



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
First Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, October 24, 2019

Day 33

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 30th Legislature

First Session

Cooper, Hon. Nathan M., Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP), Speaker
Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie-East (UCP), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees
Milliken, Nicholas, Calgary-Currie (UCP), Deputy Chair of Committees

Aheer, Hon. Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Strathmore (UCP)
Allard, Tracy L., Grande Prairie (UCP)
Amery, Mickey K., Calgary-Cross (UCP)
Armstrong-Homeniuk, Jackie,
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UCP)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
Bilous, Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP),
Official Opposition House Leader
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-West Heday (NDP)
Ceci, Joe, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)
Copping, Hon. Jason C., Calgary-Varsity (UCP)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South (NDP)
Deol, Jasvir, Edmonton-Meadows (NDP)
Dreeschen, Hon. Devin, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UCP)
Eggen, David, Edmonton-North West (NDP),
Official Opposition Whip
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (UCP),
Government Whip
Feehan, Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP)
Fir, Hon. Tanya, Calgary-Peigan (UCP)
Ganley, Kathleen T., Calgary-Mountain View (NDP)
Getson, Shane C., Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland (UCP)
Glasgo, Michaela L., Brooks-Medicine Hat (UCP)
Glubish, Hon. Nate, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (UCP)
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)
Goodridge, Laila, Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche (UCP)
Gottfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)
Gray, Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)
Guthrie, Peter F., Airdrie-Cochrane (UCP)
Hanson, David B., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UCP)
Hoffman, Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)
Horner, Nate S., Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)
Hunter, Hon. Grant R., Taber-Warner (UCP)
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP),
Official Opposition Deputy Whip
Issik, Whitney, Calgary-Glenmore (UCP)
Jones, Matt, Calgary-South East (UCP)
Kenney, Hon. Jason, PC, Calgary-Lougheed (UCP),
Premier
LaGrange, Hon. Adriana, Red Deer-North (UCP)
Loewen, Todd, Central Peace-Notley (UCP)
Long, Martin M., West Yellowhead (UCP)
Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UCP)
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (NDP)
Luan, Hon. Jason, Calgary-Foothills (UCP)
Madu, Hon. Kaycee, Edmonton-South West (UCP)
McIver, Hon. Ric, Calgary-Hays (UCP),
Deputy Government House Leader

Nally, Hon. Dale, Morinville-St. Albert (UCP)
Neudorf, Nathan T., Lethbridge-East (UCP)
Nicolaidis, Hon. Demetrios, Calgary-Bow (UCP)
Nielsen, Christian E., Edmonton-Decore (NDP)
Nixon, Hon. Jason, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre
(UCP), Government House Leader
Nixon, Jeremy P., Calgary-Klein (UCP)
Notley, Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP),
Leader of the Official Opposition
Orr, Ronald, Lacombe-Ponoka (UCP)
Pancholi, Rakhi, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)
Panda, Hon. Prasad, Calgary-Edgemont (UCP)
Phillips, Shannon, Lethbridge-West (NDP)
Pon, Hon. Josephine, Calgary-Beddington (UCP)
Rehn, Pat, Lesser Slave Lake (UCP)
Reid, Roger W., Livingstone-Macleod (UCP)
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)
Rosin, Miranda D., Banff-Kananaskis (UCP)
Rowswell, Garth, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright (UCP)
Rutherford, Brad, Leduc-Beaumont (UCP)
Sabir, Irfan, Calgary-McCall (NDP)
Savage, Hon. Sonya, Calgary-North West (UCP),
Deputy Government House Leader
Sawhney, Hon. Rajan, Calgary-North East (UCP)
Schmidt, Marlin, Edmonton-Gold Bar (NDP)
Schow, Joseph R., Cardston-Siksika (UCP),
Deputy Government Whip
Schulz, Hon. Rebecca, Calgary-Shaw (UCP)
Schweitzer, Hon. Doug, Calgary-Elbow (UCP),
Deputy Government House Leader
Shandro, Hon. Tyler, Calgary-Acadia (UCP)
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-City Centre (NDP)
Sigurdson, Lori, Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)
Sigurdson, R.J., Highwood (UCP)
Singh, Peter, Calgary-East (UCP)
Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (UCP)
Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UCP)
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP),
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader
Toews, Hon. Travis, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UCP)
Toor, Devinder, Calgary-Falconridge (UCP)
Turton, Searle, Spruce Grove-Stony Plain (UCP)
van Dijken, Glenn, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (UCP)
Walker, Jordan, Sherwood Park (UCP)
Williams, Dan D.A., Peace River (UCP)
Wilson, Hon. Rick D., Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin (UCP)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)
Yaseen, Muhammad, Calgary-North (UCP)

Party standings:

United Conservative: 63

New Democrat: 24

Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

Shannon Dean, Clerk
Teri Cherkewich, Law Clerk
Stephanie LeBlanc, Clerk Assistant and
Senior Parliamentary Counsel
Trafton Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel

Philip Massolin, Clerk of Committees and
Research Services
Nancy Robert, Research Officer
Janet Schwegel, Managing Editor of
Alberta Hansard

Chris Caughell, Acting Sergeant-at-Arms
Tom Bell, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Paul Link, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

Executive Council

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Jason Kenney | Premier, President of Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Relations |
| Leela Aheer | Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women |
| Jason Copping | Minister of Labour and Immigration |
| Devin Dreesen | Minister of Agriculture and Forestry |
| Tanya Fir | Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism |
| Nate Glubish | Minister of Service Alberta |
| Grant Hunter | Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction |
| Adriana LaGrange | Minister of Education |
| Jason Luan | Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions |
| Kaycee Madu | Minister of Municipal Affairs |
| Ric McIver | Minister of Transportation |
| Dale Nally | Associate Minister of Natural Gas |
| Demetrios Nicolaides | Minister of Advanced Education |
| Jason Nixon | Minister of Environment and Parks |
| Prasad Panda | Minister of Infrastructure |
| Josephine Pon | Minister of Seniors and Housing |
| Sonya Savage | Minister of Energy |
| Rajan Sawhney | Minister of Community and Social Services |
| Rebecca Schulz | Minister of Children's Services |
| Doug Schweitzer | Minister of Justice and Solicitor General |
| Tyler Shandro | Minister of Health |
| Travis Toews | President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance |
| Rick Wilson | Minister of Indigenous Relations |

Parliamentary Secretaries

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Laila Goodridge | Parliamentary Secretary Responsible for Alberta's Francophonie |
| Muhammad Yaseen | Parliamentary Secretary of Immigration |

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Orr
Deputy Chair: Mr. Getson

Allard
Eggen
Glasgo
Jones
Loyola
Nielsen
Singh

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Chair: Mr. van Dijken
Deputy Chair: Ms Goehring

Allard
Barnes
Bilous
Dang
Gray
Horner
Irwin
Issik
Jones
Reid
Rowswell
Stephan
Toor

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Ms Goodridge
Deputy Chair: Ms Sigurdson

Amery
Carson
Ganley
Glasgo
Guthrie
Long
Neudorf
Nixon, Jeremy
Pancholi
Rutherford
Shepherd
Walker
Yao

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Ellis
Deputy Chair: Mr. Schow

Goodridge
Gray
Lovely
Nixon, Jeremy
Rutherford
Schmidt
Shepherd
Sigurdson, R.J.
Sweet

Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

Chair: Mr. Cooper
Deputy Chair: Mr. Ellis

Dang
Deol
Goehring
Goodridge
Gotfried
Long
Neudorf
Sweet
Williams

Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

Chair: Mr. Ellis
Deputy Chair: Mr. Schow

Glasgo
Horner
Irwin
Neudorf
Nielsen
Nixon, Jeremy
Pancholi
Sigurdson, L.
Sigurdson, R.J.

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Mr. Smith
Deputy Chair: Mr. Schow

Carson
Deol
Ganley
Horner
Issik
Jones
Loyola
Neudorf
Rehn
Reid
Renaud
Turton
Yao

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Ms Phillips
Deputy Chair: Mr. Gotfried

Barnes
Dach
Feehan
Guthrie
Hoffman
Nixon, Jeremy
Renaud
Rosin
Rowswell
Stephan
Toor
Turton
Walker

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Chair: Mr. Hanson
Deputy Chair: Member Ceci

Dach
Feehan
Getson
Loewen
Rehn
Rosin
Sabir
Schmidt
Sigurdson, R.J.
Singh
Smith
Turton
Yaseen

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 24, 2019

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Hon. members, the prayer. Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to Members of the Legislative Assembly, and to all in positions of responsibility the guidance of Your spirit. May they never lead the province wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideas but, laying aside all private interests and prejudice, keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all. Amen.

Please be seated.

Introduction of Visitors

The Speaker: Hon. members, on such a historic occasion you can imagine that we have a number of visitors and guests today. Joining us in the Speaker's gallery are guests of the Minister of Community and Social Services: the newly elected Member of Parliament Mr. James Cumming. Also joining Mr. Cumming is the councillor for ward 2, Bev Esslinger.

Also in the Speaker's gallery today: a councillor from the community of Didsbury, Mr. Erhard Poggemiller, and his daughter Charlene Bowman; the mayor of the town of Lacombe, His Worship Grant Creasey; the mayor of the town of Blackfalds, His Worship Richard Poole.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: Members, visiting schools today. I had the absolute pleasure of visiting with some students from the constituency of Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland, St. Louis community school. They are its grade 6 and grade 9 students. There are also, from the constituency of Chestermere-Strathmore, grade 6 students from Westmount elementary. Please welcome students to the Assembly today.

I have some additional visitors and guests in the Speaker's gallery today. I'm honoured to have Jordan Cleland, Tammy Forbes, Sundai and Terry Cody, school board trustees Holly Bilton and Melissa Copley.

I would also like to welcome to the public gallery guests of the Member for Grande Prairie: Terri Ellen Sudnik, Mark Tonner, Chris Pullen, and Gerald Feschuk.

Also, guests of the Member for Calgary-Falconridge: Mr. Kent Manning and Trevor Marr.

A guest of the Member for Livingstone-Macleod: Mr. Conrad Van Hierden.

As well, a guest of the Member for Brooks-Medicine Hat: Lorne Swalm.

Guests of the Minister of Infrastructure: Stephen and Karen Davis.

Hon. members, please welcome all of our guests to the Assembly today.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview and Official Opposition House Leader has a statement to make.

Small Business

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to recognize Small Business Week in Alberta and to celebrate and thank the entrepreneurs of this province, who have helped build their respective communities through their businesses.

Under the NDP government we cut the small-business tax rate by a third, introduced three different tax credits to help modernize the economic landscape in Alberta, and supported community and regional economic development. Many businesses, especially tech and artificial intelligence start-ups around the province, will not benefit from a 4 and a half billion dollar corporate handout because they reinvest every penny back into their business. These companies were growing and scaling faster because of the tax credits we introduced, but this UCP government is about to kill these tax credits and make Alberta companies less competitive while stifling innovation and diversification. The Premier is either wilfully ignorant or simply doesn't care. These tax credits have a 3 to 1 return on investment. They enabled Albertans to invest in companies in their own backyard, keeping the investments and jobs here in Alberta. The UCP's corporate handout still hasn't produced a single job to date and does nothing for these businesses.

In my riding of Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview there are dozens of locally owned businesses that serve the needs of our community with their hard work and dedication. From restaurants to cafés, flower shops to hairdressers, breweries to auto garages, small businesses are the backbone of our economy.

On Saturday I'll be visiting many of these small businesses in my riding that have contributed so much to the local economy, and I encourage all members to visit your local businesses as well and thank them for their hard work and personal sacrifice for the betterment of our society. Alberta would not be the economic engine of Canada without our small businesses.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-East would like to make a statement.

Diwali

Mr. Singh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to speak to the House today. Diwali is a fantastic five-day festival that is celebrated by millions of people around the world. It encases Hindu and Sikh culture through traditional shows, dances, music, food, and much more. During the festival small lamps filled with oil are lit and placed in rows along the parapets of temples and houses and set adrift on rivers and streams. The fourth day marks the beginning of the new year according to the Vikram calendar. It is generally a time for visiting, exchanging gifts, feasting, praying, fireworks, and celebration. The main theme of Diwali is the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

As a proud and practising Hindu I am honoured to be able to celebrate with my fellow constituents and Albertans. Tens of thousands of Hindus are proud to call Alberta home, and our government welcomes them with open arms. Festivals like Diwali are vital in promoting a better shared understanding of our shared culture, history, and civilization. Seeing the practices and traditions of other Albertans helps ensure strong social cohesion and fosters acceptance in our society. We are very fortunate to be living in a country that promotes diversity and multiculturalism and that allows us the freedom to publicly celebrate it. As a Hindu Albertan I'm extraordinarily proud to be able to call this beautiful province my home.

Happy Diwali to all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Alberta in Canada

Mr. Schow: “A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty”: Winston Churchill.

This past Monday tensions in Alberta were high as election results flooded in from coast to coast to coast. The news we anxiously awaited, a Conservative victory, never came. In its place: the declaration of a Liberal minority, which for most Albertans was the peak of western alienation.

Like many of my colleagues, my phone, my e-mail, and my social media feed blew up with messages from constituents: some cautiously optimistic about the future, others far more colourful with their language and calls to action, all of them justified in feelings that I share. Like many of you, I’ve heard cries for separation at near-deafening levels, and my response is simple: not today, because Alberta has survived boom times and recessions, feast and famine. We were here long before Pierre Trudeau gave Alberta the middle finger from his train car, and we will be here long after his son is voted out of office. So, no, not today, because Albertans have never walked away from a challenge, and justice for Alberta in a united Canada is worth fighting for.

Mr. Speaker, I choose to fight, but I can’t do it alone. When going to battle, it’s the person willing to risk it all, exhaust every option, give everything to win that comes out on top. I look around this Chamber, and I see a group of people willing to go that extra mile, make that sacrifice to get a fair deal for Alberta in Confederation. I pray that history will remember us fondly for making the right choice, standing united instead of falling apart as individuals. Like Churchill said: never, never, never give up.

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

1:40 Taxation and Public Programs

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things we know for sure is that Adam Smith’s invisible hand does not create a just society. This invisible hand was supposed to create a society where the best interests of citizens would be fulfilled. The truth is that this did not happen. In fact, the free market created much injustice, pooled riches into the hands of a few, and the majority struggled to survive. We know that the market is not focused on stakeholders. Thus, it fell to the welfare state to ensure fairness. Redistribution of funds through collecting taxes and implementing public programs has created a robust middle class and a vibrant, healthy society.

However, this UCP government wants to turn the clock back and create more polarization of funds in the hands of a few. What we know for sure is that creating a progressive taxation system creates a society where those with less pay less and those with more pay more. In every jurisdiction in Canada this progressive system was in place except our province until 2015, when it was created by the NDP government. Progressive taxation is widely accepted as a just system of taxation.

We also know that profitable corporations are taxed significantly less than in other provinces, and only under the NDP government were they paying taxes commensurate with other provinces. This UCP government has eliminated this with their \$4.5 billion corporate handout.

In addition, we know that when investments are made in public programs, our citizens are supported to live with dignity and fulfill their dreams. Our NDP government’s programs made a significant difference in the lives of Albertans, creating more fairness and justice throughout the province. This is in jeopardy under the UCP’s watch.

The invisible hand does not care. Politicians need to care. Politicians must create a just society for all Albertans.

Nauticol Methanol Plant Project

Mrs. Allard: Today I speak about a project that represents \$2.7 billion of investment in Alberta. It is my pleasure to host representatives from both Nauticol and PCL Construction in the gallery today.

Nauticol is a privately held Alberta petrochemical company planning to produce value-added products from natural gas. They have chosen a build site in the county of Grande Prairie. This facility will include three identical methanol units capable of producing 3 million metric tonnes per year of methanol destined for Asian markets. The opportunity for Alberta is phenomenal, with global methanol demand expected to rise. Alberta’s access to Asian markets and reliable, low-cost natural gas feedstock provide a competitive advantage to secure this investment over jurisdictions such as the U.S. Gulf coast.

In partnership with PCL and with the support of this government through the Alberta indigenous opportunities corporation and the petrochemicals diversification program, Nauticol is proposing to build out their facility on an accelerated timeline and hopes to build all three units simultaneously, accelerating the project build by up to three years and creating an additional 5,000 jobs in the province of Alberta, including construction jobs right here in Edmonton at PCL. This project at full completion is estimated to contribute over \$2.1 billion in tax revenue to our province. Nauticol is an industry leader in partnering with indigenous groups. On this project Nauticol is working closely with Duncan’s First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.

I am pleased to share that this government is working to expedite the approval and regulatory climate for investors like Nauticol. As we continue our efforts to reduce red tape and regulatory burden, companies are enabled to accelerate their investment decisions, creating jobs and bolstering our economy now. Nauticol is hard at work and has completed an agreement with TC Energy to connect its facility with the TC natural gas pipeline network, and geotechnical work is under way even this week. As the MLA for Grande Prairie I am working diligently to ensure permits will be issued before the end of the year to get this project under way in 2020 and get more Albertans back to work.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Budget 2019

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we will finally see the results of this Premier’s closed-door, secret budget, that will attack Alberta families and make life more expensive. Last night he addressed Albertans in a televised address, where he told us that he will cut back and attack our public services in a misleading attempt to balance the budget. He’s doing this while, on the other hand, giving 4 and a half billion dollars away to the wealthiest corporations. Since then, his efforts have resulted in nothing but 27,000 job losses. These are the facts. He cancelled crude by rail, which will cost Albertans another \$5.1 billion, totalling, with his 4 and a half billion dollar giveaway to wealthy corporations, a \$9.6 billion hole in the provincial budget.

Families are scared, and the government calls it fear and smear. Families are scared that this government will attack schools so that class sizes will balloon. Families are scared that this government will attack our health care and bring in a dangerous and reckless

American-style health care system. I've heard this from families in my constituency, Mr. Speaker. I've heard how the cuts to AISH are cruel and offensive, when the Premier talks about it not being onerous for families. I've heard how children, already in large, complex classes, and parents are worried that this Premier will only make it worse.

This Premier told Albertans he has to make cuts. He hid those cuts from Albertans this summer, but we are about to see the truth. We are about to see how cruel and heartless this Premier's attack on Albertans will be. I will never stop fighting these attacks on our communities.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Energy-only Electricity Market

Mr. Horner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently Bill 18 is before this House, the Electricity Statutes (Capacity Market Termination) Amendment Act, 2019. If successful, it will end the pursuit of a capacity market initiated by the previous government. It's been stated by members opposite that the capacity market is necessary to encourage renewables and ensure affordable power. According to *Hansard* the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar even went as far as to say that ridings like mine, Drumheller-Stettler, have many jobs at stake and that not shifting to a capacity market will put many at risk. I'm not sure how any member of the opposition can pretend to care about jobs anywhere, least of all in my riding, but I'll play along.

I have Battle River and Sheerness coal-fired power stations in the riding. Both are already in gas conversions; 70 per cent of the jobs will be lost, but at least they will keep making power. You see, when the emission taxes you pay go from \$7.4 million to \$100 million, you either shut your doors or start burning gas. At least the plants will keep generating power. In fact, they've been purchased by Heartland Generation since the provincial election, and they are fine with an energy-only market.

The opposition seems to believe that renewable energy can only exist in a capacity market. Really wrong there. I have 17 renewable energy projects in my riding before the AUC. I've met with most of them. Not one has advocated for a capacity market. I've been clear that this government was not prepared to subsidize wind and solar. They said: "That's fine. We can compete and look forward to it. Technology has levelled the field so you don't have to."

As far as affordable energy for consumers: two points. Number one, Alberta enjoyed the cheapest electricity in North America before the NDP started this mess. Number two, only a socialist would believe that operating two markets, one for capacity and the other for generation, could possibly be cheaper to the ratepayer.

From the power purchase agreement debacle to the complete disregard for the workers in coal communities, the previous government has cost the people of Alberta in my riding so much. The only time the members opposite should mention Hanna or my riding is to beg forgiveness and apologize.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Camrose.

Caregivers

Ms Lovely: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "There are only four kinds of people in the world – those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers and those who will need caregivers." These are the words of Rosalynn Carter, who spoke ever so elegantly about caregivers: unforgotten, unpaid heroes in Alberta communities. A caregiver can be anyone: a brother, a sister, an aunt, or a grandparent. These unsung Albertans

assist vulnerable individuals suffering from illness, disability, or aging and play an integral role in supporting our health care system.

Throughout Alberta there are approximately 1 million caregivers. They provide support in many ways. Most caregivers are responsible for navigating the health care system, driving loved ones to medical appointments, ensuring that medications are taken and refilled appropriately, and providing care within the community, facilitating aging in place. Without caregivers who would support Albertans in need? In absence of these individuals the strain on our publicly funded services would grow. The U of A estimates that this voluntary, unpaid workforce saves the provincial health care system approximately \$5.8 billion annually. Their value cannot be understated, and it is imperative that we do all we can to support these individuals.

Caregivers Alberta is a not-for-profit organization that does a masterful job in achieving this by providing patient navigational supports and other services. This cost-effective, efficient civil society provides important services to approximately tens of thousands of caregivers annually, and I'm so proud to stand up for the work they do.

1:50

I'm also proud of our government's campaign commitment to develop caregiver supports to support patients in their homes and communities. These heroes deserve our recognition, our praise, and our effort in helping them achieve their goals, Mr. Speaker.

Point of Order

Addressing the Chair

The Speaker: Hon. members, before Oral Question Period begins, I would like to provide a clarification on a point of order that was raised yesterday by the hon. Government House Leader. Having referred to and reviewed *Hansard* – and if you would like to follow along at home, I'm referring to page 1971 of the October 23 issue. I see that the Member for Calgary-Buffalo did in fact refer to the Premier as "you" on a number of occasions during his series of questions. As all hon. members know, it is correct parliamentary practice to speak through the chair and therefore refer to members in the third person. My apologies for the confusion in the point of order yesterday to the hon. Government House Leader. I encourage all hon. members to refer to ministers in the third person.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The hon. Member for St. Albert has the call.

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

Ms Renaud: Mr. Speaker, this Premier should be ashamed of himself. The first details of the UCP budget have trickled out, and what's first on the chopping block? Albertans who have disabilities. The Premier has eliminated the AISH program indexing introduced by our government and attempted to tell a columnist yesterday that the cuts wouldn't be onerous. To the Premier: please explain to disabled Albertans, living on \$1,600 a month, why you're forcing them to pay for your no-jobs handout to big corporations?

Mr. Kenney: First of all, Mr. Speaker, we're doing no such thing. This afternoon the Minister of Finance will present a historic budget, a balanced budget, not only balanced in terms of stopping this province's reckless dive into debt that jeopardizes social programs and our support for the vulnerable but also socially balanced by protecting support for the most vulnerable, including maintaining AISH benefits at the most generous level in Canada,

including incorporating in those AISH benefits the large increase adopted by this Legislature last year.

Ms Renaud: The Premier went further. He claimed that his plan to cut supports for disabled Albertans was, quote, a very careful way to trim hundreds of millions from the provincial budget. Premier, I have a better way for you: don't give out a multibillion dollar no-jobs handout to big corporations. My question is to the entire government cabinet: do any single one of you have the ability to stand up to this Premier and reverse these heartless cuts?

Mr. Kenney: It didn't take long, Mr. Speaker. The balanced budget that will be presented by this government this afternoon keeps our word with Albertans to stop the reckless dive into debt that was begun by the NDP. Under their plan we'd be spending \$4 billion a year in interest payments to bankers and bondholders. That's money that doesn't go to the disabled or to schools and hospitals. Why does the NDP so desperately want to enrich bankers in Toronto, New York, and Zurich instead of investing in public services here in Alberta?

Ms Renaud: Clearly, you've never lived on \$1,600 a month.

Our government was proud to bring in legislation to index AISH and the Alberta seniors' benefit. During debate the Government House Leader himself rose to support the bill, stating, and I quote: I'm happy to see a piece of legislation of this kind here in the Assembly; I actually think it should have been here a long time ago. End quote. To the Government House Leader: will you explain why you no longer support Albertans with disabilities?

Mr. Kenney: Well, Albertans better get used to the fear and smear. It never really stopped since the last campaign. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that this balanced budget to be presented today prioritizes protection for the most vulnerable, including and particularly people with disabilities, including maintaining AISH benefits, which are 30 per cent more generous than the next most generous Canadian province. In terms of indexation, they love to get on their high horse, but in 2015, 2016, 2017, and well into 2018 under the NDP there was no indexation of AISH.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-North West is rising with a question.

Budget 2019

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we warned about this Premier's plans for deep cuts and layoffs, he howled. He told Albertans that he wouldn't cut. He said that he would maintain or increase funding for services, for support programs, and for capital projects. Today we learn that none of it is true. The Finance minister is preparing to table the biggest bait-and-switch budget in Alberta history. To the Premier: when Albertans look up the word "dishonest" in Wikipedia, does your government have a reference there?

The Speaker: I'm certain that the hon. member wouldn't be implying that any member is dishonest, but the hon. Premier has the call.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons that that member was part of the only first-term government in Alberta history to be rejected by voters was because of the profound dishonesty of the last NDP government that, for example, hid from Albertans the largest tax increase in our history, the multibillion dollar carbon tax. They ran on a platform to balance the budget. Instead they racked up our debt from \$13 billion to \$62 billion, headed to \$100 billion.

In terms of honesty that's exactly what this budget is about, keeping our commitment with Albertans to come back to balance.

Mr. Eggen: Mr. Speaker, this Premier says that Albertans with complex needs need to get by with less. Meanwhile big corporations get their \$4.5 billion handout. This Premier said: no cuts. Today we have nothing but cuts to programs, cuts to services, cuts to staff. To the Premier: when you said maintain or increase, in what universe does that mean a 2.8 per cent actual cut to the budget?

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, the member is correct that our platform is predicated on no reductions in spending because they were based in part on the revenue projections tabled by the NDP. When we came to office, we were informed by our independent public service that the NDP had overprojected government revenues by \$6 billion a year. Talk about honesty. On this \$4.5 billion massive fib, here's Professor Trevor Tombe. "Why the 4.5 billion [dollar] claim continues is a real puzzle. It is demonstrably . . ."

Mr. Eggen: Mr. Speaker, this government is bringing down the biggest bad-news budget this province has ever seen. This Premier has spent weeks campaigning in Ontario, clearly learning from his friend Doug Ford. It's clear that he would rather be in Ottawa. Is this Premier's plan, then, to cut and run, literally, federally?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, I spent two and a half days campaigning in Ontario, not weeks, but I was proud to do so, to stand with the 70 per cent of Albertans who said no to the federal NDP's leave-it-in-the-ground Leap Manifesto, to say no to the pipeline cancellations of the Trudeau administration. While I and members of this caucus were standing up for Alberta's vital economic interests, that member was attending a protest in front of this Legislature calling for the immediate shutdown of our energy industry, which would put hundreds of thousands of Albertans out of work. Shame on them.

The Speaker: The hon. Official Opposition House Leader.

Budget 2019 and Provincial Revenue

Mr. Bilous: This Premier did not campaign on cutting the services Albertans rely on, unless he's forgotten. Today he's going to claim we all have to do our part to balance the budget. That is unless, of course, you're an international shareholder, and instead you get a piece of the 4 and a half billion dollar no-jobs handout. Through you to the Premier, Mr. Speaker: you've clearly been briefed on the ins and outs of your budget, so please enlighten us. If he hadn't have pushed forward with his failed experiment, what else could he have funded for 4 and a half billion dollars?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, Professor Tombe of the University of Calgary, who is widely regarded as independent and nonpartisan, said the following today. "Why the 4.5 billion [dollar] claim continues is a real puzzle. It is demonstrably misleading (I'd say false). But, I guess, [it's] politically convenient." Here's the truth. As today's budget will reveal, the forgone revenues for the job-creation tax cut this year: \$100 million, 98 per cent less than the NDP is claiming. But when they were in office, they drove down corporate tax revenues after they raised the rates. We're going to create jobs.

Mr. Bilous: The Premier has denied our province \$5 billion in revenue due to his ideological decision to rip up the crude-by-rail contract signed by our government. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: we would have moved millions of barrels of crude to

market by now. Will you apologize to the energy industry and admit that beyond ranting on Twitter, you have no plan to get our product to market?

2:00

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, I feel sorry for that member of the NDP. That's called leading with your chin. That is a party that blew out 4 and a half billion dollars to do something the private sector not only would do but has done. We've gone from 120,000 barrels per day of crude by rail at the beginning of this year to over 300,000 barrels per day, all of it at the cost and risk of the private sector. But they are responsible for costing taxpayers, we estimate, a billion and a half dollars. We're going to get taxpayers out of that deal that stunk for the interests of this province.

The Speaker: The Official Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, the Premier has not actually looked at the file because \$2 billion in revenue is what would have come into the government.

Two ideological decisions from this Premier have cost \$9.6 billion all told. That's nearly \$2,200 per person, Mr. Speaker. To the Premier: how long until you admit that your plan is a complete failure? And on behalf of Albertans, can we please get our money back?

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you what. We have not ruled out getting our money back. We have put on the table, from day one, the possible cancellation of those irresponsible contracts, but what the member does not understand is that the incremental crude is moving by rail. Any incremental revenues associated with that are happening without risking billions of tax dollars.

I want to go back to the corporate tax cut, though. Mr. Speaker, they raised taxes on businesses by 20 per cent, and you know what happened? Revenues went down by \$8.8 billion below what they projected. That's NDP economic policy for you.

The Speaker: The hon. the Member for Edmonton-Manning has a question.

Child Mental Health Services

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Health minister made the absurd claim that "there is no crisis in child mental health." It's imaginary. Just like the UCP's \$4.5 billion corporate giveaway. It's all made up, apparently. I think the minister needs an education on children's mental health in Canada. The Mental Health Commission of Canada reports that 1.2 million Canadian children suffer from mental illness. To the minister: are you saying that we don't need to help those kids?

The Speaker: The Minister of Health is rising.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, in the supplemental answer that I provided yesterday, I made it very clear that what I was talking about was bed spaces in public hospitals. Obviously, mental health, especially mental health for our children and adolescents here in Alberta, is of the utmost importance to this government. It's one of the reasons why this government has already committed and will be spending a further \$140 million on mental health and addictions. It's because mental health, especially mental health for our children and adolescents, is of the utmost importance to us.

Ms Sweet: Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister said it yesterday.

I have some more shocking statistics to help educate this Health minister. According to a 2018 report from the University of Calgary more than 1 in 10 Canadian teens suffer from depression and anxiety, 1 in 5 kids aged 13 to 18 consider suicide, and suicide is the second-highest cause of child death in this country. So I have to ask the minister: how many children have to suffer or die from mental health issues before you consider this a crisis?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, I think I made it very clear that that was the reason why our government has committed to and is going to be spending a further \$140 million on mental health and addictions. It's one of the reasons why we are working with the Stollery foundation as well as many community partners throughout Alberta, including and especially in Edmonton, to make sure that we're going to increase access to mental health services, including for our children and adolescents. For four years we saw access under the previous government decline, one of the reasons we have to spend this further \$140 million.

Ms Sweet: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not surprised this Health minister is ignorant about those numbers, but I can tell you that hundreds of Albertan parents were shocked and appalled by his insulting claims, parents whose children self-harm, who consider or commit suicide, who suffer from depression, who face mental health crises that make it difficult to form relationships and enjoy a rich and fulfilling life. To the Health minister: will you stand up in this House right now and apologize to those parents and their children for your hurtful claims?

Mr. Shandro: I made it clear many times, Mr. Speaker. I was in the middle of giving an answer yesterday and was being heckled by the other side and wasn't able to give the finish of what I was trying to say, and I made it very clear in the supplemental that I was talking about bed spaces in public hospitals.

While that question has already been answered for the other side, I want to be able to have the opportunity to quickly address something that was said mistakenly by the other side yesterday in one of their questions. It was a question that claimed that Century Park in Vegreville failed three health inspections. That, Mr. Speaker, was patently false. I ask the other side to start being honest with Albertans. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

The hon. Member for Camrose.

Rural High-speed Internet

Ms Lovely: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Alberta SuperNet is something Albertans should be proud of. Since the Alberta government first started investing in it, rural communities have benefited from access to high-speed Internet in their school, hospitals, and libraries, which has increased the flow of ideas and assisted in the running of these communities. But questions and frustrations around access to the Internet for the general public still remain. To the Minister of Service Alberta: can you provide us an update about what specifically you're working on to help more Albertans obtain access to minimum speeds?

The Speaker: The Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Glubish: Well, Mr. Speaker, thank you for the question. You know, this is something I've been working on for the last number of months. I toured across the province to meet with a number of rural communities all across this province to make sure that I understood the challenges that they face in trying to improve

connectivity for rural and remote Albertans. This is very important. One of the things that we're working on doing is to make sure that we harness the existing fibre that is in the ground to its fullest capacity. We need to work with telecommunication companies to understand how best to reach these underserved communities using that infrastructure.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The Member for Camrose.

Ms Lovely: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister.

Given that access to high-speed Internet is vital, to make sure that rural Alberta communities remain viable and give Albertans – rural communities often see many of their citizens, especially younger ones, leave these communities for larger centres, where they can easily access the world through Internet connections, and given that within the past year the federal government has allocated some funds towards a national broadband strategy, to the minister: how will you collaborate with your federal counterparts to ensure all Albertans have access to minimum speeds?

The Speaker: The Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Glubish: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. While it is true that the federal government has announced a small amount of funds to tackle this very large problem on a national scale, I will say that it is a disappointing, small amount of funds. It's a drop in the bucket compared to what is required. That said, you know, Alberta has been a leader in this space for a long time. Over the last 18 years we have spent a billion dollars in building out the SuperNet, which has connected over 3,300 schools, hospitals, libraries, and municipal buildings all across this province to ensure that there is access to high-speed connectivity. By comparison, the federal government's strategy is only to reach 1,100 of these institutions country-wide.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Lovely: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. Given that in 2019 a community in my constituency of Camrose got tired of waiting for the government to help expand community Internet access and given that the residents of Viking waited too long for an expansion to their Internet availability and given that they have found their own private solution, will the minister consider Viking's solution to problems in other communities, and will the minister work with other communities to ensure access can be expanded upon?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Glubish: Well, Mr. Speaker, thank you for the question. I will say that we support local decision-making, and we understand that a lot of these communities know best how to spend their resources to deliver the services that their residents want the most. That's the case of what happened in Viking. It's also the case of what happened in your community of Olds, as you well know. I will just say this. One of the things I want to be sure of is that where there are other municipalities and communities that can benefit from the knowledge that Olds has developed or Viking has developed, we want to make sure that those communities have access to the same information so they can learn from that and implement the solutions that work best for them.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood has a question.

Child Mental Health Services

(continued)

Member Irwin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I told the Health minister about a mother in my riding whose child has waited for months for mental health supports here in Edmonton. His response was to unbelievably claim that there is no crisis in child mental health. Since then we've received hundreds of responses from parents and young people all across Alberta who were insulted and so disheartened by his claim. To the minister: please offer any suggestions on how to help these parents and kids since, according to you, they're not in crisis.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I've made it clear already in this House about what the comments were really about, but I do have a suggestion. Actually, the suggestion is for our friends opposite, that if they believe so strongly, as we do as a government, about what needs to be done with mental health and addictions, they vote for our budget and the \$140 million that we are going to be adding for mental health and addictions.

2:10

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

Member Irwin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that one parent told me that their child hasn't been able to find mental health supports for eight years and considers suicide on a nightly basis and given that another parent says that their suicidal 10-year-old has to pay privately to see a psychologist, which costs \$200 an hour, and given that one young person told me that in one year 13 teenagers committed suicide in their rural Alberta county, to the minister. Here's another chance. Please just do the right thing and apologize for your comments, that were so completely devoid of compassion.

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, as I've said many times in this House, that's why mental health and addictions, especially mental health and addictions for children and adolescents, is so important for this government. I'm happy to hear that it's also a concern for our friends opposite. I look forward to them being able to vote with us on our budget, that we will be tabling this afternoon.

Member Irwin: Mr. Speaker, given that I'm sorry to all the folks out there and given that I've heard from many mental health practitioners and teachers who say that there are serious gaps in the system that leave Alberta's children without proper mental health supports and given that doctors and nurses in emergency departments have said that they've seen a massive jump in mental health issues – front-line workers are clear; it's a crisis – to the minister: we ask you to commit here and now to funding the much-needed children's mental health centre.

Mr. Shandro: I think that's why, Mr. Speaker, for four years under the previous government, it was disappointing to see access to mental health and addictions decrease, especially for our children and adolescents. It's one of the reasons why we are going to continue to work with the Stollery foundation here in Edmonton as well as other community partners to do our best in making sure that our \$140 million further increase in spending on mental health and addictions is going to help our children and adolescents.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall would like to ask a question.

Bitumen Upgrading

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The \$4.5 billion handout is a complete failure. Drilling is down. Investment is down. Over 13,000 jobs have been lost in the oil and gas sector. Alberta had a real plan to support energy investments and refine our products right here in Alberta. To the minister. You said that you were disappointed that your corporate handout was failing. How do you explain cancelling another 4,000 real jobs and \$5 billion in private investment to disappointed Albertans?

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you for the question. I'm not sure if the member is referring to the PDP plan, that we extended yesterday. Yesterday I was very pleased to announce with my colleague Minister Nally that we were extending the PDP program, petrochemicals diversification program. We were elected on a platform to stand up for our energy sector and attract investment while at the same time being fiscally prudent. That's what we're doing with that program.

Thank you.

The Speaker: I would remind all members that the use of names in the Assembly for whatever reason would not be deemed appropriate.

Mr. Sabir: Mr. Speaker, given that Calgary-based Value Creation Inc. received support from this program and given that their refining project would create upgrading of 77,000 barrels of bitumen each day and create 2,000 construction jobs, to the minister: why are you cancelling these jobs, and why are you against working Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we decided to continue the PDP program, we at the same time decided to cancel the PUP program and the PFIP program. That's because those programs would run at a significant risk to Alberta taxpayers. They were based on loan guarantees and government grants, so we're not moving on with those. We're continuing with the petrochemicals diversification program because, as I said, it will attract investment to Alberta.

Mr. Sabir: Given that when it comes to supporting oil and gas, this government is all talk and given that we have no jobs, no investment, and no support for companies taking a risk to create jobs, to the minister: can Tom Olsen's attack machine upgrade 77,000 barrels per day? If not, why are you wasting taxpayer money on him and not supporting Calgary?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NDP legacy on pipelines is one of four years of a failed social licence and a one-and-done deal with Justin Trudeau. Let me tell you a bit about their legacy on pipelines. In fact, at the beginning of 2015 the pipeline takeaway capacity out of Alberta was about 3.4 million barrels a day. Guess what? At the beginning of January 2019, after four years of NDP government, the pipeline capacity out of Alberta was about 3.4 million barrels. Their legacy on pipelines is zero kilometres. [interjections]

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat. [interjections] Order. Hon. members, we will have order.

Cypress-Medicine Hat has the call.

Hospital-based Health Care Costs

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year a report was released on the state of acute-care funding in Alberta. Notably, hospitals in the province that are run by Alberta Health Services have been chronically overbudget and overspending, accumulating a deficit of nearly a billion dollars in just eight years. To the Minister of Health: what are you doing to ensure that AHS holds hospitals accountable to taxpayers by staying on budget and that hospitals are focused on putting patients first?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member points out, there are some issues about how AHS determines the funding for hospitals. The larger issue, though, that the hon. member is pointing out is the overall cost of care. Our cost per hospital admission here in Alberta is 30 per cent higher than the national average. Thirty per cent. We need to get our costs down and reinvest those savings to do more and to increase access. That's what we campaigned on, and that's exactly what this government is going to do.

Mr. Barnes: Given that the NDP dramatically increased health care spending, especially in regard to acute care, resulting in Alberta hospitals taking up 45 per cent of our health care budget, paid for by hard-working Albertans, and given that we spend more money on health care than the national average while still having some of the worst results, to the minister: what is your plan for getting acute-care spending under control while ensuring Albertans receive the very best outcomes?

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the NDP ignored the problem of cost of care, like they ignored all the evidence about how the system was performing, the reality is that we have a cost problem, not a revenue problem. We don't need new taxes so that we can keep paying \$8,000 per case when the national average is \$6,000. I would also note, though, that during their tenure, the previous government, the number of patients in acute-care beds who were actually deserving of continuing care increased to 18 per cent, another reason why we are going to be reviewing continuing care legislation.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Barnes: Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. In the report, that was released last year, 69 out of 86 hospitals in Alberta were unable to stay within their budget over an eight-year period, and two-thirds of these hospitals were chronically overbudget. That is not sustainable. Given that our government pledged to complete a full review of Alberta Health Services in an attempt to find efficiencies that could be redirected to the front lines, can the minister please identify any cost-saving measures that have been found and outcomes that must be improved?

The Speaker: The minister.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you to the hon. member, thank you for mentioning this key commitment in our platform, the AHS review. We'll receive the final report by December 31 of this year, and we'll be releasing it after we've had an opportunity to review it. We campaigned on getting the costs under control and using those savings to fund increases in services.

That's the point of the AHS review, and it's our commitment to Albertans, that we're going to deliver on.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods would like to ask a question.

Budget 2019 and Public Services

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we've already seen, this government's \$4.5 billion corporate handout has failed to create even a single job in the private sector. Now, to pay for it, public-sector workers are getting the axe. Layoffs are coming in just a few hours, as reported by Postmedia. Can the minister of labour tell us how many workers are being given pink slips by this government today, and which Albertans will be impacted by the loss of their service?

The Speaker: The Minister of Labour and Immigration is rising to answer.

Mr. Copping: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I have to speak to the \$4.5 billion claim, that the hon. members on the other side continue to misrepresent. As indicated by our Premier previously, this simply is not true. I think we should talk about some other numbers. Perhaps we should talk about the \$62 billion deficit that the previous government left this government to deal with, or perhaps we should talk about the \$2 billion in interest payments associated. That's \$5 million a day that we are paying, and this impacts our ability to provide services that Albertans want and need.

2:20

Ms Gray: Given, Mr. Speaker, that I hear a complete lack of compassion for the people that support this minister's work and the anxiety that has been caused in them and given that we only know about these layoffs because the Premier bragged about it in the media and given that these public servants work hard to serve Albertans and that they found out that they may be fired from reading the *Calgary Sun*, to the minister: don't you think you owe your own workers more respect than that?

Mr. Copping: Mr. Speaker, we respect the great work that our public service does for us. I'm sure that in the next coming hours, when we release the budget, we'll have more information in terms of what our government plan is to get our budget back on track and reverse the huge amount of debt that was created and the potential impact on our services. Up to a hundred billion dollars was the track that the previous government was on course for and \$4 billion in interest payments on the debt. Those are the numbers we should be focused on and ensuring that we can reduce that and provide services that Albertans need.

Ms Gray: Mr. Speaker, given that it's clear this government's only plan for unemployment is more unemployment and given that Alberta has lost 27,000 jobs under this so-called jobs Premier so far – and that is going to climb even higher this week – to the minister: why does your so-called jobs Premier think firing people will create jobs?

Mr. Copping: Mr. Speaker, again, this is fear and smear that we're hearing from the members opposite. In a few short hours we will release our budget and have a better understanding of the path forward. But the hon. member opposite shouldn't be talking about jobs. Their legacy is 170,000 jobs lost. Our government was elected on a platform: jobs, pipeline, and the economy. We put in place a number of legislations: the job-creation tax cut, the elimination of

the carbon tax, the open for business act, red tape reduction. We will get Albertans back to work.

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

Licensed Practical Nurses' Scope of Practice

Mr. Shepherd: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, the UCP Health minister recently announced an expansion to the scope of practice for LPNs, allowing them to perform a handful of procedures that were previously performed by RNs. Now, this could very well be a good thing if the minister wasn't also in court trying to tear up the contract for LPNs as a prelude to rolling back their wages. To this Minister of Health: will you be asking LPNs to do more for lower wages to help pay for your 4 and a half billion dollar, no-jobs corporate handout?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, what an initiative. I am so excited and happy and proud to talk about it in this House. This expansion of scope for LPNs should have been done years and years ago. It started in 2003. All of the other health professions encouraged these five changes to the expansion of scope for these LPNs. This is not a zero-sum situation. This is an expansion of the scope of these qualified and talented professionals to be able to do what they've already been trained to do.

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

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that they are indeed talented and resourceful and being fired in Vegreville because this minister won't act and given that a single human being can only do so much work in a given day and given that anyone working in health care will tell you that the resources available matter, whether it's at the nursing station or at the patient's bedside, my question, then, to this minister is: how many LPNs does he intend to hire, if any, and will this be done at any cost of existing RNs in the workforce?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, the largest employer of LPNs in the province is AHS. I'm happy to work with AHS and to encourage them through their operational best practices program to encourage LPNs to be able to work to the full extent of their clinical knowledge and skills. As well, the most important thing is to be able to reduce the number of transitions in care, because that's where patients get hurt the most. The fact that the member opposite would not support this and not encourage this expansion of scope is quite confounding to me.

Mr. Shepherd: Given that this minister, as usual, is not listening and not hearing that I, in fact, support more LPNs and given the fact that when we add work onto employees and we give them additional duties without providing additional resources to assist, it leads to crunches, like I've heard about at the Holy Cross hospital in Calgary, where they say that staff attrition under AHS due to chaos from this government's budget has led to them having patients waiting days to access their cancer medication, and given that this government is willing to give out 4 and a half billion dollars to corporations, how much more is he willing to put patient safety at risk?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, only a day after the hon. member was in this House making ridiculous and quite shocking claims about Century Park in Vegreville, about them failing health inspections, when it was patently – patently – false, again we see today further fear trying to be spread by the hon. member. We see another day of

the NDP in this Chamber, another day of them acting like complete fabulists, trying to tell each other fairy tales and scare Albertans.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Airdrie-Cochrane would like to ask a question.

Methane Emission Regulations

Mr. Guthrie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In late August the U.S. announced that it was joining Mexico and pulling out of the triparty agreement to reduce methane emissions, leaving Canada as the only remaining signatory. These federal regulations not only target Alberta but have potential constitutional challenges given the creep into our jurisdiction. To the Minister of Environment and Parks: the federal regulations come into effect January 1, so what is Alberta's plan, considering that this will lead to further industry competitiveness issues and considering that we already had strong regulations in place?

The Speaker: The Minister of Environment and Parks has risen.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. We are leading discussions to achieve an agreement that works for the province of Alberta. No agreement has been reached at this time. But let me be clear to this House. We are working with Alberta's best interests in mind and will continue to work that way while working towards, ultimately, a solution that banks on the innovative potential of this great province. We'll have more to say when we get there.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Airdrie-Banff.

Mr. Guthrie: Cochrane.

The Speaker: Whatever you're called.

Mr. Guthrie: Thank you, Minister. Given that Alberta has had tough economic conditions over the last five years, especially in the resource sectors, and given that Alberta has lost tens of thousands of jobs over that same time frame and given that our economy is still in a fragile state, to the minister of labour: if the federal government sticks to this failed agreement, what are the potential consequences of these regulations in regard to financial impacts on industry and their ability to create jobs?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour and Immigration.

Mr. Copping: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. Too many jobs have been lost in Alberta, especially in our resource sector, and too many Albertans are struggling to find work. We were elected on a mandate to boost the economy and create jobs for Albertans. We have been working to ease burdens on job creators with the job-creation tax cut, our red tape reduction initiative, eliminating the carbon tax, and the open for business act, which reduced costs for employers and restored democracy to the workplace. We will continue to stand up for our industries and to fight for Alberta jobs, and we will not rest until we have restored prosperity to our province.

The Speaker: Apologies; the hon. Member for Airdrie-Cochrane.

Mr. Guthrie: Thank you. Thank you, Minister. Given that methane regulations are not being applied nationally and given that these regulations are only targeted at oil and gas jurisdictions and given that the people of Alberta are the rightful owners of these resources, can the Minister of Justice comment on whether he is looking at

potential constitutional or other legal options to protect Alberta from this jurisdictional overreach in federal regulations?

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, we right now have two challenges going on with the federal government, one to fight the carbon tax and one to fight the no more pipelines bill. We will not hesitate to defend Alberta. This is our home. Western alienation is at an all-time high. This government will not hesitate to defend our province. This is our home. We're proud to be Albertans. We'll defend our provincial jurisdiction.

Mobile-home Owner Consumer Protection

Mr. Schmidt: The residents of Twin Parks, a mobile-home community in my constituency, have repeatedly met with me to tell me about their frustrations with their landlord, Parkbridge. The landlord refuses to properly maintain roads and common areas, which causes intense flooding. Roads are impassable, and the foundations of homes are rotting out. On top of all that, residents are being slapped with outrageous rent increases. I know that the Service Alberta minister has already had an earful from these residents, too. When will he change the law so that they can have affordable ways to challenge their landlords instead of being forced to take them to court?

2:30

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Glubish: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the question. Actually, the member opposite might be interested to know that those constituents actually came to the grand opening of my constituency office yesterday to thank me for all of the hard work that I've been putting in on this file and to say that they have a lot of faith in me. You know, I want the member opposite to know that this is something I take very seriously, and I'm working very hard on it, but it's a complex problem. It's one that they failed to deal with in their four years in government, and it's one that I am going to be very thoughtful and careful in how I approach it.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, given that we haven't seen any action in this House and given that many of my constituents already can't afford the lot rent increases and given that those constituents, many of them, are on AISH and seniors' benefits, that this Finance minister is going to cruelly cut this afternoon, and given that Parkbridge has already received part of the \$4.5 billion corporate handout that this government has given, will the minister intervene further and ensure that constituents of mine aren't among the many, many victims of this Premier's 4 and a half billion dollar corporate handout?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order is noted.

Mr. Glubish: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to just let the member opposite know that just because he doesn't like my answer to his question, it doesn't mean I didn't answer it, and it also doesn't mean that his constituents aren't happy with how I'm handling this file. This is something that I am putting a lot of time into. It's very important to me. They failed to deal with this in their four years in government. I have done more on this in the last six months than they did in four years, so I will not take lectures from him or any of the members opposite on how we handle the file of mobile-home communities. It's a tough one. It's important. There are a lot of vulnerable Albertans who live there. We care deeply about them. We're going to take the time to do this properly, thoughtfully, and

continue to earn the respect of the members who live in those communities.

Thank you.

Mr. Schmidt: Mr. Speaker, given that this change will cost the province next to nothing to make and given that everybody involved wants those changes made immediately and given that the legislation is already written and that all the minister has to do is take it down from the shelf and bring it into this House, can the minister tell me why my residents still have to wait for help? Is it because they're not profitable corporations?

Mr. Glubish: Well, Mr. Speaker, if it was that simple, then why did the member opposite and his team, when they were in government for four years, not just simply do what he's telling me to do right now? The answer to that question is that he's wrong. It's a little bit more complicated than that, and that's why I've been working so hard on touring all across this province to meet with members from mobile-home communities across this province to fully understand the challenges that they are dealing with in their communities to make sure that we are thoughtful in how we address this and that we get this right. It is a lot more complex than what he's talking about. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. We will have order.

If the hon. minister has anything left in his answer, he's welcome to deliver it.

Mr. Glubish: As I said, Mr. Speaker, it's a lot more complex than the member opposite is alleging, but we are going to take the time to get this right. It's a bit rich for him to lecture me when they didn't do anything on this file for four years. Shame on them.

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

Municipal Infrastructure Funding

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last November our NDP government announced \$1 billion in funding to build the valley line west LRT in partnership with the municipal and federal governments. This is a project that would create thousands of jobs, lower emissions, and serve all residents in west Edmonton. To the Minister of Transportation: will the minister honour that funding commitment to build the valley line west LRT? Yes or no?

Mr. McIver: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is well aware that the budget will be released before the sun goes down today, and he will have an answer to that question in more specific terms. But in general terms, we made a promise to honour the commitments for LRT funding to the two major cities. As in all things, I would like to think we intend to meet that promise that we made in our platform.

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

Mr. Carson: Thank you. Given the deep cuts expected in today's budget to pay for the government's \$4.5 billion corporate giveaway and given that the Minister of Municipal Affairs accused Edmonton of spending recklessly without being able to name a single example of spending that he'd like to see reduced and given that any changes to the MSI funding would put the fate of the Lewis Farms rec centre in jeopardy, will the Minister of Municipal Affairs commit that MSI funding will not change, or will he stand in front of my constituents and explain why a \$4.5 billion corporate gift is more important than their rec centre?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Madu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. We have been working so hard with our municipal partners to make sure that we preserve the fundamental need for all infrastructure across our province. I think that what is important to point out at this point in time is that in less than a couple of hours we will be presenting our province with a balanced budget, a budget that seeks to rein in the recklessness that was left for us by those members opposite. We will rebuild our province so that we don't have to deal with the multibillion dollars of debt that the NDP left our province.

Mr. Carson: That does not sound promising, Mr. Speaker.

Given that this government rushed to give a \$4.5 billion gift to profitable corporations and given that only days before the budget the Minister of Municipal Affairs chose to attack municipalities, using outdated figures to justify what we can only assume will be cuts to MSI funding, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs: how much less will Edmonton receive in MSI in order to pay for this government's \$4.5 billion corporate handout?

Mr. Madu: Mr. Speaker, I have been very clear, you know, that we will continue to work with our municipal partners. At the provincial level we are working so hard to manage the mess that those members opposite left for us. This summer I travelled across our province listening to our municipal partners on their core priorities, and this afternoon that budget, our budget, will deliver on those priorities.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

Rural Crime and Justice Administration

Mr. Rehn: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. This week we learned that the devastating McMillan wildfire near Slave Lake was intentionally set. The fire grew rapidly and threatened several communities, leading to the evacuation of Wabasca and Peerless Trout First Nation. What is the government doing to ensure there is justice for those who put Albertans and their communities at risk?

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

Mr. Dreesen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to thank the Member for Lesser Slave Lake for this very important question. This spring the Member for Lesser Slave Lake, the Premier, and I went to the McMillan fire to support the Alberta wildfire personnel first-hand. That fire ravaged 273,000 hectares, about three times the size of the city of Edmonton, and Alberta wildfire investigators, the RCMP forestry crimes unit did find that this fire was actually set by arson. To the families evacuated and to the forestry companies that experienced losses, I assure you that we will find the person responsible.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

Mr. Rehn: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is to the hon. Minister of Justice. It is great to hear that the RCMP is working to catch the person or persons behind this act. This is an example of the kind of response Albertans expect. Many of my constituents have expressed concern about the response to rural crime, and they say that they want to see faith restored in our justice system. What have you been hearing from Albertans, and what is your plan to ensure that justice will be served when their families and communities are put at risk?

The Speaker: I think all hon. members know by now what a preamble is, and that's certainly a very lengthy example of one.

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, I talk a lot about our rural crime tour, and I've invited people to Rocky Mountain House to come to a town hall. Last night I had one of the hardest phone calls I've ever had to do in my life. I talked to a father, a husband whose wife this last week was beaten by four individuals that broke onto their property. Two of them were caught. One of them had a record that was longer than you could list. It was the second time in that week that their property was broken into. That's why I invited people to come to Rocky Mountain House to hear about the rural crime crisis that we have, because it's real. We'll be decisive in how we respond.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Rehn: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is to the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs. Given that this devastating fire, caused by arson, burned more than 273,000 hectares of land and led to the evacuation of communities in my riding and others and given that this created undue financial, physical, and emotional hardships on Albertans, many of whom are still in the process of recovering, what has your department done to bring relief to these Albertans in their time of need?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

2:40

Mr. Madu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the hon. member. This summer I had the privilege of joining the Member for Lesser Slave Lake to meet many of the wildfire evacuees. Like the hon. member, I am furious to know that this fire was caused by arson. While it relieves me to know that many of the evacuees qualify for emergency evacuation payments, with additional direct support for those with dependants, this fire took an undeniable human toll on our people. I urge anyone with information to contact 1.833.999.FIRE.

Rural Emergency Medical Services

Mr. Sigurdson: Mr. Speaker, I'm constantly hearing questions from constituents about the disparities of access to emergency care between our major urban centres and rural communities. While urban centres have an average response time of roughly eight minutes, rural communities' average wait time can be well over 40 minutes for an ambulance. Rural Albertans understand that due to geography our response times may never be as fast as urban centres, regardless. To the Minister of Health: is it feasible to increase rural emergency response rates from the current standard?

The Speaker: The Minister of Health has the call.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member has it exactly right. I think Albertans understand that access can't be exactly the same, but we do have to have standards. We've actually done quite a bit of work already to set evidence-based standards for ambulance response times. AHS reviews EMS performance regularly. They and I are very much aware of the concerns around response times, especially in rural areas. We can always do better, and I would welcome the input of any member of this House.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Highwood.

Mr. Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that answer. Given that many rural parts of the province are served by only a small number of ambulances and given that we can agree that rural emergency response rates can improve, are

there any creative options on the table such as a nonambulance dedicated patient transfer service that the minister is considering right now?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, there are. AHS is using a number of new approaches, and we're hoping that the EY report for the AHS review will also help us do more when they give us their final report at the end of the year. AHS does use nonambulance transfers, but there may be room to do more there. To take just one example, they also have a community paramedic program, the first of its kind in Canada. Paramedics work with a care team to do more care in the patients' homes and avoid a trip to the emergency department. It's the kind of innovation that we need in the system.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks again to the minister. Given that the previous government neglected rural Albertans' health care needs and given that the previous government somehow managed to simultaneously bury our province in debt without addressing this crucial issue at all, is there any possible way for the minister to save costs while increasing rural emergency response rates?

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Yeah. Absolutely, there is, Mr. Speaker, and it goes to the core of the problem in the system that we have to solve. The biggest reason we run short of ambulances here in Alberta is that the other crews are waiting in the emergency rooms to transfer their patients. We need to free up the beds for those patients to then be decanted to by adding continuing care as well for patients to get out of the hospitals faster. We're doing that by bringing back the successful ASLI partnership. It's one of the many partnerships the NDP actually walked away from because of their bias against private partners in the system.

The Speaker: Hon. members, given the Budget Address today, we will proceed immediately to Members' Statements, but we will have a recess prior to the Budget Address. Please remain in your seats wherever possible.

Members' Statements

(continued)

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Central Peace-Notley has a statement to make.

Oil and Gas Prices and Pipeline Development

Mr. Loewen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Personally, I see a victory for one Canadian as a victory for all Canadians. For example, if a car rolls off the assembly line in Ontario and is exported at top dollar, I'm happy. If a fishing vessel pulls into St. John's and can sell its catch internationally for top dollar, I will cheer as loud as any Newfoundlander. If hydro power is purchased by American states and the resultant profits enrich Quebecers, I'm all for it, and if timber from British Columbia is shipped to Asian markets, I see that as a win for Canada in emerging markets. Therefore, with the same rationale, I know that Alberta selling its resources world-wide at top dollar is also a win for Canada.

Alberta is a major contributor to the Canadian economy. People come from every corner of the country to work in the oil and gas

sector. Not only does the money earned in the oil and gas sector enter into Alberta's economy, but it also buoys up the economies of all provinces. This is why we need pipelines. Otherwise, we sell our product at discount prices, reducing the benefit to all Canadians.

During the election and since, Prime Minister Trudeau promised that the \$4.5 billion his government invested in buying the Kinder Morgan pipeline would not be wasted, that the pipeline would be built. I applaud that commitment, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of this Chamber to join me in exhorting the Prime Minister to immediately fulfill his promise and address the concerns of people across Confederation to ensure our oil and gas sector gets a fair shake.

Separation sentiment is at its highest point in Alberta history. People are mad, and that's understandable. As I've said earlier, I'm a firm believer that we should be promoting what we do well and we should be seeking top dollar for our products. Let cars from Ontario and Albertan oil be market standards for quality in foreign markets. Let Albertan gas and Maritimes fisheries be sources of prosperity for everyone across this country. We are stereotyped for being polite, but I believe our true character lies in a natural sense of justice and fairness that we know lifts our communities regardless of which province we reside in or what product we sell.

Thank you.

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The hon. the Government House Leader.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table today the appropriate number of copies of the 2019-20 main estimates schedule for the First Session of the 30th Legislature.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for St. Albert caught my eye.

Ms Renaud: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I have an article from the famous *Quirks & Quarks* at CBC. It's entitled Understanding Extinction – Humanity Has Destroyed Half the Life on Earth. This is from October 18, 2019.

The Speaker: Are there other tablings this afternoon?
Seeing none.

Tablings to the Clerk

The Clerk: I wish to advise the Assembly that the following document was deposited with the office of the Clerk: on behalf of the hon. Mr. Shandro, Minister of Health, pursuant to the Health Professions Act, the College of Alberta Psychologists 2018-19 Annual Report.

The Speaker: Hon. members, we are at points of order. I'd like to inform the House that the point of order that was called at 2:30 has been withdrawn.

Hon. members, in order to allow adequate time to prepare for the Budget Address by the hon. President of Treasury Board and the Minister of Finance this afternoon, the House is recessed until 3:15.

[The Assembly adjourned from 2:46 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.]

The Speaker: Please be seated.

Orders of the Day

Transmittal of Estimates

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, I've received certain messages from Her Honour the Administrator, which I now transmit to you.

The Sergeant-at-Arms: Order! All stand, please.

The Speaker: The Administrator transmits estimates of certain sums required by the offices of the Legislative Assembly for the service of the province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

The Administrator transmits estimates of certain sums required by the government for the service of the province of Alberta for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Please be seated.

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the 2019-20 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates as well as the 2019-20 government estimates. In addition, I also wish to table the 2019-23 government of Alberta strategic plan and the Budget 2019 ministry business plans.

Government Motions

Budget Address

32. Mr. Toews moved:
Be it resolved that the Assembly approve in general the business plans and fiscal policies of the government.

The Speaker: The hon. the President of Treasury Board and the Minister of Finance to present his first provincial budget.

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, I now wish to table the government's Budget 2019-23 fiscal plan and move Government Motion 32.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honour to rise today and deliver the inaugural budget of the first United Conservative government of Alberta. This budget is the result of the comprehensive platform our party ran on in this year's election and consultations with Albertans over the last few months. That program, titled getting Alberta back to work, was endorsed by over a million voters, representing 55 per cent of electors, in the highest single-party vote tally in provincial history. This was an overwhelming public endorsement of our three main priorities: getting Albertans back to work, making life better for Albertans, and standing up for Alberta.

This budget is a fulfillment of that promise made to Albertans. This is a budget that is ambitious in its drive for economic growth. This is a budget that is courageous, tackling the out-of-control spending of previous administrations. This is a budget that is compassionate, taking care of the most vulnerable and providing more resources to families and children. This is a budget that is thoughtful, reasonable, and precise in its execution. This is a budget that puts Alberta and Albertans first at a time when we're contending against a global campaign of misinformation and a federal government that has campaigned against our province's vital interests. It is in this context that this budget has been crafted.

Let me start, Mr. Speaker, with the ambition of Budget 2019. Budget 2019 takes action on our first priority: getting Albertans back to work. Albertans overwhelmingly endorsed our government's free-enterprise principles. Those principles support the entrepreneurial attitude and can-do spirit that made Alberta prosperous in the past and will restore our role as the economic engine of Canada. Budget 2019 will get Albertans back to work by restoring our competitiveness, reviving private investment, cutting red tape, and supporting training in the skills that will be needed in the future.

3:20

To make Alberta a magnet for investment, Budget 2019 is taking bold action to reduce taxes and regulation. Our goal is to make

Alberta the most competitive jurisdiction to do business in in North America. Our first act after forming government was the elimination of the carbon tax. That job-killing tax created a significant drag on economic growth and disproportionately penalized us for living in a geographically massive region in a cold climate with a resource-driven economy. At \$1.4 billion this was the largest tax cut in Alberta's history. It reversed the skewed policies of the previous government, that raised the cost on everything from home heating to groceries for families and small businesses already coping with unemployment and less income.

I was incredibly proud to present legislation that implemented the job-creation tax cut. This legislation assures the reduction of corporate income tax rates from 12 to 8 per cent. Mr. Speaker, by 2022 Alberta will have the lowest business tax rate in Canada, and that rate will be lower than 44 of 50 U.S. states. The weight of historical evidence overwhelmingly shows that when we improve our corporate tax strategy, our provincial GDP goes up and our share of national GDP increases. So do jobs, and so do government revenues. Economists Jack Mintz and Bev Dahlby estimate that the job-creation tax cut will add up to 55,000 jobs by 2023. My own ministry estimates that the job-creation tax cut will boost real investment by approximately \$4 billion per year by 2023.

We have ample evidence of what doesn't work, Mr. Speaker. After the former government increased the corporate income tax rate, tax revenue fell by billions of dollars. It is one element of their legacy that has been reversed in order to shift Alberta to a broad-based, low-tax structure that puts investment decisions in the hands of the private sector and not government. Success is the intersection between preparation and opportunity. This side of the House believes that opportunity in Alberta remains boundless. It is the preparation that has been lacking, and we will fix that.

We have also adopted the accelerated capital cost allowance provisions. This will encourage businesses to make capital investments, resulting in growth and improved productivity. Mr. Speaker, the job-creation tax cut along with the accelerated capital cost allowance provisions provide Alberta with a broad-based, low-rate corporate tax system that will be competitive with any jurisdiction in North America. These two initiatives are designed for optimal economic impacts.

They are a break with the habit of many modern governments to complicate fiscal policy with targeted tax credits. These invariably come with red tape, which makes them inefficient, and they undermine the efficiency of market-based capital allocation in order to achieve political or ideological objectives. Therefore, we will be taking steps to eliminate five tax credits: the Alberta investor tax credit, the community economic development corporation tax credit, the capital investment tax credit, the interactive digital media tax credit, the scientific research and experimental tax credit. We will honour our existing commitments under these programs. Going forward, companies that received these credits will now instead benefit from the broad-based, low-tax environment provided to all those who choose to do business in Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, since day one we've been working to transform Alberta's economy from one of the slowest and most overregulated in Canada to the fastest and freest in the nation. My colleague the Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction is making excellent progress working with Albertans to identify roadblocks to job creation and economic development. Serious efforts to reduce red tape across the entire spectrum of government are projected to save taxpayers at least \$140 million per year. Unlike the previous government, this government is not driven by dogma. We are pragmatic about economic intervention, not doctrinaire.

Indigenous communities, groups, and businesses face significant challenges when accessing capital to invest in natural resource

projects. This impedes their economic growth and well-being. That's why our government is creating the \$1 billion Alberta indigenous opportunities corporation, to help indigenous-owned enterprises become partners in energy and resource development. The Alberta indigenous opportunities corporation makes Alberta a leader in Canada on the path to reconciliation. I am proud to present a budget that supports this practical investment to create meaningful, lasting change and a brighter future for indigenous Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, Albertans want our government to take a realistic approach to the challenge of climate change. Our government's technology innovation and emissions reduction, or TIER, program is an ambitious and realistic plan to incent investment in new emission reduction research and technologies. It invests in the tremendous progress we are already seeing in the oil sands. Between 2000 and 2017 the emission intensity of oil sands operations has dropped by 28 per cent. This is the result of made-in-Alberta technologies and is a real outcome in the effort to reduce global emissions.

TIER builds on this success and keeps the focus on large industrial emitters responsible for half the emissions in Alberta. Regulated facilities can reduce or offset their emissions or pay directly into the TIER fund. Over the next four years TIER revenues are estimated to be \$1.9 billion. This will be used to fund further development of emissions reduction technologies, ensuring that Alberta companies, who are already among the most environmentally responsible in the world, continue to innovate and improve by investing in clean technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker, Budget 2019 also invests in developing the work skills that are and will be needed to move our province forward. To develop the next generation of skilled tradesmen and -women, Budget 2019 expands on the apprenticeship model, with over \$11 million for schools to work with Careers: The Next Generation, an organization connecting students with apprenticeships and skills that will lead to high-paying jobs and rewarding careers. It provides \$10 million for Women Building Futures to encourage women to enter the trades and \$2 million over four years for Skills Canada Alberta to help young Albertans build their technology skills and make connections on the national and world stage. Actions to attract and keep skilled workers include developing the Alberta advantage immigration strategy, with \$2.5 million to recognize foreign qualifications so newcomers can accelerate their entry into the job market.

Mr. Speaker, we will also build on our strength in technology, data, and telecommunications and our leadership in artificial intelligence. We will spend more than \$200 million on research, innovation, and commercialization to develop talent and attract global investment. This funding will commercialize technologies that will improve the productivity and competitiveness of our traditional industries and build the ones we've not yet envisioned. This funding will support a highly skilled labour force, world-class university programs, and a competitive business environment that will make lasting contributions to economic growth.

All of these measures, Mr. Speaker, will help the province recover from the past four years. With business investment picking up, real GDP growth is forecast to improve from .6 per cent in 2019 to 2.7 per cent in 2020 and then to 3 per cent in the final two years of our mandate. Our ambitious strategy for job creation will lead to marked improvement in investment and economic growth. While we are confident in our policies, we are also aware of increasing risks to the global economy. In the event of a negative external impact beyond our control, additional spending restraint will be required.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak of courage. To rein in the excessive spending of Alberta governments dating back 25 years will take courage and resolve, not just by this government but by all Albertans. We all have an obligation to live within our means. It is unfair to saddle future generations of Albertans with debt, to effectively steal their opportunities and force them to pay our bills. We must be responsible today to ensure that the next generation can continue to access the high-quality public services we enjoy and can have opportunities for healthy, fulfilling, and prosperous lives.

As the MacKinnon panel noted, Alberta's annual expenditures would be \$10.4 billion less if our per capita spending simply matched the average spending in Canada's three largest provinces – British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec – and we wouldn't have a deficit. In health we spent almost \$1,000 more per person in 2018 than in Ontario. This means that we would be spending over \$4 billion less on health care if we matched Ontario's spending.

3:30

But all that money isn't buying us better results. The panel pointed to a number of metrics that demonstrate our health care service delivery is no better than comparable provinces and in some cases worse. For example, Alberta has the highest percentage of people cared for in hospitals who should be in a more appropriate setting, and we wait longer to see a specialist after getting a referral. It's clear that other provinces are doing more with less in health care. This is why our Minister of Health has initiated an Alberta Health Services review to identify a course of action that will ensure Albertans receive better value from our health care system.

Mr. Speaker, we are also spending more than other provinces on education. In K to 12 education, school board funding increased by 3 and a half per cent over the last decade, more than double the increase in student enrolment. In advanced education, funding to postsecondary institutions has grown by 40 per cent since 2009, about three times the growth of enrolment. To live within our means, government spending must adjust to a new reality. Oil prices will be lower for longer. We can't count on another boom to bail us out.

The MacKinnon panel concluded that a spending freeze would not be enough to balance the budget in 2023. Alberta must now bring spending to more affordable levels in line with other provinces. When Dr. Janice MacKinnon delivered her panel's report to me, she said something that has remained top of mind. It was: Alberta still has options, but you must take action now to restrain spending; do not delay; if you don't take action now, there will be far fewer options for Alberta in the future. Mr. Speaker, I will not be responsible for removing opportunities for Albertans in the generations to come.

The challenge of this restraint is the spending trajectory the previous government left us. In the last four years Alberta's operating expenses have been increasing at close to 4 per cent every year while revenues have remained flat. This budget is a first step in changing that trajectory as it rolls back operating spending. Ministries have put in countless hours finding efficiencies and are now beginning the work that will lead to transformative change. Redesigning and modernizing the way we deliver services has the potential to unlock savings and provide better outcomes. We are taking a thoughtful and surgical approach to spending restraint.

To ensure their sustainability, we are evaluating programs that were put in place and left to grow at an unrestrained pace. We're considering ways in which programs can be restructured so that they truly support the most vulnerable. We are taking efforts to simplify the supports that Albertans receive to cut down on administration costs. Where we believe Albertans could afford to

cover more supports, we will ask them to do so. But I want to be clear. This is Budget 2019, not budget 1993.

Budget 2019 is making a 2.8 per cent measured spending reduction over four years. That's less than 3 cents on the dollar. This is not an 18 per cent across-the-board cut. In Budget 2019 front-line services are protected. We will maintain our platform commitment to fully fund education. Health care spending will rise. Funding will also increase for Children's Services, Community and Social Services, and Seniors and Housing. That is all possible because our plan to balance the budget is focused, thoughtful, and practical.

Mr. Speaker, what we can't ignore is the crippling legacy of unrestrained spending. Government's operating expense is now \$1.2 billion higher than if it matched its population growth and inflation in the last four years. At the end of 2009 Alberta's debt was \$1.2 billion. This number has grown exponentially, and on March 31, 2019, provincial taxpayer-supported debt totalled \$63 billion. Interest payments on that debt consumed 3 and a half per cent of the budget. That's \$2 billion a year, or \$5 million a day, going to bankers and bondholders instead of paying for 30,000 teachers or 35,000 long-term care beds or a new school every week. Had the previous government continued with their plan, we would have generated over \$100 billion of debt by 2024, with annual interest payments of \$3.4 billion.

Living within our means and getting spending down to comparative levels with peer provinces is the only way we will balance the budget, get out of debt, and strengthen public services for Albertans. Something we will not do, Mr. Speaker, is continue with the reckless crude-by-rail program that the previous government created on the eve of its demise. The program would have paid out \$10.6 billion in expenses to get back \$8.8 billion in oil revenues. Rail contracts alone were \$3.7 billion, almost as much as the federal government paid for the Trans Mountain pipeline. The private sector can ship this oil far more cost-effectively than government without risking the tax dollars of hard-working Albertans. Budget 2019 includes a \$1.5 billion provision to get government and taxpayers out of the crude-by-rail business.

Mr. Speaker, this budget honours previous commitments to build and maintain key infrastructure projects, but it also takes into account what we learned from the MacKinnon report, that infrastructure in Alberta is generally newer than in other jurisdictions. Capital spending in Alberta averaged \$7 billion a year over the past decade. In this capital plan it will average just over \$6 billion. The 2019 capital plan provides \$24.2 billion over four years.

The MacKinnon report made it clear that municipalities must shoulder more of the responsibility for major projects. The panel found that Alberta provides over 20 per cent more grant support to municipalities than other provinces and recommended that we bring municipal spending in line accordingly. The four-year fiscal plan in Budget 2019 will put us on that recommended path.

Mr. Speaker, an important partner on the journey to a new and better fiscal future for Albertans will be our public-sector workers. Each and every Albertan who works to deliver government services, whether they're a doctor, a janitor, an administrator, a teacher, or a nurse, is an important partner in our work.

Labour costs represent 55 per cent, more than half, of the total operating budget, and in 2018 Alberta's total wage and salary expenses were \$880 million higher than in British Columbia and \$1.2 billion higher than in Ontario on a per capita basis. In keeping with the MacKinnon report recommendations, our goal is to bring Alberta government wages in line with other provinces.

Alberta MLAs demonstrated leadership by taking a 5 per cent salary reduction, and the Premier himself took a 10 per cent pay cut. We will be looking to the public service for restraint. Let me be

clear. This budget does not contain any provision for wage increases, and over the next four years the size of Alberta's public service will be reduced and management-to-staff ratios will fall. This will be accomplished mainly as employees retire coupled with hiring restraint in the broader public sector. Next year almost every contract we have with union will expire. As we approach a new agreement, we must keep in step with today's fiscal reality, with other provincial remuneration levels, and with other Albertans who saw their wages decrease or disappear altogether due to our province's recent economic travails. So I speak directly to Alberta's public service – to the nurses, to the teachers, and to the committed professionals – who deliver to Albertans every day: work with us to bring Alberta's spending in line. This will protect jobs now and in the future, and it will show fairness and respect for Albertans' hard-earned tax dollars.

While Albertans are hard-working and self-reliant, they are also compassionate. They care about their neighbours and those who are less fortunate. Our government promised to maintain quality health care and education and social supports for the most vulnerable. Budget 2019 honours that promise while achieving the MacKinnon panel recommendation to bring Alberta's spending in line with the average of other provinces. True to our commitment and Alberta's priorities, Health gets a \$200 million increase in this budget. Over four years Health will receive \$100 million for a mental health and addictions strategy, \$40 million to address the opioids crisis, and \$20 million for palliative care.

3:40

That said, we must recognize that health care is the single largest government expense. We must stabilize health care spending to balance the budget by 2023, and it can't be accomplished in one year alone. Last year Alberta spent \$20.4 billion on health care. That's 42 per cent of the entire operating budget. Between 2009 and 2019 health care spending has increased 60 per cent while government revenue has only increased by 26 per cent. Our goal is to establish a health care system that achieves better outcomes, provides more appropriate care for Albertans, and comes closer to the funding levels in B.C., Ontario, and Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, the Alberta government spends \$8 billion every year to educate children from kindergarten through grade 12. Budget 2019 maintains this funding. We are allocating funding for the school nutrition program, as promised, with \$15.5 million for schools and \$3 million for not-for-profits. We are accommodating student growth with \$1.8 billion in new capital funding for new and upgraded schools and 250 new modular classrooms. We will build and upgrade playgrounds for Alberta's children by contributing \$11 million over two years. We will also act on a MacKinnon panel recommendation for Alberta's K to 12 system. Government will review and revise the education formula to address enrolment growth and provide incentives for sharing services and achieving better student outcomes.

We also want to ensure better outcomes for our postsecondary students. Postsecondary education accounts for nearly 11 per cent of our budget. Spending on postsecondary education has grown at a rate of 4 per cent per year, three times the rate of enrolment growth. We spend \$36,500 per student per year. That's \$5,000 more than British Columbia, \$10,000 more than Quebec, and \$15,000 more than Ontario. The Minister of Advanced Education is consulting with postsecondary institutions to set a new course that focuses on performance, accountability, and cost management.

Mr. Speaker, we will end the five-year tuition freeze and decrease institutional dependence on taxpayer dollars while maintaining a high level of student support through scholarships and endowments. Our postsecondary institutions will help hone the next generation

of great leaders, and education is one of the best personal financial investments you can make. Removing the cap on tuition will incent our universities and colleges to compete for enrolment by focusing on the delivery of programs that directly meet student needs.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta has some of the most generous social programs in the country. The assured income for the severely handicapped, or AISH, is \$400 more per month than the next most generous province. Supports for the disabled are also among the most substantial. Budget 2019 makes no cuts to social programs. In fact, it increases spending. This aligns with our government's commitment to protect the most vulnerable while living within our means.

Community and Social Services receives a 7.6 per cent increase to address human trafficking and sexual exploitation, caseload pressure, and a comprehensive review of programming to ensure value for money.

We are maintaining the low-income transit support pilot program for vulnerable Albertans so they can get to appointments, job interviews, and workplaces.

Seniors and Housing will receive an increase of \$8 million to maintain overall seniors' benefits, and Children's Services receives a 15 per cent increase over four years.

The Alberta child and family benefit will replace the Alberta child benefit and the Alberta family employment tax credit. This single program will provide more benefits to lower income families while reducing administration costs.

Mr. Speaker, the third priority for our government and for Budget 2019 is standing up for Alberta, standing up for a fair deal in Confederation, and standing up against foreign-funded activists trying to land-lock our oil. Alberta is a proud and significant contributor to the national economy. We have 12 per cent of Canada's population but contribute more than 16 per cent to national GDP. We attract 25 per cent of all capital investment and are responsible for nearly a quarter of all Canadian exports. When our economy is strong, all of Canada benefits. Alberta's net fiscal contribution to the rest of Canada averaged over \$23 billion a year in the past five years and \$211 billion over the last decade. Alberta taxpayers make an extraordinarily outsized contribution to the federation, largely due to the energy sector.

When Ottawa enacts discriminatory legislation like the tanker ban or creates excessive, opaque, and unconstitutional government programs like the new environmental assessment regime of Bill C-69, they are not just attacking the Alberta economy; they are undermining the future growth and prosperity of the entire nation.

Last year Canada imported more than \$18 billion worth of crude from foreign countries, including \$1 billion from Saudi Arabia alone. At the same time, Alberta's reputation as the most environmentally friendly and socially responsible energy producer in the world has been unfairly maligned. We are fighting back against these defamations and disinformation with the truth with a proactive and relentless effort that will bring back international investment. Budget 2019 includes \$30 million a year for the Canadian Energy Centre to do just that, and \$2.5 million is budgeted for the public inquiry into foreign funding of anti-energy campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Energy Centre is just the start of our campaign to stand up for Alberta. In light of the election results earlier this week, it is clear that we cannot rely on federal support to rebuild our province. It is absolutely essential that we put our fiscal house in order and take charge of our economic future. In the coming months we will be focusing our efforts on bringing fiscal fairness back to Alberta. We will be looking at each and every federal fiscal transfer program and demanding that our concerns are

addressed. We will use all the tools at our disposal to get a fair deal for Alberta.

In closing, friends, fellow Albertans, I'm proud of this budget and the people who have helped put it together. It is a plan that, above all, will balance the budget in four years, but it is much more than that. It is a turning point in Alberta's history. It is a budget that will grow the economy and create jobs through an ambitious strategy to attract investment to Alberta. It is a budget that will chart a prudent and thoughtful new course, that breaks away from the excessive spending of past governments. It is a budget that provides certainty and stability, and it is a budget that demonstrates compassion for people and protects the most vulnerable.

We promised to get Albertans back to work in a growing economy. We promised to deliver quality health care and education. We promised to support the most vulnerable among us, and we promised to balance the budget in four years. Budget 2019 keeps those promises. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of my colleagues in government I would like to thank the people of Alberta for giving us this opportunity to return our province to prosperity. We will not let you down.

Friends and fellow Albertans, I want to conclude with this message. While we have no shortage of challenges today, I believe Alberta has a bright future. I'm hopeful today not only because we've been blessed with a truly beautiful province, abundant in resources, but because Albertans are resilient and responsible men and women who cherish and defend their freedom and know that reward does not come without risk or effort. This is the spirit of the men and women who built this province, and it remains today. It is for this reason that I'm incredibly hopeful for our future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [some applause]

The Speaker: Order.

The hon. Official Opposition House Leader has the call.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, that was a whopper. In the coming weeks I imagine that Albertans are going to have a lot to say about this, and there's much debate, I think, to what we heard.

But for the time being I suggest that we adjourn debate and move that we do so.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

3:50

Mr. Jason Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, through you to him, congratulations to the hon. the Finance minister and President of Treasury Board on an excellent speech. I have to say that it's much more refreshing than the last four that I've seen inside this Chamber. With that, as the Opposition House Leader did say, I do expect weeks of robust debate, that I'm looking forward to participating in.

But as it has been a long legislative week – and I do see the hour is drawing near to the end of the week – Mr. Speaker, I will, through you to all members of the House, thank them for their hard work this week, wish them safe travels back to their constituencies, and move that we adjourn the House until Monday, October 28, at 1:30 p.m.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:51 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, October 24, 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 Sitzings.

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*)

Third Reading — 1911-15 (*Oct. 22, 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*)

Committee of the Whole — 1915-26 (*Oct. 22, 2019 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1949-59 (*Oct. 23, 2019 morn., passed*)

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

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

Second Reading — 1926-29 (*Oct. 22, 2019 aft.*), 1931-45 (*Oct. 22, 2019 eve.*), 1947-49 (*Oct. 23, 2019 morn.*), 1959-66 (*Oct. 23, 2019 morn.*), 1978-90 (*Oct. 23, 2019 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1990-94 (*Oct. 23, 2019 aft., adjourned*)

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.*), 1882 (*Oct. 21, 2019 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1883-87 (*Oct. 21, 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*), 1875-82 (*Oct. 21, 2019 aft., not proceeded with on division*)

Bill 204 — Election Recall Act (Smith)

First Reading — (*Oct. 23, 2019 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*)

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| Prayers | 1999 |
| Introduction of Visitors | 1999 |
| Introduction of Guests | 1999 |
| Members' Statements | |
| Small Business | 1999 |
| Diwali | 1999 |
| Alberta in Canada | 2000 |
| Taxation and Public Programs | 2000 |
| Nauticol Methanol Plant Project | 2000 |
| Budget 2019 | 2000 |
| Energy-only Electricity Market | 2001 |
| Caregivers | 2001 |
| Oil and Gas Prices and Pipeline Development | 2009 |
| Oral Question Period | |
| Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped | 2001 |
| Budget 2019 | 2002 |
| Budget 2019 and Provincial Revenue | 2002 |
| Child Mental Health Services | 2003, 2004 |
| Rural High-speed Internet | 2003 |
| Bitumen Upgrading | 2005 |
| Hospital-based Health Care Costs | 2005 |
| Budget 2019 and Public Services | 2006 |
| Licensed Practical Nurses' Scope of Practice | 2006 |
| Methane Emission Regulations | 2007 |
| Mobile-home Owner Consumer Protection | 2007 |
| Municipal Infrastructure Funding | 2008 |
| Rural Crime and Justice Administration | 2008 |
| Rural Emergency Medical Services | 2009 |
| Tabling Returns and Reports | 2010 |
| Tablings to the Clerk | 2010 |
| Orders of the Day | 2010 |
| Transmittal of Estimates | 2010 |
| Government Motions | |
| Budget Address | 2010 |

Alberta Hansard is available online at www.assembly.ab.ca

For inquiries contact:

Managing Editor

Alberta Hansard

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875