



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature  
First Session

# Alberta Hansard

Wednesday afternoon, November 6, 2019

Day 40

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

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

First Session

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

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

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

**Party standings:**

United Conservative: 63

New Democrat: 24

**Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly**

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Stephanie LeBlanc, Clerk Assistant and  
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Trafton Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel

Philip Massolin, Clerk of Committees and  
Research Services  
Nancy Robert, Research Officer  
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Jason Copping	Minister of Labour and Immigration
Devin Dreeshen	Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Tanya Fir	Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism
Nate Glubish	Minister of Service Alberta
Grant Hunter	Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction
Adriana LaGrange	Minister of Education
Jason Luan	Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Kaycee Madu	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Ric McIver	Minister of Transportation
Dale Nally	Associate Minister of Natural Gas
Demetrios Nicolaides	Minister of Advanced Education
Jason Nixon	Minister of Environment and Parks
Prasad Panda	Minister of Infrastructure
Josephine Pon	Minister of Seniors and Housing
Sonya Savage	Minister of Energy
Rajan Sawhney	Minister of Community and Social Services
Rebecca Schulz	Minister of Children's Services
Doug Schweitzer	Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Tyler Shandro	Minister of Health
Travis Toews	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
Rick Wilson	Minister of Indigenous Relations

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

## STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

### **Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund**

Chair: Mr. Orr  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Getson

Allard  
Eggen  
Glasgo  
Jones  
Loyola  
Nielsen  
Singh

### **Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future**

Chair: Mr. van Dijken  
Deputy Chair: Ms Goehring

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

### **Standing Committee on Families and Communities**

Chair: Ms Goodridge  
Deputy Chair: Ms Sigurdson

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

### **Standing Committee on Legislative Offices**

Chair: Mr. Ellis  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Schow

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

### **Special Standing Committee on Members' Services**

Chair: Mr. Cooper  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Ellis

Dang  
Deol  
Goehring  
Goodridge  
Gotfried  
Long  
Neudorf  
Sweet  
Williams

### **Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills**

Chair: Mr. Ellis  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Schow

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

### **Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing**

Chair: Mr. Smith  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Schow

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

### **Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

Chair: Ms Phillips  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Gotfried

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

### **Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship**

Chair: Mr. Hanson  
Deputy Chair: Member Ceci

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

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 6, 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.

### Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, we have a number of guests, so I think it would be advantageous if you let me get through them all, and then we will give our guests the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly at the end of such time. They are a group of grade 6 students from St. Charles school in Edmonton-Castle Downs. From Edmonton-City Centre please welcome students from NAIT, the radio and television program.

Hon. members, many of you may be aware that it is grade 9 go to work day. That's why I'm growing a goatee, so you know that I'm actually meant to be here and not with go to work day. There are a number of guests of this wonderful program. Guests of the Associate Minister of Natural Gas: a student from Richard S. Fowler school in St. Albert, Cole Sekulic, and his parents, Verdelle and Mike; the Minister of Education's communications team: Luc Bourdeau and his dad, Chris; Kate Cromb and her dad, Ryan. Both Kate and Luc are students of Elk Island public schools.

Also here today are special guests of the Member for Highwood: Eddie and Jessica Maurice.

Hon. members, as some of you may have seen in the Federal Building earlier today, it is Alberta Book Day, and I am pleased to welcome guests of the Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, book publishers from all across the province, the Book Publishers Association of Alberta.

Also in the gallery this afternoon is a guest of the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, a member of downtown Calgary's homeless outreach #BeTheChangeYYC team, Chaz Smith.

Also in the gallery today are guests of the Member for Lethbridge-East: a delegation of the association of southern Alberta Team Lethbridge. Welcome here.

Guests of the hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek: please welcome representatives of Canada and Alberta's cement and concrete industries.

Visiting as guests of the Member for Banff-Kananaskis are representatives of the Springbank action coalition.

If I mentioned your name or a group that you're associated with, if you could please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

### Members' Statements

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Member for Grande Prairie.

### Remembrance Day

**Mrs. Allard:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to honour the men and women who have stepped forward to serve our country

and preserve our freedom. Each year in the days leading up to Remembrance Day, I think of the families that paid the ultimate price in the name of freedom and democracy. I think of the generations of Canadians that have benefited from these sacrifices, and I think of the generations of Canadians that were lost in those battlefields so long ago, the family lines that ended as soldiers laid down their lives in service to our country.

On October 29, 1917, Private George Carr Thompson of Oxford, Nova Scotia, was killed in battle on the fields of Flanders at Passchendaele. He was 22 years old. Private Thompson served in the 85th Canadian infantry battalion, known as the Nova Scotia Highlanders. He was my great-great-uncle, the brother of my great-grandmother, Hilda Thompson Wood.

Last week marked 102 years since he took his last breath, and I rise today to remember him and to recognize the loss in my family and in the generations that followed. I think of my grandfather – God rest his soul – who never knew his uncle but proudly recalled his service in one of the darkest times our world has known. In the face of oppression Private Thompson stood bravely and fought valiantly along with over 420,000 Canadians who served overseas during World War I. Private Thompson was one of close to 61,000 Canadians killed and 172,000 Canadians wounded in the war.

In the words of Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur W. Currie:

Inspired by the example of their fathers, our children will know that the rights enjoyed by Canadians have corresponding duties, the greatest of them all being personal service to the country in case of danger. Let us all serve our fellow men. Let us all hold high the love of our country so that the work begun on the fields of Flanders in France may be continued and that our heroic dead may rest in peace, sure that their sacrifice has not been in vain.

Lest we forget.

### Telus World of Science Edmonton

**Ms Hoffman:** Ignite curiosity; inspire discovery; celebrate science; change lives. Today it's my pleasure to honour the Telus World of Science Edmonton. While it's housed in the constituency I have the honour of representing, it's a treasure that we can all take pride in. For as long as I can remember, Edmonton has been home to the Space and Science Centre. I recall my first 3-D IMAX show, where as a young child I dodged the flies that were coming off the screen straight at me.

Here we are a few years later at the Telus World of Science, and it's probably even more dynamic than its vision originally was: almost half a million ticketed visitors annually and 75,000 children as part of a school group alone. In fact, the Telus World of Science is the largest ticketed cultural attraction in Edmonton. Whether you're enjoying the science garage; creating your own renewable energy; watching a stunning IMAX film in the new 4K projector, like the *Rocky Mountain Express* or *Secret Ocean*; creating black holes with your bare hands on your way into the Zeidler Dome and the space gallery; or visiting the feature exhibits like the current Marvel universe of superheroes, on its only Canadian stop, I might add, or Sherlock, Rubik's, Body Worlds – the list goes on – this place is amazing.

None of this would be possible without a strong fund development and without public investment. Under the NDP \$12 million was invested in the Telus World of Science Edmonton. I intentionally use the word "invested," Mr. Speaker, because this place has hundreds of Alberta volunteers and workers who rely on it. I'm proud to have Constance Scarlett, Steve Baker, and Daryl Zelinski here today on their behalf. When the minister of culture says that she values the Telus World of Science, I take her at her word. I wish her luck in advocating to her colleagues as we know Conservative

austerity often targets cultural initiatives, and this current budget is certainly no exception. I hope she has better luck in the spring, because we all deserve a science centre that ignites curiosity, inspires discovery, celebrates science, and changes lives.

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

#### Alex Decoteau

**Mr. Rutherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the government of Alberta's liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces I have the tremendous honour and responsibility of advocating for the brave men and women who have served us and continue to serve us bravely every day. One person that served our country as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces as well as on the world stage at the Olympics was Alex Decoteau.

Alex Decoteau was an amazing athlete. He won the C.W. Cross Challenge Cup five times. In 1912 he won the annual 10-mile race just outside of Edmonton in Fort Saskatchewan for the third consecutive year. He was winning competition after competition across Canada, which ultimately led to the Olympic Games in Stockholm, where he competed in the 5,000-metre race. He also went on to represent the Edmonton city police amateur athletics association at the dominion track and field championships in Vancouver.

Alex Decoteau was not only a great athlete. He also went on to become Canada's first indigenous police officer and a soldier during the First World War. At first he enlisted as a private in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, where he served in the 202nd infantry battalion and later the 49th. He bravely fought for the freedoms that we enjoy today and was tragically killed by a sniper in 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele. We honour his great sacrifice and contributions to our country this week as we commemorate Veterans' Week and National Aboriginal Veterans Day on Friday.

In his memory our government has committed to the creation of the Alex Decoteau scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to members or to immediate family members of fallen or disabled members of the Canadian Armed Forces from Alberta. I'm proud to stand with a government that is committed to making life better for all Albertans, especially our military families, Mr. Speaker.

#### 1:40 Budget 2019 and Lethbridge

**Ms Phillips:** Lethbridge remains one of the best places in the province to raise a family and a model of a diversified economy to which other communities in Alberta aspire. Today we are lucky to have representatives from Team Lethbridge, a range of public-sector, private-sector, nonprofit and civil society leaders and organizations at the Legislature. Like me, they are here to ensure that Lethbridge is heard.

We have already seen this government's disregard for our city in their budget. Here's just a short list of our challenges: a broken promise on a new bridge for highway 3; cuts to ambulance services; no new schools despite the fact that we're one of the fastest growing cities in the country; no funding for a much-needed cardiac catheterization lab in our hospital; cuts to the arts and those that work in the creative industries; cuts to early learning, child care, and parent link centres; layoffs of teachers, educational assistants, and others through millions in cuts to our two school boards; cuts to urban indigenous programs; cuts to our parks and those who work to monitor and protect our environment; cuts to programs and tax credits designed to diversify and grow our economy and attract new types of investment and entrepreneurs.

Finally, Lethbridge is known for two things, seniors and students. We have seen this government go out of its way to make cuts to both by raising tuition and deep cuts to our university and college, cutting seniors' lodge assistance programs, seniors' benefits, and kicking tens of thousands of older Albertans off the seniors' drug plan.

Lethbridge withstood the worst of the recession caused by the collapse in the price of oil, but this UCP recession will undoubtedly hurt our community. Bigger deficits, higher personal taxes, and thousands of layoffs, all to pay for a \$4.7 billion no-jobs corporate handout. That will mean that my friends and neighbours and all Lethbridgians will have to look to one another through the hard times.

Team Lethbridge will help our community remain strong through the coming years of a UCP recession.

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

#### Lethbridge

**Mr. Neudorf:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm always proud to stand in this House and talk about my home, Lethbridge. Though we tend to be rather quiet about our successes and the people who make these victories possible, we should be proud of their achievements in their categories.

Nikka Yuko Japanese garden is within the top 10 of North America. The U of L is in the top five in Canada. Lethbridge College serves our registered apprenticeship program, that often has more students than Calgary. That's not per capita; that's total. We have a world-class agricultural production and food processing hub, with plans for an exhibition grounds to build and expand that presence even more.

I'm lucky enough to have many of these visionary people in the gallery today and here at the Legislature this week. This week marks the sixth visit of Team Lethbridge to Edmonton and to this Legislature. Beginning in 2008, Team Lethbridge has brought a like-minded group of individuals and associations to the Legislature in pursuit of building an understanding of how important our great city is to this province. Team Lethbridge works to build relationships between government representatives and Lethbridge's community leaders, which builds capacity in supporting the long-term success of our province as a whole.

Before ever standing in this House as an elected member, I recall myself being here as a member of Team Lethbridge on behalf of the Lethbridge Construction Association. Through uniting academics, educators, entrepreneurs, associations and organizations, Team Lethbridge brings the best and brightest from our community to our Legislature. The vision of Team Lethbridge is to foster a community, a province, and a nation that is not only ready to seize the opportunities of today but also the possibilities of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, just as the sun rises in the bright blue sky of the east and sets in an orange ball of fire in the west, so our parties are represented in this Legislature. Recognizing our diversity, innovation, and wide range of thinking and pursuits, through their hard work these individuals know what it takes to become the pillars of our community. On behalf of them I would like to thank many of our government, opposition, and private members who have taken the time this week to get to know Lethbridge a little better.

**The Speaker:** It would seem teamwork does make the dream work.

#### Teachers

**Member Irwin:** Today I'd like to talk about teachers. I'm so proud to be a teacher, and I'm so proud to sit on this side of the House

with a few teacher colleagues in the NDP caucus who show me every day that once a teacher, always a teacher.

We've been hearing from a lot of teachers lately. A lot. They're worried. They're disheartened. They're deflated. They're being sent multiple messages from this UCP government. They're told that they're good enough to look after your kids but that they're overpaid and underworked and that their salaries should be rolled back. They're told that they're skilled, yet there's no room for a single practising teacher on this government's curriculum advisory panel, but there's room for businesspeople and an American researcher fixated on privatization. They're told that their professionalism is valued as they juggle complex classrooms, but then they're told that youth mental health is in a crisis and that there's no money to fully fund each of their students or to hire more educational assistants. They're told that their autonomy is respected, but they can no longer have control over the pension funds that they pay into, a decision made without consultation.

But don't get me wrong. This isn't about pensions. It's about people, and it's about respect and the complete lack of it from this UCP government and a growing list of contemptible attacks on public education. Most of all, it's about our students. They're the ones who are hurt the most in all of this. This government speaks a big game about investing in our province, yet their actions show that they continue to prioritize corporations over kids.

We build a strong province by building a strong education system, one that truly supports young Albertans and the people who teach them, not by asking teachers to continue to do more with less and certainly not by asking students to bear the burden in the name of efficiency and debt. On this side of the House we refuse to accept that our kids deserve anything less than a well-funded education system, one that values them, their teachers, and every person who helps them along their educational journey.

Thank you.

### November

**Ms Issik:** Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to have the opportunity to speak at the beginning of this special month about a cause that is important to me and countless Albertans. This fine month of November, also known as Movember, has long been associated with the no-shave movement. Some of history's most glorious manes have been nurtured thanks to this tradition. I see that some of our colleagues are actively involved in this effort, and it's coming along quite nicely. However, this hairy convention has become so overwhelmingly popular that its true purpose is often overlooked.

The objective of Movember is to raise awareness of male cancers and male mental wellness by embracing facial hair. Movember raises important funds to support these issues, but most importantly it saves lives. It saved the life of my own son because he recognized that he needed to seek medical attention immediately. Early detection of cancer saves lives.

Mr. Speaker, 2,800 men in Alberta will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year. An estimated 1,100 Canadian men will be diagnosed with testicular cancer, with a large proportion being Albertans. And more men will suffer silently through mental illness, and sadly some will die through suicide as a result. Just like cancer, mental illness is most successfully treated with early intervention.

One mandate of Movember is for participants to donate any money they would have spent on grooming to relevant causes like cancer research and suicide prevention. Likewise, people who can't grow facial hair themselves are encouraged to support a nonshaver. And to all Albertans, I encourage your support of this cause because you don't need to have a beautiful mane to proudly stand behind the causes that matter. To everybody participating in 2019's Movember,

regardless of your follicle strength, thank you for supporting this important cause.

### Budget 2019

**Ms Pancholi:** It has become increasingly clear that this government is targeting the most vulnerable Albertans to pay for their \$4.7 billion giveaway to corporations. As Official Opposition critic for Children's Services, that is clear as this government cuts off young people who grew up in foster care from critical support to transition them into adulthood. These young people have survived trauma, abuse, and neglect and have no family support. Now they have less than six months to plan for another abrupt and heartless change in their lives. Sadly, this is not the only proof that the government values corporate bottom lines more than vulnerable Albertans. From AISH to child care subsidies to seniors to indigenous housing: cuts, cuts, cuts.

But this budget doesn't just hurt vulnerable Albertans. It makes life less affordable for all Albertans. Last Friday a resident of Edmonton-Whitemud came in to my constituency office to talk about how this government's budget affects her family. As an artist she's scared that the cuts to arts funding put her livelihood in jeopardy. She's worried she'll join the ranks of the unemployed and underemployed because this UCP government does not value the contributions that artists make to our economy. She's scared for her husband, a hard-working public servant for decades, because she knows that the UCP does not value those who serve all Albertans. In fact, we've already seen public servants shown the door by this government. She's scared for her young child, a child that will see growing class sizes, fewer teachers, fewer EAs, and, once again, fewer supports for those that need it most because this government has not funded enrolment growth and school boards are in an unprecedented state of underfunding.

1:50

She is scared for her older child, studying at the U of A, who will see tuition rise by 21 per cent over their degree and will bear the burden of a crushing student debt for many, many years as interest rates rise. She is scared because every day brings more bad news for her family. Income taxes are rising, electricity prices are rising, school fees are rising, and life just keeps getting more expensive under this government.

Now, I'm sure the members opposite will once again accuse me of fearmongering, but I did not create this fear; they did. I will rise to ensure that every voice is heard and to ensure that the Premier and his cut-happy cabinet take responsibility for their actions.

### Oral Question Period

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

#### Firefighting Service Funding

**Ms Notley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year Albertans face larger wildfires. Last year was the largest burn ever. For the last 40 years incredibly brave and highly trained Albertans have rappelled out of helicopters, sometimes right on top of the fire, and fought the flames that otherwise we could not reach. But today we learned that these brave rap team members have been sacrificed to pay for this Premier's \$4.7 billion handout. Premier, why are you putting rural Albertans at increased risk from wildfires by disbanding this elite team?

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, in fact, what this government is doing is massively increasing our budgeted resources for fighting

wildfires. The NDP never did that. In fact, we're taking the contingency budget allocation for firefighting for wildfires from \$200 million to \$750 million a year. We are more than tripling the commitment to that. Now, the Official Opposition leader is talking about a program that was used in less than 2 per cent of instances. The department believes that they can more efficiently allocate those resources to other parts of our wildfire teams.

**Ms Notley:** Well, I'm sure that that rap team would be happy to hear that their Premier thinks they only work 2 per cent of the day.

You know what? One member actually wrote: the dismantling of the wildfire rappel program in Alberta is a travesty caused by the careless and irresponsible Conservative government budget cuts; how are we supposed to protect human life, communities, watersheds, soils, infrastructure when the provincial government clearly doesn't support us? These Albertans get it, Mr. Speaker. Premier, this firefighter understands your budget. Why don't you understand firefighting?

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, I understand that the NDP shortchanged our firefighters and our wildfire service, budgeting only \$200 million in contingency as opposed to the \$750 million assigned in this budget. Unlike the NDP, that tried to snow Albertans with massively unrealistic revenue projections and by shortchanging the wildfire fighters, we instead are budgeting for what we actually expect they may spend. The department has decided to prioritize the helitack and firetack crews, and there will be more resources available for them in this budget.

**Ms Notley:** You know, the Premier knows full well that the numbers he is throwing out right now are not real. It's a question of whether you budget in advance or you pay after the disaster. We always paid. We always paid, and he knows it. But what he doesn't know is that he's cut 13 per cent of Alberta firefighters in this budget. He should learn his budget. Why did he do that, and why won't he reverse it?

**Mr. Kenney:** Again, the budget contingency for wildfires and other natural disasters has been more than tripled to set aside resources to respond as necessary. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to underscore that the Minister of Labour and Immigration has announced the launch of our heroes fund, that will provide a contribution of \$100,000 to our first responders who are either severely injured or who, tragically, lose their lives, by adding a provincial contribution to the federal heroes fund to underscore our support for our first responders.

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

### Wood's Homes in Calgary

**Ms Notley:** Back in 2007 the former government established the Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act. It requires specific efforts to protect children from sexual predators. Today we learned that this Premier is ending a contract with Wood's Homes, a nonprofit in Calgary that does exactly this protective work. As an Albertan and as a parent I am appalled, Mr. Speaker. This Premier has chosen to turn his back on children who are victims of sexual predators in order to fund his \$4.7 billion corporate handout. Does the Premier really stand by this decision?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Children's Services.

**Ms Schulz:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Budget 2019 was a balanced plan to create jobs, grow the economy, and protect our

vital services, which includes protecting our most vulnerable in this province. That is why my Ministry of Children's Services saw an increase of 8.5 per cent in this year and 15 per cent over the next four years. We will continue to procure the services we need in a transparent way and deliver on the needs of the most vulnerable in our province.

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, apparently the Premier won't stand at all.

Children in Calgary fleeing from sexual predators, their only lifeline eliminated by this government. He's tried to claim in the past that he's concerned about sexual exploitation, but he's clearly not walking the walk. For heaven's sake, Premier, why won't you direct your minister to reverse this unconscionable decision?

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, as the minister underscored, even after having inherited a fiscal crisis from the NDP, we have found the funds to increase support for Children's Services by over 8 per cent and, in addition to that, new funding, as per our platform, by doubling the funding for the integrated child exploitation unit, operated by Alberta police services, and doubling the funding for the integrated threat and risk assessment unit, that helps combat domestic violence, as well as our action plan to combat human trafficking and so much more to prioritize the protection of the victims of sexual exploitation.

**Ms Notley:** This program has been in place for over a decade to protect children from sexual exploitation. The Premier is literally increasing the risk of sexual assault and trauma amongst children. Compared to the \$4.7 billion that he handed over to his profitable corporate friends, the cost of this outreach work is minuscule, but the human suffering it prevents is not. Premier, you must know you're wrong here. No corporate handout is worth this. Why not have the courage to admit it and protect these children in the process?

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, it's time for the opposition leader to admit that she is making up a nonexistent corporate handout. The job-creation tax cut, which independent economists project will help to create 58,000 new full-time private-sector jobs, represents a revenue offset of \$100 million. Instead, if we were to eliminate that, we would still have an \$8 billion deficit that we inherited from the NDP in part because they overprojected revenues by \$6 billion.

Mr. Speaker, we are increasing support for Children's Services by over 8 per cent and investing more in protecting vulnerable kids.

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

**Ms Notley:** You've cut a contract to protect sexually exploited kids in Calgary; 27,000 people have lost their jobs. Those are the facts.

### AISH Indexation

**Ms Notley:** Earlier today I was joined by many Albertans who live with a severe disability that prevents them from working. Now, I was very proud that our government was able to raise their rates and index them for inflation after years of Conservative neglect. The current Premier and his party even voted for that, but since then they've changed their mind, and they are pushing these Albertans further and further into poverty. Premier, why are you forcing these Albertans to sacrifice their food, their rent, their heat for your billion-dollar corporate handout?

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, we are doing no such thing. The truth is that even though we inherited a fiscal crisis from the NDP that



threatened the future of our social programs, we are increasing funding for AISH, and we're doing so by 11 per cent, increasing the budget from \$1.285 billion this year to \$1.398 billion next year while incorporating the significant increase last year. Altogether, from 2018-19 to '20-22 this represents a quarter of a billion dollars of additional resources for AISH. Those are the facts.

**Ms Notley:** The facts are that each individual human being – think about the humans, Premier – is getting less. The Premier, right before he announced it, said: it's not onerous that they could get up to \$120 less. But, Premier, it's a week's worth of groceries. It's the difference between making rent. It's the difference between facing homelessness. Now, some of these Albertans are even raising children on those payments. Premier, they are here. Show some courage. Look up in the gallery, look them in the eye, and tell them once again that what you're doing is not onerous.

2:00

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, if there's one thing worse than the NDP's fundamental dishonesty, it is their hypocrisy. For four years in office, even while running the largest deficits in our province's history, they did not index AISH payments. AISH has existed since 1979. It has never been subject to indexation, not once in 40 years, including during the four years of the NDP, but now they are seeking to frighten vulnerable people. That is shameful. Instead, we're helping to increase AISH support by a quarter of a billion dollars. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, our changes last fall indexed for every year that we were in government. Moreover, the members opposite voted for it, and then after the election they decided it was time to break out their cruelest, most heartless plans. That's what they're doing. When we raised the alarm, they told us we were fear-mongering. But you know what? The fear is real because the lack of dollars in each individual's bank account is real. Why won't the Premier stand up, be accountable, be honest, and reverse these ridiculous decisions?

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker, our budget incorporates the large increase in AISH payments made last year, which is why the budget for AISH – this is not an opinion; these are the hard numbers that are before the Legislature – is going from \$1.13 billion in 2018 up to \$1.4 billion, a quarter of a billion dollar increase. But in 2015, '16, '17, '18, and into '19 the NDP did not index AISH. It has never been indexed. We are continuing to support and, in fact, prioritize support for the most vulnerable.

### Education Budget 2019-2020

**Ms Hoffman:** For months the Minister of Education claimed that there would be no cuts to schools, and that's not true. Now the minister's fallback position is that crowded classrooms, longer bus rides, and removal of supports for kids with complex needs are someone else's fault. The cuts are real, but don't blame the UCP for their \$4.7 billion no-jobs corporate handout on page 144 of their budget; blame the Calgary board of education. What a pitiful performance, Premier. You must be so sick of this kind of a response, Mr. Speaker. What do you have to say to the school board of Wolf Creek public schools in Lacombe? They're facing a \$1.8 million budget shortfall. Is it their fault?

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

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. I can share with you the fact that we are maintaining Education funding. The \$8.223 billion that we spent in Education last year we are spending this year. Every single student is being funded at the same base rate they were funded at last year. Every student.

**Ms Hoffman:** The minister's office published a hasty op-ed just hours after the CBE went public with what the shortfall, that they were stuck with by this minister, meant for them. In the piece she writes that she's surprised that the Calgary board will have to lay off teachers and educational assistants. Mr. Speaker, she should not be surprised because she caused this to happen. Does the Premier also claim to be surprised by the \$7.8 million budget shortfall this minister has stuck the Parkland school division with?

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

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am surprised because the CBE has an operating budget of \$1.2 billion. The overall operating budget for the city of Calgary is approximately \$3.5 billion. We have one school division receiving \$1.2 billion, servicing 130,000 students. My expectation is that every school division will look within their budgets to find efficiencies, including CBE.

**Ms Hoffman:** The question was about the Parkland school division, Mr. Speaker.

The minister seems content to point the finger at Calgary for the next four years while students and families suffer. What about the Foothills school division? They've also been stuck with an \$11 million shortfall from this minister to pay for her \$4.7 billion no-jobs corporate handout. Premier, are you really going to try to blame Foothills and every single one of Alberta's other school districts for the budget crisis that you and your minister have created?

**Member LaGrange:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the truth of the matter is that enrolment growth over the last 15 years has grown by 25 per cent, inflation has grown by 33 per cent, but the growth in operational funding to our school boards has grown by 80 per cent. We are maintaining the \$8.223 billion. School divisions are adequately funded. They are in the best position to look at their finances and find efficiencies if they need them.

### Diabetes Treatment

**Ms Issik:** Mr. Speaker, diabetes is one of the most common illnesses in Alberta and can take a significant toll on an individual's day-to-day life. I often hear from my constituents who live with diabetes that they worry about the availability of appropriate supports for their individual circumstances. If not treated properly, diabetes can become a major health concern or result in other major health complications, and ultimately these serious complications result in a strain on the public health care system. To the Minister of Health: what supports are available to Albertans living with diabetes?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Health.

**Mr. Shandro:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member is correct. Diabetes is one of the most common conditions in the province. About 350,000 Albertans live with diabetes today, and that's expected to increase to more than 500,000 by 2029. Alberta Health spent about \$411 million last year to provide diabetes supplies and drugs. These benefits include \$90 million for insulin and related products and \$21.5 million for supplies like test strips

for blood glucose. Diabetes is a perfect example of the challenges in health care.

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Member for Calgary-Glenmore.

**Ms Issik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Minister of Health has outlined various supports available to those who live with diabetes and given that there are now safer, more efficient technologies such as flash glucose monitors or continuous glucose monitoring along with insulin pumps and given that these technologies can greatly reduce the challenges of living with diabetes and that many Albertans have eagerly followed the progress on these technologies, can the minister speak to whether the government is considering covering any of these new technologies?

**Mr. Shandro:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we're committed to maintaining our current benefits, and we want to do more where it's justified in terms of cost and benefit to patients. We know that living with diabetes or caring for someone with it can be a financial burden. Government in recent years has added benefits for insulin pumps, for example, at a cost of more than \$18 million last year. We're working with the University of Calgary to evaluate a number of diabetes technologies, including glucose monitoring devices. This health technology assessment will help inform future coverage decisions.

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

**Ms Issik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that I receive consistent inquiries from my constituents about diabetes and in particular glucose monitoring technologies and the progress and potential benefits these technologies could have for those living with diabetes and given that my constituents are anxiously awaiting the results of the technology review that the minister mentioned and that diabetes and prediabetes affects such a large number of Albertans, to the Minister of Health: when can my constituents in Calgary-Glenmore and Albertans across the province expect the results of this new review to be made public?

**The Speaker:** The minister.

**Mr. Shandro:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has commissioned this through the University of Calgary. The review will examine the clinical outcomes and cost-effectiveness of a number of new technologies like continuous or flash glucose monitors. The assessment will be completed by the end of the fiscal year. It's a technical analysis rather than a public report. The data will help inform the department as they consider future coverage options for Albertans.

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

#### Children's Services Budget 2019-2020

**Ms Pancholi:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are even more cuts being planned for the Children's Services ministry. We've obtained a letter confirming that the early childhood coalition grant will end this March. This funding was used to advocate for early childhood development, hold workshops for parents, and help children in low-income communities. Now the grant is gone. To the minister: please explain why early childhood development isn't a priority but a \$4.7 billion no-jobs corporate handout is.

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Children's Services.

**Ms Schulz:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I've said before, we continue to prioritize supports to those in Alberta who need it the most. These were one-time grants that went to a number of early childhood coalitions across the province, and future funding was not provided under the former government's budget. These were one-time grants for community building and capacity building.

2:10

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

**Ms Pancholi:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this government has also cut child care subsidies for low-income stay-at-home parents and given that they've gone even further and also cut kin child care subsidies, which hits families who rely on support within their families to provide child care, particularly in rural Alberta, to the minister. You've told Albertans that you want to provide choice in child care. How exactly does gutting all of these supports do that?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Children's Services.

**Ms Schulz:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This year's budget actually saw an increase of child care subsidy dollars. For the programs that the member opposite is speaking to, less than 1 per cent – I believe it's .08 per cent – of Alberta families used these two programs. They also had absolutely no checks and balances in terms of whether there was financial need, whether the parents were working, or any requirements for invoicing or proof of care. That's why we're going to continue to support those working parents in Alberta who need the supports the most.

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

**Ms Pancholi:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that our leader has exposed other cuts to the Children's Services ministry today and given that these all come on top of cuts to supports for former foster kids that we exposed last week in estimates and given that this minister barely blinks when asked about all of these cuts, to the minister: by the time you're through, how many vulnerable Albertans will be harmed by your cuts?

**Ms Schulz:** Mr. Speaker, our government prioritizes supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families. But what we won't do is continue to do the same thing we've always done because it's the way we've always done it. Part of this is our community-based organizations, especially in the early intervention and prevention space. Many of our community organizations are already well beyond us in terms of working together and providing innovative supports for vulnerable families, and it's time for government to catch up.

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

#### Public-private Partnerships for School Construction

**Mr. Dang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. P3 schools are a failed experiment. Taxpayers pay more while students and families get less. Not long ago Conservatives came to understand this as well when the Progressive Conservatives cancelled 19 P3 schools and abandoned this risky ideological experiment. In 2014 the then Infrastructure minister, Wayne Drysdale, admitted, quote, that this project, a P3, does not make sense. End quote. Why is today's Minister of Infrastructure so infatuated with an idea that has been shown to be a disaster and proven to fail?

**Mr. Panda:** Mr. Speaker, I can give you a number of examples where P3 projects were really successful. The member mentioned about a particular P3 project that was a failure, but I can give you so many examples. Our government is determined to evaluate case by case, and if the business case determines there is value for money, then we will proceed with the projects on a P3 basis. That's our campaign commitment.

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

**Mr. Dang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that he claims he has many examples – but he can't even name one today – and given that the price of that failure was paid for by children, parents, and educators at schools in my riding and given that we had exposed ditches, mud so deep that children were getting stuck in it, construction fencing that was falling on children, and runaway heating systems that could only be turned off in Toronto, does the Minister of Infrastructure have any idea of the real human misery that his failed ideological P3 experiments will cause, or is he only focused on paying for his \$4.7 billion corporate handout?

**Mr. Panda:** Mr. Speaker, this member just jumps up and down all the time, but he doesn't listen to me and what I'm trying to say. There were 40 schools built under P3 in the past, and those were all successful projects. Forty schools were built under P3. The P3 contractors cover the warranty, they bring private finance, and then they also build the schools faster and cheaper. Those are the advantages with P3. But we don't blindly apply . . .

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

**Mr. Dang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that those successful projects he's talking about are the exact schools that I'm describing and given that children, parents, and educators at Bessie Nichols school and Johnny Bright school endured years of mud and heat issues and unsafe conditions because of the failed P3 school experiment and given that no other Alberta children and families should be forced to live through that to pay for this \$4.7 billion corporate handout, will the Minister of Infrastructure agree to come to my riding and meet with these students, these parents, and the staff in my office and hear their stories? Yes or no?

**Mr. Panda:** Mr. Speaker, these guys keep talking about \$4.7 billion, which was a myth we called out, and the Leader of the Opposition was misleading Albertans with \$4.7 billion. Specific to his request to visit his riding, I'll be happy to visit his riding.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake. [interjections] Order.

### Flood Emergency Response Highway 88 Flood Damage

**Mr. Rehn:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my constituency residents of Marten Beach were positive that 2018 brought the 1-in-100-year flood. This year the flood was even worse. This year homes were flooded on the main floor. Water was so powerful that it washed out two culverts on highway 88 and shut down traffic. No wonder the flood was so bad: there were 185 millimetres of rain in four days. To the Minister of Transportation: what procedures does the government have in place to react to massive floods which shut down highways?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Transportation.

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. Flood response and mitigation is crucial to us. We have seen the devastation time and again, and being prepared is important. During a flood we work closely with municipalities to ensure that lives are protected. That's first and foremost. The Provincial Operations Centre kicks into gear and helps co-ordinate response efforts between government response partners and community members and, after the flood comes, our disaster response recovery program to help Albertans restore damaged property and municipalities recover and get back to work and restore jobs and personal property. It's a co-ordinated approach, and we keep learning each time it happens. I think we're getting better at it.

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

**Mr. Rehn:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that highway 88 was quite damaged by the flood and given that two culverts were washed out, rendering the highway impassable, and given that a temporary bridge over the Lily Creek gap was put in place and allows some traffic to go through but remains an obstacle for a lot of the industrial traffic, to the Minister of Transportation: what progress has been made on finding a permanent repair for the two sections of highway 88?

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

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the hon. member correctly, he's referring to the culverts at Lily Creek and Brady Creek. In this case I hope the member and his constituents will be happy to know that in this budget we've allocated funding for the two projects. They are not complete yet. They're currently in the design phase, but we are aware of it, and we have put money in place to make the necessary repairs.

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

**Mr. Rehn:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the temporary crossings on highway 88 are still in place and given that the temporary crossings stymie a lot of industrial traffic and force far longer trips and given that the plan is to replace these temporary crossings covering the washouts with permanent bridges, to the Minister of Transportation: when can we expect the permanent bridges to be in place?

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

**Mr. McIver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the hon. member's lack of patience. He's only responding to the desires of his community. Highway 88, as he points out, is a major artery for industry as well as people. Our job is to make sure our road network doesn't hinder the movement of people and goods and services. However, as I said, the project is in the design phase, tentatively scheduled for 2019-20. Our hope is that construction will begin in the spring, and our sincere hope is that construction will be able to be completed next year during the fall season.

### Budget 2019 and Lethbridge

**Ms Phillips:** Mr. Speaker, we have in the Chamber today Team Lethbridge, who are here to advocate for our city. The Minister of Infrastructure needs to make two commitments. One, why doesn't Lethbridge have any new schools when both our public and Catholic school divisions need new schools? Superintendents are here in the gallery. Two, there was a previous commitment to a 34-unit supportive housing complex, which is something the downtown

business association and others here today have been advocating for. It's nowhere in the budget as well. Where are these investments? The Minister of Infrastructure should give a clear answer to Team Lethbridge about his capital plan. They are here in the gallery today.

2:20

**Mr. Panda:** Mr. Speaker, my job is to build the schools that are on the capital project list, so I would encourage the member to take it up with the Minister of Education. But our government has prioritized based on the needs assessment, and we are building the schools where they are required. Also, given the fiscal situation we are in, the projects will be prioritized. We have another capital plan that will be presented in four months. Then probably we can address some of those concerns.

**Ms Phillips:** Given that Lethbridge has two urgent law enforcement needs in addition to reversing the cuts that mean that our police budget is less this year, given that we need a SCAN unit in the city to shut down drug houses, given that we need a drug court because Lethbridge has the highest per capita use of opioids, and given that the mayor and several councillors are here today listening carefully, can the Minister of Justice spare us his usual yelling and puffed up theatrics and just give our city an answer on a SCAN unit and a drug court? Are we getting them?

**Mr. Schweitzer:** Mr. Speaker, we heard from the opposition earlier today: the fear is real. That is the state of the justice system across Alberta. In particular, when I met with the people in Lethbridge – our justice system is in disarray. We put in additional resources for things like Alberta law enforcement response teams to go after organized crime. I'm also proud of the fact that we have \$20 million to enhance drug treatment courts across Alberta. I look forward to working with Lethbridge... [interjections] I look forward to working with Lethbridge – I don't know why they're heckling when I'm answering their question. We look forward to working with them in expanding drug treatment courts.

**Ms Phillips:** Given that during the election this government promised to replace the highway 3 bridge in Lethbridge and given that I don't see that project in the capital plan, can the Minister of Transportation tell our Team Lethbridge guests, every single one of whom drove over that 60-year-old bridge yesterday to travel to Edmonton to hear his answer, specifically when he will fulfill his Premier's commitment to the people of Lethbridge and replace the highway 3 bridge?

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, a point of order is noted at 2:22.

**Mr. McIver:** Mr. Speaker, I've received strong advocacy for the highway 3 bridge both from Lethbridge's mayor and from the Member for Lethbridge-East. I met with the mayor recently to discuss this, and while he made it clear that the city wants the bridge, he's also aware that the province did repairs on this bridge just a very few years ago. We don't want to throw those repairs away. This bridge, while it's needed, is not a safety need but rather a capacity need. We, respectfully, don't want to waste the money we spent on the bridge recently, but the day will come when that bridge will have to be replaced to add capacity.

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

#### Postsecondary Education Budget 2019-2020

**Mr. Eggen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here's a quote: "Students should not have to suffer just to receive an education." This was part

of a statement from the University of Lethbridge Students' Union yesterday. This organization is understandably panicked by this government's cuts to postsecondary funding and the resulting costs being dumped onto students. The tuition freeze is off, the tuition tax credits are gone, and interest on student loans is going up. To the minister: why are you making cuts on the backs of postsecondary students?

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

**Mr. Nicolaidis:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the MacKinnon panel report pointed out, we have some long-standing challenges with our postsecondary system. The members opposite can scream and yell as much as they want, but the fact of the matter is that under their tenure postsecondary participation rates did not improve. Under their tenure enrolment in the province declined. It decreased. We haven't seen an expansion of access. We have to address the problem in a meaningful and substantial way, and we're going to do just that.

**Mr. Eggen:** Given that the University of Lethbridge Students' Union also states that postsecondary should be a place for students to "achieve their dreams" and aspirations and given that now many students I'm hearing from have continuous nightmares about how they're going to possibly afford a massive increase to tuition and given that this minister insists that he's on the side of students from Lethbridge, to the minister: will you commit here and now to undoing your half-baked plan to allow massive tuition hikes?

**Mr. Nicolaidis:** Mr. Speaker, when it comes to supporting our students, it's a top priority, of course, for us, which is why we have not only maintained scholarships, but we have increased scholarships. We are providing over \$8 million over four years to new scholarships. As well, Budget 2019 includes an expansion of \$3 million for the Alexander Rutherford and an expansion of \$51 million for additional supports in terms of student loans. Those are the things that we are working on. As I said, we have expanded scholarships in comparison to the previous government.

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

**Mr. Eggen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this government is increasing scholarships by maybe \$4 million and taking out \$600 million from operating expenses – do the math – and given that, you know, students in Lethbridge say that "we will not be quiet, and neither should you" and that "we realize that many people [will need and] want to mobilize," to the minister: students are going to take action against your terrible budget, but don't you agree that they really shouldn't have to be doing this? They should be studying instead of protesting your terrible cuts.

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

**Mr. Nicolaidis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my conversation with the university presidents and college presidents I made it very clear to them that as they are looking to finding more savings and efficiencies within the system, they look, first and foremost, to administrative expenses. We, naturally, don't want to see the quality of education be affected. When you look at the MacKinnon panel report, you'll see that in Alberta we spend \$8,000 per student on administrative expenses while B.C. spends \$4,000 and Ontario spends \$5,000. If they can do it, so can we.

#### Natural Gas Industry Support

**Mr. Walker:** Mr. Speaker, our natural gas industry has been hurting due to extreme low prices and limited market access. This

has caused workers in the natural gas sector to be laid off and wondering how they will be able to provide for their families in the future. Albertans elected our government on an overwhelming mandate because we promised to revitalize our natural gas sector and get hard-working Albertans back to work. To the Associate Minister of Natural Gas: what is this government's plan to ensure our natural gas products can reach international markets and ultimately save Albertans' jobs?

**Mr. Nally:** Mr. Speaker, look, it is nothing short of tragic. Had the members across the aisle done anything – really, anything – to help the natural gas industry, they might actually have saved jobs for the natural gas producers. Now, the Member for Sherwood Park is absolutely correct. We were elected on an overwhelming mandate to stand up and fight for all Albertans. That includes the oil and gas workers. That's what we're going to do.

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

**Mr. Walker:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. Given that the former NDP government was well aware of the issues facing our natural gas sector yet chose to do absolutely nothing and given that the natural gas sector has been asking for assistance in finding solutions to these issues for years and years and given that in July several CEOs called on our government to mandate production cuts to natural gas to stabilize natural gas prices, can the associate minister comment on whether such cuts are being considered?

**Mr. Nally:** Mr. Speaker, the members opposite were handed by the natural gas industry a Roadmap to Recovery, and do you know what they did with that road map? Do you know how they actioned it? They didn't. They sat on it. Now, perhaps if the members opposite had spent a little more time reading the Roadmap to Recovery and a little less time reading the Leap Manifesto, perhaps – perhaps – the natural gas industry would be in a different situation than it is today.

**Mr. Walker:** Given that our government cares strongly about environmental stewardship and given that natural gas is among the cleanest fossil fuels and has the potential to significantly lower global emissions and given that natural gas producers cite increased natural gas production in the United States as a reason for lower prices in our Canadian gas sector, can the minister please comment on what our government is doing to promote Canadian natural gas as the best option for energy consumption across Canada and around the world? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

**Mr. Nally:** Mr. Speaker, our office is focused on promoting Alberta natural gas to key international stakeholders. We're meeting with international investors and delegations across Asia to get significant market access for our natural gas. Our LNG story is an impressive one, and I look forward to sharing it with the world.

## 2:30 Firefighting Service Funding (continued)

**Mr. Dach:** Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women who have dedicated their lives to fighting wildfires in this province and keeping our communities safe certainly know more about their job than this minister does. Tom Weston spent 11 years in the wildland rap program, that is now being cut. He said that, quote, forest fires do not get stopped from the air, much as Hollywood might have you

believe; they are stopped by boots on the ground spraying water, dirt, and directing air tankers and buckets of water to the places where they will be most effective. To the minister: explain to Albertans why after 40 years you are ending the rap program and eliminating this very proud and effective squadron of elite Alberta firefighters.

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

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To the member opposite: I actually agree with him. Forest fires are put out by boots on the ground. That's why we're refocusing how we actually fight fires here in the province of Alberta. Those 63 great men and women are part of the thousand-plus people that we hire to fight fires here in the province of Alberta, and they will be dedicating a hundred per cent of their time to actually fighting forest fires on the ground. They do an amazing job. They did an amazing job this year. We know that they'll do an amazing job next year in fighting our forest fires.

**Mr. Dach:** Mr. Speaker, the rap helitack firefighters are worth their weight in gold.

Now, given that firefighter Tom Weston expected the government would argue that this program is too expensive but given that he said, quote, how do you measure the damage that didn't occur because of us, and how do you do a cost-benefit measure when you can't measure what hasn't been spent? – to the minister: answer Tom Weston. Explain to him why you're willing to put communities at risk to pay for your \$4.7 billion corporate handout rather than maintaining this elite firefighting unit who spearheaded our firefighting attack.

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Mr. Speaker, the premise of that question is disheartening, it's not true, and I wish the NDP would stop. That's actually great fearmongering that's coming from the NDP. It is demand driven, the amount of resources required to fight fires here in the province of Alberta. We spent over \$600 million fighting forest fires, and that was all demand driven. We had a terrible forest fire year this year. The department would make recommendations to me as minister, I would go through Treasury Board, and we spent over \$600 million, way above . . .

**Mr. Shepherd:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Dreeshen:** . . . the \$320 million average that we would have as a province to fight forest fires. Again, the premise of that question is just wrong.

**The Speaker:** I recognize a point of order called at 2:33.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung has the call.

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that these 63 men and women who are part of this attack squadron go out on a daily basis and protect our firefighting capabilities to make sure that these fires don't go beyond a 24-hour period and are learning every day of the devastating and cruel cuts that this government is making to programs to keep Albertans safe and given that cancelling this program will leave many Albertans fearful of the next fire, to the minister: last chance; will you commit now to restoring the rap program, which is essential to getting forest fires out before they get big?

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Mr. Speaker, terms like "fearful of the next fire" in our northern and forested communities is just wrong and irresponsible. I wish the member opposite would stop using language like that because, again, the 63 members that he has just

referenced could be hired next year. We are going to hire over a thousand wildfire personnel to fight fires, boots on the ground that actually make a difference in fighting forest fires. As minister I'm proud of the amazing work that they do and will continue to do here in the province of Alberta.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View is rising.

### Calgary Fire Department and Police Funding

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Much like the Minister of Education, the Minister of Municipal Affairs continues to play the blame game. Now his lack of leadership is putting public safety at risk for a \$4.7 billion no-jobs giveaway. The Calgary fire department is facing a \$9 million cut, and firefighters say they are already at the breaking point. To the minister: what will you do besides pointing fingers to ensure there are enough firefighters to keep Calgary safe?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs has risen.

**Mr. Madu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure this House that our firefighting departments are well equipped to deal with any disaster in this province. As you heard from our Premier, we have devoted \$750 million, something that the members opposite did not do while they were in office. I am confident that all of our fire departments in this province will have all the resources they need to protect our communities.

**Ms Ganley:** Given, Mr. Speaker, that we're talking about municipal fire services and given that Mike Henson, president of the Calgary Firefighters Association, said that, quote, citizen safety and firefighter safety is absolutely at risk, and given that funding to municipalities is being cut by this government and given that the city council in Calgary is left with two options, to cut services or hike taxes, again to the minister: are you really willing to risk the lives of people in Calgary by cutting municipal funding to pay for a \$4.7 billion giveaway?

**Mr. Madu:** Mr. Speaker, we have delivered the long-term, predictable funding that municipalities asked for. The answer that I have for members opposite is that the relevant numbers that they should be interested in is the more than \$60 billion they left for us in debt. We are spending more than \$2 billion on interest rates as a consequence of their disastrous policies in the last four years. What we would not do is jeopardize the future of our public service and those programs and services that they care about with their reckless policies.

**Ms Ganley:** Given that police are also facing a cut due to the UCP's terrible budget and given that all the minister can do is point fingers and all the Premier's staff can do is mock this awful situation on Twitter, to the minister: what exactly do I tell my constituents? That 911 services must take a back seat to pay for your terrible, no-jobs corporate giveaway?

**Mr. Schweitzer:** Mr. Speaker, I would tell them to call city hall, to call their elected officials and tell them to get their fiscal house in order and start funding the priorities of Albertans. I am tired of city hall in Calgary coming here and saying: they're putting policing at the top of the chopping block. Policing is critical. I'm a member from Calgary. I'm a resident of Calgary. I'm tired of my taxes going up. I want our funding priorities to be public safety. We have fully funded our grants and increased funding to go after organized crime. We encourage city hall to do the same. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

### Eddie Maurice and Rural Crime

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Mr. Speaker, on February 24, 2018, Eddie Maurice, a rancher from Highwood, found two trespassers breaking into his vehicle in the early morning hours. Fearing for his safety and that of his 11-month-old daughter and after having verbally warned the trespassers to stop, Eddie fired two warning shots at the ground. We have recently discovered that the same criminal is now suing Eddie for \$100,000. Can the Minister of Justice please explain what he is doing to ensure that innocent people like Eddie won't have to pay those who victimize them?

**Mr. Schweitzer:** Mr. Speaker, what happened to Eddie Maurice came up at every single town hall that I was at across Alberta. Albertans can relate to it because it could have been them in rural communities. It could have been their daughters. It could have been their sons. It could have been their wives. What happened to Eddie Maurice is wrong. It is not justice, and I'm proud today that law-abiding citizens do not have to fear somebody that's committing a criminal act on their properties suing them civilly. We're bringing forward legislation this fall. I'm proud of it. We're going to have the strongest property rights in all of the country. [interjection]

**The Speaker:** Order.

The hon. Member for Highwood.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that lengthy response times from law enforcement have left many rural Albertans feeling that they have no choice but to defend themselves, their property, and their families and given that charges wrongfully laid against Eddie were dropped by the authorities, can the Minister of Justice please explain what our government is doing to protect the property rights of all Albertans?

**Mr. Schweitzer:** Mr. Speaker, today we announced a comprehensive package to make sure that property rights are respected here in Alberta. Like I mentioned earlier on, never again do we want to have somebody committing a criminal offence on their property being able to sue the homeowner. We're also making sure that we bring forward new measures to stop trespassing and send a clear signal to eco environmental extremists that want to trespass for their own agenda: not in Alberta. We respect property rights. We're going to be bringing forward new laws here in this province, the strongest in the country.

2:40

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Highwood.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that. Given that many of the perpetrators of rural crime are repeat offenders and given that in this very case the trespasser, Ryan Watson, was only given a 45-day sentence but didn't serve a single day of it due to previous jail time served, can the minister please explain how our government is working to prevent criminals from becoming repeat offenders, particularly in rural Alberta?

**Mr. Schweitzer:** Mr. Speaker, our laws right now are written for downtown Toronto; they are not written for rural Alberta. Today I'm proud that we are bringing forward community impact statements that can be brought forward on sentencing. We need our judiciary to hear the impacts of rural crime and what is happening in communities. I've met with so many people that fear for their loved ones, fear for their children. We want to make sure those considerations are before our judiciary. We need better presence.

We are going to be working with our prosecutors to get that evidence before the court to make sure that the justice system works for rural Alberta.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, in 30 seconds or less we will proceed to Members' Statements.

### Members' Statements

*(continued)*

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, the hon. Member for Calgary-South East is rising to make a statement.

#### School and Playground Construction

**Mr. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the election we made a promise to Albertans that our government would continue to build new schools. This campaign commitment was especially important to me and my constituents in Calgary-South East as we've experienced rapid growth and have been lacking much-needed school infrastructure for some time.

On Friday, November 1, just last week, I was delighted to join the Minister of Education and the Minister of Infrastructure and several of my colleagues to announce 25 Education capital projects that are part of Budget 2019. Fifteen new schools will be built across the province, including brand new high schools in Calgary, Edmonton, Leduc, Blackfalds, and Langdon. Six schools are slated for replacement, and four will receive modernization or additions. Two of these announced schools, the Auburn Bay middle school and the new Auburn Bay elementary school, are located in my constituency.

An additional important announcement was also made that day, and it will affect constituencies and communities all across our province. The Education minister announced that moving forward, new schools will have playground funding included in their project budgets, something that I've personally advocated for. This means that every new K to 6 school announced by our government will come with a playground, including the newly announced Auburn Bay elementary school.

This is a welcome announcement to my constituents in the community of Auburn Bay, that recently had to fund raise over \$300,000 for a playground for the Prince of Peace school, and to my constituents in Cranston, that will be fund raising to build their own playground shortly.

Studies have found that play improves the physical, mental, intellectual, and social well-being of children. These playgrounds will also enrich the communities that surround them.

Once again, I would like to thank the Minister of Education and the Minister of Infrastructure on behalf of my constituents in Calgary-South East, and I applaud the decision to ensure that each new elementary school is built with a playground.

#### Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

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

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As chair of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills I am pleased to table the committee's final report on Bill 204, Election Recall Act, sponsored by the hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon. This bill was referred to the committee on October 23, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, the committee's final report recommends that Bill 204, Election Recall Act, proceed. I request concurrence of the Assembly in the final report on Bill 204.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, the motion for concurrence in the report is debatable pursuant to Standing Order 18(1)(b). Are there any members who wish to speak to the request for concurrence?

Seeing none, the chair of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills has requested concurrence in the report for Bill 204, Election Recall Act.

[Motion carried]

#### Introduction of Bills

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

##### Bill 205

#### Human Tissue and Organ Donation (Presumed Consent) Amendment Act, 2019

**Mr. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise today to introduce Bill 205, the Human Tissue and Organ Donation (Presumed Consent) Amendment Act, 2019.

Just one organ and tissue donor can save up to eight lives and make life better for up to 75 other people. A 90 per cent majority of Canadians support organ and tissue donation, but less than 20 per cent have made plans to donate. If introduced, this bill will change our underperforming opt-in system into an opt-out, or presumed consent, system to match other leading jurisdictions around the world and, hopefully, help the 700 Albertans on the waiting list for an organ transplant.

With that, I request leave to introduce Bill 205, the Human Tissue and Organ Donation (Presumed Consent) Amendment Act, 2019.

[Motion carried; Bill 205 read a first time]

#### Tabling Returns and Reports

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, there was an hon. member who wanted to present a petition, and it was my error to not recognize her while she was standing. It would require unanimous consent of the House.

The question that I do have for the member is: is this a petition that has been approved by the library?

**Ms Rosin:** It was run through your office, Mr. Speaker. I believe so.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, apologies.

I'll provide some clarification for you. What you're presenting is actually a tabling, because unless it's been approved by Parliamentary Counsel, it's not a petition. Although it might be worded as a petition, it's unlikely that it's an official petition of the Assembly. As such, I invite you to table it during the appropriate time, which is Tabling Returns and Reports – and there are a number of those today – which we are currently at.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview has the call.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the requisite copies of 46 individual letters from teachers in my constituency concerned about this government's proposal to control the assets of the Alberta teachers' retirement fund.

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

**Ms Rosin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Quickly I'd like to recognize Dave Rupert and Dave Klepacki, who are in the gallery today on behalf of the Springbank action coalition.

Further, I would like to table today the requisite number of copies of a petition from the residents of Rocky View county and Calgary which expresses concern over the devastation that the proposed Springbank dam will have on the communities, residents, and business owners of Springbank, Bragg Creek, Redwood Meadows, and surrounding area. The petition also calls on our government to reassess the costs, socioeconomic impacts, and science of the alternative McLean Creek reservoir. I'm happy today to table five copies of approximately 1,200 handwritten and signed letters, of which I am also a proud signatory. We have approximately, I think, 6,000 pieces of paper here – some are here; some are in the back lounge – and these will be tabled today.

Thank you so much.

2:50

**The Speaker:** Edmonton-North West I have on my list.

**Mr. Eggen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the requisite copies of 26 letters that were sent to my office from individuals who are very concerned about the government's choice to move the Alberta teachers' retirement fund monies to AIMCo.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I have a lengthy list, but let's just go from who is standing as there may or may not be some members able to present their tablings.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-South here.

**Mr. Dang:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you'll indulge me, I have a tabling on behalf of my colleague from Calgary-Mountain View. It's entitled Calgary Firefighters Association Frustrated by Lack of Resources for New Communities.

I also have an additional tabling of my own, Mr. Speaker. It's called Stuck in the Mud: Parents Sound Off on Dirty Grounds outside Johnny Bright School, which iterates how P3 schools have caused safety issues in my community.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, followed by Edmonton-Ellerslie.

**Member Irwin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the requisite number of copies of a number of e-mails that I've received in Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood from constituents who are all teachers and who are quite concerned about this government's proposal to take over the assets of the Alberta teachers' retirement fund.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie, followed by Edmonton-Glenora.

**Member Loyola:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the requisite number of copies of 11 e-mails that have been sent to my office stating that the government has crossed the line by taking over control of the assets of the Alberta teachers' retirement fund.

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you. I have two tablings. The first is with regard to the question my hon. colleague from Edmonton-

Whitemud made earlier today, with the Family & Community Support Services Association of Alberta referred to in her question.

The second are additional letters about what many are referring to as the heavy-handed overreach of attacking teachers' pensions, the Alberta teachers' retirement fund. I had letters that I tabled yesterday, and here are additional ones that we continue to receive.

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

**Mr. Feehan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the requisite number of copies of an article from *National Geographic* entitled Most Countries Aren't Hitting 2030 Climate Goals, and Everyone Will Pay the Price: "Untold human suffering" is in our future as nations miss their Paris Agreement targets by a long shot."

**The Speaker:** Are there others wishing to table a document? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore, followed by Edmonton-McClung.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have the requisite number of copies of six e-mails my office has received from Alberta teachers about their great concern with the steps this government is taking around the ATRF and wishing to express their disappointment.

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

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the requisite number of copies of a letter sent by a former rappel forest firefighter with 10 years of experience who equates the capping of the rappel program to the firing of the lifeguards in a busy swimming pool.

I further have four more tablings, five copies each, of letters sent to various ministerial agencies commending the rappel firefighters for their work over the last 15 years.

### Tablings to the Clerk

**The Clerk:** I wish to advise the Assembly that the following documents were deposited with the office of the Clerk. On behalf of hon. Mr. Shandro, Minister of Health, pursuant to the Health Professions Act the College of Alberta Dental Assistants annual report 2018-19.

On behalf of Mr. Schweitzer, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, the Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board 2018 annual report.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, we are at points of order.

At 2:22 the hon. Member for Calgary-West noted a point of order, which was subsequently withdrawn.

At 2:33 the hon. Member for Edmonton-City Centre also noted a point of order. I recognize the hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

### Point of Order Language Creating Disorder

**Ms Sweet:** Thank you. I'll try to be quick because I recognize that people have to be in estimates soon. Under Standing Order 23:

- (h) makes allegations against another Member;
- (i) imputes false or unavowed motives to another Member;
- (j) uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder.

I appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that you may not have the benefit of the Blues. It may not have been caught in the Blues, but the hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka – and this is not the first occurrence – repeatedly has made comments in regard to our caucus that



indicate: they're the ones who let Fort McMurray burn down. He has done that again today. Numerous times members of this caucus heard it.

We would just ask that all members of the House not make comments associated with that, recognizing that the tragedy of the Fort McMurray fire was something that this Official Opposition, then in government, did the best that they could do with what was happening and that those comments do nothing to help the debate of the House.

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Well, Mr. Speaker, this in fact is not a point of order. As mentioned, first of all, maybe you have the benefit of the Blues already. I don't even imagine that anything like that in any way has been recorded in regard to the context of what the deputy House leader is referring to.

But further to that, we're clearly talking about topics that are of debate, and if we are going to spend our time point-of-ordering what members are saying to each other in conversations that they're having inside this House, then maybe we will start point-of-ordering every heckle that the NDP does. I'm sorry that the NDP may not like to be reminded about their mismanagement of the fire file. That, in fact, Mr. Speaker, as you know, is a matter of debate inside this Assembly.

As for accusing other members and stuff, I've watched today sadly as the opposition has continually got up both in heckling and within their questions and have accused cabinet ministers and members of this government over and over of doing terrible things to children, in fact, of hurting people, or of doing significant damage to Albertans, all of which, I want to be clear, is not true. I

think it's unfortunate that the opposition continues to do it, but I will also recognize that it is clearly a matter of debate.

**The Speaker:** I appreciate the submissions from both of you this afternoon. It would not be possible for your Speaker to make comments on statements made by members that the Speaker did not hear. Having said that, I would suggest that these are the types of accusations that don't create order and decorum inside the House. I am in agreement with the hon. Government House Leader that these sorts of accusations aren't helpful.

If the hon. member said that – obviously, you, we, any individual in this House weren't responsible for letting Fort McMurray burn, so I would encourage members to not make these sorts of statements. But I did not hear that, so I'm not going to ask him to apologize or otherwise because I do not know whether or not that, in fact, was said and it would be inappropriate of me to comment.

Having said those things, pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(5)(b) the House stands adjourned until this evening at 7:30.

The legislative policy committees will convene this afternoon for consideration of the main estimates. This afternoon the Standing Committee on Families and Communities will consider the estimates for the Ministry of Community and Social Services in the Rocky Mountain Room, and the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future will consider the estimates for the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism in the Parkland Room.

Hon. members, the House stands adjourned.

[The Assembly adjourned at 2:58 p.m.]



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