



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature  
First Session

# Alberta Hansard

Wednesday afternoon, October 30, 2019

Day 36

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 Henday (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)  
Dreeshen, Hon. Devin, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UCP)  
Eggen, David, Edmonton-North West (NDP),  
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Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (UCP),  
Government Whip  
Feehan, Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP)  
Fir, Hon. Tanya, Calgary-Peigan (UCP)  
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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)  
Gotfried, 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),  
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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)  
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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

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Teri Cherkewich, Law Clerk	Nancy Robert, Research Officer	Tom Bell, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Stephanie LeBlanc, Clerk Assistant and Senior Parliamentary Counsel	Janet Schwegel, Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>	Paul Link, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Trafton Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel		

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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
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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

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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.

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

[The Speaker in the chair]

### Prayers

**The Speaker:** 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.

### Statement by the Speaker

#### Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, before introductions today I would like to just make a quick note. I know that I sent an e-mail to all of you yesterday morning regarding Legion poppies. Thank you, all, very much for making your donations. My office will continue to collect those donations for the duration of the annual poppy drive. It has also been brought to my attention that should you forget a poppy and you're seeking one from a page and you are unable to provide them with a donation for your poppy, you are able to text the Royal Canadian Legion, obviously not from the Legislative Assembly Chamber floor but immediately following question period or otherwise, at 20222 to make a \$5 donation.

I thank you for your continued support of this important cause.

### Introduction of Visitors

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I had the opportunity to meet with a very special visitor, and this afternoon it is my great pleasure to welcome him here to the Assembly. In the Speaker's gallery is the minister of national security, police, and correctional services for the government of the Solomon Islands. You'll note that the government of Solomon Islands offered a gift to the Legislative Assembly today, and I thought it would be nice for us to be able to display it in the Chamber while they are visiting. The Hon. Anthony Veke is an accomplished minister of the federal government there as well as the former Premier of the province which he represents. I invite him to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

Also, accompanying the minister today is the honorary consul general for the Solomon Islands, Mr. Ashwant Dwivedi. Accompanying him today is Mr. Deepak Hari. Thank you so much for joining us. Please rise and receive the welcome of the Assembly.

### Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, visiting us today from Calgary-Beddington are grade 6 students from the Simons Valley school. Thank you so much for joining us, grade 6 students.

Also joining us today are guests of the Minister of Health from Diabetes Canada. Welcome Randeep Birdi, Barb Warechuk, Rhonda Stevens, Melanie Hibbard, Lynne and Lilly-Anna LeClercq, Tammy Wilson, Qandeel Shafiqat, and Isabelle Emery. Welcome.

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

## Members' Statements

### Provincial Fiscal Position and Government Policies

**Mr. Gotfried:** Mr. Speaker, my late father spent over 30 years with MGM, so in his memory I embrace the cinematic theme of *Back to the Future*. Yes, I'm talking about my favourite blockbuster, the Alberta advantage, a Panavision of a bright, widescreen future as each and every Albertan yearns for the sequel. The star: a thriving energy sector honouring our blessing of rich natural resources, with a backdrop of pipelines that we continue to fight for as our right within Confederation.

The scene unfolds of the railway of the new millennium and a remake of the scenes of *The Last Spike* as the first of many pipes. The screenplay reflects our spirit of environmental stewardship and energy innovation with a cast of globally recognized superheroes. Supporting players deliver Academy Award winning performances as world-class health care zooming in on nation-leading patient outcomes. Education takes centre stage as future generations embrace limitless choice and blur the lines between academia and trades in setting the scene for ambitious lifelong learners.

A thriving cast emerges in the building, development, and nonprofit sectors, ensuring that housing choice and affordability truly are pillars of the Alberta advantage. Cameos from our emerging stars of innovation and entrepreneurial spirit will continue to drive our province forward as a beacon of free enterprise in Canada, North America, and the world. From the wings emerge transportation and air services essential to our province and connectivity to the region, nation, and world markets. The spotlight shines on agriculture, forestry, and tourism as our rising stars in investment diversification and employment growth.

As the credits roll, applause breaks out for our incredible nonprofit, charitable, and faith-based sectors carrying the day and ensuring that the Alberta advantage is not just a box office hit but a classic to be enjoyed by all generations in the future to come.

Mr. Speaker, let's all work together as we embrace the concept of Team Alberta: prosperous, strong, and free in our fierce battle for a return to the Alberta advantage.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** I recognize the hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

### Fort Edmonton Park

**Ms Pancholi:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the MLA for Edmonton-Whitemud I have the distinct pleasure of representing the constituency that houses Edmonton's premier cultural attraction, Fort Edmonton Park, the largest living-history museum in Canada. In the 45 years since the fort opened, it has served countless kids, seniors, families, and field trips, descendants learning about their past, and new Canadians learning the history of their new home. From the fur trade era to the time of early settlement and the development of Edmonton as a city, the fort houses over 200 years of our history. Through interactive exhibits, historical structures, and excellent staff and volunteers, Fort Edmonton entertains and educates any Albertans that cross through its gates. I have many fond memories of my time at Fort Edmonton Park over the years, memories that I'm now creating with my young children.

The Fort Edmonton Foundation has undertaken a landmark initiative to expand and improve the fort and the experience of its visitors. Dollars invested by the NDP government along with funding from the city of Edmonton and extraordinary fundraising by the foundation are being used to expand the attractions we love and to make important additions. I'm particularly excited for the

planned interactive indigenous peoples experience to better understand and immerse in the lived experiences of First Nations and Métis ancestors.

Fort Edmonton Park is a shining example of how investment in history, art, and culture grows the tourism industry, stimulates the economy, and creates meaningful employment, yet this UCP government refuses to see the multitude of benefits that these investments bring to Albertans from every walk of life. They have instead chosen to cut our history and culture in favour of corporate friends, prioritizing \$4.7 billion in giveaways to wealthy corporations over the needs of Albertans and communities. Preserving our foundations and our past are not inefficiencies, but this government is treating them this way.

I'm proud to continue to support the great work of the Fort Edmonton Foundation, both personally and as a member of a party that values our history and understands that knowing where we come from will guide where we're going. On behalf of my children and so many families and Albertans I want to thank the Fort Edmonton Foundation for their work to enrich our lives and preserve the history we should all value.

### Diabetes Awareness

**Ms Issik:** Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured today to speak about an issue that is important to me and to many Albertans. November is Diabetes Awareness Month, and global diabetes awareness day is on November 14. Diabetes is a serious disease that affects Albertans every single day. Today in question period we have advocates from Diabetes Canada visiting us here in the Legislature. These representatives are not just advocates. Many of them are either living with type 1 or type 2 diabetes, are parents of children with the disease, or health care professionals, and they are here to emphasize the seriousness of diabetes in Alberta and in Canada.

On diabetes awareness day Canadians across the country will wear blue in recognition of the millions of Canadians living with diabetes. Today I wear blue to recognize the 1.1 million Albertans that are living with diabetes or prediabetes and to recognize the work of organizations like Diabetes Canada, who bring awareness of and provide education on the disease.

Each year World Diabetes Day has a theme. This year's theme is the family. It is important for us to recognize that this disease also impacts the family. With one-quarter of our population affected, diabetes is a serious health concern for our province. Not only does diabetes affect a sizable portion of our population, but some very serious complications can also result, including heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, and nerve damage.

Mr. Speaker, this can strain our health care system, but that's not why we strive to bring awareness. We bring awareness to this disease so that Albertans can reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes and ensure that the very serious health complications of both types of diabetes are avoided. Quality of life and the health of Albertans: that is why we bring awareness to diabetes, and that is why I'm so thankful for groups like Diabetes Canada and the work that they do.

**The Speaker:** I'll recognize the hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford.

1:40

### Indigenous Relations

**Mr. Feehan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last few weeks I've been listening to members of the government side of the House talk about their approach to reconciliation with indigenous people. As often as not they like to suggest that no true path to reconciliation has been engaged in until recently. The idea seems to be that never

have indigenous people been given the chance to truly participate in Alberta's economic blessings, stating that everything that has occurred in the past was merely a handout and not a hand up.

So let's plumb the depths of ridiculousness intrinsic to this UCP narrative. First, it is telling that the members opposite suggest that any actual monetary resource-sharing with indigenous communities is a handout. This shows an ignorance of treaties 6, 7, and 8, in which we agreed to share the land and the benefits of the land. When dollars flow to indigenous communities, it isn't some form of charity; it is the payment of a bill owed, just as when Albertans receive royalty payments from resource development, it is our right to receive the benefits of our resources. It is further telling that when programs are announced by this government that are directed at nonindigenous people, none of the government announcements refer to the monies involved as handouts.

Now let's take a look at the indigenous opportunities corporation. In the budget presented in this House, money only exists for the creation of the bureaucracy, not for any actual backstop of dollars. This is because the government is betting on never actually having to provide a single dime in actual resources to indigenous communities. If things work out the way government intends, the loans will be received and paid back without the government ever providing any actual assistance. We know this because the government has not booked a single dime in liability for the corporation in the budget.

Our government, on the other hand, worked with nations in all three treaty areas for large-scale wind projects that will mean long-term income for the nations. We worked to create solar projects in over 30 communities, and we worked with indigenous communities on over 100 projects related to the fulfillment of the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. That is the path to reconciliation.

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

### Support for Persons with Disabilities

**Mr. Jeremy Nixon:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was much younger, I managed the Millican Ogden outdoor pool in Calgary, and every summer we were joined by Steve, who was a gentleman with Down syndrome in the community.

Steve would help run the store, check in the swimmers, fold the towels, and hang out with the patrons, but what made him such an important part of our team was the attitude that he brought every day. You couldn't help but smile and be in a good mood when Steve was on shift. The mark of a great society is our ability to lift up those around us, and I can tell you this: Steve lifted us up every day.

I have the good fortune of representing Calgary-Klein, which is home to hundreds of not-for-profits and civil society organizations. SCOPE and URSA are two of these amazing organizations, and over the last seven months I've had the good fortune of being able to hang out with them and spend a lot of time with their clients. Both of them work to create community and opportunities for persons with disabilities in our community, providing support and training for individuals and families. SCOPE and URSA work with hundreds of clients in dozens of programs with hundreds of volunteers, businesses, and staff throughout the local community.

Government's job is not to take over from the amazing work that's being done in our community by NGOs and community members, but it is to get behind these initiatives. Our civil society partners improve the livelihoods of Albertans because they provide something that is very difficult for government to provide. They provide community, a place of belonging, and opportunities for individuals of all walks of life to come together and be together and contribute.

Pam, the executive director of URSA, described the relationship like a cake. Government provides the flour and the milk, NGOs provide the sugar and the icing, and community brings the plates and the cutlery. I can tell you this: cake is a lot better with icing and even better when you have someone to share it with like my friend Steve.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton–City Centre.

### Health Care Workforce

**Mr. Shepherd:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, back in June I asked the Minister of Health a question. Did he recognize that breaking contracts with health care workers, talking about them like a problem to be solved or a cost to reduce instead of a valued partner in providing care, insults them, lowers their morale, and makes his job delivering quality and cost-effective health care for Albertans much harder to do? Well, with their recent actions, he and his colleagues have made it abundantly clear that they don't.

To be completely honest, though, it's not a big surprise. After all, this is a Premier who's on the record suggesting that health care workers are entitled and lazy, putting their feet up for coffee between surgeries. This Minister of Finance led his colleagues in disrespecting and breaking their contracts through force of law and had the audacity to claim that that was putting Albertans first. This Minister of Health threw out hundreds of hours of consultation with workers on developing much-needed lab services infrastructure, with no alternate plan, and at every turn this government works to disparage and shut out the union representatives that workers democratically elect to advocate for their interests.

Now, Mr. Speaker, after the sustained attack on workers' morale, this government, as we knew they would, is coming after the wages they earn and depend on to support their families. Despite the claims of the Minister of Finance these are Albertans – our neighbours, our families, our friends, partners of oil and gas workers – whose hard work supported their families, communities, and local businesses through difficult times. They are not entitled. They are not lazy. They are not overpaid. They're everyday people who've worked hard and sacrificed to hold our health care system together through years of chaos under Conservative governments because they're committed to providing the best care they can for each and every Albertan.

We will not achieve a stronger, more stable, and efficient health care system by attacking the workers who make it possible. We will not find success by telling them to do more with less for lower pay to fund a \$4.7 billion corporate giveaway. I call on this minister and this government to drop their heavy-handed tactics and start treating our front-line health care workers with the respect they deserve.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Bonnyville–Cold Lake–St. Paul.

### Lakeland Centre for FASD

**Mr. Hanson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise in the Chamber to bring attention to the Lakeland centre for fetal alcohol syndrome, based in my riding of Bonnyville–Cold Lake–St. Paul. FASD is an underestimated disability in this province. It affects roughly 4 per cent of the population of Alberta, or 172,000 people. However, these numbers may not fully reflect the depth of the problem as it is considered an invisible disability. Statistics show that there are more people with FASD than with Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and autism combined.

The Lakeland FASD has a tremendous number of accomplishments under their belt. They are a leader in Alberta and Canada and are known for their work in developing innovative and effective

ways to provide prevention, diagnostic, and intervention supports. The FASD centre in Cold Lake is the first of 12 service networks in Alberta, with the entire network system being modelled after it. The Lakeland centre plays an integral role in setting up new treatment facilities. Lakeland FASD was the first to offer diagnosis in Alberta. They established the first adult diagnostic clinic in the world. They've developed the first rural parent-child advocacy program, the first women-only live-in treatment program, and they have summer camps for children with FASD and the only FASD-specific summer employment service program. All of these programs and services serve 600 individuals each year, and they have diagnosed around 750 individuals since the year 2000. Over 75 women each year are served in the outreach support program to be alcohol free during pregnancy, and 237 women have attended the women's recovery program since 2012.

This organization is doing an extraordinary amount of good for a large and unseen problem many Albertans face. They serve more clients each year per capita than any other FASD clinic in the world. That is why I am proud to stand in this House to recognize and commend them for all of their hard work sincerely.

Thank you.

### Oral Question Period

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition.

#### Budget 2019 and Public Service Front-line Workers

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, in the election this Premier said that he would, quote, find some savings without affecting front-line services. Instead, this budget slashes services, lays off front-line workers, and now he's pushing for a 5 per cent wage cut, all to pay for his \$4.7 billion handout to wealthy corporations. To the Premier: when he said that he would cut wasteful spending to maintain the front line, was he referring to the paycheques belonging to the nurses who care for our loved ones, and if so, why didn't he come clean during the election?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1:50

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, with respect to the \$4.7 billion figure, the leader of the NDP now knows repeatedly that that is a complete falsehood. You know, my mom used to say that repeating a lie doesn't make something true. With respect to the fiscal situation, the reason why we have to reduce spending is because the NDP left us in a huge hole by overprojecting revenues by \$6 billion and leaving us holding the bag on their multibillion-dollar crude-by-rail fiasco, but we're going to do the responsible thing and get our finances in order.

**The Speaker:** A point of order is noted at 1:51.

The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition has the call.

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Maintain or increase: that was this Premier's mantra just a few months ago. But his budget increases are actually bad news: increases to class sizes, increases to stress on persons with disabilities, increases to the amount every Albertan pays in personal income tax. When the Premier said "maintain or increase," was he actually referring to the amount of money he wants to take out of a child protection worker's wallet, and if so, why didn't he tell people that during the election?

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, our commitment was to maintain or increase health care funding: promise made, promise kept. Our commitment was to maintain or increase education funding: promise

made, promise kept. The promises that we did not make were to maintain or increase funding for Children's Services and for Community and Social Services, but we actually are increasing the budgets in those departments. For persons with disabilities: \$150 million in additional investments to support people with mental health challenges and with addictions. We have prioritized the most vulnerable while getting our finances back in order.

**Ms Notley:** This Premier has prioritized the most vulnerable for their attacks, Mr. Speaker, and he has no respect for the nurses and caregivers who look after our loved ones. He has no respect for the officers and sheriffs who keep us safe. He has no respect for the paramedics and social workers who do so much for the vulnerable he was just trying to dine out on. Seems that if you're not a big corporation, this Premier has no respect for you. This government claims to be about law and order, but when it comes to working people, they can't break the law fast enough. Why are you engaging in bad-faith bargaining and breaking the law in the process?

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, another hysterical NDP whopper. Nobody is breaking the law. The NDP leader is just making all of this up. There is an arbitration coming up. The unions have put forward their position, which is for a 6 and 7 per cent increase in the midst of this time of economic decline, when most Albertans are still making less than they did five years ago. Our response to their request for a 6 or 7 per cent one-year increase is a modest reduction. It will go to the arbiter, and the arbiter will make a decision.

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition for her second set of questions.

#### Calgary Police Service and LRT Green Line Funding

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, yesterday a member of the alleged most respectful and decorous cabinet in Alberta history was reduced to a petty Twitter fight with the mayor of Calgary. How embarrassing. But the truth is that this Premier's budget takes a greater chunk of ticket revenue from cities than ever before: less money for policing, more money for his corporate handout, and over 100 officers gone. To the Premier: when the stakes are high and police call for backup, will the newly enriched shareholders ride in to save the day, or should we maybe just fund the police they promised in the election?

**Mr. Kenney:** Well, we are funding the police, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Justice will be keeping our platform commitment, in the days to come, to increase by 50 the number of Crown prosecutors to help combat crime in this society. There are no reductions in provincial grants to municipalities for police services. We expect all governments, including the municipal governments, to live within taxpayers' means, something the NDP knows nothing about because they were driving us towards over \$100 billion in debt. Instead of paying for police officers and nurses, they wanted to pay for bondholders and bankers.

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, this Premier can rewrite history and the facts all he wants, but the numbers are the numbers. The Premier's budget cut \$12 million in police funding to Calgary by way of a \$10 million change in ticket revenues and \$2 million for forensic testing. Let's talk about that second one for a moment. Is the Premier really telling Albertans that from now on, when the police have to test for blood or for DNA to solve a murder or a rape, they have to pay him first?

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, we're saying that there is a cost to delivering public services, and we must ensure that every level of government is doing its part to pay for those costs. Now, the real question is: what is the NDP's alternative? Is it to run the province forever on our credit card? Is it to borrow money to pay the interest on a growing debt? Is it to wait and kick this can down the road so that instead of 2.8 per cent spending savings, we have to cut by 20 per cent, like happened in the past? That is what they're recommending, the path to fiscal recklessness. We won't let that happen to this province.

**Ms Notley:** Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the cities, the broken promises by this government from the last election just keep coming. This Premier promised the people of Calgary that he would fund the green line, but now we're seeing that he has hidden a clause in his omnibus legislation that enables the cancellation of the green line with only 90 days' notice. To the Premier: why are you giving yourself permission to break a promise to the people of Calgary? Will you commit today that you will fully fund the agreement that is currently in place, and if not, why not?

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, we've been clear that we are committed to the green line. It will continue to be funded, initially through the federal transfers, then the provincial transfers, in a way that allows us to get to balance within four years. The NDP promised that they were going to offer a shadow budget, and they haven't. They gave up. Why? Because they know that they would be presenting Albertans with a massive blowout in the deficit that they already left behind. These guys couldn't manage a popsicle stand. One of the reasons they were fired is because they quadrupled our debt and Albertans knew that we couldn't afford four more years of the NDP.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona and the Leader of the Official Opposition.

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we promised a shadow budget. We will deliver a shadow budget. The Premier is making things up when he suggests that that is not coming.

#### Calgary LRT Green Line Funding

**Ms Notley:** However, what the Premier did was promise Calgary a green line, and he has now put a 90-day cancellation clause, for no reason, into a piece of legislation, that is causing huge anxiety in the city of Calgary. Why, if he wasn't planning on using that clause, is that in his legislation? Now, come clean, Premier.

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, I can tell you what's causing huge anxiety for Calgarians: a jobs crisis created by their tax hikes, by their driving tens of billions of dollars of investment out of this province, and a fiscal disaster. What's creating anxiety are tax increases on property, tax increases on incomes and on businesses and on payrolls by the NDP. We're reversing course on the green line. They cut the green line in half, with half as many people served for the same amount of money. Not only did they hammer us with higher taxes; they cut our green line in half.

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, one minute he supports the green line exactly as we approved it, and the next minute he criticizes the green line exactly as we approved it. So we just don't know what's up, what's down, what's true, what's false with this Premier. I have never seen anything like this.

Now, Jeff Binks, who's with LRT on the Green, says: if they are truly committed to this project, why does this language need to exist at all? That is a really good question, Mr. Speaker. To the minister:



will you please answer Jeff and the tens of thousands of Calgarians eagerly awaiting construction of the green line?

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, what I would tell Jeff is that in the spring of 2015 I committed on behalf of the government of Canada \$1.5 billion to build a 46-kilometre-long green line that would serve the far north to the far southeast. What I would tell Jeff is that the NDP cut that in half. It took them four years to come up with the same amount of money for half as much rail. And I would tell Jeff that that's why he and his neighbours were right to fire the NDP last April.

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, I just can't keep track of all of the broken promises. This Premier promised to cut taxes, and he's raised personal income taxes on every single taxpayer in Alberta, all of that to pay for his corporate handout. He also promised to fund the green line as approved, and what we hear from him now is that he's critiquing it. But he's not saying what Calgarians need him to say. Will he or will he not honour the current agreement?

2:00

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, a pro tip to the NDP: shouting louder is not going to regain them the confidence of Albertans. Making stuff up is not going to enhance the total destruction of their fiscal credibility. We've been clear that we will fund the green line on a cash basis that allows this government to get to balance, but what we will not do is continue with the NDP's drive to over \$100 billion in debt that would have us spending billions in interest payments to bondholders instead of infrastructure and social programs. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I have enjoyed hearing the question. I would also like to be able to hear the answer, so if I could get a little assistance on that this afternoon, I sure would appreciate that.

But at this point in time the hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview has a question.

### Corporate Taxation and Job Creation

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday PrairieSky Royalty released their third-quarter report. They banked \$24.4 million from the Premier's corporate handout, which they did not use to create jobs. Instead, they bought back 200,000 of their own shares. Good news for the traders in Toronto; another loss for Alberta workers. How many times does the Premier need to see this pattern repeat before he admits that his \$4.7 billion corporate handout has been a complete failure?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board has risen.

**Mr. Toews:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government inherited an absolute economic disaster that was in part driven by lower commodity prices and greater global challenges but greatly magnified by the failed policies of the members opposite as they increased corporate taxes by 20 per cent, added layers of regulation, added a \$1.4 billion carbon tax. Our policies will lead to improved investment, increased job opportunities. It will simply take some time.

**Mr. Bilous:** This minister is so arrogant and full of himself that he can't admit his plan is a failure: 27,000 job losses and counting. PrairieSky reports drilling on their properties is down 21 per cent compared to the same quarter last year, and I'm sure the Premier will suggest in a moment that the real issue is pipeline delays; however, he hasn't done a thing to speed up pipelines. To the

Premier: if you knew that pipelines are the real reason jobs aren't being created, why did you waste \$4.7 billion on a corporate handout?

**Mrs. Savage:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the NDP continue to mislead Albertans with their made-up claim of a \$4.7 billion corporate giveaway. There is no such thing. Maybe they're following the advice of the federal environment . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, I'm hearing you very clearly this afternoon. The Minister of Energy has the call, however.

**Mrs. Savage:** Mr. Speaker, I have to think that maybe they're following the advice of the federal environment minister, who recently said: if you say it louder, if you repeat it, if that's your talking point, then people will totally believe it. They're following the advice of the federal environment minister.

**Mr. Bilous:** Minister, it's on page 144 of your plan.

It's been months since the Energy minister first shrugged off the failure of the \$4.7 billion corporate handout, saying she was, quote, disappointed, but little else. Drilling is at an all-time low. Husky Energy has laid off people and is taking their corporate gift and spending it in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland, not in Alberta, and under this UCP government 27,000 jobs have been lost. To the Premier. Explain to 27,000 out-of-work Albertans why all you can do is shrug.

**Mrs. Savage:** Mr. Speaker, we would have had 525,000 barrels a day of additional capacity to move Alberta oil to markets, we would not be in this job crisis, we would not be under curtailment, and we would have full value for the resources if Northern Gateway had not been cancelled. Now, the former Premier was sitting in the office of Justin Trudeau the day he killed that project. She was smiling. She was taking a photo op. She was celebrating the day that Northern Gateway was killed. That will go down as the biggest mistake in this country.

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Member for the great constituency of Calgary-Cross.

### Crown Prosecution Service

**Mr. Amery:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since Alberta went through an economic recession in 2014, crime rates in our province have risen dramatically. Crime in both rural and urban municipalities has skyrocketed, and although improving slightly since 2017, the crime rate is still nowhere near its precession levels. Can the Minister of Justice please tell this Assembly how he will allocate the new prosecutors promised in the UCP platform amongst our provincial jurisdictions?

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

**Mr. Schweitzer:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prosecutors will be allocated across the province based on the caseload. I was just in St. Paul last night, and the immense amount of casework that is going through that courthouse there is too high for the prosecutor level that we have there, but that pressure isn't simply in rural Alberta. It's also in Calgary and Edmonton. We're going to make sure we provide the resources where they're needed. That's why we're dedicated to hiring 50 new prosecutors here in the province of Alberta.

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

**Mr. Amery:** Thank you once again, Mr. Speaker. Given that many criminals are not being held accountable for their actions due to backlogs in the court system and given that our police service can only be effective when criminals they catch face consequences for their actions and given that members of the Calgary Crown prosecutor's office have specifically approached me with this question, can the Minister of Justice give this Assembly a timeline of when Albertans can expect the 50 new prosecutors to be hired?

**Mr. Schweitzer:** Mr. Speaker, when we came into office here, I was shocked at the number of unfilled positions that we inherited from the previous government, over 25 unfilled positions in the prosecution service here in the province of Alberta. We are hiring those positions now. We actually have a number of our civil lawyers coming in to fill prosecutor positions as well. We'll be rolling out our plan as to how we're going to hire 50 more prosecutors once we get those 25 in place.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Amery:** Thank you once again, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. Given that our province is facing a massive deficit due to years of poor financial planning from previous governments and given that our UCP government takes a staunchly pragmatic and fiscally responsible approach on deficit management, can the minister please tell this Chamber where the funding for the Crown prosecutors is coming from?

**Mr. Schweitzer:** Mr. Speaker, the funding is in our budget to hire 50 new prosecutors in the province of Alberta. We also want to make sure that our justice system is efficient, and it's time for a little tour down NDP legacy lane. Right now in the justice system we still use MS-DOS. I was two years old when MS-DOS was first invented. That's the level of investment that the previous government neglected in the justice system. We're fixing that with an investment to make sure we can have e-courts in our system.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Member for Edmonton-Glenora.

### Education Budget 2019-2020

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For many months the Education minister has been passing the buck about education questions, questions about overcrowded classrooms, longer bus ride times, vanishing supports for students with special needs. This morning when I asked the minister in estimates how much money school districts were getting, individual school districts, big ones like Calgary Catholic, the minister refused to answer. To the Premier: is that acceptable, for an Education minister to fail to give a response about something so basic in her own budget, and if not, what are you going to do about it?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Education is rising.

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. What I was able to share this morning in estimates is that, as promised during the election, we have maintained education funding for our K to 12 system. We have accounted for enrolment growth. Every single student that walks through our doors will have the same basic funding that they had in previous years. That's what I was able to share with the hon. member.

**Ms Hoffman:** Given, Mr. Speaker, that education stakeholders seem to have a much better grasp of the Education budget than the Education minister and given that the Alberta Teachers' Association

says that flat funding and growth with regard to students amounts to at least \$200 less per student and given that educational assistants are telling us that they're being laid off, effective notices going out last Thursday, the day of the budget, to the Premier: is it acceptable to him for his minister to be so wrong about the budget and to pass the buck? Seriously, this is embarrassing. We're asking reasonable questions about the budget. We deserve reasonable answers, not roundabout talking points that are so delusional from reality.

2:10

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Education has risen.

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. The truth about the reality is that we collect \$2.5 billion in educational tax dollars, but we are spending \$8.223 billion. We spent \$8.223 billion last year. We are going to spend \$8.223 billion this year. We are maintaining funding to education, and we reallocated restrictive grant funding and eliminated reporting requirements. That has reduced red tape, provided boards with additional flexibility to meet local priorities, flexibility they told me they wanted.

**Ms Hoffman:** Given, Mr. Speaker, that one thing we did learn this morning in estimates is that the Minister of Education is giving permission to school boards to jack up school fees in the middle of the school year and given that our government invested \$60 million annually to take the burden off school fees and now the minister is actually increasing school fees potentially in the middle of the school year, how does the Premier feel about this? Does he think it's fair for parents to get a bill in September and another one in November? When is it going to stop? This is absolutely an abomination of the responsibility of the Education minister.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education has the call.

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. Through the Education Act we restricted school authorities from charging fees for instructional materials and supplies. We respect that school boards are in the best position to set the fees for their local boards.

I would otherwise like to highlight that when the hon. member was in a leadership position as board chair of a major school board, they collected almost \$127 million of school fees. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

### Indigenous Housing Capital Program

**Ms Sigurdson:** Mr. Speaker, after a significant and extensive consultation our government introduced the indigenous housing capital program, which provided \$120 million in funding to increase the supply of affordable housing to Alberta's indigenous communities. Sadly, this program doesn't appear anywhere in the budget and has seemingly been cancelled. Can the Minister of Seniors and Housing explain why her government will give corporations \$4.7 billion but won't give a single dollar to indigenous housing?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Seniors and Housing is rising to answer.

**Ms Pon:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indigenous people in Alberta often face an additional challenge finding welcoming, appropriate, affordable housing. We will partner with indigenous people and communities to build more affordable housing that meets their unique needs. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Mr. Speaker, given that our government consulted extensively to create that program that would work best with indigenous communities and given that when I asked the minister yesterday in estimates about the program's cancellation, she could only point to \$35 million in funding for general affordable housing, to the minister: is it that you don't understand the serious housing needs of the indigenous communities, or is it simply that you don't care about these communities, only about corporate profits?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Indigenous Relations has risen.

**Mr. Wilson:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. A key part of our government's mandate includes lifting Alberta's population out of poverty, getting people back to work, and improving the lives of all Albertans. Our government recognizes the continuing need for adequate housing both on- and off-reserve for indigenous Albertans, and we're committed to ensuring vulnerable Albertans have access to safe, suitable, and affordable housing options.

**Ms Sigurdson:** This is a program from Seniors and Housing. Given that the minister can't adequately explain why she removed the indigenous housing program from the budget and given that the minister claimed that it was being reviewed for "alignment with our platform commitments" but that does nothing to support indigenous communities, can the Minister of Seniors and Housing please cut the nonsense and commit to this House right now to restoring the indigenous housing program?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Seniors and Housing.

**Ms Pon:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the member's question. It's a very important question. If you look in the financial statements in the estimates, it's important to show that we spend \$30 million in the capital grant for the next three years. The previous NDP government failed indigenous people in Alberta needing affordable housing. Under the indigenous housing capital program not one new unit of housing was built under the NDP. Our government is committed to being a true partner with Alberta's indigenous people.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

#### **Petrochemicals Diversification Program**

**Mr. Walker:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the MLA for Sherwood Park I can tell you that my constituents were thrilled to hear the government keep its promise by implementing recommendations from the Natural Gas Advisory Panel such as encouraging economically viable projects with royalty credits. Instead of placing millions of dollars of financial risk on Alberta taxpayers, this government has rightfully looked to the private sector to encourage new infrastructure in our province. Can the Associate Minister of Natural Gas please explain why royalty credits are a more financially sound approach to petrochemical development than grants and loan guarantees?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Associate Minister of Natural Gas is rising.

**Mr. Nally:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The members across the aisle seem to think that they got away with saddling Albertans with billions of dollars of debt as they pursued their socialist fantasies. Well, we're going to be doing things differently on this side of the

House. We're going to be using royalty credits and royalty credits alone to attract petrochemical jobs. It provides less risk to the taxpayer than grants and loan guarantees.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

**Mr. Walker:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back to the associate minister: given the importance of the petrochemical sector to Strathcona county and the Industrial Heartland and given that Alberta is home to Canada's largest petrochemical manufacturing industry and petrochemicals are, in fact, Alberta's largest manufacturing industry and given that there is significant potential for petrochemical manufacturing in the Strathcona county area, can the associate minister please explain how round 2 of the petrochemicals diversification program will create private-sector, market-driven jobs here in Alberta?

**The Speaker:** The Associate Minister of Natural Gas.

**Mr. Nally:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is blessed to have a highly skilled workforce and access to international markets for its petrochemical industry. Round 2 of the PDP will not only make Alberta competitive with Louisiana and Texas, but it will also encourage the construction of additional petrochemical facilities in our province. The NDP waged an all-out assault against job creators in this province. We're going to stand up, and we're going to fight to get good-paying jobs back to this province. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

The hon. member.

**Mr. Walker:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. Given that the previous government's policies like the carbon tax, tax hikes, increased red tape, and royalty uncertainty undermined investor confidence and drove capital away from our province to the tune of billions and billions of dollars and given that our government committed in April to make life better for Albertans and stand up for Alberta's economic interests, can the associate minister please tell the House how this government will continue to fight to restore investor confidence right here in Alberta?

**The Speaker:** The associate minister.

**Mr. Nally:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two weeks ago the NDP caucus stood on the steps of the Legislature shoulder to shoulder with Extinction Rebellion, and they protested the energy industry. Now, perhaps they were looking for photo ops for their leadership run. I don't know. All I know is that the Leader of the Opposition comes in this House during question period with the cameras rolling, and she says all the right things, but her caucus was protesting energy. Albertans want to know: what's it going to be? Are they for energy, or are they against it? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

#### **Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction**

**Mr. Schmidt:** Mr. Speaker, I hope you gave our visitors from the Solomon Islands some scuba gear as it's going to be under water because Alberta is doing nothing to deal with climate change. Under our government we were on track to reduce 50 megatonnes of harmful emissions over the next 10 years, and now that's down to about 30. That's a drop of almost 50 per cent. To the minister of environment: is 50 per cent less your idea of success?

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm excited to say that the hon. member is wrong, actually. We're projecting 57 megatonnes in reduction by 2030, significantly more than the NDP were projecting, while at the same time lowering costs on industry by hundreds of millions of dollars and not taxing everyday Albertans like the NDP wanted to. What this side of the House is doing is real, concrete action when it comes to emissions. That side of the House, when they were in government, were taxing your constituents and my constituents, hockey moms and hockey dads, seniors, kids, on and on.

2:20

**Mr. Schmidt:** Mr. Speaker, given that it's rather rich for the minister opposite to accuse us of making up numbers and given that Alberta has had a price on carbon since 2007 and in all that time all of the revenues collected from that price on carbon have been dedicated to innovation and green initiatives, until now, will the minister admit that he's using this money collected from his price on carbon to fund his \$4.7 billion corporate handout?

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, as my dad used to say, that dog won't hunt. This side of the House knows, without a doubt, that the NDP had a slush fund. This side of the House is clear and transparent on how we are going to spend the money in TIER. We've been transparent. We campaigned on that. We're proud of it, and we stand by our commitment to that. That side of the House, we now know, used their carbon tax as a slush fund. They took away from everyday Albertans, reached into their pockets and took it, and spent it on their pet projects, often by employing people from Ontario, which is just ridiculous.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Given, Mr. Speaker, that the minister should be awfully careful when he talks about hunting and given that I'm glad to see that some of the best parts of our plan remain in place, particularly when it comes to the electricity sector, but given, however, that when it comes to the oil sands, this government is letting facilities choose to measure themselves against their own personal best rather than an industry standard, rewarding the worst actors and punishing the best in class, to the minister: if being the best is now the worst and the worst is now the best, would you agree that we have a race to the bottom?

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, you see what the NDP think about our energy industry and about our large industrial partners, that drive our economy and are the job creators inside our province. That's why, when they were in power, they went out of their way to cause them so much trouble, to hit Albertans when they were down. Our approach is different. We're partnering with industries. We're actually getting real, concrete action done on emissions. What the NDP did was that they took money from Albertans, and then they went and spent it in Ontario, installing light bulbs and shower heads across this province. Our approach is completely different.

### Lottery Fund Dissolution

**Ms Phillips:** Mr. Speaker, it takes a special kind of talent to raise taxes for everyone, raise the deficit by \$2 billion, run up \$93 billion in debt, and also cause panic among charities and nonprofits across the province. This Minister of Finance has caused all this with his terrible budget, so let's try to clear up some of this chaos. To the minister: can he confirm that the closure of the lottery fund still means that all of the programs that the fund gave money to will still exist, that all of the funds that went to those programs will still flow

to those programs, every dime, and that all of the same AGLC rules for charities will still apply? People are confused.

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

**Mr. Toews:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member opposite for the question because this deserves clarification. We will be dissolving the lottery fund, amongst a few other funds, to streamline government processes and save taxpayers' money. All of the functions of the lottery fund, all of the benefits that go to charities and nonprofits will be completely maintained. It will function as it has in the past. Charities and nonprofits can continue to benefit from these funds in the same way going forward.

**Ms Phillips:** Mr. Speaker, given that CFEP, CIP, Status of Women, and antiracism grants are all taking multimillion-dollar cuts every year, to the minister: please explain to the nonprofits that while the lottery fund change may not be something to immediately panic about, the raiding of that fund and diverting it to a massive no-jobs giveaway to his corporate friends and getting nothing but a higher deficit and higher taxes in return actually is something to panic about.

**Mr. Toews:** Mr. Speaker, panic seems to be the operative word across the aisle these days. This is a government that delivered a thoughtful, prudent, responsible budget on behalf of all Albertans, for this generation and the next. We are taking steps to streamline government, dissolving funds where it makes no sense to continue with them, and continuing to ensure those functions are delivered to Albertans. I don't expect the members opposite to know what good financial management means. That's what we're delivering to Albertans.

**Ms Phillips:** Mr. Speaker, given that when parents work an overnight shift at a casino for their kids' soccer team, they want to know where the money is actually going and whether it's going to benefit their kids and given that that's the case especially now given that this minister has raised taxes for all of those parents and given that this minister has no problem communicating with his rich friends in the form of a \$4.7 billion cheque, which is contained on page 144 of the budget, to the minister: will he clear up some of the terrible communications rollout of this budget and commit here and now to hosting a telephone town hall with charities and nonprofits to clean up the mess he has caused?

**Mr. Toews:** Mr. Speaker, we have delivered, again, a thoughtful, prudent, responsible budget on behalf of all Albertans. The lottery fund function will continue as it has. Charities and civic groups, that provide such value to Albertans every day, will continue to be able to access these funds on a go-forward basis. Moreover, Albertans will save \$13 million every year by our good fiscal management, by cleaning up and dissolving funds that no longer serve a purpose, something, again, that I don't expect the members opposite to understand.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland has the call.

### Fire-retardant Polymer Gels

**Mr. Getson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The impacts of the forest fires that hit our province this spring and summer have affected us all. In all likelihood we either know someone directly or indirectly that has been impacted by forest fires. It's my understanding that

the direct costs of this were about \$600 million for this year, the indirect impacts to families being more difficult to quantify. Earlier this year I suggested the use of polymer firefighting gels, which are more effective in action and cost. We were advised of additional trials to show the efficiency of this product and its delivery. To the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry: can you please provide us with the status of those trials?

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

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to thank the Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland for all his great work and the studies that he's provided to the department. I am happy to update him that there are a variety of fire suppression products out there, and we are actually reviewing the science – the great men and women at Alberta Wildfire are reviewing them – to see if the use of gel and polymers can work with our conventional ways of fighting fires. We are committed to a lessons-learned report, reviewing how all forest fires across Alberta were actually being fought this year. If there are better ways to fight these fires, we're all ears.

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

**Mr. Getson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. You almost stole the thunder from my second part, but I'll go on anyway. Given that the forest pine beetle issues are real and given that the valley surrounding Jasper is now a sickly red due to the pine beetle killing trees and creating a tinderbox and given that the chemical retardant deployed from water bombers and free-standing structures would flatten them but that polymer gels do not have this effect and they work well in protecting structures, extinguishing the fire where retardants could not, and given that the use of these chemical retardants are ineffective or less effective in this application, is the minister able to reinstate the pre-existing contract, as a pilot perhaps, to help protect places surrounded by dead trees?

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

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are committed on the fight against the mountain pine beetle – it's something that we did campaign on – to increase it by \$5 million, from \$25 million up to \$30 million, something that reversed the four-year trend that the previous government had of almost a \$10 million decrease in the fight against the mountain pine beetle, although it is a national issue and something that we're lobbying the federal government to be able to step up to the plate on. It was great that a couple of weeks ago we even signed an MOU with the Saskatchewan government for a million dollars in our fight against the mountain pine beetle.

**Mr. Getson:** Given that Alberta recently experienced one of the largest wildfire seasons to date and given that fighting fires here in the province takes a lot of human capital as well as monetary and given that Alberta is currently looking to spend taxpayer dollars as wisely and as efficiently as possible, will the minister allow this product and this applicator a chance to be put to work here in Alberta, the same as they have in Australia, giving our brave firefighters a better chance and better tools for the job? It's more cost-effective to both us and Alberta taxpayers.

**The Speaker:** The minister.

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when you look at the fires that we had here in Alberta – 60 per cent were man-made, and one was actually an arson issue that happened in Slave Lake – it is clear that wildfires are here to stay. It's a natural

phenomenon that happens with our high and dry forests that we have here in the province. It's about an 80- to 100-year life cycle that they actually have, and it's forest fires that eventually ends them and regrows the forest. When you look at logging and the sustainable management practices that we have, it's something that actually saves carbon dioxide. It's actually being used for . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-North West has a question.

2:30

### Postsecondary Education Costs

**Mr. Eggen:** There will be no net difference for Alberta students: Mr. Speaker, that was the Premier defending his government's harmful decision to increase interest on student loans, but as Don Braid of the *Calgary Herald* rightly points out, this increase will cost students \$1,800 more on a \$30,000 loan amortized over 10 years. To the Premier: are you really trying to tell students that they won't notice that you're stacking hundreds of dollars in interest payments onto their budgets?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

**Mr. Nicolaidis:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier, of course, was indeed correct in that, and I think it's important to understand some of the dynamics. Although there'll be an increase in student loans for Alberta student loan holders, the federal government will be reducing their interest rate from prime plus 2.5 per cent, down two points. The vast majority of student loan holders in Alberta hold both an Alberta student loan and a federal student loan. Most students will not actually see any increase or a very negligible increase in their payments.

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, given that math doesn't lie, on \$30,000 it's \$1,800 more in interest payments based on this new policy. Shameful.

Given that this government went further in what Don Braid described as a "bizarre pounce" on students in their budget and given that they cut tuition credits and given that this minister said that they would increase apprenticeship by \$4 million – but really they're taking \$110 million out of the postsecondary student grant system – to the minister. Please explain yourself. Why are postsecondary student supports being sacrificed to pay . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

**Mr. Nicolaidis:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd be happy to explain and provide some more clarity. The member is correct. We have provided \$4 million. In terms of other funding as well we just, on Monday, made an announcement with Careers: the Next Generation to quadruple the number of students that participate in the registered apprenticeship program. At the moment that program has about 1,500 students that participate in it. With our investment we'll see about 6,000 students be able to participate in that program, which is critical to helping our students get access to postsecondary education.

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, Mr. Speaker, given that perhaps this government's most heinous act against students is the lifting of the tuition freeze, allowing those rates to increase by as much as 21 per cent over these next three years, and given that this government has tried to insist that students actually want to pay for more tuition – crazy – to the minister: explain how tuition increases, no tax credits, added student loan interest are supposed to make life better for our postsecondary students.

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Advanced Education.

**Mr. Nicolaides:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The MacKinnon panel report was quite clear that despite the fact that we're investing more in our postsecondary system, our outcomes don't appear to be quite comparable with other jurisdictions. Nine out of 26 of our postsecondary institutions have below average completion rates. Moreover, the MacKinnon panel talked about the importance of allowing our institutions and working with our institutions to achieve a broader revenue mix. In the last few months I've been talking with a lot of our institutions, and they want the handcuffs that the former government placed on them removed.

#### Agriculture and Forestry Budget 2019-2020

**Mr. Dach:** Mr. Speaker, on page 27 of the UCP platform the party boasts about how it apparently understands that the agricultural sector is vital to Alberta's economy, yet the Unlimited Cuts and Pain government has slashed the Agriculture and Forestry budget by 38 per cent over the next four years. That's decimation: 38 per cent. Now, he failed to do so in estimates on Tuesday. Can the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry now please explain how his understanding of the importance of farmers and ranchers led him to support cuts for our agricultural sector by \$545 million? How can farmers thank you, sir, for presiding over this historical gutting of your . . .

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

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought we had a very civil exchange in estimates yesterday. But, no, the biggest issue that happened – and every minister of this entire government has had to go through a process. We're spending \$2 billion every year on interest payments. We are in a financial mess, and we need to clean up the mess, the intergenerational debt that the NDP government has burdened future generations here in the province of Alberta with. We are doing everything we can to get our fiscal house in order because that is not only the prudent and responsible thing to do today; it will be for future generations of Albertans.

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

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's be clear: 44 years of Conservative rule is at the root of all these problems.

Given that among the long list of items on the minister's chopping block is a \$34 million reduction to the world-class research done within the ministry and given that I'm hearing that that could harm our ability to innovate and develop leading agricultural practices and given that this Unlimited Cuts and Pain government rushed to give a \$4.7 billion handout to corporations but can't apparently afford agricultural scientists, can the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry explain what impacts slashing research and scientists will have on his ministry's intellectual capacity?

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

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to reiterate: \$36 million of research that we are actually committed to in this budget and also \$43 million of additional research through the CAP, Canadian agricultural partnership, program. Again, as I said yesterday in estimates, we are committed to consultations with the entire breadth of the research industry in agriculture, whether it be academia, within our own government researchers, private researchers, commodity groups. We are committed to starting those consultations in December to ultimately find out the best way we can actually achieve the research results that best benefit farmers here in the province of Alberta.

**Mr. Dach:** Mr. Speaker, we rely on science in this province increasingly, but given that 11 days ago I asked this minister about what he was going to do to support Alberta's beekeeping and honey industries, which have had a difficult year, and given that while the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry claimed that he was working to find support for them, there's not a single line item of support for emergency help for Alberta beekeepers in this budget, can the minister of agriculture please explain why beekeepers in Alberta will get sweet nothing from this budget while profitable corporations get a \$4.7 billion gift from the Unlimited Cuts and Pain Party?

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

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Again, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. About five or six hours ago I was actually in Lacombe talking with AFSC, the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation, to discuss not just with honey producers here in the province of Alberta but every farmer that there is estimated to be about \$700 million of crop failures that AFSC is looking at currently. There is 20 per cent of the crop currently that is unharvested. It is something that this government takes very seriously. We do have a suite of programs that is being offered by the province, but we are looking at ways that we can improve them, and at the end of the day we're going to be there for farmers in this difficult year.

**The Speaker:** The Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville would like to ask a question.

#### Workplace Health and Safety

**Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that our industrial workers, including tradespeople and those who support them, work long hours in difficult conditions, frequently away from their families. We know that these individuals often do not receive a thank you for their work and can be physically removed from resources that they may need to keep them healthy. To the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions: what will this government do to make mental health supports accessible to industry workers across our province?

**The Speaker:** The Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

**Mr. Luan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's essential that we support our industry and workforces in accessing mental health and recovery supports. Economically, addiction alone costs us \$5.5 billion a year in Alberta. A large portion of that is in the loss of productivity. That's why last week I was in Fort McMurray working with industry leaders, service providers, and union reps, trying to look at creative ways for how we can make made-in-Alberta solutions to help our workers remain healthy and productive.

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

**Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that we know the high amount of risk in many of these trades and occupations and given that workplace safety programming must be responsive to and comprehensive of risks present in modern workplaces, to the Minister of Labour and Immigration: how is this government ensuring that workers are prepared with the knowledge they need to be safe on the job site and that that knowledge is relevant to current workplace practices and technologies?

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

**Mr. Copping:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. Under our occupational health and safety laws workers have the right to know about workplace hazards and also the right to know that their employers are eliminating or controlling the hazards. Employers also have the duty to ensure that workers are competent in the tasks that they are performing. Through WCB a number of safety associations throughout the province are funded to offer training for workers and employees, and on top of that, our ministry has many online OHS resources, including publications, webinars, and templates. I encourage employers and all workers to use these resources to help ensure a healthy and safe workplace.

2:40

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that balance must be struck between workplace regulation and worker safety and given that workers must be able to do their jobs in an environment that best supports the tasks at hand while not overburdening workers with regulatory restrictions, to the Minister of Labour and Immigration: how will our government ensure that regulations imposed on workers and workplaces are what industry needs and do not hold back employers or employees?

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

**Mr. Copping:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very important that Alberta has healthy and safe workplaces, that workers can come home safely at the end of their shift and at the end of their day. One of our goals is to have fair and balanced labour legislation that protects the rights of workers while reducing unnecessary administrative burdens on employers and job creators. We have made a number of changes already in terms of labour relations and employment standards, and we'll be doing further reviews of labour laws in the near future to see what else can be done to support job creators and protect workers without inhibiting innovation and flexibility. We will remove what doesn't make sense and keep what makes sense.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, in light of the Royal Assent ceremony happening in just a few minutes, we will proceed immediately to Members' Statements.

## Members' Statements

*(continued)*

### Budget 2019 and Edmonton's Economy

**Mr. Schmidt:** The Premier is fanning the flames of Alberta separatism. It's a dangerous game because it runs the risk of breaking Alberta itself apart. One could well imagine a hypothetical separatist mayor of Edmonton giving the following address. "Fellow Edmontonians, we're living through very challenging economic times. This time of adversity will be prolonged by bad UCP policies that will chase away billions in investment, will kill economic diversification, will kill the south Edmonton hospital and the west LRT, and will raise the cost on just about everything: tuition, cigarettes, car insurance, prescription drugs for seniors, and property taxes. On top of all that, the storm clouds of a global recession are on the horizon and we have a provincial government that has actively campaigned against our city's vital economic interests.

"The challenges are real, but you know what? We're Edmontonians. Through our whole history we've proven that we are the can-do city. We're resilient, hard-working, and innovative, and together we can and will overcome these challenges. Simply put, in an uncertain world where we can't count on support from this provincial government, we must be self-reliant so that we are prepared for whatever the future may bring.

"Edmonton is a proud and significant contributor to Alberta. We have a quarter of the population but contribute over a third of the provincial GDP. Our net fiscal contribution to the province is billions of dollars a year, but when the UCP enacts discriminatory legislation like ripping up the city charter, it's not just attacking the Edmonton economy; it's undermining the future growth and prosperity of the entire province. I'll be focusing my efforts on bringing fiscal fairness back to Edmonton. By getting a fair deal for Edmonton, we will emerge through this time of adversity stronger than ever. Edmonton: strong and free."

Separatism talk must stop. As Canadians we don't always have to be friends, but we will always be family, the true north strong and free.

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

### Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

**Mr. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Alberta heritage savings trust fund was created in 1976 with savings from Alberta's nonrenewable resources. For over 40 years the fund has been invested with the aim to deliver the greatest financial returns possible for Albertans. While its capital has always been earmarked for the future, the fund has been used to diversify the economy and meet the needs of our growing province. Since its inception the fund has contributed a staggering \$43 billion to support spending in areas such as health care, education, infrastructure, and social programs.

The fund is professionally managed by the Alberta Investment Management Corporation, also known as AIMCo, to provide the greatest returns over the long term. Its diversified portfolio of investments includes bonds, mortgages, public and private equities, real estate, infrastructure investments, timberland, and even hedge funds. The fund's portfolio is also global, with investments in Canada, the United States, Europe, Australia, Asia, and other emerging markets.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending and participating in the annual public meeting for the fund. I am pleased to report that the fund earned an 8 per cent rate of return, net of fees, for the period ended March 31, 2019. This exceeded the benchmark for the same period. This represented a net income of \$937 million, and the fund had net assets of \$18.2 billion at fair market value on this date. The fund has consistently outperformed and has an impressive 10-year average net-of-fees return of over 10 per cent. The public meeting included an informative Q and A session between Albertans, AIMCo, and Treasury Board and Finance.

We truly do have a world-class organization managing our savings, and I would like to thank the staff at AIMCo and Treasury Board and Finance for another strong year for the benefit of Albertans.

### Presenting Petitions

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition on behalf of over 1,600 constituents of Highwood area requesting that the government relieve the ongoing financial burden of obtaining costly water licences and consider providing funding and services for the representatives and the municipalities to ensure that the

Sheep River and deepwater wells are no longer the only source of water available.

### Tabling Returns and Reports

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, are there any tablings today? I see the hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

**Mr. Orr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table a document that was tweeted out by Colin Craig of secondstreet.org detailing the intent by some public-sector unions to seek pay increases of over 7 per cent courtesy of Alberta taxpayers.

Thank you.

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

**Ms Renaud:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling an article in *The Tyee* that's entitled Alberta Can Transition from Oil and Gas and Have a Strong Economy: Here's How, dated July 2019.

**The Speaker:** Are there any other tablings today? Oh, I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling a document today entitled Energy Efficiency Alberta Gets National Accolades for \$850M in Growth.

**The Speaker:** Are there others?

Seeing none, hon. members, we are at points of order. At 1:51 the hon. Official Opposition House Leader raised a point of order.

### Point of Order

#### Parliamentary Language

**Mr. Bilous:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on 23(h), (i), (j). This was when the Premier was responding to the Official Opposition leader. The Premier said: repeating the lie. I can pull out *Erskine* and *Beauchesne's* and cite all of the different examples of when Speakers have ruled the word "lie" out of order, including yourself, sir, from, I believe, earlier this week. Again, there are certain words that are completely unparliamentary. I know that the Government House Leader has had to apologize for members on his side using that term.

Because the Premier was referring to the Leader of the Official Opposition and, actually, even if he was referring to members on this side – as you have ruled, as have many other Speakers, including Speaker Kowalski, the use of the word "lie" in this House is unparliamentary. Therefore, the Premier or the Government House Leader on his behalf should apologize and withdraw.

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Certainly, it is unparliamentary to refer to somebody as lying or to imply that they were lying, but the argument that the Opposition House leader seems to be presenting to you is that the word "lie" can't be used inside the Chamber, which, in fact, I would submit to you, is not true. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if you have the Blues. I do have an advantage of having the exact quote that the hon. Premier said in question period, which is: "Mr. Speaker, with respect to the \$4.7 billion figure, the leader of the NDP now knows repeatedly that that is a complete falsehood. You know, my mom used to say that repeating a lie doesn't make something true." Well, I do agree with the hon. Premier. My mom used to say the same thing: repeating a lie does not make it true.

The hon. Premier did not at any point refer to any member. He did not refer to an MLA. He did not imply that the Leader of the Official Opposition was lying. He stated a very important fact, that

repeating a lie does not make it true. Now, I will submit to you that whether or not certain statements were a lie, in fact, or not would be a matter of debate. That would be a fair point, maybe, for the Opposition House Leader to raise, but to imply that the Premier implied that anybody in this Assembly was lying is, in fact, false. I do not see any reason for the Premier to withdraw his remarks.

2:50

**The Speaker:** Are there others wishing to join in the debate? I think the hon. Official Opposition House Leader has already provided his comments with respect to the point of order, so unless he has something completely new to provide and not just a rebuttal of what the Government House Leader has . . .

**Mr. Bilous:** I do, Mr. Speaker. The new piece of information is that the use of the word "lie" is not subject to context. It is not whether it is put against a member or members. The word, regardless of how it is used, is unparliamentary.

**The Speaker:** You're incorrect in your assessment of the word "lie." There are lots of contexts in which someone could say the word "lie" inside the Legislative Assembly and it wouldn't be unparliamentary, particularly if they weren't referring to another member of the Assembly. I could say, "My brother used to lie to me" at any point in time, and that wouldn't be unparliamentary at all, but I appreciate your submission.

With that said, in this case, *Beauchesne's* paragraph 494 does speak about: "It is not unparliamentary temperately to criticize statements made by Members . . . contrary to the facts," but it may not impute the intentional falsehood in that being permissible.

I'm not sure that I agree with the Government House Leader when he says that the Premier didn't refer to a member of the Assembly because very clearly he did when he said, "The leader of the NDP . . . knows repeatedly that that is a complete falsehood." All the way up until that point, certainly not unparliamentary. But when he goes on to say, "You know, my mom used to say that repeating a lie," implying that the falsehood was then a lie, it certainly gets us very, very, very close to unparliamentary language given the context in which it's used. I think it would be reasonable in this case for the Premier to apologize and withdraw the statement.

**Mr. Kenney:** I would be happy to do so, always to comply with your orders, Mr. Speaker. My own parliamentary experience's context is that it's unparliamentary to imply that another member deliberately misled the House. It was not my intention to do so; therefore, I'd be happy to comply with your order by withdrawing.

**The Speaker:** Well done, and thank you. A spectacular apology, and I hope to see many more like that when other members are apologizing inside the Assembly.

Hon. members, the daily Routine has now concluded, but pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(5)(b) and the notice that was provided by the hon. Government House Leader, the Assembly will now proceed to Royal Assent. Hon. members, as is the practice in this Assembly during ceremonial occasions, I would ask that you close all computers, ensure that all electronic devices are stowed in any way, shape or form out of the respect that we will show for Her Honour. We are at Ordres du jour.

### Orders of the Day

#### Royal Assent

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor will now attend upon the Assembly.



[The Premier and the Acting Sergeant-at-Arms left the Chamber to attend the Lieutenant Governor]

[The Mace was draped]

[The Acting Sergeant-at-Arms knocked on the main doors of the Chamber three times. The Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms opened the doors, and the Acting Sergeant-at-Arms entered]

**The Acting Sergeant-at-Arms:** All rise, please. Mr. Speaker, Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor awaits.

**The Speaker:** Sergeant-at-Arms, admit Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

[Preceded by the Acting Sergeant-at-Arms, Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, and the Premier entered the Chamber. Her Honour took her place upon the throne]

**Her Honour:** Please be seated.

**The Speaker:** May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly has at its present sitting passed certain bills to which and in the name of the Legislative Assembly I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

**The Clerk:** Your Honour, the following are the titles of the bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed.

- 14 Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Act
- 15 Real Estate Amendment Act, 2019
- 16 Public Lands Modernization (Grazing Leases and Obsolete Provisions) Amendment Act, 2019

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

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

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

[The Lieutenant Governor indicated her assent]

**The Clerk:** In Her Majesty's name Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to these bills.

3:00

**The Acting Sergeant-at-Arms:** All rise, please.

[Preceded by the Acting Sergeant-at-Arms, the Lieutenant Governor and the Premier left the Chamber]

[The Mace was uncovered]

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, please be seated.

Pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(5)(b) the House stands adjourned until this evening at 7:30.

The legislative policy committees will convene this afternoon for the consideration of the main estimates. This afternoon the Standing Committee on Families and Communities will consider the estimates for the Ministry of Education in the Rocky Mountain Room and the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future will consider the estimates for the Ministry of Advanced Education in the Parkland Room.

The House stands adjourned.

[The Assembly adjourned at 3:02 p.m.]



## Table of Contents

Prayers .....	2075
Statement by the Speaker	
Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign .....	2075
Introduction of Visitors .....	2075
Introduction of Guests .....	2075
Members' Statements	
Provincial Fiscal Position and Government Policies .....	2075
Fort Edmonton Park .....	2075
Diabetes Awareness.....	2076
Indigenous Relations .....	2076
Support for Persons with Disabilities .....	2076
Health Care Workforce.....	2077
Lakeland Centre for FASD.....	2077
Budget 2019 and Edmonton's Economy .....	2085
Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund .....	2085
Oral Question Period	
Budget 2019 and Public Service Front-line Workers .....	2077
Calgary Police Service and LRT Green Line Funding .....	2078
Calgary LRT Green Line Funding.....	2078
Corporate Taxation and Job Creation .....	2079
Crown Prosecution Service .....	2079
Education Budget 2019-2020 .....	2080
Indigenous Housing Capital Program.....	2080
Petrochemicals Diversification Program .....	2081
Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction.....	2081
Lottery Fund Dissolution.....	2082
Fire-retardant Polymer Gels .....	2082
Postsecondary Education Costs .....	2083
Agriculture and Forestry Budget 2019-2020 .....	2084
Workplace Health and Safety .....	2084
Presenting Petitions .....	2085
Tabling Returns and Reports .....	2086
Orders of the Day .....	2086
Royal Assent.....	2086

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