta, the importance of the value of moving those products not just to the economy of our province but the whole country as well. We know that as the price of energy slips and the purchase of our oil and gas products is reduced here in Alberta, so, too, does the GDP of our nation, of Canada. So, you know, as our government embarked on a significant program to help to educate Canadians across the country about the value and the importance of our energy here in Alberta, of moving it to market, with a lot of efforts we managed to change hearts and minds, quite frankly.

3:10

We engaged in a national advertising campaign that was very successful. I'm just thinking of British Columbia, where we crossed the point where the majority of British Columbians changed their minds and recognized the value of the pipeline to the Pacific coast. We know that a similar movement was afoot to the east of us, and I think that it's important for a government in Alberta to responsibly help to educate Canadians and indeed North Americans and the world about the value and the importance of our energy industry here in the province of Alberta. We hear it often, but it bears saying again that we have, as we can demonstrably show, the highest standard for our conventional energy industry and demonstrate that highest standard of safety and mitigation of both carbon and pollution in the widest possible way. Then we can convince people.

You know, people are not convinced just with words and rhetoric. You have to actually show these things to be true. That's why, you know, we worked so hard with the climate action plan to be demonstrable leaders in building a direction to reduce our carbon footprints through the energy industry and as individuals as well. Those are the kinds of things which you can attach to an argument to convince Canadians and, in fact, the world about the importance for us to be able to have market access for Alberta energy products, because people can see that, you know, we're not just pumping oil and gas but that we are actually working to apply that highest standard not just to our use of energy and our production of energy here in the province but to set an example that we can export and use across the country and indeed around the world.

The key to this amendment that the hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview did bring forward is to have that aspect of the argument, of the debate, across the country in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and having targets and having a carbon trading market to point to and have people understand that we are serious about ensuring our place as economic drivers for this country but also ensuring our place as economic and environmental leaders for this country, too. Those two things must go together. I mean, people will judge us on our actions, and it's absolutely essential to have both of those arguments functioning in place at the same time.

I know that it's not easy to bestride the two arguments together and to square them in people's minds. You know, we see a whole new generation of people in our province, across the country, and around the world that are looking at the detrimental effects of climate change as, you know, some very raw and not pleasant inheritance which they will have to deal with for the rest of their lives. To show leadership to that next generation is absolutely essential, not just to show that we care – right? – in some sort of heartfelt sort of way but to lead by example to ensure that the next generation of leaders indeed continue down the path of carbon reduction and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions into the future so that we can achieve sustainability here on the planet.

I think that we have a very unique opportunity here in the province of Alberta. But it's terribly time sensitive because I think the vision for our energy industry and indeed the direction for our economy must be that we make best use of the conventional energy resources that we have available to us here now and use that as a means by which to demonstrate a transition and a leadership to a more sustainable energy economy both here in the province and exporting those innovations around the world, to use that conventional energy industry, that is the backbone of our economy, to help diversify the economy in the broadest possible way as well, to build value-added resources in our petrochemical industry, and to invest significantly in alternative forms of energy and become energy leaders in those areas as well.

The expertise that our working population here in Alberta has is significant. We are world leaders in conventional energy extraction and energy development, and those same skills we can use both for the diversification and the value-added development of, for example, the polypropylene industry, that we helped to stimulate here through tax credits over the last term of our government, and, to carry on with that theme, with that sentiment, to demonstrate that our plumbers and our pipefitters, our welders and engineers and infrastructure expertise can be utilized to build value-added product and industry here in the province of Alberta.

Those individual projects, the polypropylene plants that are being built in the Industrial Heartland, in the Redwater corridor, represent thousands of construction jobs – right? – and then also represent a value-added price that you can add to those base energy inputs from natural gas and oil, that you make money from, quite frankly. These are ways by which we can help to mitigate our reliance on the extraction of primary energy resources and then to make sure that we're not just capturing that value-added product but capturing some of the profit from the traditional resources to invest in renewable infrastructure as well, in solar energy, geothermal energy, wind energy, and transit, among other areas.

It's very important. Like I say, it's time sensitive, Mr. Speaker, because, you know, while we have those resources and while they have a value-added economic value, that's the time to act, right? We don't sit and rely on what has driven our economy in the past. Countries and jurisdictions that have done so throughout history were bound to fail. I don't think that Albertans are really in that situation, nor do we have that attitude of resignation, quite frankly. I believe that being the youngest population in Canada, the best educated population, at least for now, in the country leads us to a very, again, prime opportunity to capitalize, to diversify, and to lead the new energy industry and continue to lead the economy of this country through the innovation and the can-do spirit that has built this province over the first 100 years.

I believe that by making sure that we reach out through diplomatic efforts, we can solve a lot of these problems. I know that as we look, in the final few days of this federal election, you know, we see some interesting movement of vote and intention. I guess you can't count it till Monday, when they actually have the election. But one of the

things that we see is a phenomenon in places like Quebec – right? – where we need to make sure that we have conversations with the people, the population of Quebec to talk about energy sustainability and their place in Confederation. You make sure that those channels are open, because we can sell and exchange energy expertise and energy products between our provinces, and that we don't put up barriers, either physical or trade or psychological, that would otherwise impede the forward progress of our economy and how we trade between provinces here in the confederation of the nation.

3:20

I mean, that's my two bits on this. I think that the amendment that the hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview brought forward is prescient. I think it's helpful. You know, always in the spirit of firmness but through diplomacy do you move forward, right? This idea of putting up fences or otherwise drawing lines in the metaphorical sand and so forth: I mean, it's necessary sometimes, but ultimately I believe that we have more in common with the other provinces and territories of this nation than we do differences.

Alberta has led the energy industry in this province, in this country and will continue to do so but only with a clear vision of what needs to be done. I trust that this Legislature will be able to deliver on those things. I have seen lots of variations of legislative procedure and action in this, but I think that in 2019 we know that the best way to ensure that we continue to be leaders, both economically and in terms of energy and in terms of direction, here in this province and this country is that we act together.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available. I believe that the hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie has the call.

Member Loyola: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was so enthralled by what the Member for Edmonton-North West had to say, and I was hoping that he could talk a little bit more about specifically what he's heard on the doorsteps of his own constituency in relation to this matter.

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-North West.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie. You know, Edmonton-North West represents a diversity of both socioeconomic groups and population. It's very young. I think it well represents the face of Alberta in terms of both diversity and in terms of a cross-section of employment, right? Lots of people do work in the oil and gas industry and were very concerned. Lots of people, in this last election, had one or more members of their family that had been either unemployed or underemployed for a number of years.

I know that if we cut through the rhetoric of the House here, we all know that the energy industry went through a significant economic downturn that was global in nature. The price of oil, for example, was precariously unstable. The price of natural gas was definitely through the basement of the floor price, very low. You know, everybody wanted to make sure that there were ways by which we could move forward. We saw that if you lived here for more than, say, one or two of these economic cycles of boom and bust, you knew both that the bust was catastrophic in terms of unemployment and job loss and financial losses but that the booms could be quite stressful as well in regard to people working away from home for long periods of time, basic commodities such as mortgages and property and food and so forth being very expensive, right? So people were looking for a way by which they could have a more stable future for themselves and for their families as well.

You know, one of the things: I think we're at that sort of crossroads with the oil and gas industry where they're starting to take a serious second look at efficiencies in regard to money, input-output. That's a very difficult thing to do, but I think that the energy industry has realized that in order to be sustainable and competitive, they have to move and diversify, well, first, find efficiencies to ensure that they are making a dollar off the oil and gas that they're extracting but also look for ways by which you can mitigate, diversify the economy and the balance sheet of the oil companies that function here in the province of Alberta.

I learned a lot over the last four years as part of government, seeing just how Alberta oil and gas companies were seeking to diversify and to ensure that they were putting a modern, forward-looking face on their future here in this province. We saw, you know, most energy companies seeing the importance of carbon pricing. I think that became a new reality that everyone understood, and everyone also understood, I think, the importance of diversification and of upgrading product here in the province of Alberta to ensure that there's a value-added element to the bitumen and the gas that people have been extracting in the province.

You know, people living in Edmonton-North West: I think it's not any different from any other part of the province. People are nervous, but they want to make sure that they know that our economy is stable and that the social services that they require for themselves and their families are there when they need them, right? One thing that we learned very quickly is that when you have an economic downturn, you certainly don't double down and exacerbate the problem by making massive cuts to the essential public services that people need for their families: K to 12 education, social services, health care, and infrastructure.

In fact, I definitely learned that it's not a bad time to build some key, much-needed infrastructure during an economic downturn because it's...

The Acting Speaker: Hon. member, thank you.

Any other members looking to speak to amendment A1? I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-South.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's really my pleasure today to rise and speak to the amendment here. I do want to thank my colleague the hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview for bringing this forward. I think it's so important, when we're looking at this motion, to also have perspective, the perspective that you don't have to choose between the environment and the economy. It's not one or the other. It's not something that's a dichotomy. I think that's something that we have to keep in mind, that we have to be aware of, and we have to make the concerted effort as an Assembly, if we're going to be making large statements, to understand because that is what a responsible government would do, that's what responsible parliamentarians would do, and that's what I believe our job is here in this House.

When we want to speak to federal political parties and the federal government, what we need is to look for a real plan for our future, one that not only supports our energy industry and the industry of all Albertans and our economic prosperity but one that also has environmental stewardship in mind, one that also understands that we are living in perhaps one of the most influential times in human history, Mr. Speaker, not just Alberta history, not just Canadian history, but, really, all of human history. This is one of the most influential times, when we have the opportunity to make a difference on the global stage. We have the opportunity to make a difference and change the world for the better.

This amendment, I think, is just a reflection and just a furthering of what we've been saying all along, that we have to not have this

dichotomy of ideas, that we have to understand that you can have both a strong environment and a strong economy. It's something that's so important.

I think it's very telling that we can see that members of the government caucus here, the Conservatives, that have been sitting with their heads down, on their phones, don't believe that's true. They don't believe that we need to take real action on climate change. They don't believe that we can take action on climate change while also creating good jobs and diversifying our economy. I think that's something that is a little bit shameful, Mr. Speaker. It's something that I'd be very concerned about because it's something that we must strive to do and we must strive to do better.

Mr. McIver: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member failed to mention that his leader is not in the House this afternoon. You want to play like that?

The Acting Speaker: Just to be clear, a point of order under which standing order?

Mr. McIver: Standing Order 23(h), (i), and (j), making comments designed to create disorder in the House, commenting on other people doing their work while failing to comment that his leader is not in the House.

3:30

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-South.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think very clearly there was no disorder, so therefore it's not a point of order. However, you cannot raise a point of order during a point of order, but the hon. member should withdraw and apologize for referring to the absence or presence of a member in the House, which is a point of order.

The Acting Speaker: As of right now I do not have the benefit of the Blues, and I am not convinced as to what exactly was stated. Therefore, given that I think we are operating under a single point of order initiated by the Minister of Transportation – looking around the House, it looks like people seem to be somewhat in agreement with that – going forward, I will have to reserve judgment.

My assumption, though, is that if the hon. Member for Edmonton-South did comment on whether or not some individual or hon. member from our House not being in the House may not be doing his or her job . . . [interjections] Okay. I think that was the original source of the point of order. Therefore, if that's the case, whether your thoughts are that or not, we will have the benefit of the Blues. If that is the case, then I would ask the hon. Member for Edmonton-South to retract that statement. If he decides that that is not his viewpoint, then we will refer to the Blues at a later date, and come Monday or perhaps the next time that this House is adjourned until, we will deal with that point of order then. However, at this point what I will do is offer the floor to the hon. Member for Edmonton-South to continue, and he shall do so as he sees fit, given my comments.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you. I'll speak for him. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Or Edmonton-North West.

Mr. Eggen: Yeah. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Speaking on behalf of this point of order.

Mr. Eggen: That's correct. Yeah. You betcha. I think that it's a very wise choice for you to make in order for us to see the actual Blues, the actual transcript of what the individual from Edmonton-South did say before passing judgment. I think that we all could probably

use that clarification, but I also do, you know, want to point out at this time that even if he did mention the absence of someone in the House, which I don't think he did, then it certainly does not provide license for the hon. member opposite to point out the absence of someone else in the House, right? It's the proverbial thing of two wrongs do not make a right, and this idea of thinking that that gives some license somehow to start indulging in indiscretions: I think that's entirely incorrect as well.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member. I think I'm prepared to completely rule on this matter now. In this I do not find a point of order on the initial point of order or even in the explanations of the point of order. What I would do is that I would ask the hon. members at this point if they believe that perhaps they may have looked towards causing disorder, which was the original point of order, and in that case, whether that is the case, I would also offer the opportunity for the hon. minister, if he does not believe that there was a point of order in this case, to simply retract the point of order.

Mr. McIver: Mr. Speaker, I think we need to get back on to the business of the day. I'll withdraw the point of order. I think the other side knows that commenting on what members are doing in the House when they're doing their work is just what we don't do here. I think I've made my point, and I'll withdraw the point of order.

The Acting Speaker: Seeing that I will consider the point of order to be dealt with at this stage, I would ask that the hon. Member for Edmonton-South continue with his statements.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important that we do continue to consider how important it is that we have a government that is focused on not only the economy but also the environment, that we understand that we can do both, that we understand that it is not one or the other. We look at what the government is doing, and we look at what, indeed, the Premier is doing in the last days and weeks and months, even, and what he is doing is going out and using divisive, separatist language campaigning for a federal party that continues to use divisive, separatist language and, indeed, actually is campaigning with a party that is entertaining entering a coalition with the separatist Bloc Québécois. That is something that I think we should be very concerned about in this House. Those are the types of things that we're trying to understand when we talk about these issues.

We talk about how the Premier needs to understand that this country needs to work together. We need to work together on issues that affect the economy and the environment, Mr. Speaker. It's a waste of time, really, to be trolling federal politicians in this House, and really I wish the government could use the time of this Assembly better. I wish that instead of trying to use this as a political talking point, they can understand that we actually have business to do here, things like investing in the economy, investing in the environment here in Alberta.

I hope they'll be able to accept this amendment because that would show maturity on their part. It would show that they would understand that there are multiple issues the government should focus on at once, and indeed perhaps it is actually their job, Mr. Speaker. I hope to see perhaps the Minister of Environment and Parks speak to why he doesn't believe that emissions standards are important or why the Minister of Environment and Parks doesn't believe that federal greenhouse gas targets are important, especially in relation to a motion like this. That's something that I think is very important. I think that we need to look at realistic solutions. We need to move forward with plans that actually work.

We need to look at what this government is actually doing when they present this motion. We need to look at how they're actually proposing probably – actually, it is, Mr. Speaker – the worst climate plan out of any of the federal parties, and that is something that's very concerning because it shows a lack of understanding, a lack of maturity from this government, a lack of realization of the critical nature and the critical, pointed history that we are at. It's something that I think this amendment would rectify, I think that the government voting in favour of this amendment would rectify. It would allow us to have more certainty to that matter. It would allow us to understand whether this government really does care about all facets, like they claim they do. I think it's something that's very important.

By amending this motion, we're going to be pointing out that the type of ideas that the parties that this Premier is campaigning for, the federal Conservative Party, are ideas that are going to drive this country apart, that are attempting to drive this country apart, and instead we should be focused on building a plan that pursues Canadian, Albertan economic interests and also combats climate change. It's something that I think is very important. It's something that I think is real action that we need to take today, Mr. Speaker, because it's a plan that, when we proposed our nation-leading climate plan, was one that also invested in our economic future. It's one that also understood how important that was.

These types of conversations that we're having in this Assembly are essential to a strong Alberta, are essential to a strong Canada, and the government members: I hope they understand that. I hope they can see and hear and understand how critical it is that we understand we have both the economy and the environment. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, we see that instead of focusing on actual issues that will affect Albertan jobs like investing in the economy, like investing in climate change, like moving forward with our nation-leading climate plan, that we had brought forward when we were in government, instead of doing that, the government is spending their time giving the largest 4 and a half billion dollar corporate handout that's ever been seen, experiments that we've seen fail time and time again in the United States, experiments we've seen fail time and time again here in Canada.

Really, what I wish we could see the government do when we look at this amendment, what I wish they would understand is that instead of wasting their time on huge corporate giveaways, instead of wasting their time on giving money away to their friends and donors, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we focus on the issues like climate change. I think it's important that we focus on understanding how fighting climate change works with the economy. I think those are the things that we need to be talking about in this House. It's the things that we need to look at in this House and say that we understand that there is the opportunity to have both. There is the opportunity not to pander to federal Conservatives. There's the opportunity not to talk to federal parties that don't understand the importance of climate change, federal parties that are striking divisiveness through this country.

3:40

If the Premier intends to also move forward with that divisiveness and if this government intends to also move forward with that divisiveness, that is something that is shameful and should be on the record here today. It's something that we should understand here in this Assembly today, Mr. Speaker. It's something that is essential that we get into *Hansard* because we need to know when we're looking at this in the future. I've heard time and time again from members opposite. I've heard time and time again older members here in this Assembly say things like: we're doing this for our children or our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear. When I talk to young people in this province – and just last week I attended many schools in my province – I am actually closer in age to those young people than I am to the oldest person and then the majority of people in this Assembly, so I think I have some authority on this matter in the sense that I'm able to understand what the effects of this will be moving forward. I'm able to understand that I am the one along with my generation, and the ones that come after me are the ones that are going to have to live with these decisions. We are the ones, the young people, that will have to have a voice to come right now because these are decisions that will be affecting my future for years and decades to come and generations to come.

Perhaps the other members don't understand that. Perhaps they don't care. Whatever it is, Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't speculate. But I think that they must understand that young people care that we have both a strong environment and a strong economy because it doesn't matter if we're able to create corporate handouts, if we're able to create all these corporate handouts but that young people aren't able to have air they can breathe in 20 years. That is something that we're going to have to be concerned about. We can talk about these issues all we want, but the reality is that we must do both. We can do both. We can do better. We can do better than the government wants to propose to us. We can do better than the pandering and the fearmongering that the government wants to propose. We can do that.

We had a plan. We had the best climate plan in the entire country. We had a nation-leading plan that had some of the best targets for things like methane emissions. It kept all of the money here in Alberta, and instead of giving a 4 and a half billion dollar corporate handout and wasting taxpayers' money on lawsuits, we could have had a plan that kept the investments right here in the economy, in the green economy, Mr. Speaker, here in Alberta. We had that opportunity, and the government can now take a step back and realize that we had that opportunity by voting for this amendment.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, it looks like the government simply either doesn't understand the impacts of giving 4 and a half billion dollars away to corporations, or they don't care about those impacts. But that's something that I'll leave to government members to get up and speak to because I think it's very important that we all speak on behalf of our constituents here and we explain why instead of focusing on things like tangible greenhouse gas emissions alongside of our economy, instead of focusing on that, they're going to be focusing on giving 4 and a half billion dollars away to their friends and donors. I think that's something that we do need to talk about. I think it's something that government members should be pleased to speak to here in this House because they make it such a critical point of all their talking points, how they've given 4 and a half billion dollars away to corporations.

That's something I'm very interested to hear about. I'm interested to hear about how that's so important and that they're not going to be voting for a climate plan, they're not going to be voting to speak about a climate plan, and that they don't think federal parties should have a climate plan. I think that that's something that we're going to have to see, Mr. Speaker. It's going to be very interesting.

I think that what we really do need, though, when we talk about this amendment and we talk about greenhouse gas emissions and we talk about things like the federal TIER plan, all these things, Mr. Speaker, is to understand that these are policies that are coming in place around the world, right? Greenhouse gas emission targets – and perhaps it's intensity-based targets; perhaps it's not – absolute caps, whatever it is, when we talk about issues like this, we have to understand these are coming in all over the world. They're coming in above the national level in many cases in the sense that there are unions of nations that are bringing in these types of targets.

We talk about these issues, and if the government doesn't understand the financial impacts of that, if the government doesn't understand the ecological impacts of that, if they don't understand the economic impacts of that, then I am sure there are many members here of the opposition who would be willing to explain that to them. I'm looking forward to some of the other speeches we'll be hearing from opposition members here today.

I hope we'll hear from government members why they think it's okay to give 4 and a half billion dollars away to wealthy corporations but then not even want to talk about climate change and how fighting climate change can help improve our economy as well and diversify our economy. I'd be interested in seeing that as well and hearing that from government members. I hope some of them will be able to speak to that.

I hope they'll be able to speak to why their Premier is currently out there, the leader of the United Conservative Party here in Alberta, Mr. Speaker – I hope they'll be able to speak to why his government has brought forward this motion that doesn't even touch on climate change. In fact, it's so clearly political pandering, it's so clearly grandstanding, and it's so clearly an attack on parties that care about the environment. Again, I believe we can and we should do both. We absolutely can and should do both. We have to have a credible plan, and we did have a credible plan before the Conservatives threw it away. They threw away the nation-leading climate plan, and instead they've brought back this motion that does nothing but strike divisiveness across this country. They intentionally are trying to strike divisiveness across this country.

If that's not the case – and it may not be – then perhaps government members can get up and speak to that. They can speak to why they think it's important to not talk about climate at all in this amendment. They can speak to why they think it's important that we start attacking federal political parties, Mr. Speaker, and the federal government and wasting taxpayer money on lawsuits and doing things of the sort. If they have time to give 4 and a half billion dollars away to wealthy corporations, then I'm sure members will have time to get up here and speak to why climate change isn't important, why we shouldn't have greenhouse gas targets, and why we only need to focus on one side of the equation.

I'm sure you took math courses the same as I, Mr. Speaker. When you have an equation, you have to make sure they're balanced on both sides. The economy and the environment are just like that. You have to be able to manage both of those issues. You have to understand that you don't solve the problem by trying to erase one half. Let me tell you, I know there are a number of teachers in my caucus here, and I would bet they would not give you a passing grade if you just decided to erase the environment.

It's something that is very important. We have an understanding here. It's very important that government members understand this, Mr. Speaker. It's very important they speak to this and they speak on behalf of their constituents on why they think it's okay to be divisive, why they think it's okay . . .

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

I believe the individual who caught my eye was the hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul.

Mr. Hanson: Well, thank you very, very much, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity under 29(2)(a), I believe. Thank you. Well, I don't think anybody has been fooled over the last four years by the NDP's sudden support for the oil and gas industry. I don't think it's any shock, listening to this member that, you know, it was a very public support for oil and gas but not a real support. He brought up a couple of things about how much business we have to do. It's a little

bit surprising coming from that member, who very rarely talks to the business at hand when he's up here speaking.

One thing he did bring up and that did kind of come back to the motion and the amendment that we're speaking about is to do with the federal election. While I'd never, ever ask anybody how they're going to vote in the federal election, what I would like to know from the member is which party he actually thinks has Alberta's best interest, his constituents' best interest, Edmonton's best interest, and the interests of the families that work and live here in Alberta? Is it the NDP party, his federal leader? When you buy an NDP membership, you actually buy a membership to the federal and to the provincial parties. Mr. Jagmeet Singh is actually his leader. You can't hide from that fact. You also can't hide from the fact that the NDP federally supported the Leap Manifesto, which is basically an anti-industry, antipipeline, antioil, anti oil and gas, anti fossil fuels piece of paper.

3:50

He's either going to say that the NDP is the best route to go federally for the province of Alberta, or possibly it's the Liberal Party, with bills C-69 and C-48, the tanker ban on the west coast that only affects Alberta-produced oil. Or perhaps he thinks it's the Green Party, Mr. Speaker, the Green Party that has made very, very clear that all they want to do is shut down oil and gas completely and fossil fuels. I'm sure that possibly tomorrow he will be taking selfies out on the front steps with the protesters that are here to protest our oil and gas industry. That wouldn't surprise me at all. I'll be looking forward to looking at the pictures on Monday.

The Acting Speaker: While I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member, I would just say that if hon. members in the House believe that there is a point of order to be called, they should call that point of order. If not, then I would invite them to have the opportunities to speak when they choose to do so, whether it's on the amendment, the motion proper, or perhaps in a 29(2)(a) of their own.

Hon. member, please continue.

Mr. Hanson: I'm almost at my question. Please, if you could, is it is NDP Leap Manifesto party, the Liberal bills C-69 and C-48 party, the Green crash-everything party? Or perhaps you're going to jump out and support the only party that supports the oil and gas industry in Alberta, the Conservative Party.

The Acting Speaker: With about two minutes left under 20(2)(a), I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-South has risen to speak.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it's such a shame that the member that just rose here, instead of spending the time to actually speak to matters of importance, like what type of plan we have to balance the environment and the economy, went on to grandstand and take shots at the federal government. Instead of having the opportunity to explain, perhaps – because it was the opportunity for comments as well – why he thinks it's so valuable to give 4 and a half billion dollars away to wealthy corporations. He chose to grandstand instead. And that's okay. That's what the government does. It's what government members do. I don't think it's particularly mature, but that is the case that we just saw here. Those cheap shots and cheap attacks are what they choose to take their time with, and that's okay.

But let me make it very clear. I don't believe in any party, the federal Conservatives or the provincial Conservatives included, that would strike divisiveness across this country. I don't believe in any party that would go out and try to attack the foundation of our Confederation. I think that's something that I can make very clear. I think it's something that the member that just rose should make

clear, whether he supports the divisive comments his Premier is making, the divisive actions and moves that his Premier is making, and the federal leader of that party that he is leading. I think that is something that he should be ashamed about if he does indeed support that divisiveness because it's something that we as Canadians and as Albertans need to understand, that this country works better together.

We need to focus on fighting for our environment and fighting for our economy because those are things that we can do better, we can do together, and we have the opportunity to do here. But instead of trying to actually take tangible action that will support our economy, the government decides to give 4 and a half billion dollars away to the wealthiest corporations and does nothing to invest in diversification, does nothing to invest in the economy, does nothing to invest in the environment, and that's absolutely a shame. It's a shame that the member has nothing to say.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you for your comments.

On amendment A1, are there members looking to speak? I believe the individual who caught my eye was the hon. Member for Edmonton-East. Sorry. Calgary-South East.

Mr. Jones: As long as you're happy, Mr. Speaker.

The member spoke a lot about balance. Perhaps he should have put his name forward for Finance minister the last time. Something tells me it would have ended the same.

It is a sad day for Alberta and indeed Canada when a motion such as this is required and when the opposition continues to confuse their role to oppose government with opposing Alberta. How did we get here? I believe that we are here because of a crisis of leadership and rampant hypocrisy. Fortunately, we no longer have a crisis of leadership here in Alberta, but federally is a different matter.

We have a Prime Minister that talks about the environment while undermining the most environmentally responsible oil and gas production and transportation. We have a Prime Minister that talks about national unity while campaigning on division. We have a Prime Minister that talks about supporting women and visible minorities while cutting them down and furthering violent, offensive stereotypes. We have a Prime Minister that believes our military members are asking for more than we can give. We have a Prime Minister that will pay terrorists while making cuts to the health benefits of those that fight terrorists. We have a Prime Minister that would violate ethics laws to further his own interests, but he would not use the law, indeed the Constitution, to support an industry, a province, our country: an industry and a province that is the leader in environmental and ethical oil and gas production, an industry that has picked up the tab for his government's gross mismanagement of our country's finances.

Now, I'm a parent, and I have four children. I teach them not to lie, to do what they say they will do, to keep their hands to themselves, to respect authority, to not bully, to watch out for others, and to accept consequences for their actions. It occurred to me the other day, with great sadness, that I expect a higher level of conduct from my children than is expected of the Prime Minister of Canada.

So today I stand in favour of this motion and against this amendment, "to denounce all federal political parties that would enable a provincial government to unilaterally prevent the construction of interprovincial infrastructure projects of national importance, including natural resource pipelines." It is, in my view, unconstitutional and goes against what a federal party in this country should be doing, which is working to unite the provinces and towards national prosperity.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available for anyone who should wish to take the opportunity. The hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Nielsen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate you recognizing me. You know, I was listening to the last speaker's comments, and I unfortunately keep hearing a recurring theme going on around divisive politics. We seem to be focused – I think the Member for Edmonton-South might have mentioned this – around trolling federal politicians in this House. I think about how we have somebody in this House who used to represent a Calgary riding during his time in federal politics and how we seem to have missed the boat around the things that he could have brought to the table as a senior cabinet minister and how we could have prevented some of this divisive politics.

I guess my question to the member – I would like to ask him if it really is appropriate. One minute we have our Premier saying that we need to work together, we need to come together as one, but in the next minute we're asking people to choose sides, to say that we have to build the economy at all costs. Then we have others that are forced to say that we have to protect the environment at all costs. We keep stoking this sentiment. So I was wondering if maybe the member might share his thoughts around: is that the appropriate way for us to be able to show the world – you know, I've had the opportunity to meet, for instance, with U.S. legislators, to talk about the great things that Alberta does not only in producing energy but in manufacturing and in agriculture and in tech, even in our health care system. I always hear from U.S. legislators about how envious they are about that.

If we are to show the world that we're, essentially, competent, responsible adults in the room, that we want to be stoking such divisiveness within this country around how we should proceed, what kind of message, what kind of picture does that send to others outside of Alberta, not even just in Canada but in the world? If we are ready to essentially sink to these types of levels – you know, let's look on their side, stand in their shoes for a minute – would they want to do business with us? Would they want to invest in our province if we're sitting here basically trying to divide our country and stoke separatist policies? We're showing the world that, well, maybe we don't really want to necessarily look at our environment because it's going to cost our economy. When are we going to start showing that you can do both at the same time? Maybe the member might be willing to share some thoughts around that and whether that is really, truly productive in terms of raising our profile not only within Canada but across the rest of the world.

4:00

Mr. Jones: I realize that my comments about the Member for Edmonton-Decore's close ally Justin Trudeau may have bothered him, but he was not able to identify anything that I said that wasn't true, which I find sad and disturbing, again. What I can share is who I voted for because I'm not ashamed. I'm supporting the federal Conservatives. If you can't tell someone who you're voting for, then maybe – maybe – you shouldn't be voting for them.

The Acting Speaker: With 30 seconds left, I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford has stood to speak.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to have an opportunity to speak to this amendment and to . . .

The Acting Speaker: I will just hesitate to interrupt the hon. member. You were still under 29(2)(a), the last 30 seconds. You can fill it out.

Mr. Feehan: Okay. Well, then, speaking under 29(2)(a), I'd be happy to take a few moments to talk about some of the concern that I have about the divisive politics that I hear being used here in the House talking about the federal . . .

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Speaking to this amendment, the hon. member who has caught my attention was the hon. Member for Brooks-Medicine Hat.

Ms Glasgow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I always love to catch your attention, because it gives me a chance to speak about this amendment that we have before us today. On this amendment, we've heard a few conversations, one particularly about the next generation, about climate change, about making sure that the economy and the environment are balanced. Well, I know for a fact that the people who actually have a plan to balance the economy and the environment are the Conservatives, because, at the end of the day, we're actually the only ones who went and spoke to stakeholders who are in business. It's pretty rich for the opposition to be talking about balancing the economy with anything when they're the party that presided over a government with the highest downtown office vacancies in Calgary. It's also pretty rich for them to be talking about balancing these things for average working Albertans when they're the government that presided over the carbon tax, which taxed hockey moms and hockey dads.

You know, it's really interesting to me. Also, the Member for Edmonton-South talked about, basically, the next generation and how he was close to that age, and, I mean, as a member, a younger member in this Legislature, I thought I'd get up. I don't claim to be more woke than he is, but I will say that one thing that's important to the next generation is having a job and having these things that can actually fuel our economy and make sure they can get back to work. I know that the Minister of Advanced Education has spoke about this at length, which is his plan to make sure that all students have a place to go when they graduate, which is extremely important, as we all know.

I know that there's also a great group of people. I'm thinking of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation here in Alberta, led by a young Albertan who is going around the province talking about debt and deficit and just how much that does to damage our economy and damage our competitiveness world-wide and also our credit rating, which – I mean, once again, the members opposite would know all about damaging credit ratings because they presided over six credit downgrades. But I digress. We have an incumbency and, really, a responsibility on this side of the House to make sure that we're standing up for Alberta taxpayers, to make sure we're standing up for Albertans.

You know, I've had the pleasure of door-knocking for some federal Conservative candidates, including my own in Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner, and I will be door-knocking with my friend in Bow River as well. The thing that comes up time and time again is that people need a job. They need the opportunity to be able to work. They need the opportunity to put food on their table, and they can't do that if you have a government on the opposite side of the House who is more determined to please the ivory towers in Zurich and New York and all these other places instead of actually fighting for Albertans here at home. This is a pattern that's been demonstrated again with the Prime Minister. I mean, you have a Prime Minister who has done many questionable things like having two planes to lower his carbon footprint.

It's just amazing to me that this is the same government. This former government won't stand up to him on that. You know, they have no problem pointing out what they feel to be hypocrisy on this side of the House, but when it comes time, like I spoke about in my

member's statement today, to actually put their, you know, boots on the ground, they won't call out the hypocrisy of the Prime Minister. They won't call out the hypocrisy of Jagmeet Singh. They won't call out the hypocrisy of Elizabeth May. They'll sit there on that side of the House and lecture us about economic development, about investment in Alberta, about lowering taxes, about being responsible for the people that we represent. They sit on that side of the House, look at the ceiling, heckle, do absolutely nothing to represent the people that elected them in the first place.

What I would say, Mr. Speaker, is how important it is that we are on this side of the House today, that we have a government that's actually standing up for taxpayers and standing up for the people who work in the energy industry. I was talking to Cody Battershill. He's written quite a few articles lately, especially one talking about how important it is for us to get our natural resources to market. Now, this motion speaks to that. This amendment, however, undermines that by taking a shot at the federal Conservatives, which really makes no sense to me, and also taking a shot at something that actually a resounding number of Albertans voted for in April. We actually put forward the TIER plan in our platform, as the members opposite would know because half of their former members aren't sitting with them right now. We put forward the TIER plan. The TIER plan, obviously, would actually do something to reduce emissions.

When the former Premier was asked, you know, "What has your carbon tax done to reduce emissions?" she actually didn't know. I know, and I'm confident in our Premier and our side of the House, our Environment and Parks minister, our ministers, our whole front bench. They know what's going on in their own ministries. They know that their plans will actually work, and they're actually willing to stand up for that whereas that Premier had an opportunity to be on the radio and actually defend her climate leadership plan, or what she called it, and she didn't do that. She had no idea how many emissions, what kind of emissions she actually reduced.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say to the opposition: "If you're really so proud of that plan, stand up for it. If you're really so proud of that plan, go to Albertans again with it. I can guarantee they won't vote for you in the next election because of it, because they didn't vote for you this time." At the end of the day, Albertans know that when you want to get ahead, when you want to put more money in people's pockets, the best way to do that isn't to take it from one pocket and put it in the other. That doesn't work. At the end of the day, I mean, that's a flawed socialist ideology, which is exemplified on that side of the House anyway, so what can you do?

I would just like to state for the record, too, I mean, I'm 26. I'm not going to lie about it. There's no point in hiding it. I'm pretty young, young to be in this House. I think, at the end of the day, we have a very important job to do, and that job is to represent all people in this Legislature, including those who do not want a carbon tax, including those who don't think that the way to prosperity is by taxation. That's why I'm standing up here on this side of the House today, because I was elected under a platform to make sure that that doesn't happen.

When we hear things about, you know, adding an amendment that talks about the abysmal federal TIER program – I think "the abysmal federal TIER plan" is written here – it's just kind of sad because, at the end of the day, that's what Albertans voted for. You just stand in direct defiance of that. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. Through you, the members opposite stand in direct defiance of that. I just really don't understand how they think that that is going to help them win the next election. I know it's three years away, but they've already started campaigning. I mean, the deputy leader of the Official Opposition has called herself the acting leader. We have many people on that side changing their tone. We see that there's a

push to get ahead on that side. It's pretty obvious what's going to happen for the next election.

I'd be interested to know when the other side of the House is going to be releasing their leadership platforms. If so, I'd be kind of scared because, based on the conversation today, their plan will be to tax, tax, tax, tax, tax, do nothing, then tax some more. I'm just curious to know when they're going to be releasing those plans.

In addition, you know, my dad is one of the people who builds pipelines that take our resources to tidewater. He's worked extensively here in Alberta, and he's also worked in Saskatchewan in recent years. The reason why he's worked in Saskatchewan isn't because of a Conservative government; it's because of the NDP government. He's had to find work in Saskatchewan because our competitiveness was so shot by that former government that he couldn't find jobs here in Alberta. When he actually was working – I mean, a lot of his friends weren't, and there were times when he wasn't as well – he was going to Saskatchewan. Now, wouldn't my mom like to have my dad at home? Absolutely. I would love to have my dad at home, too. My whole life I wished that my dad could work closer to home, but that's not the way things are sometimes.

These men and women: they work so hard in atrocious conditions. In minus 40, plus 40, rain, hail, or shine, those guys are out there and those women are out there as well building these natural resource infrastructure projects. At the end of the day, that other side of the House has the gall to fail to represent those people. That amazes me, Mr. Speaker.

I guess, in closing, I would just like to say, you know, that this isn't a contest of who's the most woke. This isn't a contest of who can say the right thing and virtue signal to some ivory tower eco radical sitting in Zurich. This is actually a contest of who can represent Albertans the best, and that contest was actually won on April 16. So if they have a problem with the TIER program, I would ask them to consult the overwhelming majority of Albertans, that actually voted for us to implement the TIER program.

4:10

At the end of the day, this isn't about the TIER program; this is about making sure that we have a government that stands up for critical infrastructure projects that are in the national interest, just like our projects that we have here at home and that we're fighting for but Justin Trudeau is delaying.

I guess that, with that, I will relinquish the rest of my time, Mr. Speaker. I would just be interested to hear if that side of the House will tell us who they're voting for. I know I'm going to follow the Member for Calgary-South East. I voted for Glen Motz in Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner because I'm not ashamed of that. I voted for him because I know that they have a plan to get my family ahead, to get me ahead. I know that they have a plan and a leader who is dedicated to unity in this country and dedicated to making sure that we are not balkanizing and that we are making sure that we have people who will stand up for Alberta and stand up for western Canada and stand up for our interests as well.

With that being said, Mr. Speaker, I'll relinquish the rest of my time.

The Acting Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available. I believe that it was the hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciated the hon. member's remarks, and I appreciate her forthrightness in that she will support the federal Conservative Party in the election, as will I. It seems that the folks on the other side of the House seem less proud of who they're going to support. In fact, they're hiding from it. I would like the hon. member's opinion on, you know, the debate here today and the government motion

that the Legislative Assembly denounce all federal political parties that would enable a provincial government to unilaterally prevent the construction of interprovincial infrastructure projects of national importance, including natural resource pipelines.

The opposition won't support that the way it is, Mr. Speaker. I'd like the hon. member to talk about the fact that our government side of the House is prepared to stand up for Alberta and make that known to the whole nation before the whole nation goes to vote in this national election. I'd like her to comment on the fact that the opposition will not stand up for Alberta and will not stand up for the ability for us to get our natural resources to market, the very thing that allows men and women in Alberta to have jobs, to look after themselves, to look after their families, to pay taxes, to share some of that through their taxes and perhaps through their take-home pay with other people.

We've got members on this side of the House willing to stand up and support that and members from the NDP on the other side of the House that will not stand up for Alberta and have demonstrated through this entire debate that they will not stand up for Alberta, to the point where they're debating things that are completely different to try to distract from the fact that they will not stand up and support Alberta in this federal election at a time when Alberta needs their support more than ever. They're equally responsible to support Alberta, as members of this House are, but they're not doing it, and members on this side of the House are standing up during this debate and saying that we will support a motion that's good for Alberta. The NDP will not. How disappointed is the hon. member in the opposition in refusing constantly through this debate to say that they'll support Alberta?

The Acting Speaker: I would just remind members of this hon. House to ask their questions through the chair.

Ms Glasgo: Mr. Speaker, may I please ask how much time is left under 29(2)(a)?

The Acting Speaker: Currently there are about two minutes and 20 seconds.

Ms Glasgo: Thank you very much. The question was asked if I would elaborate on how disappointed I am that the opposition won't support our motion and, actually, any motion to support Albertans. Fundamentally, I mean, I take this personally because, like I've said, this is my dad that we're talking about. These are people who rely on these jobs to put food on their table. Not only that, but there are people like my uncle; he's a welder. I have cousins who are in different areas of the pipeline industry and the oil industry as well as people who are close to me that are engineers who rely on this stuff. There are pipe fitters. There are tradesmen and tradeswomen of all stripes. It's important to stand up for them.

I know there's heckling from the other side of the House because they are so infuriated that someone would have the tenacity to stand up for Alberta workers, but I actually don't have a problem with that, because they can heckle all they want. At the end of the day, my constituents have given me a mandate, which is to talk about and advocate for Alberta's ethical energy sector as well as the people who work within it. At the end of the day, I mean, it's just really sad that that side of the House can't humble themselves in this House in order to be able to stand here and tell Albertans what they really feel about them.

I mean, it's kind of like there's a contempt for Albertans from that side of the House. We saw it in the last Legislature with, you know, comments like sewer rat, embarrassing cousin, et cetera, and we continue to see it, with people on that side of the House heckling

when somebody has, like I said, the tenacity to talk about Alberta workers and their jobs.

I mean, I would be curious to know how they're voting in the federal election. It's all over Twitter. It's on Facebook. There are people asking in every corner of this province how the NDP will be voting. You know, if they're really so proud of being a New Democrat, then stand up and say it. I'm proud to be a Conservative, which is why I'm standing here right now. The Member for Calgary-South East: he's proud of that, too; he said where he's voting. The Member for Calgary-Hays: he's proud of that as well. I can bet you pretty good money here that every member in this House would stand up and say the name of the MP they're voting for and how proud they are to do that. Unfortunately, that side of the House won't do that. That's despicable, Mr. Speaker.

I know I have about eight seconds left, so I'll just close by saying that I'm very proud to be supporting Andrew Scheer, I'm proud to be supporting a united Canada, and I'm very proud to be supporting Alberta energy.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Speaking to the amendment, the individual who caught my eye was the hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I missed the . . . [interjection] Sorry? No. I think I got the call, sir.

The Acting Speaker: The hon. member here has the call.

The hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had the chance, well, like some of the folks in the room – on our side of the floor, that is – to actually work in this wonderful industry. I've had a chance to meet tons of folks, both on the Canadian side and the U.S. side. I've had a chance to actually manage these major projects, and I've had a chance to oftentimes, when you're on the road and in hotel rooms or back in the camp, see the members opposite protest vehemently against our industry, vehemently against the men and women that actually put these things together, and against how we ethically produce our product and get it to market.

Honestly, at the time when you're seeing these people on the stage and you're seeing them up there, you make them more than what they are. You look up to them, and you think that they understand what's going on. You obviously want to listen to their perspectives, but, Mr. Speaker, being in the House, seeing these people represent what their interests are, I don't believe they're in our best interests.

Quite frankly, my kids have a reference for that. It's called paper dragons. Everything is scary to a point until you realize that it's just a little cardboard cutout that's been made to be scary. They get divisive politics. Yeah, they really get divisive politics. It's either one absolute or another.

Let me tell you what happened in my area, being a new candidate running against the former agriculture minister, who carried that mandate into a town hall. He got laughed out and heckled out. This is a man who gave four years of his life to represent his constituents and to carry that ideology forward of what the social New Democrats were bringing forward. This man was expounding the same thing about the carbon tax, he was expounding the same thing about environmental protectionism, and he was expounding everything that was anti-Alberta. He got voted out.

The people of this province have spoken time and time and time again. Our Premier is walking across this country and down in the States knitting our provinces back together. Under the guise of the Trudeau government and the former NDP government, they subversively have broken apart this country. I'm a pretty simple

farm boy. I don't often get this loud, Mr. Speaker, but this one – my gosh. My simple message to my constituents in my area was: "Let's take our province back. Let's take it back." And we did. I'm here to represent them.

The second message I gave them was: let's take our country back. There are absolutes. Absolutely, if you go against the pipelines, if you go against this motion that was brought forward – this addendum here: my gosh. My gosh. Can you be more decisive on where you're going to vote and where you actually stand? If you ain't with us, you're against us: how about that for an old western quote? It's pretty simple at this point, at this juncture. Either you're voting for Canada, to keep us in the Confederation, either you're voting for the people in this province to stand up with them, not get their back – how about stepping out in front and taking the bullet for them for a change? Everyone can stand behind and say: "I got your back. I got your back. I got your back." My gosh.

Apparently, none of these folks have actually been in a duster in their life, ever had to sit across the table from those folks, ever had to make those negotiations, ever had to make those sacrifices, ever. You have never met these people. You have never met these men and women. You have never supported this industry, and you'll continue to do that. You'll continue to expound this rhetoric of how you've got the province's back. The province has spoken.

An Hon. Member: For now.

4:20

Mr. Getson: For now. Forever, my friend. Strong and free forever: there you go. Right up there. Strong and free: that's what this province is.

I just came from a nice little business meeting here this morning. It was the actual folks from the Acheson business community. I had a little canned speech to talk to them about, but – you know what? – in feeling the measure and the temper of that room, it was simple as this: we're standing up. They want someone to push back. They want the province to be proud again. They want to stop hanging their heads in shame. They want this misinformation to be over and done with. It's time to cowboy up, be proud of who we are, what we stand for, and what this province means to the rest of the Confederation. We are Alberta, strong and free.

If you aren't willing as a person to stand in this Legislature and to support this – what we're proposing is a motion to say no. Giving the veto rights to break apart the Confederation is not what we would support. To allow the country to be – I don't know – disheveled and sent apart, scattering and bickering over minor items: it's not allowed. Pick one – pick one – stand up proud, and say it. Stand up in front of Albertans for a change instead of behind their backs. Doing everything behind their backs isn't quite the good thing you should be doing. Getting on their back, standing on it, jumping up and down, freaking out little kids, seniors – the health scare issues, this scare, that scare. We talk about fear and smear. Yeah, I've dealt with bullies my entire life.

You got me off the projects, as a major-projects guy, and you got me into politics. I hope you like your decision, because I'm here to stay, and Albertans are here to stay, too.

There was a gentleman that told me once early in my career: when you get into your 40s, things are as they appear. Well, it appears that any time you go against the Trudeau regime, well, then, you're just not loving the environment. Well, if you go against the concept of doing something with technology and actually using our efforts on our industries and all the people that do the good things, well, then, you don't like the environment.

Mr. Bilous: Artificial intelligence: why didn't you fund it?

Mr. Getson: Artificial intelligence: I've seen a lot of it in this Chamber recently.

You can have a diverse economy, you can do all these things, but you have to make a choice. This divisiveness has to end.

The amount of environmental protectionism that we go through on a project is astounding. For the average homeowner, it would drive them crazy. We separate the soils. We do the bugs and bunnies reports. We do all the background information. We do siltation and sedimentation control. We offset simply everything that we do. We build an entire road structure out there during the course of construction. We have a moving assembly line by which we're dropping this pipe in the ground at 1.5 clicks a day. We're spending millions of dollars a day. When you're building these big projects from – I don't know – Edmonton down to Chicago, we had 12 spreads going at once, \$12 million a day that we're spending, \$3.5 billion. I've been on those projects. I've managed that.

A lot of the prior experience of the members opposite: I don't know; they sold real estate; they did these other things. Maybe they were social workers. I'm not saying anything against that, but don't stand up here and tell me what it's like, and don't tell me about the coal workers. They're in my area.

One member professed in here earlier that Stephen Harper shut down the coal mines. Oh, my gosh. I felt like it was *Dallas* again, that Pam is waking up and Bobby is in the shower. This is completely a revelation. What happened was that they accelerated the shutdown of a viable asset drastically. Now, these folks put thousands of people out of work because of it.

One of the members had the audacity to dare me to go talk to them personally. I did. I went to the union hall, talked to these guys, and told them exactly what was going on. Mr. Speaker, 15 people in that room, all card-carrying union members, all part of that proud working group out there. We had the hard dialogue: "What's happening with these payments at the end? What's happening with it?" We had the hard dialogue that we have to get back to them, exactly what the minister of labour relations had said earlier. We have to have those hard dialogues: "If you're in the hopper right now, we're dealing with it. We'll tell you on budget day what comes next."

Those people in that room accepted that. At the end of that meeting I asked a simple question: out of you guys, 15 in the room, how many of you voted for me? Twelve, Mr. Speaker. Two didn't. Well, actually, three didn't because they were in different constituencies, but they did vote UCP. One from Edmonton didn't. I think that's pretty reflective of what happens in my community, my area. I'll speak for those men and women out there, and I take exception to somebody else speaking for them, because they elected me. I have never spoken for the Member for Edmonton-Decore ever, but I can't say the same when you start speaking up about my people and my area, rural Alberta, our issues that we're dealing with, the energy sector.

This is a simple one. This amendment: I'm not sure how much parliamentary language I can use to say what I would do with it, but I'd hazard to say that the bottom of a birdcage would be well served by using it. This is not the time to flinch. This is the time, right now, to make sure that we stand strong and that we send a clear message to the rest of Canada and to the investment communities that we are

open for business, that we do mean what we say, and that we're going to stand up and do what's right.

We've been criticized about everything that we've done to go against it. I couldn't believe the dialogues we had here about the carbon tax. What they were concerned about is that Trudeau's carbon tax was going to come in. You know what happened? We got rid of it. The price of gas went down. We got people shaking our hands. They've got a couple of extra bucks in their pockets every month. Then what did they do? "Well, let's just back Trudeau. Maybe if we just, you know, gave more concessions."

I think Winston Churchill spoke up at one point in history about giving concessions to a dictator, giving concessions to someone who just takes more. It didn't work. You have to fight the battles. You don't send somebody else to do it for you, you sure as heck don't stand behind them, and you don't try to negotiate your way out of it. You stand your point. You hold your ground. If you have to negotiate, you do it from a position of strength, not of weakness. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we've been put in a precarious, weak position. The reason why Albertans voted for us: they want some strength; they want some leadership. They don't want the rhetoric. They want the hard decisions to be made, and they want people to do it with honour and integrity, people who can stand up in here and say what their positions are and not be worried about it.

I'm voting Conservative. It might come as a surprise, but I am. I strongly support the candidate in my area, strongly support the message that's coming out there. There's only one party, in my opinion, that wants to be knitting this country back together again and giving that presence and giving that piece of mind to the rest of the investment community and the global stage. What we currently have is a laughingstock. Look at any media outlet that isn't controlled and kept within that little regime. External to this, the world is laughing at us, and they can't trust us. They can't trust what we say. They don't know how to predict what's going to happen next because it's unpredictable.

We're doing it to ourselves. The enemy has been identified, and it's us, so either we fix it . . .

Mr. Dang: Who's the enemy?

Mr. Getson: Well, would you like me to speak directly to you? It might be unparliamentary, but I'd be more than happy to do it outside.

Mr. Dang: Who's the enemy?

Mr. Getson: The enemy has been identified, and it's us. If we don't choose to do the right things, we are the enemy, so either you stand up for the people that put you here, you stand up for those mandates, you protect those flags, those colours, our province to keep it part of that nation – it's that simple.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: My gosh, seeing the time, it looks to me to be, unfortunately, 4:30, meaning that under Standing Order 4(2) I believe the House is adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 4:29 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 30th Legislature - 1st Session (2019)

Activity to Thursday, October 17, 2019

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 — An Act to Repeal the Carbon Tax (\$) (Kenney)

First Reading — 8 (*May 22, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 44 (*May 23, 2019 aft.*), 79-92 (*May 27, 2019 eve.*), 95-107 (*May 28, 2019 morn.*), 121-43 (*May 28, 2019 aft.*), 166-70 (*May 28, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 215-24 (*May 29, 2019 aft.*), 239-41 (*May 29, 2019 eve.*), (*May 30, 2019 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 246-51 (*May 30, 2019 morn.*), 327-339 (*Jun. 3, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 4, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2019 c1]

Bill 2 — An Act to Make Alberta Open for Business (Copping)

First Reading — 58 (*May 27, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 145-52 (*May 28, 2019 eve.*), 189-90 (*May 29, 2019 morn.*), 236-39 (*May 29, 2019 eve.*), 375-79 (*Jun. 4, 2019 aft.*), 416-17 (*Jun. 4, 2019 eve.*), 448 (*Jun. 5, 2019 aft.*), (*Jun. 5, 2019 eve.*), (*Jun. 5, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 986-1002 (*Jun. 19, 2019 aft.*), 1090-99 (*Jun. 20, 2019 aft.*), 1218-22 (*Jun. 25, 2019 eve.*), 1235-44 (*Jun. 26, 2019 aft.*), 1293-1300 (*Jun. 27, 2019 aft.*), 1313-26 (*Jul. 2, 2019 aft.*), 1329-31 (*Jul. 2, 2019 aft.*), 1347-57 (*Jul. 2, 2019 eve.*), 1357-62 (*Jul. 2, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Third Reading — (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 18, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2019 c8]

Bill 3 — Job Creation Tax Cut (Alberta Corporate Tax Amendment) Act (Toews)

First Reading — 111 (*May 28, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 236 (*May 29, 2019 eve.*), 341-53 (*Jun. 4, 2019 morn.*), 408-16 (*Jun. 4, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — (*Jun. 5, 2019 eve.*), (*Jun. 11, 2019 morn.*), 685-700 (*Jun. 11, 2019 aft.*), 738-45 (*Jun. 12, 2019 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — (*Jun. 12, 2019 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 c5]

Bill 4 — Red Tape Reduction Act (Hunter)

First Reading — 202 (*May 29, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 277-78 (*May 30, 2019 aft.*), 365-75 (*Jun. 4, 2019 aft.*), 432-48 (*Jun. 5, 2019 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 633-44 (*Jun. 10, 2019 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 644-46 (*Jun. 10, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 cR-8.2]

Bill 5 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2019 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 779 (*Jun. 12, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 986 (*Jun. 19, 2019 aft.*), (*Jun. 25, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1135-36 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve.*), 1153 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1195 (*Jun. 25, 2019 eve., adjourned*), 1213 (*Jun. 25, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 c4]

Bill 6 — Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2019 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 931 (*Jun. 18, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 984-86 (*Jun. 19, 2019 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1136-38 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve.*), 1153 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1195-98 (*Jun. 25, 2019 eve.*), 1213 (*Jun. 25, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 c3]

Bill 7 — Municipal Government (Property Tax Incentives) Amendment Act, 2019 (Madu)

First Reading — 356-57 (*Jun. 4, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 625-31 (*Jun. 10, 2019 aft.*), 653-60 (*Jun. 11, 2019 morn.*), 701-07 (*Jun. 11, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 811-13 (*Jun. 13, 2019 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1138-45 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 c6]

Bill 8 — Education Amendment Act, 2019 (LaGrange)

First Reading — 421 (*Jun. 5, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 648-49 (*Jun. 10, 2019 eve.*), 707-25 (*Jun. 11, 2019 eve.*), 781-95 (*Jun. 12, 2019 eve.*), 848-74 (*Jun. 17, 2019 eve.*), 1145-53 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve.*), 1153-62 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve.*), 1180-86 (*Jun. 25, 2019 aft.*), 1255-57 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1258-59 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve.*), 1266-78 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve.*), 1375-83 (*Jul. 3, 2019 aft.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Third Reading — (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 18, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force July 18, 2019; SA 2019 c7]

Bill 9 — Public Sector Wage Arbitration Deferral Act (Toews)

First Reading — (*Jun. 13, 2019 , passed on division*)

Second Reading — 874-84 (*Jun. 17, 2019 eve.*), (*Jun. 17, 2019 eve.*), 933-71 (*Jun. 18, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 971 (*Jun. 18, 2019 eve.*), 1004-76 (*Jun. 19, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Third Reading — (*Jun. 19, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 cP-41.7]

Bill 10 — Alberta Personal Income Tax Amendment Act, 2019 (Toews)

First Reading — (*Jun. 13, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 847-48 (*Jun. 17, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 971 (*Jun. 18, 2019 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1138 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2019 c2]

Bill 11 — Fair Registration Practices Act (Copping)

First Reading — 975 (*Jun. 19, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1186-94 (*Jun. 25, 2019 aft.*), 1244-51 (*Jun. 26, 2019 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1259-63 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1263-65 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2019 cF-1.5]

Bill 12 — Royalty Guarantee Act (Savage)

First Reading — 1088 (*Jun. 20, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1186 (*Jun. 25, 2019 aft.*), 1251-53 (*Jun. 26, 2019 aft.*), 1255 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1257-58 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve.*), 1292-1293 (*Jun. 27, 2019 aft.*), 1393-94 (*Jul. 3, 2019 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 18, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force July 18, 2019; SA 2019 c9]

Bill 13* — Alberta Senate Election Act (Schweitzer)

First Reading — 1225 (*Jun. 26, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1292 (*Jun. 27, 2019 aft.*), 1345-47 (*Jul. 2, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1383-93 (*Jul. 3, 2019 aft.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 18, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force July 18, 2019; SA 2019 cA-33.5]

Bill 14 — Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Act (Wilson)

First Reading — 1654 (*Oct. 8, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1655-77 (*Oct. 8, 2019 aft.*), 1679-95 (*Oct. 9, 2019 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1708-25 (*Oct. 9, 2019 aft.*), 1761 (*Oct. 10, 2019 aft.*), 1763-67 (*Oct. 15, 2019 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1768-70 (*Oct. 15, 2019 morn.*), 1785 (*Oct. 15, 2019 aft., passed*)

Bill 15 — Real Estate Amendment Act, 2019 (Glubish)

First Reading — 1707 (*Oct. 9, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1758-61 (*Oct. 10, 2019 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1767-68 (*Oct. 15, 2019 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1783-85 (*Oct. 15, 2019 aft., passed*)

Bill 16 — Public Lands Modernization (Grazing Leases and Obsolete Provisions) Amendment Act, 2019 (Nixon, JJ)

First Reading — 1782 (*Oct. 15, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1810-17 (*Oct. 16, 2019 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1817-18 (*Oct. 16, 2019 aft., passed*)

Bill 17 — Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence (Clare's Law) Act (Sawhney)

First Reading — 1798 (*Oct. 16, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1819-28 (*Oct. 17, 2019 morn., passed*)

Bill 18 — Electricity Statutes (Capacity Market Termination) Amendment Act, 2019 (Savage)

First Reading — 1850 (*Oct. 17, 2019 aft., passed*)

Bill 201* — Protection of Students with Life-threatening Allergies Act (Armstrong-Homeniuk)

First Reading — 277 (*May 30, 2019 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*), (*Jun. 13, 2019 aft., reported to Assembly*)

Second Reading — 825-38 (*Jun. 17, 2019 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1122-24 (*Jun. 24, 2019 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1124-26 (*Jun. 24, 2019 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force January 1, 2020; SA 2019 cP-30.6]

Bill 202 — Child, Youth and Family Enhancement (Protecting Alberta's Children) Amendment Act, 2019 (Ellis)

First Reading — 277 (*May 30, 2019 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*), (*Jun. 13, 2019 aft., reported to Assembly*)

Second Reading — 838-40 (*Jun. 17, 2019 aft.*), 1115-22 (*Jun. 24, 2019 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1126 (*Jun. 24, 2019 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 203 — An Act to Protect Public Health Care (Feehan)

First Reading — (*Jun. 13, 2019 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*), (*Jun. 27, 2019 aft., reported to Assembly*)

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