

Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature First Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, November 21, 2019

Day 45

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 30th Legislature

First Session

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 21, 2019

[The Speaker in the chair]

Statement by the Speaker Former MLA Manmeet Singh Bhullar

The Speaker: Hon. members, before we begin the business of this afternoon, I would like to acknowledge the anniversary of the passing of a dear colleague and friend to many members of this Assembly, Mr. Manmeet Bhullar, the MLA for Calgary-Greenway. Mr. Bhullar was a dedicated and deeply kind member of this Chamber, and he was tragically taken from us doing what he loved to do best, selflessly helping a fellow Albertan. We continue to think of and pray for his family and many friends. He is profoundly missed. Please join me in a moment of silence in his memory on this anniversary.

Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: Hon. members, we have several guests in the galleries today, including two school groups from Davidson Creek elementary, students of the constituency of Strathcona-Sherwood Park.

Also in the gallery are students from the constituency of Livingstone-Macleod, from Livingstone senior high school.

Joining us at 2 o'clock from the constituency of Edmonton-West Henday is Unlimited Potential Community Services.

Please welcome our schools with us today.

Hon. members, it is my great pleasure to welcome – and I know we'll have some more to say on this a little bit later in the proceedings – a most familiar face to this gallery in celebration of his recent retirement from the Legislative Assembly. Seated in the Speaker's gallery is our former Sergeant-at-Arms, Lieutenant Colonel Brian Hodgson; his wife, Bonny; their children Alastair, Gillian, Heather, and Chloe; along with a number of his friends and family. Thank you so much to each and every one of you for being here today.

Hon. members, guests from the outstanding constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills: welcome, Larry and Grace Martin; Erhard Poggemiller and his wife, Evelyn; and their grandson Cameron.

Also joining us in the gallery are family and friends, stakeholders of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

We also have guests of the Minister of Seniors and Housing. Here celebrating National Housing Day are various housing foundations and societies from across the province.

I invite you all to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Statement by the Speaker

Former Sergeant-at-Arms Brian Hodgson

The Speaker: Hon. members, if you will indulge me for just a few brief moments, I would like to have a small amount of Speaker's latitude today to make a statement for Mr. Brian Hodgson. He was appointed the Sergeant-at-Arms in January 1993 and served an impressive 27 years in that role before retiring in September of this year.

In his role as Sergeant-at-Arms, director of visitor services, ceremonial and security services, he served through eight general elections, 11 by-elections. In the entire history of this Assembly's 113 years Brian Hodgson served with 408 members of the only 950 members in Alberta's history. He was an integral part of the planning and execution of the royal visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the province's provincial centennial, in 2005; the centennial of the Legislative Assembly, in 2006; the centennial of the Legislative Assembly Building, in 2012; and countless other historical moments that will live on as cherished memories.

He was first introduced in this House on January 25, 1993, by then Speaker David Carter, who at that time asked members to take a look at the very distinguished resumé on their desks in front of them – the resumé showed the new Sergeant-at-Arms – and asked that he rise and be acknowledged by the House.

Prior to starting his career with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, he was an intelligence officer for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service for six years. It was around this time last year, November 5, 2018, to be exact, that Mr. Hodgson was most recently recognized in the House for his involvement with the Armistice 100 Committee, a group dedicated to preserving and celebrating the memory of the 100th anniversary of the First World War. As an Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel Hodgson was the first member of his regiment, the South Alberta Light Horse, to volunteer to serve in Afghanistan. In 2004, with the full support of the Assembly, he was granted leave of absence by then Speaker Kowalski to carry out his service to Canada.

In addition to being a dedicated husband and father, it is clear that he has spent the better part of his life dedicated to local and national as well as provincial public service. His contributions in these areas have been recognized through the awarding of the Queen's golden and diamond jubilee medals, the Canada 125 medal, the Alberta centennial medal, and the Canadian Forces decoration with two bars.

I know that we already did this, but I think it is worth another opportunity. I would ask all members of the Assembly to rise and thank him for his dedicated service to our province. [Standing ovation]

Members' Statements

Campaign Investigations and Provincial Legislation

Mr. Carson: Mr. Speaker, before the election, when the members opposite were first thinking about running for office, I wonder how many of them sat at the kitchen table with their loved ones and said: this is a great opportunity for me to help cover up corruption and illegal activity. Hopefully, none of them, but during the last days of that campaign and into the first weeks of government, as the Election Commissioner and the police and the special prosecutor began to investigate, the more perceptive members probably sensed that a moment was waiting for them just over the horizon, a moment of moral testing.

That moment was today. The Premier asked his caucus to disband a law enforcement agency that is closing in on at least one member of that caucus. The Premier directed government MLAs to participate in a cover-up of corruption and illegal activity. Maybe they think they can hide behind the flimsy fiction that this is just an administrative adjustment, but nobody is believing that nonsense. Or maybe they hoped they could hold their nose and vote and the whole thing would just blow over after a few weeks.

It won't, Mr. Speaker. The MLAs that are complicit in this coverup will wear that stain for the rest of their careers. The RCMP is still investigating. We may well have charges and trials and testimony that will open this whole sordid affair to the public, but by then the good names of the members opposite will be tarnished forever.

It's not an easy thing to refuse an order from your Premier or your House leader, but all of the members of this House will have to go back to that kitchen table and sit with their loved ones again. On this side of the House we will say: I did what was right. On that side they will say: I did what I was told.

Former MLA Manmeet Singh Bhullar

Mr. Gotfried: November 23, 2015, a day I will always remember, a day we lost a dear friend and colleague: Meeta to many who knew him, the hon. Manmeet Singh Bhullar. We lost Meeta as he selflessly lost his life doing what he did best, helping others. When first elected, in 2008, after a long history as a PC youth, Manmeet was the youngest member of this House but by no means the smallest. The occasional eruption of Mount Bhullar was a contrast to his reputation as a gentle giant amongst all who came to know him.

1.40

He served as Minister of Service Alberta, minister of human services, and Minister of Infrastructure during his impactful time in office. He was one of only nine PCs left in this House in 2015, and his loss was deeply felt amongst us, his absence today reminding us of what could have been.

Mr. Speaker, I sat beside this mountain of a man. A member of this House who served with him can attest to a great young Albertan, larger than life, who was taken from all of us too soon. He was a man of integrity, a champion for youth, always willing to lend a helping hand or word of encouragement to all members of this House. His warriorlike commitment to building a better Alberta was truly an inspiration to us all.

Manmeet is survived by his loving wife, Namrita; his parents, Baljinder Singh and Sukhvir Kaur Bhullar; his sister Tarjinder; his brother Appy; and a large extended family of dear friends in the Sikh community and well beyond. His legacy lives on through the Manmeet Singh Bhullar Foundation school and park, created to inspire and empower Albertans to follow in his footsteps in making the world a better place. Albertans embraced the hashtag #nicetomanmeetyou. An honour for all it was, indeed.

In further remembrance, I would ask everyone in this House to join me in a few moments of reflection for our friend, our colleague, our own fallen soldier, Manmeet Singh Bhullar.

Rest in peace, dear Meeta.

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

Mr. Ellis: Well, thank you very much, and thank you to the member for those kind words for a dear friend of mine as well.

Former Sergeant-at-Arms Brian Hodgson

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, as you know, our Sergeant-at-Arms, Brian Hodgson, served his last day with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta on September 16, 2019. After 27 years of distinguished service Brian is the longest serving Sergeant-at-Arms in the province's history, and we could not be more grateful for his dedication and service to this Assembly.

Brian has contributed to our country and province through many forms of service, including military service and community outreach. He even served with my father in the reserves. Brian took great pride in ensuring the safety and security of the Assembly and its members through his role as the Sergeant-at-Arms. He was also incredibly passionate about parliamentary democracy and upholding the ceremony and traditions of the Legislative Assembly and the Westminster system, on which it is based. During his exemplary military career he was involved in operational service with the British and Canadian armies in Germany, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, and Afghanistan. His service in Afghanistan while on temporary leave from this Legislature further demonstrates his commitment to advancing democracy.

Brian was also instrumental in many of the historical moments at our Legislature. One of the highlights of his career was, of course, the royal visit in 2005, where Brian escorted Her Majesty the Queen into this very Chamber. That was the first royal address from a reigning monarch in Alberta's history. He was always eager to educate others and share the importance of parliamentary democracy and its traditions.

In his retirement Brian will continue his lifetime of service through his passionate participation in various community boards and associations. He also plans on spending some very well-deserved and quality time with his wonderful wife, Bonny, and his four children – Alastair, Gillian, Heather, and Chloe – as well as his beloved horses at his ranch.

On behalf of everyone in this Assembly and the people of Alberta thank you, sir, for your service. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: The hon. Official Opposition House Leader.

Former Sergeant-at-Arms Brian Hodgson

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my colleagues in the NDP caucus I'd like to take a moment to congratulate Brian Hodgson on his retirement and thank him for his service in the Legislature as the Sergeant-at-Arms for the past 27 years. Brian and I met in 2012, when I was first elected, and it was obvious then, as it was throughout his career, that Brian was dedicated to serving this Assembly and this province. He worked – and worked out – tirelessly and effectively to make sure the Legislature is a safe and welcoming place. He helped ensure that this place was always accessible to members of the public, which is vital to allowing Albertans to come here and engage in the democratic process. The work that goes into making this a safe and welcoming place often goes unnoticed, so today I'm grateful to have the opportunity to extend my thanks and appreciation on behalf of my caucus colleagues to Brian Hodgson.

I know that members of this Legislature will remember Brian for his community service, his service to his country and province, and his love of cycling. Sir, we do miss seeing your bicycles in the Legislature. After 27 years Brian deserves some time to relax, and we wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavours.

Thank you. [Standing ovation]

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

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not on my notes, but Mr. Hodgson's horses are out in the finest part of Alberta, which is in my constituency. So welcome, sir.

Affordable Housing

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize that tomorrow, November 22, is National Housing Day. National Housing Day is an opportunity to bring awareness to the challenges Albertans with low income face finding a place to live and examine new solutions to address this need. Affordable housing is a critical

issue for some Albertans. Currently there are more than 110,000 Albertans living in 65,000 government-subsidized housing units.

Our government is committed to making housing affordable and accessible for Albertans. We're exploring creative solutions to accomplish this such as mixed-income models and private-public partnerships while getting the most out of every taxpayer dollar. We aim to support more affordable housing developments with the same amount of taxpayer investment. Our 2019 capital plan includes \$619 million over four years to deliver 2,700 new and regenerated affordable housing units and to maintain the 26,400-unit Alberta Social Housing Corporation-owned portfolio. We are also sustaining capital maintenance and renewal funding to ensure that safe and maintained housing units are available for Albertans with low income. As a member of the minister's advisory committee on housing we collaborate with community leaders, build knowledge, share ideas, explore potential opportunities, and help to identify priorities.

This morning the Minister of Seniors and Housing announced a review of the income verification process for affordable housing applications. This common-sense initiative will make the process easier and more efficient for Albertans who apply for affordable housing. We have listened to tenants, applicants, and housing providers who say that they could benefit from a simpler process. We will continue to work closely with our partners to help us deliver affordable housing in a way that's efficient and effective.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach National Housing Day, I can assure you that our government is dedicated to strengthening our affordable housing system so it can support Albertans who need it most, now and in years to come.

Thank you, sir.

Affordable Housing

Ms Sigurdson: Each year since 1998 communities across Canada have marked November 22, tomorrow, as National Housing Day. This day was created to raise awareness about the importance and need for affordable housing. Our NDP government made affordable housing a priority. We created Alberta's first-ever affordable housing strategy. We invested an unprecedented \$1.2 billion to maintain and build public housing. This was a long-overdue investment as the sector had not been supported well for decades. In fact, this investment was four times greater than the previous Conservative government's affordable housing budget.

Sadly, in the current government's budget we see a backwards move; \$17 million was cut from the budgets of public housing management bodies. This means that ongoing maintenance and repairs are being delayed. In some instances units are being closed, which means that affordable housing availability is decreasing.

In addition, \$44 million has been cut from the rent subsidy program. Albertans looking for support only get an announcement on the website that no applications are being accepted. This creates health issues because rent payments cut into money available to purchase healthy food. It also means living in housing that is not well maintained: leaky roofs, drafty windows and doors, exposed electrical wires. Research shows that children who live in this housing have poorer health outcomes and increased behavioural challenges. This can then lead to failure to thrive, low levels of academic achievement, and ultimately the inability to secure a well-paying job in the future. Lack of affordable housing has far-reaching implications.

The benefits of affordable housing are manifold: improved health and well-being, improved educational outcomes, increased employment opportunities, improved personal security, flourishing personal relationships, and positive financial outcomes. These findings are well documented in academic research. Governments need to look at this data and make evidence-based decisions.

Besides all this, Mr. Speaker, I know the importance of affordable housing first-hand . . .

Oral Question Period

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

1:50 Bill 22

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today the government rammed through Bill 22 even as the Ethics Commissioner raised serious concerns of conflict of interest for government members. The Ethics Commissioner's letter was delivered while this government was voting down attempts to delay this corrupt bill. The commissioner wrote saying that she did not have sufficient time to properly investigate allegations of conflict of interest against the Premier, his ministers, and members of his caucus. What was so urgent about this corrupt bill that it couldn't be held while the Ethics Commissioner did her work?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, this is the problem with the NDP. At this point Albertans can't believe anything that they say, and I certainly would not. I don't blame them for that, because they continue to come in and misrepresent facts. First of all, the Ethics Commissioner's letter says no such thing. It does not say anything about investigating the Premier in any such context or any member in this Chamber. The Ethics Commissioner provides advice on how members can vote in this Chamber when it comes to certain things that could be problematic under the Conflicts of Interest Act. Our staff has spoken with the Ethics Commissioner today, and we are confident that everybody is within the Conflicts of Interest Act.

Ms Hoffman: The Ethics Commissioner advised that anyone in the process of being investigated by the Election Commissioner or the RCMP or who has colleagues or staff under investigation would likely be in breach of the Conflicts of Interest Act, breaking the law, if they debated or voted on Bill 22. That's exactly what happened here this morning, Mr. Speaker. To the Premier: why did you risk every member of your caucus breaking the law this morning? What are you hiding?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, again, you can't really trust what the NDP have to say. This is the same opposition who said that there would only be three hours of debate when it came to Bill 22: not accurate. This is the same opposition who said there was time allocation on Monday on this legislation: not accurate. This is over and over an Official Opposition who accuses random people of things that are just not factual. It's extremely disappointing. Let me be clear. Again, we have been in contact with the Ethics Commissioner, and we are confident that all members who participated in Bill 22 and in debate are within the Conflicts of Interest Act.

Ms Hoffman: It is truly shocking to see this government pressing forward with a corrupt bill to silence an independent officer of the Legislature and then doing so over the objections of another independent officer of the Legislature, this time the Ethics Commissioner. What occurred this morning in this place is a travesty, and there will be numerous ethics investigations in its wake, so I must ask the Premier. You silenced the Election Commissioner. How can Albertans be sure you won't silence the Ethics Commissioner as your next target?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, again the NDP are misrepresenting facts. Actually, at the end of the Ethics Commissioner's letter she was clear that the political decision that was before this Assembly was a decision of this Assembly, and that she in no way had any ability nor would she try to interfere with a political decision of the Legislative Assembly, unlike what the Leader of the Opposition did, calling on the Lieutenant Governor to do something unconstitutional and not sign a bill that was decided upon by this place. Again, the NDP need to stop misrepresenting facts. At this point nobody believes them anymore. That's the reality when you continue to misrepresent facts all day.

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

Ms Hoffman: By using its majority to shut down an investigation into law-breaking in its own party, the UCP has secured its legacy as the most corrupt and undemocratic government in the history of Alberta, perhaps even the history of Canada. This is not the stuff of a democracy; this is the stuff of a strongman regime. Does the Premier even understand the damage that he has done to the rule of law in our province?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter how many times the NDP misrepresent facts; they're not going to make what they're saying factual. What they're saying is not factual. You know, what Albertans are most frustrated about was a former government who signed up with Justin Trudeau to stop our energy industry, who supported a federal NDP leader who tried to block our pipelines. That's who Albertans are frustrated by. That member was a Deputy Premier of a government who hired Tzeporah Berman to then go out and try to shut down our energy industry. I can tell you that the people of Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre haven't forgotten that, and they sure have not forgiven it.

Ms Hoffman: If Justin Trudeau had dismissed the ethics commissioner before he could release the damning SNC-Lavalin report or if Paul Martin had dismissed Justice Gomery before he could complete the probe into the Liberal sponsorship scandal, just imagine the howl of outrage that we would have heard from the members opposite. But now, when we see unethical behaviour in Ottawa in the future, no one will listen to this Premier. No one will listen to Alberta. Was destroying Alberta's moral authority within Canada worth it for the Premier to save his own political skin?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, again, the temporary leader of the NDP Party is misrepresenting facts or the party is certainly misrepresenting facts . . .

Mr. Bilous: Point of order.

Mr. Jason Nixon: ... when it comes to this issue. The reality is that the Election Commissioner office remains in this province. That's the fact. That legislation is very, very clear on that, that passed in this place this morning. In addition to that, I passed an amendment myself last night that made it clear that all investigations must be able to continue and be transferred over to the Chief Electoral Officer. [interjections] No, it doesn't say "may." It says: must be transferred over to the Chief Electoral Officer.

The Speaker: A point of order is noted at 1:55.

Ms Hoffman: Every member of the UCP who voted for Bill 22 will be remembered as being complicit in shutting down an active investigation into fraud, forgery, and bribery. Every member who voted for Bill 22 voted to protect their Premier's political career at the expense of their own integrity and the voters who elected them

to this House. It is shameful. What was so damaging to the Premier that he had to drag down the entire caucus, their reputations? What are you hiding?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, more ridiculous comments from the deputy leader of the NDP. None of that is factual. Again, making up investigations inside this place does not make them true. Let me be clear. Investigations that may have been taking place under the Election Commissioner remain intact. There's still an Election Commissioner. There's still a CEO of Elections Alberta. There is no political interference within that operation. It remains an independent officer of this Legislature. That's what is taking place. Those are the facts. It doesn't matter how hard the NDP work to misrepresent them to Albertans.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora for her third set of questions.

Calgary Board of Education Layoffs

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 20 the Education minister told this House: "This morning I met with the CBE and they were able to confirm for me that the reports of 300 job losses are false. Their plan is to keep teachers in front of students and maintain existing staff levels." A week later the CBE passed its 2019 budget and submitted it to the minister, who raised no objections to it for five months. To the Premier: what has changed at Calgary public since June other than the deep cuts you made to their budget?

Member LaGrange: The CBE's decision to end the contracts of 300 temporary teachers is unacceptable. I made it very clear that that board needed to look at other options in terms of dealing with their fiscal mismanagement. Right now I have ordered an independent financial audit and a governance review of this particular board. At the end of the day, we need teachers in front of students, and that is the direction that they need to take.

Ms Hoffman: Now thousands of kids in Calgary are having their education compromised while this minister points fingers and announces reviews. These kids won't get another chance at these classes. They can't wait. If the Premier truly believes that CBE is at fault, why won't this minister intervene immediately, today, and make sure that all 300 teachers are still in their classrooms in January? Why won't she stand up for kids in Calgary public schools instead of a \$4.7 billion no-jobs corporate handout?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. As the hon. member knows, school boards have contracts with their teachers and their support staff. They're in the position to do this. But CBE playing politics with our teachers and with our children is unacceptable. This reckless mismanagement of taxpayer dollars cannot be allowed to continue. That's why I've called for these reviews.

Ms Hoffman: In June the minister said that everything was fine. Three hundred job losses: that's just fear and smear, she said. Then she cut their budget by \$32 million. Yesterday the minister said that she was shocked. She couldn't understand how 300 job losses could have possibly happened in Calgary schools. Either she's grossly incompetent, Mr. Speaker, or she's something that I'm not allowed to say in this House. Will she commit to a fully independent audit of the CBE, and will she commit to resigning from cabinet if the audit finds that the cuts were caused by her budget?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, what a ridiculous attack on our Education minister. Let me be very, very clear. Every member of this government and every member of the government caucus is proud of our Education minister, who is working very hard to be able to restore the mess created by that party when they were in power when it came to education.

2:00

This cabinet and this party stand side by side with our Education minister. Let me be very, very clear: the Premier is very proud of our Education minister. You know who should resign? Every member of that caucus who worked against our energy industry while they were in power, who worked against Albertans each and every day and sold them out to Justin Trudeau.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

Bill 22 Public Service Pension Changes Budget 2019

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill 22 does many awful things, but one part that hasn't gotten enough attention yet is that this UCP government has removed an AUPE seat from the pension sponsor board and corporation board. When asked about removing workers from the oversight of their own retirement funds, the Finance minister said that the change was about restoring competence. Suggesting that the representative AUPE workers put forward were not competent is heinous. To the Finance minister: when will you do the right thing, immediately repeal Bill 22, and apologize to the people?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are doing the right thing. We're managing this province's finances responsibly. We're ensuring that we're making changes that will strengthen pensions, that will improve returns, that will improve governance on pension boards. We have ensured that there's adequate representative representation on pension boards, and for that reason we've added one member that represents nonbargaining management staff as they had no previous representation.

Ms Gray: If this minister wants to talk about who is competent and who is not, let's start by looking at his budget. What would you say, Mr. Speaker, about a budget that breaks election promises by slashing health care and education and somehow raises the deficit by \$2 billion over last year? I'd call that incompetent. To the Premier: when will you unreservedly apologize to the working women and men of this province for your Finance minister's comments, when will you replace him, and when will you start worrying about the real lack of competence, which is around your cabinet table?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, this government has brought forward a responsible budget, a budget that brings this province back to balance in its four-year fiscal plan. We inherited a financial mess from the members opposite. Albertans elected us to get our house in order. We will do that.

Ms Gray: Mr. Speaker, all members of this House know that we have received serious concerns from over 29,000 teachers about Bill 22. Teachers, nurses, and public servants were in this gallery until very late last night because their government is playing politics with their pensions, and their concerns fell on deaf ears. To the government cabinet: when will you take out the earplugs, meet

the Albertans who have been on the steps of the Legislature, finally start listening to the people that teach our kids and care for our loved ones, and repeal Bill 22?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, we have great respect for the public servants that deliver on behalf of Albertans every day. Bill 22 and the changes we're making to pension governance will strengthen public service pensions. They will reduce costs. They will ensure that we have strong governance. In terms of ATRF it will result in better returns, lower costs, lower premiums for teachers. The ATRF continues to own the pensions, manage the pensions, and provide high-level direction. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Homeless Shelter Services in Fort McMurray

Mr. Yao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans experiencing homelessness need somewhere to go, especially now during Alberta's cold winter. My community expects that its various orders of government will work together to ensure that resources are effectively and efficiently supported. The closure of the first floor of Marshall House in Fort McMurray has left people with questions about what is being done to take care of the folks that were staying there. To the Minister of Community and Social Services: how is our government ensuring that all individuals experiencing homelessness have a place to go this winter in Fort McMurray?

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

Mrs. Sawhney: Thank you to the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we will not be leaving these individuals out in the cold. The government of Alberta works with our community partner, the regional municipality of Wood Buffalo, to ensure that community needs are addressed. Since 2012 the government of Alberta has been funding empty beds at the Marshall House Emergency Shelter. Empty beds. Last year the government of Alberta funded 70 spaces at this shelter while on average only 24 individual spaces were used per night. Sufficient shelter capacity will continue to exist in Fort McMurray at the Salvation Army . . .

The Speaker: The hon. the Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, given that if we evaluate those that are disadvantaged in maintaining housing, we see that many are afflicted with mental illness and addictions related to alcohol or drugs and that when addressing homelessness, our society recognizes that we need to allow for people who are inebriated to have a safe space, and given that the member opposite, in typical fashion, gave ignorant statements about the lack of intox beds available at the Salvation Army, again to the Minister of Community and Social Services: can you tell this House how many spaces will be available for the intox community?

Mr. Bilous: Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order is noted at 2:06.

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that the Salvation Army will have a total capacity of 91 beds, including 56 sober spaces and 35 intox mats. Marshall House, however, did not have intox spaces at all. We are confident there will be more than enough space for homeless individuals needing shelter in Fort McMurray.

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, the Salvation Army in my community has stepped up to address this void with space for the homeless, and given that as the largest nongovernmental direct provider of social services in Canada, with a mandate of providing shelter for homeless people and rehabilitation for people who have lost control of their lives to addiction, the Salvation Army will address these issues in Fort McMurray, the question is: will this government support the Salvation Army to host these additional individuals?

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, absolutely. Our government is consolidating shelter services at the Salvation Army, which will be expanded from 67 to 91 beds. The Salvation Army will receive additional provincial funding to operate 24 additional sober spaces, which equates to the approximate daily occupancy of Marshall House but at about one-third of the cost. This change will ensure that tax dollars are spent wisely while taking care of the individuals experiencing homelessness in this northern city.

Thank you.

2017 UCP Leadership Contest Investigations

Ms Sweet: Well, Mr. Speaker, last night our caucus proposed an amendment to Bill 22 to allow the current Election Commissioner to continue his work independently, without control by this government, for five more years. The government promptly voted it down. To the Government House Leader: did you vote against the amendment because you were worried just how much corruption the commissioner would uncover when it comes to the UCP if given five more years?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, here lies the problem. For some reason the NDP don't trust the current independent officer of the Legislature, the Chief Electoral Officer, who is now ultimately responsible for investigations and the Election Commissioner position, which will answer to the Chief Electoral Officer. Again the NDP is misrepresenting facts. This government, this Chamber, MLAs, cabinet have no connection at all to the investigations. They fall under an independent officer, the Chief Electoral Officer of the Legislature, who has served this Chamber for well over a decade and served it well.

Ms Hoffman: You broke the law.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Point of order.

The Speaker: I will acknowledge another point of order at 2:09. The hon. the Member for Edmonton-Manning.

Ms Sweet: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Chief Electoral Officer's contract actually expires in six months and we don't know who will be replacing that person and given that with the termination of the Election Commissioner Albertans wanting justice will now look at the RCMP investigation into the UCP leadership contest and given that the Minister of Justice clearly has a conflict of interest in this matter, to the minister: will you remind this House why it took you so long to appoint a special prosecutor to oversee the RCMP investigation into the UCP and release the process to Albertans so they know that it actually happened?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, there have been many statements by the Minister of Justice, including statements that have come out from his department, making it clear that what that hon. member is referring to is just not factual. That's just not how the process works. With that said, the hon. Justice minister is not in conflict in any way. This is the problem: these members continue to get up in

this House and accuse other members of the Legislature of things that are not factual. You cannot trust the NDP. You can't trust them politically because they're out against Alberta's best interests, but you also can't trust what they're saying because they keep misrepresenting the facts.

2:10

Ms Sweet: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that the House leader just won't say whether or not there's an independent prosecutor that's been established and given that we know nothing about the steps the Minister of Justice has taken to ensure he's not involved in an investigation in which he's been called as a witness and given that the people of Alberta have likely lost trust in this government to do the right thing given what's happened over the last three days, to the Minister of Justice: isn't it time that you name publicly who is the special prosecutor responsible for overseeing the RCMP investigation into the UCP leadership? What are you hiding?

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, absolutely nothing is the answer. There's been a heck of a lot of hypocrisy from the other side. This hypocrisy needs to stop. They're smearing people's good names. If we're getting into the politics that they're playing, they appointed under their administration six judges that made material donations to the NDP. One made a \$4,000 donation right before being appointed. I'm not saying that they're not fit for office. People can be involved in a political process. They have to stop the hypocrisy. They have to stop this politics and seeing everything as an ethics violation. Stop it.

Sport and Cultural Organization Funding

Ms Goehring: Mr. Speaker, in their rush to give wealthy corporations \$4.7 billion, this government is abandoning Alberta communities. Their omnibus bill to fire the Election Commissioner and attack people's pensions also dissolved the Alberta Sport Connection, which provides funding and support to more than 80 groups. Can the minister of culture tell this House why she is cutting support to organizations like the Special Olympics – the Special Olympics – while giving corporations hundreds of millions of dollars to invest in places like Wisconsin?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, we continue to hear rhetoric from the other side, rhetoric that attacks job creators in this province. It's no wonder that when the members opposite governed, we witnessed an exodus of billions and billions of dollars of capital out of the province and, with it, jobs and opportunities. This government is changing that narrative. We are introducing a very competitive business environment, including the most competitive corporate tax rate in the country.

Ms Goehring: Given that in addition to taking funding away from the Special Olympics, this government is slashing support for other organizations that support sport like the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association and given that this government is literally taking supports away from sports development centres in this province to pay for their no-jobs \$4.7 billion corporate handout, can the minister of culture explain why this government appears to value sports less than they do subsidizing Husky's investments outside of Alberta?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, included in our budget is an effort to become much more efficient, to remove redundancies, and to streamline government because that results in saving hard-earned tax dollars on behalf of the taxpayers of the province. We are dissolving funds wherever it makes sense. The function of those

funds, including the Alberta sports council, will continue through the department. Committed amounts to special sports events will continue to be funded in the future.

Ms Goehring: Given that this government is also dissolving the Alberta historical resources fund, which preserves and protects historic projects and preserves Alberta's history, and given that when also dissolving the fund, this government fired the existing board without even giving the courtesy of a phone call, can the culture minister explain why the Premier's friends and their spouses get charter flights from this government but dedicated volunteers get tossed out on the street?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Again, we are presenting a budget that streamlines government, that finds efficiencies, that ensures that we can be on a path to balance within our first term. We committed to Albertans that we would do that. We are delivering. The function of these funds and these boards and committees will continue, as they have in the past, through the departments, only in a much more cost-effective manner.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod.

Rural Schools

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rural education systems work a little bit differently than they do in cities, and as our province urbanizes more and more, this disparity grows. Among other things, when rural schools are funded for enrolment, it often fails to meet the needs as rural schools get smaller and inflation goes up. This becomes more and more true as rural populations decrease. To the Minister of Education: what is your ministry doing to address this very real issue faced by small, rural schools as they struggle to make ends meet?

The Speaker: The Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, hon. member, for the question. We know that rural schools often face unique challenges such as declining enrolment, long distances, and sparse populations. Recognizing this, rural boards benefit from a higher rate in the one-time transition grant as we transition to a new funding framework next year. As we develop a new funding framework, one of the key goals is to provide equitable funding so students can receive an education that prepares them for success no matter where they live.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod.

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister for her answer. Given that rural schools tend to be older than urban schools and given that weather and time have more of an effect as a result of a lack of shelter due to residing on emptier landscapes and given that such schools in my riding, like J.T. Foster, Blackie and Livingstone school, have long been in need of modernization, can the minister describe what she and her department are doing to enable schools in my riding and those across rural Alberta to maintain themselves and modernize?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. I am aware of the situations facing the schools in the member's

riding. For schools to be considered for modernization funding, school divisions must submit a proposal to the government outlining their request. Once received, my department analyzes the request and prioritizes applications as a result of a series of metrics, which includes enrolment growth and health and safety concerns. I can assure the member that projects proposed by this local board will be assessed under this model in upcoming capital budgets.

Mr. Reid: Thank you again, Minister.

Given that many of my constituents have reached out to me and to my office expressing their concern that once again no new school projects have been announced in southern Alberta and given that schools in my riding such as Blackie, J.T. Foster, and Livingstone, which were mentioned before, are desperately in need of modernization and repair, can the minister please outline options for these schools until such time as they qualify for capital plan funding?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Member LaGrange: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question, hon. member. Local school divisions are in the best position to comment on their own capital projects and their own needs. As I previously stated, for schools to be considered for modernization funding, school divisions must submit a proposal to the government outlining their request. Each school division outlines their own priorities annually, and I will have more to say on future capital projects when Budget 2020 is released.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for St. Albert would like to ask a question.

Henson Trusts for Persons with Disabilities

Ms Renaud: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure you'll remember that our government passed legislation that would allow people with severe disabilities to support themselves after a caregiver passes away. Henson trusts are allowed by law in every province across the country and are supported by people with disabilities. Why is this government turning its back on the disability community by sneaking a provision into Bill 21 that would repeal Henson trusts and make it harder for people with disabilities to pay for their very basic needs?

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I absolutely reject that language of sneaking around and making changes. Absolutely not. Since I've been sworn in as minister, I've made a concerted effort to undertake extensive stakeholder engagement to hear the voices of the disability community, and we are doing our level best to make sure that our services are sustainable and efficient.

Ms Renaud: Mr. Speaker, given that I don't care what verbs you're comfortable with, you are cutting this. Given that this government has not conducted any consultations on these changes and given that these changes are not supported by the disability community, that this government has already sent into a tailspin because you cut AISH, why is the government making a bad situation for people with disabilities worse by taking away the ability to support themselves after their loved ones are gone? [interjection]

The Speaker: Order. I would just provide some caution to the member that she would address her questions through the chair and maybe say "this government did something or other," and not "you." It's not parliamentary.

The hon. Minister of Community and Social Services.

2:20

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to emphasize that we have not cut AISH. AISH benefits are maintained. In fact, the core benefits are the highest they've ever been historically.

One thing I want to talk about today is that when I speak to stakeholders, when I speak to parents, their biggest worry is: what is going to happen to my children after I'm gone? The question that we're facing now is how to make sure that these programs are sustainable for the long term. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. The hon. Member for St. Albert is the only one with the call.

Ms Renaud: I'm stunned by that.

Given that the repeal of Henson trusts was hidden in Bill 21 and given that when Henson trusts were brought in by our government, the CEO of Inclusion Alberta said, quote, we'll no longer have to fear our children with disabilities having to be impoverished by the government in order for their benefits to be sustained, end quote, and given that this government has already cut benefits for people with disabilities to pay for your \$4.7 billion handout, what exactly is this government doing to ensure fiscal sustainability for people with severe disabilities in real time, right now?

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, again, the rhetoric that we've cut AISH benefits or that we've cut disability services is not true. It's simply not true. It's simply inaccurate. We're committed to working with the disability community in addition to Inclusion Alberta to make sure that we are focusing on the issues that matter most to the disability community, which is sustainability for the long term, not just for the next four years but for decades and generations to come. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-City Centre has the call.

Health Ministry Consultations on Biologic Drugs

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, thousands of Albertans living with Crohn's or colitis are currently dependent on biologics to keep those painful and debilitating bowel diseases in remission. Dr. Remo Panaccione of the University of Calgary, a world-renowned expert in this field, sat down to share his expertise with the Minister of Health, but before they could talk, the minister asked him to sign a 10-year nondisclosure agreement, or NDA. This is outrageous behaviour, and it begs the simple question: what does this minister have to hide about his plan for biologics? Who does he think he is? Vladimir Putin?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, that's categorically false. I never asked anybody at that meeting to sign an NDA. It's absolutely false.

It is true that the Ministry of Health, as has happened in previous administrations as well when it has consulted with stakeholders, has asked for NDAs. Yes, those folks who met with me in that meeting this week asked me why the ministry had asked them to sign an NDA. I have never asked anyone to sign an NDA. I am not going to be asking anyone to sign an NDA. I was very happy to be able to answer their questions. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

Mr. Shepherd: Given, Mr. Speaker, that the minister has responsibility for his ministry and given that Dr. Panaccione rightfully refused the bizarre request and given that he reported that

the conversation that followed was at best awkward and one sided and given that while this Minister of Health has spoken about his desire to move Alberta's drug plan away from biologics towards biosimilars and given that he still seems to have no desire to actually listen to experts or people living with these conditions about the impact that could have, to this minister: is this really how he conducts himself with Albertans, refusing to speak with anyone who isn't sworn to secrecy in writing?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, if the conversation was one sided because I was listening to the stakeholders, I don't know why that would be a criticism of me.

Yes, it is true that Budget 2019 did announce that we would be expanding our biosimilars initiative. The exact details have not been determined. They have obviously not been announced either. I hope to be able to determine the details of that expansion of the initiative by the end of the year and be able to announce those details. Of course, before we do that, both my office and the ministry will listen to stakeholders, including patient groups, before we make those decisions.

Mr. Shepherd: Given, Mr. Speaker, that the conversation was also described as the minister being barely interested and given that biologics are a small component of Alberta's health care system but are life altering for the patients who depend on them to keep their disease in remission and given that this minister, as part of his ambitious plans to transform our health care system, will have to meet with thousands of Albertans and discuss a wide range of issues that affect them directly and given that there can be no good public policy without real consultation, how often does he request that Albertans sign NDAs, and will he commit to ending such an insulting practice?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, as I said, I have not asked anyone to sign an NDA, and I'd love to hear again Edmonton-Glenora heckle me as I answer this question because it was a practice that the Ministry of Health did under her as well. Before the Ministry of Health is able to consult with people and able to provide details on what's being considered – yes, they have in the past, both under this administration and previous administrations had NDAs. I've never asked anyone to sign an NDA, but I do encourage all patient groups and other stakeholders, pharmacists, and physicians to be able to work with the ministry to be able to give them their best advice.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-Stony Plain.

Highway 628 Capital Plan

Mr. Turton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Highway 628 is a crucial highway that connects the town of Stony Plain to the Whitemud freeway in Edmonton. The previous government committed to a reconstruction of highway 628, a necessary project given the number of my constituents that commute to Edmonton every day for work. I'm grateful to see that highway 628 is still on the 2019 provincial construction program posted on the open Alberta portal as of November 8. To the Minister of Transportation: what is the current status of this project, and when will my constituents finally see this major transportation link completed?

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would say to the hon. member: thanks for the question. We know that highway 628 is an important link between Edmonton, Spruce Grove, and Stony Plain

and residential developments in Parkland county. We have allocated \$46 million in Budget 2019 towards rebuilding 16 kilometres between highway 779 and west Edmonton city limits. We intend to get going on that construction project this summer coming up, and I hope that the hon. member will both enjoy the benefits and remind his constituents to drive safely as they go through that construction zone.

Mr. Turton: Again to the minister: given that the congestion on highway 16 is a barrier to commuting for the many constituents of Spruce Grove and Stony Plain who work in Edmonton and given that the only other avenue into Edmonton is highway 628, which needs reconstruction to be a viable option, and given that our government promised to prioritize capital plan spending on projects that are important to enhancing economic prospects, can the minister commit to following through on that promise by enhancing access to the large job market of Edmonton for the people of Spruce Grove and Stony Plain?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. McIver: Well, thanks, Madam Speaker. Despite the financial mess that was left by the previous government, we are still committed to building infrastructure in Alberta. We know that highway 628 provides a direct connection to Whitemud on the south side of Edmonton. Design work is already under way on this important project to reduce congestion, and by accommodating drivers that would otherwise use highway 16 and 16A into Edmonton, these improvements to highway 628 will help ease congestion for residents and commuters trying to get to work, and we are looking forward to delivering this important project.

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-Stony Plain.

Mr. Turton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: given that this government has already promised an expansion of highway 1A for the sake of providing greater access and safety to First Nations and for improving economic opportunities for the Stoney Nakoda First Nations in particular and given that it was already mentioned that a safer reconstruction of the highway will increase access to multiple urban centres, will the minister commit to working with the Enoch Cree Nation to expand highway 628 all the way to Edmonton, thereby increasing economic opportunities for the First Nation?

The Speaker: The Minister of Transportation.

Mr. McIver: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is committed to working with indigenous people in Alberta and protecting them when they travel around the province. As the hon. member rightly points out, 628 runs across the boundary of Enoch Cree Nation, and we understand the importance of this highway to them. That was one of our considerations. By improving travel in and around the Edmonton region, we hope to make life more convenient for all Albertans, including our indigenous partners, and we will continue to work with First Nations and indigenous people as we have demonstrated with the aboriginal opportunities . . .

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

2:30 Seniors and Housing Minister's Remarks

Ms Sigurdson: Seniors built this province and deserve respect and support, neither of which they are getting from this UCP government.

On Monday the Minister of Seniors and Housing said that seniors need to "live within their means." Seniors can take no lessons on living within their means from this plane-chartering, Londonhopping, patronage-appointing government. Can the minister of seniors explain how she can say that seniors need to live within their means while the Premier's staff are living in five-star London hotels?

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, this patronage stuff that they're talking about here has to stop. This hypocrisy has to stop. Provincial Court Nominating Committee: appointed by the NDP, a member of that committee donated \$20,000 to the NDP. Alberta Human Rights Commission: one person on this committee donated \$13,000 to the NDP. You have four other people on here as well that donated over \$1,000 to the NDP. This hypocrisy has to stop. These people are qualified for their roles. I'm not questioning that. The hypocrisy has to stop.

Ms Sigurdson: Given that this minister who thinks that seniors need a lesson on living within their means is supporting a budget that is kicking 46,000 Albertans off the seniors' drug plan and given that this minister is supporting the same budget that gave \$233 million to Husky to invest in New Brunswick and the United States, can the Minister of Seniors and Housing please explain to seniors why she expects them to live with less so that wealthy corporations can get a \$4.7 billion corporate giveaway?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we've said before, this year's budget is a balanced plan focused on creating jobs, growing the economy, and protecting vital services for Albertans who need them. We're providing support for those most in need of seniors' programs and services as well as affordable housing. We are maintaining funding for seniors' benefits at current levels, ensuring the most vulnerable seniors can count on a stable source of income and financial assistance during this difficult financial time in our province.

Ms Sigurdson: Given that the minister can somehow justify slashing seniors' benefits while applauding the Premier's adviser expensing \$45,000 in six months on top of his \$200,000 salary and given that this minister has the gall to tell seniors to live within their means while handing out \$4.7 billion for wealthy corporations, will the minister apologize to seniors for telling them that they need to live within their means while the friends of this government are living large on the backs of seniors?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Seniors and Housing has said in this House, Alberta has had an overspending problem thanks to four years under an NDP government who drove us to be on track to exceed \$100 billion in debt. We cannot unfairly burden this and future generations ahead of us. We are acting now, taking care of Albertans, including our seniors.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall has a question.

Calgary Police Service Funding

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A spike in gun violence this year has the residents of Calgary deeply concerned. The news reports 76 firearms-related calls to Calgary police since the beginning of October compared to 47 reported incidents last year,

yet this government's budget has left the Calgary police with a \$13 million shortfall. Can the Minister of Justice explain to Calgarians why he is cutting Calgary police funding, or is his Twitter fight with the mayor a higher priority than the safety of Calgarians?

Mr. McIver: Well, Mr. Speaker, the little part that the hon. member said that I agree with is that our government has asked cities and municipalities to tighten their belts. There are some areas that have got less funding, but where they spend less funding is what they consider their lowest priority. We are suggesting that municipalities use policing as one of their top priorities, which means that they wouldn't cut funding there. If some municipalities consider policing the lowest priority, it's their decision, but it's not the decision we recommend.

Mr. Sabir: Given that the Calgary police have indicated that the budget shortfall resulting from this UCP budget could force the service to cut another 130 positions and given that this UCP government can find money for five-star London hotels and a nojob \$4.7 billion corporate gift, can the minister tell us why he has taken money from Calgary police fine revenues when they need these resources to protect Calgarians from gun violence? Isn't the minister worried that gun violence will rise even further if police have less resources?

Mr. McIver: Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is right in that we've asked the cities to live with less provincial funding, but the decision on where they take that funding from belongs to the cities. Again, we are concerned about violence in the cities, which is why we recommend they do not take that funding from the police, that they find something else to consider their lowest priorities. When they take the money from the police, that means they think the police are the lowest priority. In this case we don't agree. We think the police are a high priority and that's one of the last places they should reduce funding from.

Mr. Sabir: Given that the Justice minister claims that public safety is his most important job and given that Calgarians and Albertans expect their governments, both provincial and municipal governments, to work together with police to keep our streets safe, can the Minister of Justice suppress his ego, call the Calgary mayor today, and figure out how to ensure safety on Calgary streets?

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, it's without question that the mayor of Calgary and I disagree from time to time. Trudeau's mayor needs to get his fiscal house in order. As the Minister of Transportation has mentioned, policing should be the top priority of city hall in Calgary. I'm a Calgarian. I want my fiscal house in order there. I'm tired of paying higher taxes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to his question about violence in Calgary. We're taking that very seriously. I've done two town halls in northeast Calgary, where that member represents. I'll gladly go back there again if that member wants me to come and talk to people in the community. [interjection]

The Speaker: Order. Order. The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung will come to order.

Public Inquiry on Antienergy Campaign Funding

Mr. Sigurdson: Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned that the foreign-funded eco-activist group Ecojustice has launched a lawsuit to try and stop the public inquiry into the foreign-funded attacks on our energy sector. I have to say that my constituents and myself are completely tired of these attacks on our energy workers. Like most

Albertans, we don't believe that extreme, foreign-funded interest groups should be able to interfere in our economy or our democracy. To the Minister of Energy: can you tell this House why it is so important that we continue to stand up to these foreign-funded interest groups like Ecojustice?

The Speaker: The Minister of Energy.

Mrs. Savage: Thank you for that question. Like many of my colleagues on this side of the House, I proudly worked in the oil and gas sector for many years. For 13 years I worked in the pipeline sector, and from there I saw first-hand the effects and the tactics of energy opponents who attacked our pipelines. They directly attacked our pipelines. They stopped our processes. This was a direct attack on Alberta, a direct attack on pipelines, a direct attack on jobs. We were elected on a platform to stand up for those jobs, and that's what we're doing.

Mr. Sigurdson: Mr. Speaker, given that the public inquiry is specifically targeting foreign sources of funding for the campaign against our energy industry and given that Ecojustice has received \$815,000 from the U.S.-based Tides Foundation, one of the central groups involved in the anti-Alberta oil sands campaign, given all of that, could the Energy minister tell us what she thinks the motivation behind the Ecojustice lawsuit might be?

The Speaker: The Minister of Energy.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you look on the website of Ecojustice, it says that their mission is: we go to court. They litigate. They like to highlight their litigation against Northern Gateway pipeline, Energy East pipeline, Trans Mountain. They even went after the line 9 pipeline. They call our oil sands the "tar sands," and they say that it's one of the most destructive places on the planet. [interjections] Their motivation is obvious. Their motivation is to shut down the oil sands, to land-lock our province, and it's appalling that the NDP go "hear, hear" and applaud Ecojustice. I will stand with Albertans.

Mr. Sigurdson: Mr. Speaker, given that we are looking forward to reading the forthcoming report from Commissioner Allan on the public inquiry and given that groups like Ecojustice and the Official Opposition, who are chirping so much right now, seem so intent on standing in the way of completing this inquiry and report, can the Minister of Energy confirm that Commissioner Allan will be proceeding despite these attacks and advise us on when this report will be available?

2:40

The Speaker: The Minister of Energy.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government was elected on a platform promise to launch a public inquiry into the foreign sources of funds behind the anti-Alberta energy campaign. That's exactly what we did when we asked Commissioner Allan to lead this fully independent inquiry. Commissioner Allan will release his report no later than July 2, 2020.

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

Members' Statements

(continued)

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Cross has a statement to make.

Provincial Pension Plan Administration

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta deserves fair and unbiased treatment from the federal government, but for decades Ottawa has given us little attention. The only time they seem to care about us is when they think they might lose out on some of our tax money. The federal government should adequately reciprocate the financial contributions our province gives them with effective services and funding.

A key first step in maintaining provincial autonomy, lowering costs for Albertans, and granting our province more leverage for itself would be to decentralize some of the services that are currently being provided by Ottawa. Starting an Alberta pension plan would be an important change that could bring massive benefits to the people of our province. Quebec has had a provincial pension plan since 1966, and it has worked with success, despite its median age being one of the oldest in the country.

Mr. Speaker, a provincial pension plan could provide incredible results for Alberta. If we chose to maintain the current CPP contribution rates, our annual payments would drop from 9.9 per cent to 5.85 per cent. This would translate to a 2 per cent cut for businesses and individuals, while keeping all of our retirement benefits intact. This drop would leave Albertans with more money in their pockets and would spur business growth and investment. Alternatively, Alberta could keep the 9.9 per cent rate and provide our citizens with one of the most generous publicly funded retirement savings plans in North America.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta has the youngest population of all provinces and one of the highest workforce participation rates, and our pension plans should reflect that. Albertans that work hard their whole life and pay into pension plans should be contributing to their own future retirements, not for retirees in the east.

Thank you.

Norwegian Oil

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, recently Greta Thunberg called out the Nordic countries for basically doing nothing despite having the possibility to do the most. I agree with Greta. The Nordic countries have failed to live up to their vaunted reputations on the environment.

Specifically, let's talk about Norway. Alberta is often compared to Norway, although instead of doling out its financial windfall to its neighbours, Norway tucks it safely away in a nice sovereign fund. Did you know that Norway is one of the original purveyors of oil dependency? They were leaders in the mass slaughter of whales for oil, which they rendered from the blubber. They got people addicted to convenience lighting in their quest to profit from oil. Shame. Soon they discovered oil offshore. Despite having a strong domestic supply of hydroelectricity, they have drilled hundreds of sites, pulling out massive amounts of hydrocarbons in the middle of the rough ocean waters, and there is leakage. It's time environmentalists broadened their views and looked at the pollution we're imposing on our oceans.

I am calling on the folks from across the way to get their friends from Leadnow, Greenpeace, Environmental Defence, and the rest as well as all those cool celebrities like Leonardo DiCaprio, Jane Fonda, and Neil Young to go visit Norway. Just like when you visit Fort McMurray, you can fly in, grab a franchise coffee, and head out for your photo op. You can do the same thing in Norway, but unlike Alberta, where our entire province depends on oil and gas revenues to put food on the table and to heat our homes in the winter, Norway mines those hydrocarbons to sell to the world. If these environmental crusaders can put enough pressure on Norway, this is a nation that can afford to stop their hydrocarbon production

because they have their trillion-dollar nest egg. Environmentalists can feel pride knowing that they've made a difference, a difference in actually making an entire nation give up an industry it does not even need. So go on, go away, go visit Norway.

Alberta in Canada

Mr. Loewen: Albertans have never been so disappointed and frustrated with their federal government. As I've met with my constituents, I've heard the same word over and over again: enough. Enough of the federal government undermining our economy, enough of the federal government sucking this province dry, enough of our federal government taking us for granted, and enough of Alberta accepting it. Alberta is and has been pivotal to the prosperity of Canada as a whole for generations. Every province in this country benefits from the success of our economy, especially our oil and gas sector.

Some people say that this is biting the hand that feeds it, but it's actually so much worse. It's like our fellow countrymen are trying to cut the hand off entirely. There is a deep-seated resentment for Alberta in some corners of this country, and it is being pandered to by our federal government. Again we say: enough. Enough of a federal government that wants to keep our natural resources in the ground; enough of a federal government that would like to land-lock our natural resources from the rest of the world, driving the price Canadians receive for their product down; enough of an attitude that tells us oil and gas pipelines are unacceptable while cash pipelines flow wide open to the east.

It is time to control our future, to claim our destiny. It starts with the realization that we will never be offered a fair deal without demanding it. We will never get a fair shake unless we are truly prepared to stand up for ourselves and fight for it. What a fair deal looks like is up to Albertans, but we know from the experience of other provinces that we can assert our place far more effectively by seriously considering ideas like a provincial pension plan, a provincial police force, opting out of federal programs in exchange for full compensation, triggering a referendum on ending equalization, the collection of our own taxes, playing a larger role in international relations, and more.

We have real tools at our disposal. My constituents have told me that it's time to use them. Albertans aren't asking for special treatment. They just want fair treatment. Albertans finally have a provincial government that will stand up to our federal government. Why? Because Albertans have had enough.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Bill 28 Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand before you to beg leave to introduce a bill, a bill named the Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act.

This legislation will enable our province to participate in British Columbia's proposed national class action against opioid manufacturers and wholesalers. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that Alberta taxpayers should not be forced to shoulder the cost of opioid-related injury, illness, and disease when we can trace the roots back to the unlawful actions of these companies. This legislation would allow us to hold opioid manufacturers and wholesalers accountable for health care costs and other damages related to opioids.

I therefore move first reading of Bill 28, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 28 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Mr. Ellis: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In accordance with section 19(5) of the Auditor General Act as chair of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices I'm pleased to table the report of the Auditor General of Alberta, November 2019. Copies of this report will also be provided to all members.

Thank you very much, sir.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora has a tabling.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have the requisite number of copies of the correspondence received earlier today from the office of the Ethics Commissioner regarding the deep concerns around there being violations of folks voting on Bill 22, which passed third reading earlier today. I'm tabling it as I referred to it in my debate earlier today as well as in question period. Thank you.

The Speaker: Are there other tablings? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, followed by Edmonton-South.

Member Irwin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the requisite number of copies of two articles. The first article is about climate change. It's called the Last Arctic Ice Refuge Is Disappearing. The second one is The Most Important Climate Numbers You Need to Know. Both are informative and show the absolute dire nature of climate change.

Thank you.

2:50

The Speaker: Go ahead.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of tablings for you today. First, I've received hundreds of letters, but here are 10 letters from teachers telling the government to keep their hands off their pensions.

I also have a tabling of a petition I ran, in which 1,457 Albertans have said no to firing the Election Commissioner and corruption in the UCP government.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Are there other tablings? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning, followed by the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the requisite copies received by the NDP caucus members concerning the corruption of government in passing Bill 22.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the appropriate number of copies of an open letter from a constituent, Mary Pinkoski. She writes asking to consider the ramifications of what happens to a population when they are presented with a multiplicity of cuts in all areas of their lives. Albertans "are complex individuals who are now experiencing the resounding fear and desperation that naturally comes with having many areas of our lives placed in jeopardy by these austerity...

The Speaker: Hon. member, I appreciate the reading of the letter, but that's the purpose of tabling it, so that all members have the opportunity to do so.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my colleague the Member for St. Albert I'd like to table the requisite number of copies of a letter from a constituent, Élodie Maunder. She's a teacher who sets out her great love and passion for teaching and how she is concerned about the challenges faced by the government's changes to education.

The Speaker: Thank you to the hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

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 the hon. Mr. Shandro, Minister of Health, pursuant to the Health Professions Act the Alberta College of Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technologists annual report 2018 and the College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta annual report 2019.

On behalf of the hon. Mr. Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, pursuant to the Members of the Legislative Assembly Pension Plan Act the annual reports for the years ending March 31, 2015, March 31, 2016, March 31, 2017, March 31, 2018, and March 31, 2019.

Pursuant to the provincial judges and masters in chambers registered and unregistered pension plans regulation the annual reports for the years ending March 31, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

The Speaker: Hon. members, we are at points of order. But prior to doing so, perhaps the Government House Leader would like to provide the House an update.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity. I rise on what I believe is the Official Opposition House Leader's first point of order . . .

The Speaker: Sorry. I'm hoping that you might consider extending the Routine.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Oh. It would be my pleasure as the Government House Leader to extend the Routine. [interjection] Well, let's just do it, just in case, Mr. Speaker. In honour of the Brian Mason standing order I extend the daily Routine.

The Speaker: Well done. Thank you.

The hon. Official Opposition House Leader. Apologies to the House.

Point of Order Factual Accuracy

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on Standing Order 23(h), (i), (j). At approximately 1:56 the Government House Leader made a statement accusing the Member for Edmonton-Glenora, referring to her as the interim leader, misrepresentative of the truth. I don't need to go much further than that. As you know, as you've ruled in the past, I would request that the Government House Leader withdraw that comment.

The Speaker: Thank you to the hon. Official Opposition House Leader.

Given the recent interest in points of order, I might just provide some context around why this might be a point of order compared to other situations that may not be. The hon. Government House Leader did on numerous occasions refer to groups of people like the NDP misrepresenting information or the Official Opposition misrepresenting information. But in this case he referred specifically to the temporary leader of the NDP, being an individual, accurate or not, misrepresenting the facts. As such, this particular instance does constitute a point of order.

I'd ask the member to withdraw and apologize.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. Throughout a lengthy question period I managed to deliver it right every time but one, and I certainly do agree that it was unparliamentary. I do withdraw and apologize.

The Speaker: Hon. members, point of order 1: I consider it dealt with and concluded.

Point of order 2: at 2:06 the hon. Official Opposition House Leader raised a point of order.

Point of Order Language Creating Disorder

Mr. Bilous: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on Standing Order 23 (h), (i), (j), specifically where the statement, that I will share with the House in a minute, not only makes an allegation of another member but "uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder." The Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo made a comment referring to one of our members, stating that the member opposite made ignorant statements about X, Y, Z. That's less important for this. But, again, that type of language is meant to create disorder, is an allegation against a member. For those reasons, I request that that member apologize and withdraw.

The Speaker: The government whip.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I certainly thank the member opposite for his submissions on this particular point of order. However, I happen to have the sheet. I'm not necessarily mentioning the question that, of course, the member was asking, but what he said was: "given that the member opposite, in typical fashion, gave ignorant statements about the lack of intox beds available at the Salvation Army." I would submit to you that he was referring to no one specifically, in particular, of the members opposite, certainly referring to a member within the NDP but not identifying a specific member. So I would argue that that particular point would be considered a matter of debate.

Secondly, I would also further argue that, you know, to be ignorant of a particular subject would certainly mean to be unaware or have a lack of understanding of a particular subject. I know for myself, as an example, or somebody who has not been to Fort McMurray in, I would say, decades, that I would be somewhat ignorant as to what is going on in the Salvation Army regarding intox beds in that particular area.

I do not believe in any way that he was trying to incite but instead state, really, a fact that there was a lack of understanding or awareness of this particular subject by a specific member opposite but not directed to any one particular member opposite. So I would argue that this is just simply a matter of debate, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for your time.

The Speaker: I appreciate the submissions with respect to this point of order. I would suggest, as I do have the benefit of the Blues

– and while members may find ways to get transcripts of what happens or doesn't happen inside the Chamber prior to the publication of the Blues, of course, only the Speaker has access during question period. The Blues read that "given that the member" not "a member" has been spoken. But with that, I will say that there are some validities to the points of the government whip saying that one could make an ignorant statement without being ignorant.

Given the closeness to the line of being unparliamentary – I've never tried to actually split a hair, but we may be doing that – I think I will rule in this case that it was a point of order and ask that the member apologize and withdraw.

Mr. Ellis: On behalf of the Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo I apologize and withdraw the comment.

Thank you.

The Speaker: So well done.

At 2:09 the hon. Government House Leader raised a point of order during questioning.

Mr. Jason Nixon: I'll let the hon. member reply.

The Speaker: Would someone like to rise and provide some direction to the Speaker? I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora. Perhaps she's rising to apologize and withdraw a statement she made.

Point of Order Allegations against a Member

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Like the Government House Leader, I got it right about 15 times today, but one time in a heckle I said something that I regret. I apologize, and I withdraw the remark.

The Speaker: Teamwork makes the dream work. Hon. members, we are at Ordres du jour.

Orders of the Day

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, first of all, through you to everybody in the Chamber as well as staff, your team, and across the LAO for another good legislative week. It's been a long week, with some late nights.

As I always do, Mr. Speaker, at this time I encourage all of our colleagues on all sides of the aisle to drive safely – I'm hearing of some bad weather in certain parts of the province – as people travel back to their constituencies. Of course, today is a particularly tough day for many members of this Chamber, the anniversary of the loss of our dear friend Manmeet in a highway accident. I just want to encourage everybody again, from every party, to be careful.

With that said, Mr. Speaker, I think it's time to get everybody back home to their constituencies for the weekend. I look forward to seeing everybody next week. I will move to adjourn the House until next Monday at 1:30 p.m.

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

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.) (Jun. 5, 2019 eve.)

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.)

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.), (Jul. 3, 2019 eve.), (Jul. 3, 2019 eve.)

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.), 2146-57 (Nov. 4, 2019 aft.), 2177-79 (Nov. 4, 2019 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 2237-49 (Nov. 6, 2019 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 2305-10 (Nov. 18, 2019 eve., passed)

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.), 2167-77 (Nov. 4, 2019 eve., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 2227-37 (Nov. 6, 2019 eve.), 2366-68 (Nov. 19, 2019 eve.), 2410-14 (Nov. 20, 2019 aft.), 2415 (Nov. 20, 2019 eve., adjourned, amendments agreed to)

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.), 2159-67 (Nov. 4, 2019 eve.), 2193-2212 (Nov. 5, 2019 eve.), 2265-70 (Nov. 7, 2019 aft., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 2312-23 (Nov. 18, 2019 eve.), 2369-81 (Nov. 20, 2019 morn.)

Bill 22* — Reform of Agencies, Boards and Commissions and Government Enterprises Act, 2019 (\$)

First Reading — 2282 (Nov. 18, 2019 aft., passed on division)

Second Reading — 2340-66 (Nov. 19, 2019 eve.), 2415-21 (Nov. 20, 2019 eve.), 2422-29 (Nov. 20, 2019 eve., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 2429-40 (Nov. 20, 2019 eve.), 2441-48 (Nov. 20, 2019 eve., passed on division with amendments)

Third Reading — 2449 (Nov. 21, 2019 morn.), 2451-58 (Nov. 21, 2019 morn., passed on division)

Bill 23 — Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2019 (Schweitzer)

First Reading — 2262 (Nov. 7, 2019 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 2301-03 (Nov. 18, 2019 aft.), 2310-12 (Nov. 18, 2019 eve., passsed)

Committee of the Whole — 2366 (Nov. 19, 2019 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 2381-82 (Nov. 20, 2019 morn., passed)

Bill 24 — Appropriation Act, 2019 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 2340 (Nov. 19, 2019 eve., passed)

Second Reading — 2382 (Nov. 20, 2019 morn.), 2394-2405 (Nov. 20, 2019 aft.), 2429 (Nov. 20, 2019 eve., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 2461 (Nov. 21, 2019 morn.), 2458-61 (Nov. 21, 2019 morn., passed on division)

Bill 25 — Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act, 2019 (Hunter)

First Reading — 2284 (Nov. 18, 2019 aft., passed)

Bill 26 — Farm Freedom and Safety Act, 2019 (Dreeshen)

First Reading — 2394 (Nov. 20, 2019 aft., passed)

Bill 27 — Trespass Statutes (Protecting Law-abiding Property Owners) Amendment Act, 2019 (Schweitzer)

First Reading — 2336 (Nov. 19, 2019 aft., passed)

Bill 28 — Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act (Shandro)

First Reading — 2473 (Nov. 21, 2019 aft., passed)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Committee of the Whole — 1126 (Jun. 24, 2019 aft.), 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), (Nov. 6, 2019 aft., reported to Assembly)

Second Reading — 2283-95 (Nov. 18, 2019 aft., adjourned)

Bill 205 — Human Tissue and Organ Donation (Presumed Consent) Amendment Act, 2019 (Jones)

First Reading — 2223 (Nov. 6, 2019 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills)

Bill 206 — Workers' Compensation (Enforcement of Decisions) Amendment Act, 2019 (Reid)

First Reading — 2262 (Nov. 7, 2019 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), (Nov. 20, 2019 aft., reported to Assembly)

Bill 207 — Conscience Rights (Health Care Providers) Protection Act (Williams)

First Reading — 2263 (Nov. 7, 2019 aft., passed on div; referred to Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills)

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