

Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature First Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, October 31, 2019

Day 37

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 30th Legislature First Session

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Party standings:

United Conservative: 63

New Democrat: 24

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 31, 2019

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Hon. members, the prayer. Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and to 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 prejudices, keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all. Amen.

Please be seated.

Hon. members, before we proceed to Introduction of Guests, I just thought I would make a special note. I see you have all chosen the same costume for Halloween this year. It's a large group of politicians that we have here.

Some Hon. Members: Boo.

The Speaker: If you can't be good, be punny. That's my motto.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: Hon. members, we have three school groups this afternoon. As I read the name of your school group, please rise: from Edmonton-Strathcona, grades 5 and 6 students from the Garneau school; from Edmonton-Riverview, grade 9 students from Parkview school; and from Edmonton-City Centre, intermediate 1 English language learners from Solomon College.

Welcome, all.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning would like to make a statement.

Budget 2019

Ms Sweet: Well, Happy Halloween, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for recognizing me. This is one of the scariest Halloweens Albertans have seen in years. The witches and warlocks are out trying to cast their spells with the poison of this new budget. While the UCP hands out \$4.7 billion treats to their friends and insiders, children go door to door asking their neighbours to protect their education. Zombies are appearing on the streets after this government's trick of implementing American-style health care as the staff bob for apples to keep their wages. As Albertans watch, ghosts slowly steal away the pumpkins' jobs, hiding their future harvest.

In the haunted house the trolls are quick at work trying to convince Albertans that foreign-funded goblins hide under their bed as the fog rolls over the \$30 million hidden in the dungeon with all the secret details. All the while past demons dressed in their kamikaze costumes haunt the Premier and his ministers by lifting every tombstone to find the bodies buried below, investigating every squeaky locked door and rattling chains, seeking the eerie truth.

But Albertans are resilient, and this opposition has no fear. They don their capes and stand for justice, fighting the horrors of this nightmare budget and policies. The dawn is coming, and the NDP will lead the way. The Speaker: The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Energy Industry Competitiveness

Mr. Horner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll talk about jobs and the economy now. I'm afraid it's another sad day for the Canadian oil and gas industry. You see, the most recent gut punch to this sector is the decision by EnCana Corp. to move its headquarters to the United States and drop the reference to Canada from its name. This is not some rinky-dink player; this is EnCana, now Ovintiv Inc.

In 2002 Alberta Energy and PanCanadian became one through a merger of equals, and the result was at the time the world's largest publicly traded oil and gas producer. The merger happened because of founding CEO Gwyn Morgan and others' belief in Canadiancontrolled companies. They proudly named this new company EnCana from the words "energy" and "Canada."

In the last three years EnCana has shifted its multibillion-dollar capital program to the States, the CEO has moved from Calgary to Denver, and they've purchased Newfield Exploration, an American producer, for \$7.7 billion. Now it has 60 per cent of production, almost all of its capital plan, and half of its board based in the United States. To summarize the words of Gwyn Morgan: who would have thought that in a few short years the Canadian flagship, the marquee Canadian energy company, would export itself? Thinking back a few short months, TransCanada felt inclined to remove "Canada" from their name and settle on the more innocuous, less offensive TC Energy.

These stories are sad, Mr. Speaker. They speak to the real-world outcomes of poor policy and damaging, fact-free rhetoric. These stories show how capital will flee, taking jobs and prosperity with it, how emissions aren't avoided, only shifted to other jurisdictions. I'm sick of seeing friends and neighbours pack up and leave for better prospects in Saskatchewan or Texas.

It's Halloween today, and it has me thinking about costumes. It feels like Halloween most days in this House: dressed up to fit in. I sincerely hope, Mr. Speaker, that when the members opposite take off their Halloween masks, underneath they aren't a bunch of pipeline protesters playing dress-up and working secretly to keep Canadian oil in the ground. [A cellphone rang]

The Speaker: Hon. members, it sounded distinctly like a cellphone perhaps went off during that. I'm sure that it couldn't have been given that it would be wildly inappropriate to have that here in the Chamber and certainly turned on.

The hon. Member for Brooks-Medicine Hat.

Political and Public Discourse and Women's Political Participation

Ms Glasgo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bullying: it's a topic that's been discussed in this Chamber and affects the lives of many Albertans, young and old. The Canadian Mental Health Association reports that being a victim of bullying increases risks of depression, low self-esteem, and trauma. Sadly, 85 per cent of bullying takes place in front of others. Such is the case with cyberbullying.

Now, opposition and critique are expected. The opposition's job is to oppose. We expect members opposite to continue their campaign against us, both inside and outside of these walls. That's politics. But throughout all of that, I hope that we can agree on the need for basic human decency despite our political disagreements.

We see character assassinations being levelled at competent and thoughtful members of cabinet. We see staff being dragged through the trenches of fear, smear, and defamation just for doing their jobs. We see private citizens being told that they are less than, uneducated, or subservient because they dare to hold a view outside of what is acceptable to the members opposite. We see survivors of sexual assault lambasted and shamed.

What do all of these people have in common, Mr. Speaker? They're all Conservative women. We know that women are underrepresented in politics at every level, and I would assume that every single person in this House would like to see a more representative Legislature. But when malediction and derogatory attacks become the norm, this discourages intelligent, capable, talented women from running or even being involved. It paints a sad picture to the public and future generations about what politics is and ought to be. These attacks, all around, are despicable and indefensible.

We all have our own views and perspectives, Mr. Speaker. That's our right. At the same time, I hope that the members opposite will join with us in denouncing these heinous attacks on Conservative women. Will the NDP join this side of the House in condemning these attacks? Will they stand up and repudiate the disgusting campaign of defamation targeting Alberta women, including survivors? I hope that they can find it in their hearts to stand with brave Alberta women, but I guess I'll find out.

Chile

Member Loyola: Mr. Speaker, on October 18, 2019, a protest was initiated by Chilean students regarding rising public transit fares in Santiago, Chile. This act of defiance generated broad support from young people as well as broad support from the rest of the population. On October 19 millions of Chileans took to the streets all across the country in support of the students but also adamantly tired of the many problems due to the continuous austerity budgets of the current right-wing government, including low pensions, precarious health care, low wages, and a lack of a quality and affordable education.

The ongoing economic policy being implemented in the country has made Chile one of the most expensive countries to live in in Latin America according to the OECD. Since October 19 the mobilizations and protests of Chileans has not stopped but, in fact, has increased, reaching the most remote corners of the country. All this has led to a declaration of a state of emergency, with curfews in most of the country's major cities. Chile, again, is an example of constant human rights violations and the criminalization of peaceful protest.

Until yesterday the situation of violation of human rights according to the Institute of Human Rights is as follows: 3,535 detainees, 120 legal actions against the government, 1,132 wounded, and, most horrible of all, 25 deaths as a result of military and police aggression on peaceful protesters. Not since the military regime that gave rise to the horrible events of September 11, 1973, have the Chilean people seen such repression.

I stand in this House along with all members of the Alberta NDP caucus to call on the Chilean government to stop this repression, and I also call on Albertans to support the Chilean people in denouncing the human rights violations taking place in Chile. I also call on this Premier, his cabinet, and his party to do the same and to stand in solidarity with the Chilean people and the many Chilean-Canadians that now call Alberta their home.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Red Deer-South would like to make a statement.

1:40 NDP Climate Leadership Plan

Mr. Stephan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Alberta seeks to make Ottawa more accountable, our government must lead by example. Government is not accountable when it imposes a billion-dollar tax

on its citizens prior to first having a plan for the tax, internal controls, and feedback mechanisms for the tax. Unfortunately, the NDP climate leadership plan and its carbon tax is such an example.

Last week the Ministry of Environment and Parks attended the Public Accounts Committee. In February 2018, more than a year after the NDP imposed its billion-dollar carbon tax on Alberta businesses and families, the Auditor General looked at the NDP climate leadership plan and found the following three foundational deficiencies. First, the NDP had failed to have implementation plans for the plan and its programs. This is ironic. The plan had no plan. Second, the NDP failed to have adequate processes to protect against inaccurate or incomplete data. Without internal controls, bad data leads to bad conclusions. Lastly, the plan did not provide proper reporting on costs.

Stewardship of taxpayer dollars was not a priority of the NDP government and its plan. This is alarming. Notwithstanding that the NDP climate leadership plan and tax was more than a year old, had already taken over a billion dollars from Alberta businesses and families, it still lacked plans, internal controls, and fiscal accountability. This is a poor example. Let's do better.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-South.

Municipal Affairs Budget 2019-2020

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Member for Edmonton-South West was appointed as the Minister of Municipal Affairs, this government and the hon. member promised that he would be a, quote, strong voice in cabinet, advocating for what is best for Edmonton, unquote. Well, let's look at what this so-called strong voice has done for Edmonton: \$150 million in funding reductions for the city and tearing up the city charters in his ministry; cancellations and delays for upgrades to Terwillegar Drive, the Stadium LRT rehabilitation, and the west valley LRT; delaying the badly needed south Edmonton hospital until 2030; pushing back the mental health facility for children and youth at the Royal Alexandra hospital; no word on a much-needed high school in south Edmonton.

Mr. Speaker, what is even the worst part? These cuts and delays will most severely affect residents that are right in his own constituency of Edmonton-South West, the riding that he represents directly, all to pay for a \$4.7 billion corporate handout that just this morning we learned is financing the exit of companies right to the United States.

And individual benefits for Edmontonians? Budget 2019 hikes income taxes, eliminates tax credits for entrepreneurs, and nickels and dimes Edmontonians by hiking fees for vehicle registration, land titles, and even museum entry. Just yesterday we learned that cuts to education funding are going to result in increased school fees.

Mr. Speaker, every single day we learn more about the attacks on families and the attacks on Edmontonians in this budget, and this so-called voice is silent. He owes his constituents an explanation, an explanation for why he isn't standing up for them, an explanation for why his constituents are not a priority for him or his government, and an explanation for just how much more punishment this city can expect under his leadership. The constituents of Edmonton-South West deserve better.

The Speaker: I recognize the hon. Member for Banff-Kananaskis.

Travel Alberta Awards

Ms Rosin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll take every opportunity I can to stand in this House and talk about how proud I am of our

tourism sector and all the entrepreneurs and businesspeople who support it. The tourism sector is massively important to our province, putting us on the map both nationally and globally for our world-renowned sites, attractions, and industries, and Banff-Kananaskis is leading the way. A quick Google image search of Canada turns up nearly unanimous results of my beautiful constituency. To some communities tourism is difficult to sustain, but for Canmore, Banff, and Kananaskis, thanks to the sheer magnificence of our surroundings, tourism comes naturally. Over 4 million visitors travel to Banff national park every year, and tourism accounts for 89 per cent of their GDP.

But this success does not come without the hard work and dedication of many. That's why I was honoured to attend the 2019 Travel Alberta Alto awards on Monday, appropriately held right in Banff. The Alto awards recognize the unsung heroes of the tourism industry, whose work and investment are enjoyed by millions around the world and who make Alberta a world-renowned destination but who often don't get so much as a thank you from those they entertain. These people are experienced inventors, memory creators, and goosebump providers. I am proud to say that businesspeople from Banff-Kananaskis were nominated as finalists for awards in eight out of 10 categories at this year's Alto awards. I'm extra proud to say that Parks Canada's bison reintroduction webinar series and Sunshine Village's annual Slush Cup both took home first place in their categories and that Bob Williams, the general manager of Calaway Park in Springbank, was named the 2019 Alto ambassador.

Banff-Kananaskis is tourism, and I'm so lucky to represent these people in the Legislature. The work of the individuals in Banff-Kananaskis is invaluable to the success of Alberta's tourism industry and our economy as a whole, and I look forward to continue working alongside these incredible people as our government endeavours to double Alberta's tourism spending by 2030.

Rural Crime

Mr. Orr: Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I attended a Red Deer-Lacombe rural crime watch meeting. RCMP, municipal officials, peace officers, and Crime Watch directors attended. The mood of the meeting was not good. When municipal officials are virtually in tears and warn, with desperation, that things are out of control and that someone is going to die, when one detachment appears to be in a state of crisis, it's not good.

A local crime watch e-mail says:

No More Mister Nice Guy

The days of welcoming strangers onto our property are long gone. When the ladies in our families are being beaten up and having their lives threatened, it is way past time to change what we are doing. Prepare to defend your loved ones; it is just a matter of time. You will end up going to jail at minimum until you can prove yourself innocent. You will have to deal with the guilt and the PTSD and retribution from the gang or offender. You will have to spend huge amounts of money on lawyers. You will have to deal with lost time on your job. You and your family will be exposed to the media. Right now we are all playing a game of Russian roulette, hoping that it is the next guy or neighbor who is going to have to handle the issue. Well, it could be you.

Another lady writes:

My friends were recently attacked at their home by Eckville, the women assaulted October 23 and vehicles stolen. She is just like me, with children and a newborn at home. She didn't see a cop till an hour and a quarter later from the time she called. If I try to defend my home and my children, am I going to be in more trouble than the people trespassing? So I ask you: what can I do? I cannot sugar-coat this. Rural crime is the most serious issue facing residents in central Alberta. Individuals don't feel safe because they are not safe in their homes or on their property. I, too, live in a rural county. I and our government also struggle with the anxiety and the trauma. We are working to change the system and find solutions to these complex issues and failures of civil security. Thank you.

Budget 2019

Mr. Loewen: With the recent budget being brought forward and today being Halloween, it is a perfect time to bring them together with Macbeth's witches' poem.

Thrice and once the NDP budget. Thrice and once it fails to please. Albertans cry 'tis time, 'tis time.

Round about the election would go. Poisoned speeches they would throw. And when the platforms turned to stone, Albertans were convinced to the bone. At the end the votes were sought. A Conservative government they got.

Double, double toil and trouble; Tables turn, and budget bubble.

And as the Premier ponders, Who shall he add, he wonders. To his cabinet list he goes. First budget adds minister's Toews. The opposition adds the fears And continue their awful smears.

As the facts they do come out, People see there is little pout.

Double, double toil and trouble; We learn there's little budget trouble.

Health care, there is no cut, And classes are left in no rut. Monies that are to be spent Will go exactly where they're meant. To protect our front-line service, Our budget's mark it did not miss. Mental health and addictions served, All the while debt trajectory curved.

Increases to Children's Services And also Community and Social Services. Increases in seniors' housing: you can bet Those community builders we won't forget.

As we focus to remove red tape, Our associate minister he wears a cape. Job-creation tax cut will do its work Though opposition continues to smirk.

They fail to remember the enormous cost: Their tax increases equalled \$6 billion lost.

Balanced budget, we will not rest, As the MacKinnon panel did suggest.

O well done! I commend your pains, And every one shall share the gains. And now about the budget sing Workers and families in a ring, Supporting all that you put in. And this tale, though sounding scary, In the end the fear is nary. This government is committed to How our future it will do.

For as we get people back to work, Making life better we will not shirk. Pushing forward a full cup, For Alberta proud, we stand up.

1:50

The Speaker: I might provide two cautionary tales to the statements today.

One, the hon. member has been around for a very long time, and he'll know that the use of names, even if he blends them to not really sound like a name, might not actually be appropriate.

The other hon. members will know that any member's statement is to be done free of any form of interjection, and I did have the opportunity to hear one this afternoon.

Oral Question Period

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

Budget 2019

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the Premier told business leaders that the province was broke and that he had to make tough choices. He forgot to mention that his first priority was a \$4.7 billion no-jobs corporate handout. Today we hear the devastating news that EnCana announced that they pocketed \$55 million from the Premier's handout, and now they're leaving us for the United States. Why did the Premier throw money at a company that isn't creating a single job for Albertans?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, we're sad to see the news from EnCana today, and I want to be clear. The job-creation tax cut is designed to create work, create jobs inside our province. It's one component of a multicomponent plan. But if the hon. member wants to know why EnCana has left this province and who to blame, she should look in the mirror. That hon. member even just recently stood on the steps of this Legislature with protesters against our energy industry, with communist flags flying, has never apologized to the people of Alberta, was part of a government that helped push EnCana out of this province.

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, that's a heck of a way to talk about the people who are facing unemployment today because of this government.

Every single Alberta taxpayer is being asked to pay the price for this Premier's wrong priorities. They'll be paying more in income tax and, soon, property tax. Parents will be paying more in school fees, too. In Calgary this Premier has cut money for 130 police officers. Police officers, parents: everyone is paying more in taxes. That's whose money is going towards lining the pockets of shareholders instead of supporting jobs here in Alberta. Why is the Premier forcing Albertans to pay for his \$4.7 billion no-jobs corporate handout?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, that \$4.7 billion number the NDP keeps making up has already been proven to be wrong many times. But back to what point matters. Losing EnCana and losing any investment inside this province is troubling, and we feel for anybody who has lost their job, certainly. But what it comes down to, at the end of the day, is that that hon. member was part of a government that chased away billions of dollars in investment, stomped on

Alberta's largest industry while it was down, and, even while she was in opposition with her colleagues, stood on the steps of the Legislature with communist flags flying and protested against our energy industry. When is she going to apologize for that?

Ms Hoffman: The Premier blames us. The Premier blames Ottawa. The Premier blames schoolchildren for fighting against climate change, Mr. Speaker. The Premier even tries to deny his own corporate handout exists, and so does his House here. It's on page 144 of the budget they wrote. If anything in Alberta is broke, it's this Premier's moral compass. Why won't the Premier admit that he didn't make a tough choice – he made the wrong choice – and give us back our \$4.7 billion?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member wants to talk about a moral compass. I'll stand with our Premier, who's working hard to get people back to work, who's standing beside our largest industry and is helping fight for our province. That hon. member sided with Justin Trudeau, possibly the worst Prime Minister in the history of this country, somebody who has attacked Albertans on a daily basis, and made him their close ally while she was in government. Then their leader and their party admitted that they then voted for their federal leader, the NDP leader, who is against pipelines. That's ridiculous. That hon. member should apologize to Albertans.

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

Education Budget 2019-2020

Ms Hoffman: Paying out hundreds of dollars in school fees is a major financial stress for families, and that's why our government decided to invest \$60 million in reducing that fee burden. The Premier cancelled that support for families to pay for his \$4.7 billion no-jobs corporate handout, and yesterday we learned that school fees will likely go up again: one bill in September and another one maybe at Christmas. Why does the Premier choose to rob from families to give billions of dollars to corporations who aren't even creating jobs here in Alberta?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker: rob from families? That hon. member was the Deputy Premier of a government that brought in the largest tax increase in the history of this province. I'm proud that this government got rid of it. That hon. member: while I sat in opposition, I had to unfortunately watch her go after my constituents on a daily basis not only with the carbon tax but kicking our energy industry while it was down, watch the people that I represent go through a heck of a hard time because they kept making it worse. Again to her: apologize to Albertans. You don't even have a right, in my mind, to stand up in this House and even ask a question like that.

The Speaker: Of course, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora has a right to stand and ask questions here in the House, and she has another right right now to do so.

Ms Hoffman: Back to school in September is often a hard time financially for families, but at least it was only once a year. Families used to be able to be protected from mid-year increases by law, but now this Premier is changing the law so that families can be hit by school fees more than once a year. On top of that, families are paying more in income tax, more in property tax, more in insurance, more in vehicle registration fees. Why does this Premier think it's okay to pick the pockets of everyday families to pad the profit margins for shareholders?

Mr. Jason Nixon: The NDP acting leader continues the habit of her party; their party in this House continues to misrepresent the facts. That is not an accurate statement, but what is accurate is that she was the Deputy Premier of a government that brought in a carbon tax, the largest tax in the history of our province, that hurt my constituents and your constituents, Mr. Speaker. She was part of a government that you know told my constituents at the West Country seniors' centre to fund raise to pay for her carbon tax. She has no credibility on this issue. Her party has no credibility on this issue. We will stand up for Albertans.

Ms Hoffman: Is that why they're kicking 46,000 people off the seniors' drug plan, Mr. Speaker?

Yesterday I met with parents who are already pushed to the brink by government hiking up their school fees. Some educational assistants received layoff notices on budget day. I met with a student who understands better than the Education minister or anyone in the government the damage that's being done by defunding the school system. Why is the Premier stealing from children and educational assistants, who ...

Mr. Jason Nixon: Point of order.

Ms Hoffman: ... on average make \$32,000 a year, to give \$4.7 billion to profitable corporations?

The Speaker: The hon. member knows that saying that the Premier is stealing from children would be wildly unparliamentary. She can apologize at the next opportunity.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the acting leader of the NDP wants to talk about tax policy. It's ridiculous. She was part of a government, again, that brought in a carbon tax that reached into every Albertan's pocket, taking money out of hard-working Albertans' pockets, and then put it into her slush fund, that never even had an impact on the environment. It was all economic pain and no environmental gain. That's what they did at the very time that Albertans needed their government to stand up for them. They came in and knocked them down again while they were already down. That's their legacy.

The Speaker: Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora, if you'd like to talk about it at the end of question period, I'm happy to do that if you'd prefer.

For now, then, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Public and Catholic schools in Red Deer are reeling after finding out that the government misled them about their budget. Red Deer public says that they're getting \$3.7 million less than the minister led them to believe, and Red Deer Catholic says that they're getting \$2 million less than they were promised. To the Premier: why did your Education minister fail to tell the truth to the people of Red Deer?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. As promised during the election, we have maintained education funding for our K to 12 system. We have also accounted for enrolment growth. Every single student who walks through that door in one of our schools will be funded at the exact same base rate they were funded at last year.

Ms Hoffman: Red Deer public: \$3.7 million less than they were led to believe. Red Deer Catholic: \$2 million less than they were promised. The superintendent of Red Deer public, Stu Henry, says

that this budget, quote, will have a significant impact on staff and ultimately on students. He went on to say that it will mean looking at school fees to offset costs due to the shortfall in provincial funding. Why is this Premier taking money away from families in Red Deer to pay for his \$4.7 billion no-jobs corporate handout while EnCana is moving south of the border?

2:00

Member LaGrange: Well, as we've said many times, our government is absolutely committed to quality education for our students. The Education Act restricts school authorities from charging fees for instructional supplies and materials. We do respect the autonomy of local boards to make decisions for their local jurisdictions.

Ms Hoffman: The reality of this budget is far from the fantasy that the UCP government tried to peddle during the election and the government still tries to peddle in this House, but the truth is in black and white, Mr. Speaker. Last week the budget was tabled: hundreds of millions of dollars less for schools, fewer teachers, more kids in classrooms, fewer educational assistants, more time on buses, less individual support for kids with special needs, and more fees for parents. Why does the government choose to assault education just to give \$4.7 billion in a no-jobs corporate handout to companies that are moving away from Alberta?

Member LaGrange: Let's talk about school fees, Mr. Speaker. Under her leadership in 2011-2012 Edmonton public collected \$28 million in fees; in 2012-13, \$29 million; in 2013-14, \$31 million; in 2014-15, over \$37 million. If the acting leader truly objected to school fees, she would have demonstrated that as chair of Edmonton public. Instead, she is using the issue to try and score points for her NDP leadership campaign.

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

Postsecondary Education Budget 2019-2020

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Advanced Education says that he wants universities to cut overhead costs. Now we know that he meant that quite literally. There's no more money to fix the roof. The University of Alberta lost its entire infrastructure maintenance grant in this current budget. That's \$35 million worth of roofs, plumbing, and mechanical systems maintenance not completed. Why is this minister allowing valuable provincial assets like university buildings to deteriorate so that he can pay for his \$4.7 billion corporate handout?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Nicolaides: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The capital maintenance and renewal budget and program is an important part, of course, of funding to our institutions, but, regrettably, because of the very challenging and difficult financial situation that we're in, we've had to make some very difficult decisions, including that. However, we have told our institutions that we will simply be pausing the capital maintenance and renewal program, and we'll be in a position to have it back online in future years.

Mr. Eggen: Well, given that the real victims of this terrible budget and their \$4.7 billion no-jobs corporate handout are the people of Alberta and given that the University of Alberta president, David Turpin, said yesterday that staff cuts are definitely on the table, how many postsecondary educators need to lose their jobs to pay for the no-jobs handout to companies like EnCana and Husky?

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

Mr. Nicolaides: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been indeed talking with the University of Alberta and, of course, all of our institutions. We want to make sure that as our institutions look to find savings, they do so in a way that minimizes any impact to students. I've requested from all of our institutions that they submit to my department a budget implementation plan by December 2 so we can have a closer understanding of how they seek to operate over the next few months and ensure that front-line services and high-quality education continues to be delivered.

Mr. Eggen: Well, Mr. Speaker, President Turpin, who I think knows what he's doing, believes that the corporate handout will cost his university about \$2,000 per full-time student and given that each of these students is also likely facing a 21 per cent tuition hike, can the minister explain why Alberta students are paying more to get less for their education while companies like EnCana and Husky get a nice handout to lay off Albertans and then subsequently leave town?

Mr. Nicolaides: Mr. Speaker, our ultimate objective and goal is to ensure a financially sustainable postsecondary system that delivers high-quality results and that ensures we are training a modern and diverse workforce. Under the former government our postsecondary system was left rudderless, without direction, and all they did was continue to throw money at the problem, as we've seen from them time and time again. With every problem they encounter, I guess the solution is just to throw money at it. We will find a much better approach to deliver high-quality postsecondary to the province of Alberta.

Skilled Trades Training

Mr. Loewen: Mr. Speaker, my riding of Central Peace-Notley does not have big cities full of people. Rather, the towns and hamlets spread out across its boundaries serve as meeting points and service providers for a largely rural population. Among these services provided is advanced education, specifically the trades colleges, like in Fairview. The skills taught at schools are necessary to keep Albertans up to speed on the latest developments in industry and agriculture, enhancing farms and businesses across my constituency. Can the minister explain how this government seeks to continue its partnership with local trade schools and deliver topquality education to rural Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Nicolaides: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Partnering with our rural local trade schools is an important priority. We'll be continuing to partner with them in a number of ways. First and foremost, as many people here know, of course, we've made an important and significant investment in trade programming across the province, which a lot of our rural colleges will benefit from. As well, as we work to roll out a new funding formula, we'll be working with each individual institution to find a way forward that is best suited.

Mr. Loewen: Mr. Speaker, given that the previous NDP administration racked up unsustainable debt levels and given that the budget delivered last week is set on balancing the efficient delivery of services with paying off the massive debt load the NDP saddled Albertans with and given that this government seeks to deliver topquality education efficiently to all Albertans and given that the trades are an essential component of Alberta's economy and our campaign commitments, will the minister explain to the House how this government will support the trades and, by extension, fulfill its promise to get Albertans back to work? The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Nicolaides: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, getting Albertans back to work is our top priority, which is reflected in our investment in the skilled trades. Just the other day I had the fortune of being with the Premier to make an announcement with Careers: the Next Generation, which at the moment allows 1,500 high school students to participate in apprenticeship learning. Our goal is to quadruple that number to 6,000 to help more students find pathways in apprenticeship learning. I want to thank the member. I've had the opportunity of visiting Fairview and, in particular, visiting the Fairview campus and having a great opportunity to find out more about the excellent trade programming that is occurring there in his own constituency.

Mr. Loewen: Given that this government was elected to return Alberta's finances to order and given that this most recent budget calls for tightening of belts, particularly in Advanced Education, and given that larger institutions like Mount Royal, the University of Calgary, or the University of Alberta are able to weather financial storms due to their size and assets and given that the trade schools across my riding are small but essential to growth of trades and agriculture, can the minister explain how this government will veer from the unrestrained spending of the previous administration while at the same time ensuring smaller schools are not lost in the shuffle?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Nicolaides: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an important question and a very important challenge. Of course, as we know, the MacKinnon panel had some very clear details around postsecondary spending. To address this problem, we will be transforming the way in which we fund our postsecondary institutions to ensure the financial viability of the system and to ensure that our postsecondary system is meeting current labour demands and addressing the future labour challenges within the province.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall has the call.

Calgary Police Service Funding

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few days ago in this House the Member for Calgary-Cross described the "devastating crime wave" that our constituents have experienced. But on Monday Calgary police chief, Mark Neufeld, told city council that the province is removing \$13 million from the Calgary police budget. Can the Justice minister confirm he's raiding the Calgary police budget during a devastating crime wave, or is he going to call Chief Neufeld a liar?

2:10

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, we have fully funded the two grants that are provided to the city of Calgary for policing. We have dedicated additional resources for policing across Alberta, including the Alberta law enforcement response teams. Earlier this week I sent a clear signal to the mayor of Calgary that they need to get their fiscal house in order and start funding the priorities of Calgarians. I'm a Calgarian. I'm tired of my taxes going up. I'm tired of his pet projects. It's time to fund policing. It's time for the mayor of Calgary to get his house in order.

Mr. Sabir: Given that Chief Neufeld said, and I quote, you start talking about numbers like \$13 million; that's about 130 positions is what that equates to, end quote, does the minister want the city of Calgary to hike property taxes to backfill his raiding of the police

budget, or is he okay with having 130 fewer officers patrolling the streets of Calgary during a crime wave?

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, I've talked to Chief Neufeld, and I've encouraged him to talk to his mayor to get Calgary's fiscal house in order. We have a former government on the other side that loved raising taxes. We also have a mayor in Calgary that loves to raise taxes. They have a joint connection here. They love Justin Trudeau. Our mayor of Calgary loves Justin Trudeau. That was a failed alliance for Alberta. We're standing up for Alberta. We all want to see Calgary get its fiscal house in order. I'm tired of paying more taxes in Calgary.

Mr. Sabir: Given that the minister told this House in June, "We're going to be making sure that our law enforcement officials have the resources that they need to get the job done," and given that now he is actually taking \$13 million away from law enforcement in Calgary, can the Justice minister explain, without having another public meltdown, why he's abandoning public safety in Calgary to pay for the Premier's \$4.7 billion corporate handout?

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to be lectured about justice and policing by the members opposite. Remember that earlier last month I invited all members opposite to come hear about their legacy on crime. We had a bus with "NDP legacy tour." They won't come and hear about their record. They won't come and hear about their record on crime. We have been clear in our budget. We are funding policing, more money for policing. It's time for the city of Calgary to get its fiscal house in order.

Budget 2019 Impact on Women

Member Irwin: Mr. Speaker, this government's budget attacks a lot of Albertans: postsecondary students, workers, AISH recipients. The list goes on. But today I'd like to talk about the impacts on women. The impacts are significant: on professions that are predominantly women such as nurses and teachers to cuts to affordable housing to deindexing the Alberta seniors' benefit, which impacts thousands of senior women. To the minister responsible for status of women: given all of these terrible changes, how have you been advocating for women with your cabinet colleagues? And, please, be specific.

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to work with a government that understands the fiscal situation that we're in right now. I would suggest that the member needs to actually ask internally, in the opposition, about the hundreds of thousands of jobs that were lost while they were in government. In fact, if you look at the energy industry alone, 24 per cent of the workers that are in the energy industry are women, many of whom have lost their jobs as a result of very bad policy on that side.

Member Irwin: Mr. Speaker, given that on Tuesday we debated the Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women estimates and given that while the answers left something to be desired, my colleagues and I were happy to share the concerns of Albertans and given that there was only one question on issues faced by women or gender-diverse folks from the government caucus, can the minister please explain how, moving forward, she's going to be prioritizing supports for women when most of her colleagues don't seem to care about 50 per cent of the population? The Speaker: The hon. the minister of status of women.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you. Well, I can honestly say that on this side we deeply, deeply care about every single person in this province, especially women and LGBTQ2S-plus. One of the things I'm most proud of – actually, there are a couple of things. The Minister of Advanced Education has actively been working with Women Building Futures to make sure – when we were looking at some of the issues of gaps within working sectors for women, one of the big things that we found out was that there was not enough investment and whatnot going into women in STEM programs.

Member Irwin: Given that this government is reducing funding for Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women by a whopping 33 per cent, a funny way of showing your support, and given that this is just to make up for their \$4.7 billion no-jobs giveaway and given that when asked about a significant number of women health care workers who were fired, this minister suggested they go back to school or get a job in the trades, to the minister: can you please assure this House that despite your government's disinterest in women, we won't see any further cuts in the future?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you. Well, actually, I would suggest that the member again take a look at her own government, which brought in the largest tax ever in Alberta, which absolutely impacted women far more than anybody else in this province. If you want to talk about the impacts on women in this province, you only need to look at the previous government and the absolutely insulting tax that was put upon this province day after day. It impacted their ability to run their households, their ability to feed their families, go to work, and multiple other things.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod is rising with a question.

Landowner Property Rights

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans have demanded that our government stand up for property rights. Previous abuses of these rights include false premises for expropriation, low compensation offers, devalued property, and the government freezing part or all of a private property with regulation but offering no compensation. During the campaign our party promised to fix these issues and restore the trust of Albertans in their government that we would protect property rights. Can the Minister of Justice inform us on what actions our government is taking to uphold Albertans' property rights?

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, let me be clear. This government respects property rights. When the Jumbo Valley trespass happened, the invasion of that property, we came out with a clear message, that trespassing on rural residences is not going to be accepted and that there are going to be real consequences to that. Our government will also be bringing forward a new Alberta property rights act that will further entrench the right to not be deprived of enjoyment or use of property without due process of the law.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod has the call.

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. Given that Alberta is the only province that allows squatters to make legal claims to someone else's private property and given that one of our government's promises was to amend the Land Titles Act and bar

The Speaker: I see the hon. Minister of Service Alberta has risen to answer.

Mr. Glubish: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member for Livingstone-Macleod has said, this was one of the promises that we made in our platform. We are reviewing the recommendations from the Alberta Law Reform Institute about abolishing adverse possession, and we're reviewing our options to help address this issue. The Minister of Justice and Solicitor General has been leading the legislative work on this, but Service Alberta supports the minister. We'll work collaboratively with him and his department as they work to deliver on this platform commitment on adverse possession. We do recognize the hardships that landowners have faced on this file.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister for his answer. Given that landowners have no explicit right to private property in our Constitution and given that Albertans have not always been fairly compensated for their private property by the government and given that property owners often lack options to take action against governments that are abusing power, how will this government protect private property owners from government overreach and their abuse of power?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice.

Mr. Schweitzer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. Albertans will never be deprived of their right to own and enjoy their property without due process of the law. Our proposed Alberta property rights act, when we bring it forward, will propose an amendment to the Constitution to enshrine property rights in Alberta. We will also treat government regulation of real property the same as government expropriation for the purposes of compensation. This party is proud to stand with landowners, proud to stand up for property rights. It's a foundation of our party, and we're proud to stand as a government for property rights.

Energy Efficiency Programs

Mr. Schmidt: Prior to 2017 Alberta was the only jurisdiction in all of North America that didn't have an energy efficiency agency. Our government changed that by creating Energy Efficiency Alberta, that saved Albertans \$330 million in energy costs. Now those programs are all gone so that this government can pay for its \$4.7 billion corporate handout. To the minister of the environment. Your government is increasing taxes and fees on almost everything. How do you expect families to continue to invest in energy efficiency?

2:20

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I see the NDP still don't understand why they were fired in April. Part of the big reason why they were fired in April is a result of the carbon tax that paid for the things that the hon. member is talking about. He seems to think that was free. What happened is that they reached in and taxed hockey moms and hockey dads, took that money out of their pockets, and then went and spent it on a slush fund that the NDP had for their own special projects, many of which had no impact on the

environment, some of which were spent on Ontario companies to install light bulbs and shower heads. We've been clear. We were clear with Albertans in April. We will have a different approach when it comes to emissions. We're excited about it. It'll be focused on technology and innovation, but it won't be from taking money away from hockey moms and hockey dads.

Mr. Schmidt: Given, Mr. Speaker, that those hockey moms and hockey dads are now paying more in property taxes, more in car insurance, more in home heating and electricity bills and getting nothing in return and given that the energy agency itself was creating 2,300 jobs and now this government has killed 27,000 jobs, what does this minister have to say to the thousands more who will lose their jobs in what was a booming green industry?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, it's ridiculous to watch the NDP continue to misrepresent facts over and over. Here's what I would have to say to Albertans. They fired the NDP in April. That was the start of getting us back on track. We've inherited a mess. That member was part of the cabinet that gave us that mess. We will be working diligently side by side with our industry, side by side with Albertans to get this province back on track. They can rest assured that Alberta now has a government, unlike the former government, who will not stand and protest with communist flags flying over the Legislature against our largest industries.

Mr. Schmidt: Given that I suspect the minister prefers Confederate flags to communist flags and given that the EEA contributed to \$475 million . . .

Mr. Ellis: Point of order.

Mr. Schmidt: ... in economic growth and given that some business owners in the solar industry are saying that with the cancellation of these programs they will, quote, go broke, what does the minister have to say to businesses who will be crippled by his decision to cancel energy efficiency programs to pay off the \$4.7 billion hole that he's given to big corporations?

The Speaker: The point of order from Calgary-West is noted at 2:23.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I prefer the Alberta flag, which flies proudly on my farm. I'm proud to be part of a government that will stand up for this province. That hon. member has been part of a government that has worked against this province, that sold out Albertans to Justin Trudeau and to their federal NDP leader. I'm proud of this province. I'm proud of the men and women who built this province. I'm proud of the energy industry in this province. I'm proud of Albertans north to south, east to west, and I will assure you this government will stand with them every day. Thank goodness the NDP is gone because all they do is sell them out.

Red Tape Reduction Funding

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, the government has claimed to be tackling red tape. They appointed an associate minister to lead their efforts, and they promised this initiative would create jobs. Well, 27,000 jobs have been lost since this government has taken over. Instead of reducing red tape, the associate minister is actually tripling it according to the budget tabled on Thursday. Can the associate minister explain to this House why he is tripling the size of his ministry while Albertans are being told to sacrifice to pay for a no-jobs \$4.7 billion corporate giveaway?

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth on what he just said there. Let's just talk about what their record is.

The truth is that they drove businesses away from this province. They drove the businesses away, and we lost jobs because of that. Over 170,000 jobs were lost because that government would not stand up with our job creators and our innovators. This government will do what we need to do, which is stand up for those job creators and those innovators.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, given that the red tape minister's budget will cost Albertans \$10 million by 2022 and given that the government is heartlessly taking away an estimated \$7 million this year alone from Albertans living with disabilities, can the Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction please tell this House why he deserves a constantly growing budget while AISH recipients are being told the cost of living is too much to ask for?

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, what I will tell this House is that what we're doing for Alberta is that we're trying to get Albertans back to work. We promised Albertans that we were going to jump-start the economy and get Albertans back to work, and that's what we will deliver. One of the ways to be able to do that is that we looked at other jurisdictions that did it well, reduced the amount of taxes that they have to pay, get a sustainable government working, and make sure that we reduce the regulatory burden. When the government did this in the past, we saw over 150 corporate head offices move here. Unfortunately, we've seen EnCana leave because of what this government did in the past. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nielsen: Given the minister of red tape was tasked with creating an environment to encourage job creation and the only real job he's managed to create is his own at a cost of \$10 million and given that he's asking Alberta families to pay higher tuition, higher income taxes, higher insurance costs, and much, much more to subsidize the government's \$4.7 billion corporate giveaway, to the minister: given the huge costs of his department and zero return he's providing the people of Alberta, will he agree it's time to eliminate the red tape that is his ministry, or does he support red tape only when his name is on the letterhead?

Mr. Hunter: You know, Mr. Speaker, let's talk about real history rather than the revisionist history that these members continue to do. The truth is that I brought forward a private member's bill about three and a half years ago that talked about red tape reduction. You know, if that government had acted upon that, perhaps we would not have seen EnCana leave and not lost all those jobs because of that. They need to look in the mirror when they look at the job crisis that this province is in.

Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Speaker, Albertans are generous people. We pride ourselves on helping our fellow Canadians, especially when times are tough elsewhere, regardless of what the NDP might say. All we ask in return is for a fair deal: the right to develop our resources and the self-determination to manage them. Albertans are practical, realistic people, and we have been clear that we should be focused on being champions of our energy industry and environmental record rather than villainizing them. To the Minister of Environment and Parks: what is our government doing to ensure that Alberta remains innovative in deploying emissions reduction technology?

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

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. I was excited yesterday to announce the winners of Emissions Reduction Alberta grand challenge to companies, who will split \$10 million to fund cutting-edge technology when it comes to emissions reductions: CarbonCure, who will save 530,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2030 in the province of Alberta and a staggering 554 million litres of water annually; and Mangrove technologies, who will reduce 1.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year by 2030 all because they make new products.

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Speaker, given that Albertans voted overwhelmingly against the carbon tax on April 16 and given that Justin Trudeau has said that he will institute a carbon tax on any province that does not do so of its own volition and given that our government has a plan to ensure that emissions are reduced through our TIER program and given that the federal government has been working in other ways such as C-48 and C-69 to cripple our energy industry, Minister, will the TIER system help to avert this gross federal overreach?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, our industry partners were clear with us that they wanted to be regulated here in Alberta. They were crystal clear that they did not want to be sold out by this government like they were sold out by the last government. We've worked hard over the last six months to come up with a system that will keep our regulations on our industry right here in this province, not in Ottawa, and help us to continue to defend our largest industry inside this province and other industries going forward. We're excited about it. It's a refreshing change from the NDP's approach, which was to sell them out to their ally Justin Trudeau.

Mr. Milliken: Given that Justin Trudeau's environment minister, Catherine McKenna, has gone on record saying, "I don't have time for politicians that play cynical games about climate change, and I don't have time for politicians who pretend that climate change isn't real" and given that we say that climate change is real, to the same minister: what is our government doing to convince the Trudeau Liberals that their carbon tax on everyone and everything does nothing to reduce emissions and that our TIER plan, the technology innovation and emissions reduction system is a plan that can actually work? [interjections] Regardless of what they're saying on the other side against me.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is right. We're focused on technology and innovation that could actually reduce emissions. We're excited about that. Further to that, our message to Ottawa is that if they really want to have an impact on global GHG emissions, the solution is right here in Alberta with our clean natural gas. We will continue to call on Ottawa to help get our clean energy to places like Asia and India, which will have the biggest impact on GHG emissions while at the same time helping people out of poverty. It's time for the federal government to recognize the solution to this is Alberta.

The Speaker: The hon. the Member for Edmonton-Meadows.

2:30 Head Coverings Worn in Schools

Mr. Deol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been more than two weeks since I asked the Minister of Education about the racial profiling incident at Christ the King elementary school, where an 11-year-old boy was told to remove his do-rag. When his mother protested, she was banned from the school property. The minister promised to investigate and report back to this House, but we are still waiting.

This minister is already enabling homophobic and transphobic bullying. Why is she also enabling racial profiling?

Mr. McIver: Point of order.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally, categorically disagree with the statements that have been said by the hon. member. I am awaiting the report to come from Edmonton Catholic, and once I have that report I will share it.

Mr. Deol: Mr. Speaker, given that while this minister has done nothing for weeks, this boy has been forced to change schools and given that his mother has received no apology from this school or the district and remains banned from the school, will the minister direct Edmonton Catholic school to apologize to this family and lift the ban today?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. Again, I have been very clear that I support school board autonomy. They are looking into the matter. They are in the best position to look into and do the investigation. I will leave it in their capable hands.

Mr. Deol: Mr. Speaker, given that this incident has been deeply painful for Emmell, his family, and their community and given that this family has been ignored by the school, by the district, and by this minister's own office, will the Minister of Education commit to meeting in person with this family?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. I'm always happy to meet with anyone. I'm very accessible. My doors are always open. People are phoning all the time. I have not received a request to meet from this individual.

Transportation and Community Grant Program Funding

Ms Pancholi: Mr. Speaker, this week I stood with several of my Edmonton-Whitemud constituents to talk about how this government's budget breaks promises. They promised and campaigned that they would keep the previous government's capital plan, but now thanks to their budget the Terwillegar Drive expansion that south Edmonton has been waiting years for is on the chopping block. Can the Minister of Transportation explain why my constituents will be sitting longer in traffic because he is prioritizing a \$4.7 billion no-jobs corporate giveaway over the needs of the people of Edmonton?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Transportation is rising.

Mr. McIver: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It surprises me to agree with the member that this project is important – not that the project is important; that's obvious – but usually there's not much to agree with.

I will say to the hon. member and the rest of the House that there are a lot of worthwhile projects across Alberta, and when we set our capital plan, it is a very tough job to decide what gets funded and what does not. But I can assure the hon. member that this project remains in our consideration for future years because it is important.

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

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that my constituency of Edmonton-Whitemud is home to many active and successful community leagues and given that the government callously cut community facility enhancement program funding by 35 per cent, a program that the community leagues that I represent rely on, and given that the Minister of Finance told people concerned with cuts to CFEP and CIP that they would be required to do more with less, can the Minister of Culture explain why profitable corporations are being given more, but community leagues are being given less?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, firstly, I need to correct the record again. Our job-creation tax cut will result in an exponentially lower reduction in government revenues than what the members opposite are suggesting. In fact, this year alone the reduction in corporate tax revenue will be one hundred million dollars, far from the numbers they're putting out. More importantly, it will attract investment, create jobs and opportunities, the very opposite effect of what the previous government did.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that on page 144 of the minister's own fiscal plan it states that the corporate tax will give away \$4.7 billion and given that the people of Edmonton-Whitemud are known for their generosity – I know many of my constituents give their time volunteering and giving to charities and nonprofits like their local school councils – and given that this government has spurred tons of confusion by eliminating the lottery fund, which supported volunteer organizations and nonprofits, and moving those funds into general revenue, can the Minister of Finance please explain why charities in my constituency get nothing but confusion from this government while corporations get gigantic handouts?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, we are dissolving the lottery fund. The function of that fund will continue as it has in the past. Charities and nonprofit groups will benefit at the same level as they have in the past. But something I don't expect the members opposite to understand is that we're doing this to streamline government, to reduce our capital required to operate, and save taxpayers \$13 million a year. We will deliver effectively but will do that in a much more cost-effective manner. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

The hon. Member for Calgary-North has risen with a question.

Drug Treatment Courts

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning it was announced that this government will be increasing funding to drug treatment courts to the tune of \$20 million over four years. These courts are an avenue for people who are facing serious charges to get access to treatment and recovery resources to turn their lives around. To the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General: how will this funding benefit those seeking treatment through drug courts?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Schweitzer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. It was with great pride that I was there this morning to announce the expansion of drug treatment courts. We will be doubling the size of the drug treatment courts in the cities of Calgary and Edmonton. We're also looking to expand now as well into midsize centres across Alberta. That's the start. This program works. It's powerful. I was involved as a volunteer on the Calgary

drug treatment court board before I got into politics. It has resounding results. It also changes lives. It allows people to reconnect with family and get their lives back on track.

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

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. Given that many Albertans have turned their lives around through the drug treatment courts and also given that the program is intended to break the cycle of criminal behaviour driven by addiction, to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General: how successful is this program in reducing repeat offences?

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, this program is based on accountability. Seventy per cent of the graduates don't reoffend again. They're held accountable through a court process, where they have to go and look the judge in the eye on a weekly or biweekly basis as to the progress that they're having in this. They have to admit their guilt up front, and sentencing is deferred until they can graduate. It holds people accountable. It's compassionate, but it's also firm. We believe in giving addicts a chance to recover. That's what this program will do.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the government has also committed to improving the overall mental health and addiction care system and also given that the many people who are in the cycle of addiction are also in the criminal justice system, to the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions: how does this expansion of drug treatment courts align with the government's addiction strategy?

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

Mr. Luan: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government's approach to addiction is fair, firm, and compassionate, fair to the communities that are dealing with addiction and crime, firm in tackling the disease of addiction, and compassionate in understanding that this is a health care issue. People need treatment and recovery. Drug treatment courts are an important part of our approach that will give people the opportunity to recover and to live a positive, engaged citizenship.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont.

2:40 Postsecondary Education Funding

Mr. Rutherford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One week ago today our provincial budget was tabled. It is clear that we have set a path to balancing the budget in our province as we understand the need to live within our means while also taking steps to ensure sustainability going forward. One area that Albertans spend far more on than any other province is in Advanced Education. The budget notes that we will be moving towards a performance-based funding model. To the minister: how and when do you plan on implementing this new funding model, and have postsecondary institutions been consulted on the changes?

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

Mr. Nicolaides: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I have a bold and ambitious vision for our postsecondary system, one that is The member is correct. We are in the process of transforming the way in which we fund our postsecondary institutions. Of course, we will be consulting and working with all of our postsecondary stakeholders as we develop this new, transformative model.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont.

Mr. Rutherford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, an overwhelming majority of Albertans voted for a government that takes real leadership and does not shy away from hard decisions. I have still heard concerns in regard to the reduction of operating grants for our postsecondary institutions. Given that grants have been reduced and given that the tuition freeze has been lifted, to the minister: what tools or alternative revenue sources are available to postsecondary institutions to help absorb this reduction in grant funding?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Nicolaides: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. Of course, our institutions have a number of vehicles and mechanisms available to them in terms of revenue generation. Regrettably, under the former government there were a lot of handcuffs placed on our institutions and more onerous red tape that prevented them from engaging in other commercial activities to generate revenue from other sources. We are actively looking at ways of relaxing and loosening those restrictions with the right level of oversight and risk management so that our institutions can continue to generate revenue from other sources.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Rutherford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have also heard concerns about how the government allocated the grant reduction differently for institutions. Given that some postsecondary institutions will have to find a way to absorb this reduction in funding while others will not and given that this could directly affect the ability of the institution to attract students, can the minister explain to Albertans why 21 institutions in Alberta saw a reduction in grant funding while another five had their funding held?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Nicolaides: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been looking at the best mechanism in which to work with our institutions to find savings. At the end of the day, we recognize that a blind and uninformed savings reduction target across the system, a 5 per cent reduction across the system, would not be the most efficient and effective way. What we did is that we looked at the historical surpluses that our institutions have had going back the past five years. We applied savings targets to those institutions based on their historical surpluses. It's important to note that when we took a look at those surpluses, we saw that on average the postsecondary system has been generating over \$250 million in surpluses. We used that decision-making to decide how best to allocate those reductions within the first year.

The Speaker: Hon. members, in 30 seconds or less we will be proceeding to the rest of the daily Routine. Those of you who are travelling home for Halloween today, please drive safely and remember that it's better to drive to arrive alive.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

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

Mr. Hanson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On July 2, 2019, the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship was deemed by the Assembly to be the special committee for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act pursuant to section 14 of that act. As chair of the committee it is my honour to table the requisite number of copies of the committee's report on the review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act. Copies of the report are also available through the committee office and online.

Notices of Motions

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, after consulting with my colleague the Official Opposition House Leader, I wish to table a revision to the 2019-20 main estimates schedule. This revision is to change the time for the Municipal Affairs estimates by one hour in order to allow members the opportunity to participate in Remembrance Day ceremony events at the Legislature that morning.

The Speaker: Before I call on the hon. Minister of Transportation, I might just mention, Government House Leader: the same goal has been accomplished, but that's a tabling of a document. We don't have to move a motion in order for the estimates to be heard, just for future reference. But I appreciate it.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation was rising for a tabling.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have five copies of the Canada-Alberta integrated bilateral agreement for the investing in Canada infrastructure program. In section 22 it has a remedy whereby the Canadian government may decide after the fact to withdraw from the program and not pay, fairly similar to the provincial remedy that has been discussed.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Red Deer-South has a tabling.

Mr. Stephan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two tablings today. I rise to table the five requisite copies of an article by Moodys tax law, the first titled New Alberta Investment Tax Credits – Great for Business or Bureaucrats?

I also would like to table the requisite copies of a second article by Moodys tax law titled Alberta Investor Tax Credit Program – Even More Bad News.

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

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table five copies of an article entitled Taxing the Rich to Fund Welfare Is the Nobel Winner's Growth Mantra. The Nobel prize winner in economics suggests that reducing taxes to boost investment is a myth. "You are giving incentives to the rich who are already sitting on tons of cash."

Thank you.

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

Mr. Getson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have two tablings, the five requisite copies. The first one is from a constituent in regard to the stress that construction companies were under during the time – it was earlier in the First Session; I never had an opportunity to do that – when the NDP and Trudeau governments were causing undue pressures.

The second one I'd like to table is a clinical hearing evaluation for myself in regard to the left ear, that I have issues with, and I also have included a colour photocopy of the earplug I used in my left ear. I promised earlier in the week that I would table that to hopefully end that dialogue once and for all.

Thank you.

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

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have the requisite number of copies of two pieces of correspondence today from folks who are deeply concerned about education. One is somebody at the Buffalo Trail school division who talks about the \$800,000 in cuts that they anticipate as well as \$600,000 in growth pressures and the inability to serve students effectively.

The second one is from a teacher in Morinville who talks about having 35 students in a bio 30 class and the pressures that puts on and a sense of significant disappointment in this budget.

The Speaker: The Member for St. Albert.

Ms Renaud: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. My first tabling is from the *Green European Journal*, and it's written by Dr. Katharine Hayhoe and Tine Hens. It's entitled Rational Hope: Connecting Hard Truth with Climate Solutions.

The second one is for the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud. It is just for clarity. People seem to be confused. It's page 144 of the government's fiscal plan for 2019-2023.

The Speaker: Are there other tablings? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the appropriate number of copies of communications from Susan Morrison from Tundra Petroleum Services, who talks about the fact that the Alberta export expansion program helped them access new markets and how disappointed she was to learn that this current government is no longer interested in supporting Alberta companies seeking new markets.

2:50

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation has another tabling.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have five copies of a guide, if you will, to places on the Alberta government website where templates of standard government contracts can be found, all of which include text that allows the government to withdraw from those funding agreements pretty much at any time they want, which also was the subject of some discussion this week.

Point of Order

Parliamentary Language

The Speaker: Hon. members, we are at points of order. At approximately 2:21 I called the hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora to order. To provide some context, obviously, points of order are typically heard after question period. However, if the Speaker deems for any reason to call a member to order, they are able to do so.

I believe the member is prepared to apologize unless you want to discuss the reasons why I might have called you to order.

Ms Hoffman: I'm happy to do so, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, I understand that your ruling is very clear, that saying "why is the Premier stealing" is unparliamentary. For that, I apologize and instead will use language more becoming of the House, even when I'm feeling so frustrated. I'm apologizing for the language that I used.

The Speaker: Apology accepted. That issue is dealt with and concluded.

At approximately 2:33 the hon. Minister of Transportation called a point of order.

Point of Order Allegations against a Member

Mr. McIver: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. At that time the hon.

member from across made comments about the hon. Minister of Education. While I don't have the Blues, they said something to the effect or pretty close to: the minister is enabling transphobic and racist behaviours. Now, as unpleasant as that is, I don't believe anybody in this House would be guilty of those things, but under 23(h), (i), and (j) it makes it clear that you can't make allegations against another member nor impute false or unavowed motives to another member.

My understanding of the way that you've ruled in this House on these matters, Mr. Speaker, is that as unpleasant as that may be, people can kind of get away with saying that the party opposite or something to that effect has done these things. But to actually pin that on an individual member, impugning their reputation, I think is generally considered unparliamentary, and I would ask you to ask that that be withdrawn.

The Speaker: The hon. Official Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Bilous: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Without getting into details nor arguing this point, I will on behalf of the Member for Edmonton-Meadows withdraw the comment.

The Speaker: I consider the matter to be dealt with and accepted. Members, the point of order which was called by the hon.

Member for Calgary-West has been withdrawn.

Hon. members, we are at Ordres du jour.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 19 Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction Implementation Act, 2019

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

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce for second reading the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction Implementation Act, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to rise and speak about this important piece of legislation. I do hope that it will gain the support of all members of the Assembly as it works its way through the debate in this Chamber.

I think it's important, before we talk about Bill 19, that we take a step back and look at the very first bill that made it through the 30th

Legislature inside this Assembly, which was the bill to repeal the job-killing carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. We made a promise to Albertans when we campaigned to earn the privilege to come to this place that we would get rid of the job-killing carbon tax, which was a tax on everyday Albertans, that reached into everyday Albertans' pockets and took their money and put it into NDP slush funds. We promised that, and right away we were able to keep that promise. I think it's very important that we remember that and we continue to celebrate that. The removal of the largest tax increase in the history of this province by the NDP is certainly something to celebrate.

[Mr. Hanson in the chair]

With that said, Mr. Speaker, Alberta has had a long history of managing emissions, of managing our environment, of taking the lead when it comes to our industrial activities. We're a proud, energy-producing province. We've been a leader on that file for a long time, not pursuing taxes on everyday citizens but working with the entrepreneurs in our industry, working with the innovators that have created the oil sands and other energy miracles right here in this province, that have been able to provide the economic engine not only of the province of Alberta but of the country of Canada.

Alberta was the first jurisdiction to manage its emissions. You don't hear that often, Mr. Speaker, when you're looking at the conversation when it comes around our energy industry, which is the best in the world. But the reality is that we have led the way in this province on this file for a very long time. At no time have we ever submitted in any arguments that we would not work with our industries to manage emissions, to manage pollution, to make sure that we can continue to have the best energy products and other products in this province to be able to sell to the world. We've been committed to that for decades. This government was clear in our platform that we will remain committed to that for decades to come.

But it's important to understand the contrast. Our vision when it comes to this important file is to continue to embrace that entrepreneurial spirit, to continue to stand with innovators inside our province, to make sure that we have a path forward to lower emissions and lower pollution inside our province, Mr. Speaker. The NDP and their allies like Justin Trudeau and their federal leader have a different vision, which is to tax everyday Albertans – hockey moms and hockey dads, seniors, people on fixed incomes – to tax our municipalities, to tax our schools, to tax legions, to tax on and on and on. We reject that approach. We will continue to reject that approach going forward.

So today I'm bringing forward second reading of a piece of legislation that allows us to continue the great tradition in this province of being able to continue to develop our products in the most environmentally friendly way so that we can sell them to the world, Mr. Speaker, by again being hand in hand with technology and innovation.

You know, yesterday I had the privilege of speaking at an Emission Reductions Alberta event here in Edmonton. We announced two important projects that I think really illustrate what we're talking about. We announced \$10 million in funding for two different organizations. One is CarbonCure, who's bringing in a way to use carbon dioxide to turn it into valuable chemicals, to take the by-product of some of the other products that we're already building inside this province and then go and make it valuable and turn it into chemicals that they can sell. All the while, we're reducing emissions. In their case, they anticipate saving 530 tonnes of emissions by the year 2030 in this province and are expected to save – and I think this is very impressive – a staggering 554 million litres of water a year.

That's a big difference from what the former government did, bringing in a tax on places – I often liked to talk about, Mr. Speaker, as you know, when I was in opposition, the impact that the carbon tax that the NDP brought in had on my constituents. One of the stories I often liked to tell was what happened to the West Country seniors' centre right inside my constituency. I know that you know the story, but it's worth repeating quickly. This is a seniors' centre that was completely self-funded by the seniors that used it, created a recreation opportunity for the people in my community. The now Premier and I visited it a couple of times in opposition. You know, they almost shut down because the NDP's carbon tax on their heat caused them not to be able to afford to pay the bills, and they were going to lose the opportunity.

That's a contrast: a tax that you can put on seniors that cost them losing the place where they could recreate, a thing that has social value to the communities that we live in, or something like CarbonCure, who can actually invest in technologies that create jobs, that reduce emissions but create value as we go forward.

The second part of that announcement was for an organization called Mangrove Water Technologies. They have some technology which has the potential to reduce 1.4 million tonnes of emissions by 2030 in the province of Alberta alone and to open well over a hundred concrete plants, Mr. Speaker, here in Alberta and well over a thousand across the globe, working with technology that would take carbon dioxide and put it into concrete, one of the most used if not the most used construction products inside the province.

3:00

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will submit to you: does it make more sense to go the new Alberta government's way, to partner with people that have innovative ability like that and technology like that, that can create such value, even beyond environmental value? Environmental value is obviously the key part of what we're trying to accomplish here, but with projects like this we're going beyond that. We're creating jobs. We're creating industrial activity. We're creating economic growth right here inside this province.

That's why the Premier and our party put inside our platform the TIER program. We recognized that Alberta wanted to continue to be a leader when it came to emission reduction inside our province. We wanted to continue to be a leader so that we were able to sell our products to global markets but, second, because we wanted to protect our environment in this province. That's why we've been a leader from day one on this. Nobody can do it better than Alberta, Mr. Speaker. We have it right here. We have the answers to these questions right here, and with TIER we're creating an environment where our industrial activity, our energy partners, and other industries can partner with the Alberta government to actually make meaningful change when it comes to this.

Now, in the coming days you will hear from the opposition, who will continue to tout their job-killing carbon tax as the way forward on this, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to reject it. They will continue to stand and say that their process reduced more emissions, but interestingly enough, the process that I have submitted to this Chamber and, if the Chamber supports it, that will become the law in this province ends up almost with the exact same emission reductions when it comes to the program. When you take the technology investment that will come with the fund outside of TIER, we surpass the NDP's projections, pointing upwards of 57 megatonnes of reduction all the while without nickeling and diming

Albertans. Fifty-seven megatonnes by 2030 is not something to shake your head at. It's a significant accomplishment for our province, but again when you look at it hand in hand with inventing technologies that we can sell to the world and creating economic growth inside our province, it's a win-win. I certainly do hope that the hon. members take the time to support it.

One of the other components of TIER that I think is worth mentioning to the hon. members as I ask for their support of Bill 19 is this. When we started the consultation process about our platform promise around TIER, the Minister of Energy joined me as well as the minister of agriculture. Both of them have people within their scopes that fit within the 127 large emitters inside the province of Alberta. We had long consultations with the industry, one-on-ones as well as group meetings where we had conversations, and the one thing I heard consistently from every industry and everyone in it was that they wanted to be regulated in the province of Alberta. They wanted Alberta to decide our future.

They did not trust Justin Trudeau to decide the future, Mr. Speaker. Who could blame them? If you've seen the results and the rhetoric that have come from the Prime Minister and the people around him during this campaign, if you've seen the comments from the federal leader of the opposition party who is anti oil and gas - he's not ashamed to say it. I know they try to not acknowledge what he's been saying, but he's not ashamed to say it. He wants to block our pipelines, wants to block our energy industry from doing it. Can you really blame our industry for saying to us, "We want to regulate here; we want to stand with you, be a partner in being able to tackle this problem in a made-in-Alberta way"? So we worked hard to make sure that we can accomplish that for our industry, to provide them the stability that they need to start to bring investment back to this province, investment that was forced out by the NDP government, to create a stable situation for that investment activity to take place.

We also have 34,000 conventional oil and gas facilities in this province that did not fall into the large emitter program for the 127 people that has existed in this province for a very long time, who are now in a spot that on January 1 they could have been brought in underneath the federal backstop on the industrial side. Those organizations were loud and clear saying that they want to work in an Alberta regulatory regime. We've worked hard, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we can protect our industry, because we're proud of it, from Justin Trudeau and his friends in Ottawa, who we know have sworn in some cases to completely destroy that industry.

Mr. Speaker, one of the shocking things that I found when I took over the portfolio as minister of the environment – and I know that many of my colleagues in this Chamber probably found the same – was that when you begin to work through your budget numbers and understand what the NDP had done, of course, as you know, we began to find out that the projections that the NDP had presented to the province were misrepresented, certainly, in the campaign. We had an economic situation in this province that was significantly worse than the former Premier and her party had presented to Albertans, so we began to sit down to try to figure out how we were going to work through that process.

I can tell you that the biggest thing – and I think that every minister will agree with this – is that the NDP's climate leadership plan, their carbon tax, has nothing to do with the environment. We've often stood in this place and talked about it being all economic pain and no environmental gain. It was weaved all through the budget, be it spent on projects – and some of those projects may have had value for the people who were involved with them – that certainly were not reducing emissions, that certainly were not going to help people with the environment, Mr. Speaker. [interjections] I

hear them heckle about that. That's what they did. That's what they did.

I once watched you, Mr. Speaker, give a speech about that very thing when you sat inside the opposition benches, pointing out what I think we used to affectionately, or nonaffectionately, refer to as the orange slush fund. We confirmed it when we became government. One of the first things we had to do was unravel that situation, and that stayed with me. It stayed with me that no matter what solution we bring forward, we have to make sure that it's dedicated to solving the problem. We have to be transparent with Albertans. We campaigned on saying that we would use some of this resource to be able to reduce the deficit that the NDP created, to reduce the debt problems that the NDP created.

With this piece of legislation, we make it clear. We make it clear which part, very transparently, will be invested in technology that will help us reduce emissions, and we make it clear which part will help reduce the deficit, which will ultimately, Mr. Speaker, help the very industries that are helping to pay into this fund.

I want to assure Albertans through you that we will not do what the NDP did. We will not create slush funds and pretend that we are dealing with the environment like they did, Mr. Speaker. We will not create that to go to special-interest projects that they had. We will be transparent with Albertans, and that's what ultimately the legislation that is in front of this Chamber does. It renames certain funds to make it clear what the program is for, and it allows funds to be used for the reasons that we stated.

Ultimately, TIER itself will be primarily handled through a regulation, and we are releasing that at the same time as this legislation because they have to work hand in hand together, Mr. Speaker, but at the end of the day, the legislation that I'm asking the Chamber to pass, at its core, is to be transparent with Albertans and show them how we're going utilize this resource going forward.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to spend too much more time on this today except to talk about what I think is one of the most important issues when it comes to this file. The reality is, as we all know, that the GHG emissions and the environmental impact of our industry inside this province are not significant on a global scale. That is a reality. That doesn't mean - and I've been clear in my opening remarks - that we should not be working to clean up our environment or to make sure that we're producing products in an environmentally friendly way. Alberta has a long and successful history of leading the way on this file, but the reality is that if people want to have the biggest impact when it comes to global emissions, the solution is right here in this province. The solution is our clean natural gas. That is the conversation that we must have when it comes to our energy industry. The problem that people are identifying that they want fixed when it comes to emissions: Alberta can solve that world problem. The biggest impact that Alberta can have when it comes to reducing emissions is to get our clean natural gas to Asia and other markets.

Meanwhile we have Ottawa, who continues to block pipelines, who continues to block us from being able to get our production to other parts of the world, and then we end up, as you know, Mr. Speaker, with a carbon leakage problem, which means that that energy demand is just being filled by other places in the world that don't have the same social standards as us, certainly, and also don't have the same environmental standards as us.

It's important that the rest of this country takes notice, takes notice of the resource that we have here, Mr. Speaker, that can solve the problem. If Prime Minister Trudeau and his federal Liberal government are truly committed to reducing world-wide emissions, they will answer our call to build our pipelines. They will stand beside us as we get our energy to other markets because not only will it help reduce those global emissions; it will help people in some cases who are facing poverty.

3:10

It is a benefit to the world that we hold right here, and as we take TIER resources and we continue to invest in technology as it progresses, we'll be able to create even more benefit to the world. So truly – truly – I say to other governments inside this country: if they truly want to tackle global emissions, take notice of what's happening in Alberta, put your money where your mouth is, and let us get our product to market so we can help you tackle emissions on a global scale, and stop blaming the province of Alberta for what is a global problem. It's not acceptable. We have so many opportunities here when we focus on actually trying to solve a problem with means that will solve problems. We can benefit our province compared to the way the NDP processed their carbon tax.

Just a couple of days ago I also celebrated the opening of G4 technologies, a natural gas program, something that Alberta Environment and Parks and my colleague the hon. minister of economic development and trade's department and others have been involved in. They're taking forestry by-products and turning them into clean natural gas and putting it into our existing system so that people can heat their homes. Those are the things that we can accomplish with TIER, Mr. Speaker.

The choice that was before Albertans in April was to continue with the NDP's carbon tax on hockey moms and hockey dads, Mr. Speaker. I know that the opposition often laughs about this, but where I come from, we still have to drive. Their leader once told us to take a bus. There's no bus for my family back home in Sundre to take them to places. We drive. We have to. That's where we live. We have to drive to get to work, we have to drive to bring our kids to school, we have to drive for social events, and we have to drive to get groceries. That's the place that we live. That's the reality.

Taxing people inside my communities on fuel was not having an impact on emissions. We still had to drive. When my wife drives my youngest kids, Austin and Chyanne, and their 4-H calves to the 4-H show, Mr. Speaker, we're not doing that in a Smart car. We have to do it in a truck that tows a trailer. When my neighbour goes out to check on the cows or brings bales to his cows, he's got to do that in a truck. When tradespeople across this province have to drive and go to work, they have to bring their tools. The idea that you can solve this problem this way is ridiculous.

That was a choice that was before Albertans in April, and Albertans – I just want to back up – knew what the NDP's options were. The NDP made it clear. They passed legislation. They implemented the tax inside this province, a tax they promised would go to rebates and different things, but most of our households never received a rebate. They promised it wouldn't go to general revenue. They did put it in general revenue, and on and on. Everybody knows that portion of what the NDP did. But it's important to also know that they know what the current Alberta government promised. The TIER package, that I bring forward in this House today and in the regulation, is exactly what we promised Albertans that we would do, Mr. Speaker. Albertans knew the choice. They had the choice. It was very important to our Premier that he presented those options, and they spoke loud and clear in April, when they fired the NDP and they sent us here to do this job.

Yesterday, when we tabled TIER, Mr. Speaker, was a fulfillment of another campaign promise, at the end of the day, another promise made and another promise kept by this current Alberta government. We will continue to go forward doing the same thing. We will continue to go forward being proud of our industry. We will continue to go forward helping people that want to innovate. We will continue going forward with our technologies that are here, and we will continue to fight to get our clean energy products to the world so we can finally have a significant impact on global pollution, but we can also help people on a global stage with poverty.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you very much, Minister.

On Bill 19 second reading are there any other members wishing to speak? The Member for Calgary ...

Mr. Schow: Cardston-Siksika. God's country, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: I didn't recognize you with the pork chops there, sir. Go ahead, sir.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

The Acting Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, I just want to quickly thank all members of the Assembly and all sides of the aisle for another hard week up here in Edmonton, and as always I wish them safe travels back to their constituencies. I'm just checking the calendar. Sorry, Mr. Speaker; they have October still up. I move to adjourn the House until Monday, November 4, at 1:30 p.m.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:15 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, October 31, 2019

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

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

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

Bill 1 — An Act to Repeal the Carbon Tax (\$) (Kenney)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Reading — 145-52 (May 28, 2019 eve.), 189-90 (May 29, 2019 morn.), 236-39 (May 29, 2019 eve.), 375-79 (Jun. 4, 2019 aft.), 416-17 (Jun. 4, 2019 eve.), 448 (Jun. 5, 2019 aft.), (Jun. 5, 2019 eve.), (Jun. 5, 2019 eve.), and an analysis of the second second

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

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

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

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

First Reading — 111 (May 28, 2019 aft., passed)
Second Reading — 236 (May 29, 2019 eve.), 341-53 (Jun. 4, 2019 morn.), 408-16 (Jun. 4, 2019 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole — (Jun. 5, 2019 eve.), (Jun. 11, 2019 morn.), 685-700 (Jun. 11, 2019 aft.), 738-45 (Jun. 12, 2019 morn., passed)
Third Reading — (Jun. 12, 2019 aft., passed)
Royal Assent — (Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 c5]

Bill 4 — Red Tape Reduction Act (Hunter)

First Reading — 202 (May 29, 2019 aft., passed)
Second Reading — 277-78 (May 30, 2019 aft.), 365-75 (Jun. 4, 2019 aft.), 432-48 (Jun. 5, 2019 aft., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole — 633-44 (Jun. 10, 2019 eve., passed)
Third Reading — 644-46 (Jun. 10, 2019 eve., passed)
Royal Assent — (Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 cR-8.2]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Reading — 931 (Jun. 18, 2019 aft., passed)
Second Reading — 984-86 (Jun. 19, 2019 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole — 1136-38 (Jun. 24, 2019 eve.), 1153 (Jun. 24, 2019 eve., passed)
Third Reading — 1195-98 (Jun. 25, 2019 eve.), 1213 (Jun. 25, 2019 eve., passed)
Royal Assent — (Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 c3]

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

First Reading — 356-57 (Jun. 4, 2019 aft., passed) Second Reading — 625-31 (Jun. 10, 2019 aft.), 653-60 (Jun. 11, 2019 morn.), 701-07 (Jun. 11, 2019 eve., passed) Committee of the Whole — 811-13 (Jun. 13, 2019 aft., passed) Third Reading — 1138-45 (Jun. 24, 2019 eve., passed) Royal Assent — (Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 c6]

Bill 8 — Education Amendment Act, 2019 (LaGrange)

First Reading — 421 (Jun. 5, 2019 aft., passed)
Second Reading — 648-49 (Jun. 10, 2019 eve.), 707-25 (Jun. 11, 2019 eve.), 781-95 (Jun. 12, 2019 eve.), 848-74 (Jun. 17, 2019 eve.), 1145-53 (Jun. 24, 2019 eve), 1153-62 (Jun. 24, 2019 eve), 1180-86 (Jun. 25, 2019 aft.), 1255-57 (Jun. 26, 2019 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole — 1258-59 (Jun. 26, 2019 eve.), 1266-78 (Jun. 26, 2019 eve.), 1375-83 (Jul. 3, 2019 aft.), (Jul. 3, 2019 eve.), (Jul. 3, 2019 eve.), (Jul. 3, 2019 eve.), (Jul. 3, 2019 eve.), massed on division)
Third Reading — (Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division)
Royal Assent — (Jul. 18, 2019 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force July 18, 2019; SA 2019 c7]

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

First Reading — (Jun. 13, 2019, passed on division)
Second Reading — 874-84 (Jun. 17, 2019 eve.), (Jun. 17, 2019 eve.), 933-71 (Jun. 18, 2019 eve., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole — 971 (Jun. 18, 2019 eve.), 1004-76 (Jun. 19, 2019 eve., passed on division)
Third Reading — (Jun. 19, 2019 eve., passed on division)
Royal Assent — (Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 cP-41.7]

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

First Reading — (Jun. 13, 2019 aft., passed)
Second Reading — 847-48 (Jun. 17, 2019 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole — 971 (Jun. 18, 2019 eve., passed)
Third Reading — 1138 (Jun. 24, 2019 eve., passed)
Royal Assent — (Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2019 c2]

Bill 11 — Fair Registration Practices Act (Copping)

First Reading — 975 (Jun. 19, 2019 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1186-94 (Jun. 25, 2019 aft.), 1244-51 (Jun. 26, 2019 aft., passed) Committee of the Whole — 1259-63 (Jun. 26, 2019 eve., passed) Third Reading — 1263-65 (Jun. 26, 2019 eve., passed) Royal Assent — (Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2019 cF-1.5]

Bill 12 — Royalty Guarantee Act (Savage)

First Reading — 1088 (Jun. 20, 2019 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1186 (Jun. 25, 2019 aft.), 1251-53 (Jun. 26, 2019 aft.), 1255 (Jun. 26, 2019 eve., passed) Committee of the Whole — 1257-58 (Jun. 26, 2019 eve.), 1292-1293 (Jun. 27, 2019 aft.), 1393-94 (Jul. 3, 2019 aft., passed) Third Reading — (Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division) Royal Assent — (Jul. 18, 2019 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force July 18, 2019; SA 2019 c9]

Bill 13* — Alberta Senate Election Act (Schweitzer)

First Reading — 1225 (Jun. 26, 2019 aft., passed)
Second Reading — 1292 (Jun. 27, 2019 aft.), 1345-47 (Jul. 2, 2019 eve., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole — 1383-93 (Jul. 3, 2019 aft.), (Jul. 3, 2019 eve.), (Jul. 3, 2019 eve.), (Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading — (Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division)
Royal Assent — (Jul. 18, 2019 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force July 18, 2019; SA 2019 cA-33.5]

Bill 14 — Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Act (Wilson)

First Reading — 1654 (Oct. 8, 2019 aft., passed)
Second Reading — 1655-77 (Oct. 8, 2019 aft.), 1679-95 (Oct. 9, 2019 morn., passed)
Committee of the Whole — 1708-25 (Oct. 9, 2019 aft.), 1761 (Oct. 10, 2019 aft.), 1763-67 (Oct. 15, 2019 morn., passed)
Third Reading — 1768-70 (Oct. 15, 2019 morn.), 1785 (Oct. 15, 2019 aft., passed)
Royal Assent — (Oct. 30, 2019 aft.) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2019 cA-26.3]

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

First Reading — 1707 (Oct. 9, 2019 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1758-61 (Oct. 10, 2019 aft., passed) Committee of the Whole — 1767-68 (Oct. 15, 2019 morn., passed) Third Reading — 1783-85 (Oct. 15, 2019 aft., passed) Royal Assent — (Oct. 30, 2019 aft.) [Comes into force October 30, 2019; SA 2019 c13]

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

First Reading — 1782 (Oct. 15, 2019 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1810-17 (Oct. 16, 2019 aft., passed) Committee of the Whole — 1817-18 (Oct. 16, 2019 aft., passed) Third Reading — 1911-15 (Oct. 22, 2019 aft., passed) Royal Assent — (Oct. 30, 2019 aft.) [Comes into force January 1, 2020; SA 2019 c12]

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

First Reading — 1798 (Oct. 16, 2019 aft., passed) Second Reading — 1819-28 (Oct. 17, 2019 morn., passed) Committee of the Whole — 1915-26 (Oct. 22, 2019 aft., passed) Third Reading — 1949-59 (Oct. 23, 2019 morn., passed) Royal Assent — (Oct. 30, 2019 aft.) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2019 cD-13.5]

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

First Reading — 1850 (Oct. 17, 2019 aft., passed)
Second Reading — 1926-29 (Oct. 22, 2019 aft.), 1931-45 (Oct. 22, 2019 eve.), 1947-49 (Oct. 23, 2019 morn.), 1959-66 (Oct. 23, 2019 morn.), 1978-90 (Oct. 23, 2019 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole — 1990-94 (Oct. 23, 2019 aft.), 2037-41 (Oct. 28, 2019 aft., passed)
Third Reading — 2055-56 (Oct. 29, 2019 eve., passed)
Royal Assent — (Oct. 30, 2019 aft.) [Comes into force October 30, 2019; SA 2019 c11]

Bill 19 — Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction Implementation Act, 2019 (\$) (Nixon, JJ)

First Reading — 2053 (Oct. 29, 2019 aft., passed) Second Reading — 2123-26 (Oct. 31, 2019 aft., adjourned)

Bill 20 — Fiscal Measures and Taxation Act, 2019 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 2026 (Oct. 28, 2019 aft., passed) Second Reading — 2056-66 (Oct. 29, 2019 eve.), 2089-2100 (Oct. 30, 2019 eve., adjourned)

Bill 21 — Ensuring Fiscal Sustainability Act, 2019 (\$)

First Reading — 2026 (Oct. 28, 2019 aft., passed) Second Reading — 2066-74 (Oct. 29, 2019 eve.), 2100-10 (Oct. 30, 2019 eve., adjourned)

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

First Reading — 277 (May 30, 2019 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), (Jun. 13, 2019 aft., reported to Assembly)
Second Reading — 825-38 (Jun. 17, 2019 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole — 1122-24 (Jun. 24, 2019 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading — 1124-26 (Jun. 24, 2019 aft., passed)
Royal Assent — (Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force January 1, 2020; SA 2019 cP-30.6]

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

First Reading — 277 (May 30, 2019 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), (Jun. 13, 2019 aft., reported to Assembly)
Second Reading — 838-40 (Jun. 17, 2019 aft.), 1115-22 (Jun. 24, 2019 aft., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole — 1126 (Jun. 24, 2019 aft.), 1882 (Oct. 21, 2019 aft., passed)
Third Reading — 1883-87 (Oct. 21, 2019 aft.), 2027-29 (Oct. 28, 2019 aft., passed)
Royal Assent — (Oct. 30, 2019 aft.) [Comes into force October 30, 2019; SA 2019 c10]

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

First Reading — (Jun. 13, 2019 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), (Jun. 27, 2019 aft., reported to Assembly), 1875-82 (Oct. 21, 2019 aft., not proceeded with on division)

Bill 204 — Election Recall Act (Smith)

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

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