



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
Second Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, July 23, 2020

Day 50

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 30th Legislature

Second Session

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New Democrat: 24

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Lieutenant Governor

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 23, 2020

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

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

Hon. members, at your desk you will find green sheets showing the amendments made to the standing orders by Government Motion 31, which was approved by the Legislative Assembly last night. Replacement pages for your standing orders binders are being prepared and will be distributed in the coming weeks.

As per the government motion standing order we will now be led in the singing of *God Save the Queen* by Brooklyn Elhard. In observation of the COVID-19 public health guidelines outlined by Dr. Deena Hinshaw, please refrain from joining her.

Ms Elhard:

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

The Speaker: Long may she reign.
Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: Hon. members, we do have a number of guests joining us this afternoon. In the gallery, in particular in my gallery, are some very, very dear friends and family, in fact, of this honourable Assembly. The hon. minister of community services' family joins us in the gallery today: her husband, Gurpreet, and their children Saiva, Avani, and Nishan. They're also joined by a number of very close family friends of the Sawhneys. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Hon. members, there are guests of the Member for Edmonton-Glenora. They are very special guests, and as such I have allotted the opportunity for a special invitation for them: Derrique DeGagné, a passionate educator and mother of Elliott, a Minecraft and Marvel enthusiast, and Ivy, a local actor. Please welcome them to the Assembly.

In addition, there are a number of folks from the antiracism and black Canadian history curriculum committee, and also joining the Minister of Service Alberta is Dirk Velthuizen. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Ministerial Statements

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier has a statement to make.

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we approach the end of the Second Session of this 30th Legislature, we are also approaching the end of the tenure of Her Majesty the Queen of Canada's representative in Alberta, Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, Lois Mitchell.

It is my privilege to rise to thank Her Honour for her outstanding service as Alberta's 18th Lieutenant Governor and to pay tribute to Her Honour and her husband, the hon. Doug Mitchell, for the enormous contributions that they have made to Alberta and to the Crown. Our vice-regal couple have been prolific in performing their duties. It's hard to know where to begin, but I know that one of the initiatives of which Their Honours are particularly proud is the History and Heroes Foundation.

Indeed, Her Honour chose to make history education a primary focus of her term in office, establishing the nonprofit History and Heroes Foundation to support the goal. The initiative was inspired by Their Honours' concern that the teaching of history in Alberta's schools has been neglected for many years and that as a result, many young Albertans lack an understanding of our past, of those who worked so hard to build one of the freest, most prosperous, and generous societies on the face of the Earth.

This neglect of our history goes back many decades. In fact, former Premier Peter Lougheed used to recount how shocked he was by how little history education his youngest son, Joe, was getting in high school back in the early 1980s. It reminds me of Professor Jack Granatstein's book *Who Killed Canadian History?* Well, Mr. Speaker, history has always been an argument, as the saying goes, but rarely has the argument been as heated as it is today, and because of the chronic lack of history education, rarely has the argument been as uninformed as it sometimes is today.

The History and Heroes Foundation is designed to help change that. It's guided by a diverse volunteer board of directors that includes several people who have made no small amount of Alberta history themselves, including Their Honours the Lieutenant Governor and Mr. Mitchell along with Alberta business and industry legends like Gerry Maier and Stan Milner, former University of Alberta Dean of Arts Lesley Cormack, and Maskwacis First Nations elder Roy Louis. In its values statement the foundation asserts its belief that

our indigenous, immigrant and everyday Albertan narratives can co-exist and collaborate in telling the full story of Alberta's origins as well as its honesty, integrity, honour, respect, compassion, tolerance and inclusivity.

In 2017, the centennial of Canada's coming of age in the First World War with the Battle of Vimy Ridge, the foundation launched the spirit of Vimy contest, inviting students to create visual artwork, video essays, creative writing, music composition, or choreography that reflected some of the heroism and sacrifice displayed by Canadians at Vimy. In 2018 the foundation established the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta historian award, which awarded \$1,500 to 10 students of history at Alberta postsecondary institutions.

Yet another history-related initiative launched by Her Honour is the Lieutenant Governor's social studies education award. It was created in 2017 to recognize Alberta's postsecondary students who are graduating with a bachelor of education degree and who demonstrate the academic aptitude and passion to lead their students in a lifelong discovery of Alberta history and heritage.

Another great initiative of Her Honour was the creation of Edmonton's Commonwealth Walkway, part of an international Commonwealth project that pays tribute to the Crown, the Commonwealth, and our shared history through special markings and information panels along a 10-kilometre-long network of biking and hiking trails in our capital city's magnificent river valley

and an app that provides relevant historical information. The first-ever Commonwealth Walkway in Canada, which opened in Banff in 2017, was also unveiled by Their Honours.

These are just some of the great works undertaken by Lieutenant Governor Mitchell under her watch though they don't begin to cover the thousands of events that she has organized and attended in her official capacity during her term in office: reading Speeches from the Throne, hosting New Year's Day levees, welcoming members of the Royal Family during visits to Alberta, granting royal assent to legislation passed in this Assembly, as she will do later this afternoon. These are just some of the many duties that she has performed brilliantly as our viceroy. Mr. Speaker, some may see these ceremonial aspects of the vice-regal role as merely symbolic vestiges of the past, but they are, in fact, an essential part of the constitutional structure which has blessed us with history's most stable form of government.

As the great theorist of Westminster parliamentary government, Walter Bagehot, wrote, our Constitution has two parts, the dignified part and the efficient part. He wrote:

There are two great objects which every constitution must attain to be successful . . . it must first win the loyalty and confidence of mankind, and then employ that homage in the work of government.

. . . The dignified parts of Government are those which bring it force – which attract its motive power. The efficient parts only employ that power.

At today's Royal Assent ceremony we will see that dignified part of our constitutional structure at work.

1:40

Mr. Speaker, one of the conventional roles of the sovereign and of the sovereign's representative in our Westminster constitutional monarchy is to advise her government. Walter Bagehot famously wrote that the monarch has "the right to be consulted, the right to encourage, the right to warn." In my 14 months as Her Majesty's first minister in Alberta I have been truly grateful to Her Honour for the opportunity to engage in those consultations. She was obliged to work very hard in this office to satisfy the basic requirements of it, yet Her Honour went above and beyond the call of duty with her many other initiatives such as the History and Heroes Foundation.

She has done so by representing our head of state at literally thousands of community events, from high school graduations to ceremonies recognizing volunteers, from religious ceremonies to First Nations powwows, from military commemorations to 100th-birthday parties. In all of it she has brought both the dignity of her office, the special symbolic power of the Crown, and with those things an irreplaceable, down-home personal charm. She has brought all of this to tens of thousands of Albertans at important milestones in the life of our community, and in so doing, she has lifted people up and brought them together. That ability to unite us in our diversity is one of the great qualities of the Crown as an institution but also of Her Honour as a person, and for that our province is deeply grateful.

No one should be surprised by her energy, creativity, and ambition to do such a tremendous job. All of these have been the hallmarks of her remarkable life and career. Though born and raised in Vancouver, she has deep roots in Alberta as the granddaughter of the first Calgary chief of police, Tom Mackie. His picture hangs proudly in Her Honour's office at McDougall Centre in Calgary. She returned to that city in 1962. Along with raising four children, she spent a successful career as a businesswoman and philanthropist.

A lot of her volunteer effort has been dedicated to amateur sports, including as director of the Hockey Canada Foundation, ambassador and governor of the Canadian Women's Hockey League, co-chair of the Gold Medal Plates dinner in support of aspiring Olympians, and chair of the inaugural world women's under 18 hockey championship.

Their Honours' passion for sports as a way to bring people together and promote health and fitness is famously strong when it comes to CFL football. His Honour is, of course, a former CFL player himself although, regrettably, with the BC Lions. He was also a league commissioner – and he made up for the Lions by later becoming chair of the Calgary Stampeders organization – and Their Honours' son is the president of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. Mr. Speaker, this has made for some awkward moments as Her Honour has been known – and I'm going to let a vice-regal secret out of the bag here – to cheer for the Ticats at McMahon Stadium on occasion, the only flaw that I can recall in her vice-regal tenure.

Her Honour has also been a proud patron of the Special Olympics Canada Foundation and, with her husband, has generously contributed to programs and scholarships to support Canada's athletes and to foster opportunities for women in amateur sport.

Her business acumen has strengthened the boards of UBS Bank Canada and Mitacs, an organization that promotes scientific and business innovation amongst emerging leaders. She's also a past chair of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce and vice-chair of the Global Business Forum.

Her interest in education led to volunteer service on the board of Canada World Youth and as chair of the advisory board of the Latin American Research Centre at the University of Calgary.

Her great love of music and the arts, which, I know, binds her to the hon. the minister of culture, can be seen in past volunteer duties as chair of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, as a board member of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the National Youth Orchestra, the American Symphony Orchestra, lead counsel and co-chair of Calgary 2012 as a cultural capital. Mr. Speaker, our Lieutenant Governor has been a very busy woman.

In 2016 the Canada Institute presented the Woodrow Wilson award for public service to Their Honours as a team. In 2015 she received honorary doctor of laws degrees from both the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary and became a Dame of Justice of the Order of St. Jean that same year. In 2012 she was named a member of the Order of Canada and received a Queen Elizabeth II diamond jubilee medal. She was named Calgary citizen of the year for 2008 and awarded the Alberta centennial medal in 2005, and in 1998 she received the Calgary women of distinction award in the category of arts and culture. Truly, serving as Lieutenant Governor of Alberta was the crowning achievement of a life of community service. Our province has been blessed to have her in this role, and I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that her appointment was the inspired choice of a fellow Calgarian, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper.

Her Honour has said that her retirement from the vice-regal role will not be her retirement from community service, that she intends to continue her role as an active volunteer for good causes until she reaches 100 years of age. None of us who know Her Honour can doubt that she will attain that goal, Mr. Speaker.

With this she is a perfect representative of our sovereign lady, Queen Elizabeth II, whose portrait watches over our proceedings in this Assembly and who famously said the following to the nations of the Commonwealth on her 21st birthday, shortly before becoming queen, "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong." At 94

years of age and in the 68th year of her reign she has stayed true to that pledge.

In closing, I want to again offer heartfelt thanks on behalf of the government and the people of Alberta for everything that Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and His Honour have done for our province and our country during these last five years and throughout their entire lives.

I also want to say how much I look forward to working with her successor, Madam Salma Lakhani, when she assumes her role as Alberta's Lieutenant Governor later this summer. That is a role, an office, that has been occupied by the best Albertans since our founding as a province 115 years ago. It symbolizes our constitutional history as a parliamentary democracy within the Canadian federation and amongst the nations of the Commonwealth, upholding the values and traditions of ordered liberty, united in our diversity under the Crown. We live in a province and a country blessed by this history and by this tradition of freedom and democracy. It is no accident that it produces such exceptional citizens as Her Honour and His Honour to serve at the very pinnacle of our society.

Once more, Mr. Speaker, let me say thank you to Her Honour. May God bless her in all future endeavours, and may God save the Queen.

Ms Goehring: Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to rise today on behalf of our caucus to celebrate the service of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, Lois Mitchell. Her Honour attended and hosted countless events across Alberta. I had the honour of being able to attend many of the same events as the Lieutenant Governor in my roles as the government of Alberta's liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces and as Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces. At these events I had the privilege to hear her speak and inspire Albertans through her pride for the province. She obviously had a very formal role at these military events, often being the reviewing officer. However, in that process she was able to engage and connect with the cadets and soldiers through conversation. It was inspiring to see them have such an open conversation with the Lieutenant Governor.

All through her term as Lieutenant Governor she used her office to engage Albertans about Canada's military history. I personally appreciate how she marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 2017 with the spirit of Vimy awards, which encouraged youth and cadets to submit works of arts such as pictures, poems, and songs about the history and spirit of Vimy Ridge and how it connects with Alberta. I was truly moved by the work that was submitted as part of this initiative. This does more than support the telling of history of the military; it also promotes the expression of art in our province and supports artists, which I appreciate so much.

Her Honour also promoted sport and physical activity in Alberta. This made a lot of sense since her family has been very involved with hockey and football, so it was natural for her to connect with Albertans about something so appreciated throughout the province.

1:50

Her Honour Lois Mitchell also connected with Albertans through her hospitality. When I attended a New Year's levee at Government House, I was struck at how hospitable Her Honour was and how much she enjoyed talking to the children who were invited to the event. I know the children who attended appreciated the book that they received as a gift.

But beyond hearing what she said during her speeches or seeing her at events, I know that the Lieutenant Governor took pride in her role and cared about it deeply through the conversations that she had with me. Often at military events we were seated at a table together, and I always looked forward to a chance to chat with her.

Our conversations varied in topic, and I will always be grateful for them.

Mr. Speaker, through you to Her Honour I would like to say thank you, on behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and all Albertans, for Lois Mitchell's service to her province, and we wish her and her family all the best in the future.

With all of my heart, God bless Alberta and God save the Queen.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has the call.

School Re-entry Plan

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today our Education critic released our plan to ensure a safe return to school. Unlike the Premier's plan, ours makes the necessary investments to help protect our kids. We're recommending class sizes of 15 students, just like the Calgary Catholic summer program, hiring more teachers to cover off sick time and accommodate home learning, more custodial staff for elevated cleaning, reinstating mental health supports, robust guidelines to limit student interaction, among many. Will the Premier accept any of these recommendations to keep our schools safe?

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, we have accepted the recommendations of superintendents, school boards, and others, with whom we have closely consulted over the past three months on the safe reopening plan for our schools. We are supporting that plan with \$120 million of additional funding to Alberta school boards, with a quarter of a billion dollars of capital upgrades for our schools, and by permitting school boards to access a larger share of their \$360 million of accumulated reserves. Again, we've consulted with the experts, and we're implementing the plan accordingly.

Ms Notley: Well, unfortunately, they didn't consult with parents, and it's terribly unfortunate because I can tell you that in the last 48 hours I have heard from thousands.

Now, one area the Premier never mentioned on Tuesday was transportation. We're calling for new funding to cover PPE used by bus drivers, barriers between passengers, and funding for additional buses to ensure physical distancing where necessary. Will the Premier accept this recommendation to ensure that children riding the bus are safe, and if not, why not?

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

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. Of course, we are always concerned about the safety of our children, particularly on the buses. In our re-entry plan we do have a section on buses. We are now turning that over to the school divisions so that they can refine it, adapt it to their local needs. I know that children will be safe on our buses in scenario 1 as they return to school.

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, there's not a single extra dollar to ensure that children are safe on buses, and just for what it's worth, the cost alone for that could be paid by cancelling the funding for the war room.

You know, Mr. Speaker, physical space is a problem. In Calgary alone more than half of the high schools are over capacity. But by working with municipalities and other organizations, the government could create an inventory of existing public spaces, indoor and outdoor, for schools to use, making a list at no cost. Will

the Premier take this good idea to help protect our kids, and if not, why not? Why will he not take this plan seriously? Parents are terribly, terribly concerned.

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our comprehensive school re-entry plan does allow for the successful return to school while protecting the health and safety of our children. That has been paramount. The number one thing that we were looking at is through the lens of the safety and health of our children. This plan was developed in conjunction with Dr. Deena Hinshaw, and I find it extremely – extremely – disappointing that the NDP continue to try and discredit her expertise and her advice.

Ms Sweet: Point of order.

Member LaGrange: On this side of the House we will follow the advice of our medical experts.

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

School Re-entry Plan and Education Funding

Ms Hoffman: The report released today by . . . [interjection]

Ms Notley: You're ignoring her advice. Nobody can follow her advice without you guys giving more money.

The Speaker: Order. Order. The Leader of the Opposition had her chance. She may even have another chance later in question period. I encourage her to use that opportunity for her question instead of when she's seated.

Ms Hoffman: The report released today by our NDP Official Opposition recommends investing \$220 million in personal protective equipment for students and staff. This works out to about \$300 per student, a small price to pay to keep kids safe. This would help provide hand sanitizer, face masks, and Plexiglass in certain situations, among other items. The Minister of Education has offered reserve funding, which has already been drained when the UCP cut funding to schools. So to the minister: will you implement our PPE program to keep kids safe?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. As I've said day in and day out, every single school division in this province will receive additional funding in their upcoming budget, \$120 million more. Additionally, we have provided \$250 million for capital maintenance and renewal funding, of which \$15 million is being allocated for COVID-related upgrades. As well, there is \$363 million sitting in reserves, and I've committed to continuing having conversations with our school boards as needs arise.

Ms Hoffman: Our report offers other ideas to keep kids safe and healthy. We're calling for a reinstatement of the more than \$60 million to RCSD to support kids. This funding was designed to coordinate and provide extra support for students in need of speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, educational audiologists, mental health therapists. This money is more important now than ever. To the Premier: will you reinstate the supports for student mental health and other critical services here and now, or will you continue to ignore the needs of our students and their mental health?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said on numerous occasions, the school divisions have the funding they need to provide the supports for our students. But what I find extremely, extremely disappointing and discouraging is that the members opposite continue – continue – to discredit the advice and the guidance and the health protocols that have been developed in conjunction with Dr. Deena Hinshaw. She is leading our plan, and we will follow her advice. It is sound advice. We expect to welcome our students in a safe manner when they come back to school.

Ms Hoffman: I've worked with Dr. Hinshaw, and I respect her advice. Recommendation 15 is to table it all in this House, not make it go through you and be filtered before you tell the public what you think is appropriate.

The government fired more than 20,000 educational staff at the onset of the pandemic. Maybe the minister will blame Dr. Hinshaw for that, too. At the same time they gave \$4.7 billion to profitable corporations. This move was irresponsible, and it will ensure that these staff and students have it more difficult this year than last. The minister promised Albertans that they would be rehired, but that hasn't happened. Minister, I'm not here to play gotcha, I'm here to keep kids safe. Will you read our report? [laughter] Maybe the government thinks keeping kids safe is funny, but I don't.

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the NPD have a problem with the way that school boards are utilizing their dollars, they need to take that up with their local trustees. On our side we have put forward a strong re-entry plan that provides for the successful and safe re-entry to school for all of our children and all of our staff. That has been paramount. It always will be paramount. As a mother and a grandmother I am concerned about the safety of all of our children. I wear that. There are 750,000 kids that I worry about every single day.

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

Ms Notley: Yet not one single new dollar to keep them safe. Nobody buys what you're selling, Minister.

Provincial Parks

Ms Notley: Divest and deregulate, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to FOIP, we now have the UCP's parks plan in black and white, hundreds of pages of documents that prove the government is misleading Albertans about the depth and breadth of these park changes: massive loss of campsites, fewer recreation opportunities, serious impacts to treaty rights, more industrial development, plans to close facilities, sell sites, outsource management. To the Premier. Albertans never voted for any of this. Will you put a stop to this minister's dishonest attack on parks, or was it your idea all along?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, you know, the NDP is just trying to crank up their anger machine to squeeze more money out of their donors with that absolutely fictitious accusation. No parks are being sold. No parks will be sold. Even the Leader of the Opposition has admitted that. Even her parks critic has admitted that, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to partner with nonprofits, charities, First Nations, municipalities, and others in operating parks when and where it makes sense, but, again, we'll be keeping those parks as a wonderful heritage for future Albertans.

2:00

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is in direct contrast to what the documents say, and I suggest the minister get his issues people to brief him.

Now, senior officials recommended a broad, high-level consultation, followed by a second round so Albertans could have a say on localized changes, yet the documents show that this minister overruled his officials, reached in, and demanded this be done with zero public input. They talk about spending five years to phase it in just so Albertans don't notice they're losing space. The hypocrisy is jaw-dropping. Premier, when will you rein in your environment minister and make him consult far and wide, as Albertans have every right to expect?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the NDP continue to make things up. Of course, the department of environment had a big job to do to overcome the misspending that the former NDP government did in the park system, where they continued to expand the park system but not do any investment both in managing the park system or the enforcement of the system. To be clear, my office has never considered selling parks. In fact, there are policies that would prevent that. I've been clear; we support those policies. But I've also been clear that we will stop the NDP practices of spending millions of dollars flying firewood into places with helicopters or building expensive yurts at the top of the mountains.

Ms Notley: Well, that sounds like Albertans will never be consulted. For Albertans who do want a say, please go to dontgobreakingmyparks.ca.

Anyhow, the minister said this parks plan is, quote, helping to do our part with balancing the budget. That's what he said right here, except we now know from the documents that it was never about saving money. These documents show there was no cost analysis done, and saving money is unlikely. In fact, "divestment comes with a price tag." Premier, why is this government working so hard to mislead the public? What are they trying to hide?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, (a) it's not, and (b) nothing.

Mr. Schmidt: It's been a real treat for everyone in this House to watch the environment minister stand up day after day and deny that he's selling parks or that he has consulted Albertans on their sale. Well, now the curtain has fallen, and the truth is apparent for all to see. Documents from this minister's own department show that he is selling parks, that he personally vetoed recommended consultation, and that the savings that he promised will actually turn into more costs. Minister, now that the truth you've worked so hard to hide is out, will you finally, at long last, just admit that you're selling parks?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter how many times the hon. member or his party make things up; it won't make them true. As it says, officials have provided significant advice as we have tried to unravel the mess that the NDP made of our park system. But let me be clear, in our platform that we ran on, we have always said that we will stand up for our conservation areas and our parks. In fact, we're going to invest in them. We are investing in them with the current Alberta government. We are following the policies that exist that will protect park spaces, but we will stop the NDP abuse that was taking place inside our park system.

Mr. Schmidt: Mr. Speaker, could I request that the parliamentary plant be moved into my line of view?

The minister has personally shut down consultation on his plan to sell parks with no explanation, and when asked about consulting with indigenous people, it was referred to as a "very live question." Since we know from this minister's active support for shutting down environmental monitoring that he doesn't put much value into his legal obligation to consult with indigenous communities, Minister, why are you so averse to consulting with indigenous

Albertans? Why did you personally shut down consultation on selling parks?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, if we were selling parks, of course we would have to have indigenous consultation. The reason we don't need to is because we're not selling parks. I've shown the policies in this place that would make that impossible. I've confirmed the support of this government for those policies, but what that hon. member is fighting for is their pet projects of spending millions of dollars on building yurts on top of mountains or flying firewood to their special campgrounds. We will invest in our park system, as we promised Albertans, and we will stop the NDP waste.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, I think our pet projects actually stack up pretty well to his pet projects of actually turning our parks into coal mines.

This minister is selling Alberta parks to pay for a \$4.7 billion corporate handout because he'd rather see shareholder dividends go up than see a family enjoy a weekend in the Kananaskis Country. He now asks us to trust him that he's not cutting the sides off our mountains and selling our parks. Minister, you had your chance. You have the credibility of your Premier when he pretends to follow the rules of free and fair elections. Minister, will you commit here and now that not a single hectare of current parkland will be turned over for industrial use?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, as I've already stated in this House and tabled and shown, in Kananaskis you cannot do a coal mine. That hon. member continues to make things up inside this Assembly. It's unbecoming of a member, but it should not surprise you. That's a member who in this House celebrated the death of Margaret Thatcher. He has absolutely no credibility. Let me be clear. It doesn't matter how much his party makes things up. We'll keep our promises to Albertans, invest in conservation, and stop the NDP taxpayer abuse when it comes to our parks.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie has a question.

School Re-entry Plan and Women's Workforce Participation

Mrs. Allard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When in-person classes were cancelled due to COVID, a significant amount of responsibility was placed on parents, especially mothers, who often end up bearing the greatest responsibility for child care. I understand that 86 per cent of parents surveyed by the Alberta School Councils' Association indicated that they were in favour of a return-to-school plan for the upcoming school year. On Tuesday the Minister of Education announced a comprehensive school re-entry plan that will allow for students to safely return to school, a plan that was welcomed by many parents, including me. Can the minister please explain how returning to school in September will help support working mothers across Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The best way we can help working mothers is by ensuring that their children can enter schools and daycares safely. This is exactly what we are doing. The member indicated that 86 per cent of parents surveyed by ASCA wanted their children to return to school. Every member in this government shares that desire. That is why we have brought forward a very thoughtful, comprehensive, and common-sense plan that has the support of parents across this province, has been approved by Dr. Deena Hinshaw, and will see our children successfully return to school in September.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

Mrs. Allard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that since the announcement my office has heard from countless working mothers and parents who are happy to see their children returning to school in the fall and given that when we cancelled in-person classes in March, many parents expressed concerns over their children learning from home and further given that the NDP continue to critique the school re-entry plan that has buy-in from the education system and allows working mothers to return to work full-time, to the same minister: please explain why you, a mother and grandmother, have full confidence in this return-to-school plan.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a mother of an educational assistant and as a grandmother of school-aged children I have full – full – confidence in our plan, which will ensure a successful re-entry and a safe re-entry to school this September. The member is right. When we cancelled classes, it placed significant stress on our working parents, especially our working mothers. Our plan has been approved by Dr. Hinshaw, has the support of our superintendents, who manage our school system, and will help get our hard-working mothers and parents back to work. No amount of fear and smear from the NDP can stop us from standing up for our children and for our families.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

Mrs. Allard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the NDP have continuously opposed our supports for working women across Alberta and given that our government has worked hard since the pandemic to ensure that all Albertans, especially women, are able to return to work as quickly as possible and further given that the NDP continue to inaccurately claim that our government is not supporting women, to the Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women: please highlight the steps our government is taking to support women through Alberta's recovery.

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

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's interesting that the NDP is laughing at the work that is being done by our government to get women back to work. Very interesting. It's imperative that we get them back to work. Part of that is, of course, opening schools safely; looking at the 10-year tourism plan, which is specifically dedicated to an industry that employs a ton of women; opening businesses like retail. Women Building Futures: there's been \$10 million put into that by our Minister of Advanced Education. We introduced a \$2 per hour wage top-up as well, helping out women in this province. Oddly enough, I believe Gil McGowan was against that, and the unions were fighting that. It's odd, actually.

2:10 School Re-entry Plan and Older Albertans' Safety

Ms Sigurdson: Albertans were appalled at the Premier's chilling remarks in May that most of those who died from the COVID-19 infection had already outlived their life expectancy. This government is showing the same callous disregard for older and senior Albertans with their unsafe school re-entry plan. Twenty per cent of Alberta teachers are over 50, and 20 per cent of principals are over 60. Why is the Minister of Education putting these

experienced and hard-working educators in harm's way with her reckless, unfunded re-entry program?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I will reiterate that we have a very strong plan that will bring our students and our staff back to school in September safely. On the other side they continue to disregard and try and discredit Dr. Deena Hinshaw, who has brought our province through a pandemic and continues to bring our province through a pandemic. Her expertise has been stellar, and I don't know why they continue to disregard it.

Ms Sigurdson: Given that many schools rely on volunteers, and many of those volunteers are seniors, and given that the re-entry plan from this government has very little in the form of controls on who can and can't enter a school during this unprecedented global pandemic and given that this minister is providing exactly zero resources to keep seniors safe or to support additional staff to take their places, why did the Minister of Education make no effort at all to keep seniors safe in Alberta schools?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. As a mother, as a grandmother myself I am confident in the plan that we have put forward. I would have no concerns about entering one of our schools or about our children going back to school. All the NDP have done since we announced this plan is raise anxiety amongst parents while continuing to try to discredit Dr. Deena Hinshaw's expert advice. It is shameful. Just shameful. We have a comprehensive re-entry plan that will work.

Ms Sigurdson: Given that the minister's re-entry plan provides no cap on class sizes, no extra space or staff, and no resources to help schools keep students and employees safe and given that many of the students the minister intends to put in these unsafe conditions are cared for by their grandparents, why does this minister have a \$4.7 billion handout to pad the profits of corporations but not a single penny to protect Alberta children and the seniors in their families?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally disregard what was just said because of the fact that it is untrue. As I said earlier, we are continuing to support our schools with the best funding: \$120 million more in the budget for the overall school divisions across this province; \$250 million in CMR, which is infrastructure maintenance and renewal funding, which is an additional \$15 million that I know of, at minimum, that is being used to fight COVID; an additional \$363 million – \$363 million – in reserves that can be used.

Child Care Funding

Ms Pancholi: Mr. Speaker, let me give a recap of the Minister of Children's Services' child care announcement this morning: no new provincial money into the child care system, cutting even more families off the child care subsidy, creating 80 per cent fewer spaces than our \$25-per-day child care pilot project alone, and abandoning the principle of universal child care. To the minister: why did you fail to invest any new provincial dollars in child care, what has been done with the tens of millions of dollars that are currently unspent in your budget, and why are you pushing child care out of reach for working families at a time when they need it the most?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. Today's \$45 million announcement builds on nearly \$400 million invested by our government in child care and supports our plan to get working Alberta parents back to work as we work to build and grow and diversify our economy.

Mr. Speaker, let's hear what one of the operators under their pilot program had to say about our new plan. Quote, this new approach to child care will provide fair access to child care for all Alberta parents, and it will make child care more affordable to parents who need it most. It takes the best elements of the previous pilot program and expands them across the whole province.

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

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, given that under the \$25-per-day program low-income families would actually be paying zero dollars per month and under this government's plan they're now going to be paying at least \$13 a month and given that according to a report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives average child care fees in Alberta can range from \$975 to almost \$1,300 per month and given that affordability is the main barrier to child care and after the announcement today many parents will lose access to the child care subsidy, Minister, why do you have \$4.7 billion for a corporate handout but nothing for working families who need the child care subsidy to return to work?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not apologize for using tax dollars that under the NDP subsidized child care for some of Alberta's highest income earners to help more single parents and other middle-income families afford child care. Not one family will lose benefits under our new plan, and a single parent earning \$60,000 a year will in fact get \$4,200 more under this model. Those most in need could pay as low as \$13 a day, and our subsidy income threshold is among the highest in the entire country.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Pancholi: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the strongest economic investment this government could make is in universal child care, which is supported by conservative economists and economists across the board, but given that the UCP's plan is only to create 80 per cent fewer child care spaces than our \$25-per-day project alone created and given that parents will need access to more child care spaces, not fewer, to be able to participate in the workforce and, yes, be part of economic recovery, Minister, why do you fail to invest a single provincial dollar to create new child care spaces, and why did you get less money from the federal government than your original agreement to do so?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Schulz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The members opposite didn't have a plan; they had a pilot. When they tried to present their pilot as a plan, Albertans didn't vote for it.

The Alberta Association of Child Care Operators had this to say:
[This plan is] a step in the right direction in addressing access to affordable and inclusive . . . child care. Subsidy rates have not increased since 2008 . . . Increased subsidy rates at a progressive threshold will help more families access quality child care in the licensed child care centres of their choice.

The additional investments into creating inclusive child care spaces and helping educators access . . . FLIGHT . . . are also very exciting for our sector.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Central Peace-Notley.

Provincial Parks (continued)

Mr. Loewen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Day after day in this House the NDP misrepresents the facts about the UCP plan for parks. The Minister of Environment and Parks daily stands up and rebuts these misrepresentations but to no avail as the NDP have no qualms about repeating things over and over that they know and admit are not true. It's despicable and is done to deceive Albertans. Now I'd like to give the minister one more chance to tell us here today: what are your plans for protecting Alberta's parks?

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

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member is correct. We are not selling parks. In fact, there are policies in place, that we are committed to, that would prevent the selling of parks. We will remain committed to those policies, but we did run on a platform of partnering with municipalities, indigenous communities, and nonprofits to help manage our park system, similar to the arrangement we now have with the town of Sylvan Lake, where they took over the provincial park of Sylvan Lake. That has worked well since 2018. That was actually done by the former government. It's something they did right. We'll continue to find better ways to be able to provide services to Albertans while providing the same conservation value all across our beautiful province.

Mr. Loewen: Given that, clearly, Alberta parks are not for sale, showing that the NDP are distorting the truth with misrepresentations and making false accusations with a wilful perversion of facts, and given that they have now launched a campaign featuring Tracy, a quote, wolf, though the picture actually features a coyote in addition to a deer which is actually a European red stag, Mr. Speaker, and given that European red stags are not native to Alberta, can the minister tell us what Alberta's government is doing to combat invasive species both inside and outside the parks?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, Mr. Speaker, we're fighting hard against the zebra mussel, which endangers our lakes and our irrigation system all across this province, and we're fighting hard against the invasive species of pine beetle, which has devastated our forestry industry in many places in this province. I assure you that I will fight against the NDP's plan to put invasive red stags in our provincial parks. Red stags are a beautiful animal. They belong in Europe, where they come from, though. The NDP's secret plan to put red stags inside Kananaskis: our government fundamentally rejects that plan. We're going to stand with our local native species.
[interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order.

Mr. Loewen: Given that the truth continues to elude the NDP and that this lack of integrity was shown again in a tweet yesterday where the Leader of Her Majesty's Official Opposition tried to tell Albertans that a European red deer stag named Ric was a deer from an Alberta park, which, of course, is absolutely not true, not to mention totally implausible, would the Minister of Environment and Parks take this opportunity to comment on the credibility of and on taking advice from the NDP on parks and conservation?

2:20

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the misrepresentation of species by the NDP speaks for itself. I do think that as an Alberta environment minister I have to take a moment to also stand up for coyotes. Coyotes are eaten by wolves, and coyotes and wolves don't get along very well. I feel obligated as the minister of environment to stand up for Alberta's coyotes and say to the NDP: stop calling them wolves. It makes them extremely uncomfortable. If you were out in the environment and there was another species that ate you, you would not want to be compared to that species. Let's stand up for coyotes everywhere in the province of Alberta.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning and Official Opposition House Leader.

Ms Sweet: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not quite sure how I'm going to follow that.

Democratic Accountability Committee Activities

Ms Sweet: Mr. Speaker, this Premier has given us some long, rambling speeches about how important democracy and the rule of law are to him, but Albertans remember all too well his kamikaze campaign to attack his leadership opponents. Last night the UCP members of the Select Special Democratic Accountability Committee voted against inviting former Election Commissioner Lorne Gibson to present at the committee. To the Premier: don't you think that Lorne Gibson would be an important voice to hear from, or are you afraid of what he's going to say?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, we have an all-party committee working on electoral reform inside our province. This is a long-standing policy of the Chamber, to let that committee do their work. I haven't been following very closely though I am looking forward to seeing the report that they bring forward. I hope that they come forward with great recommendations for this Chamber for us to be able to debate to make our election system stronger. For the time being, we'll trust all the members from the NDP and the UCP to be able to get that right with the hard work they're doing in the standing committee up in the Federal Building.

The Speaker: The hon. Official Opposition House Leader.

Ms Sweet: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the hon. government members of the democratic committee want to do everything in camera and not on the record and given that Lorne Gibson was in the middle of an investigation into the UCP when the Premier fired him and given that the Premier's UCP leadership campaign is still under investigation and given that several government members who are tied to that campaign have now spoken to and voted on three other bills to alter our election laws, to the Premier: do you really think your members should be voting on these bills, and will you pause them until all investigations into your leadership campaign are concluded?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the Ethics Commissioner has already ruled on this issue, and that hon. member brought yet another frivolous complaint to the Ethics Commissioner.

Ms Sweet: Point of order.

Mr. Jason Nixon: That hon. member and her party continue to try to stop members from this Chamber, who have been elected by Albertans to come to this Chamber and serve, Mr. Speaker, from doing their job. The Ethics Commissioner has asked that hon.

member and her party to stop playing politics with this issue. I encourage her to do that. I trust all 87 members of this legislative Chamber to do their important work on the standing committee, and we'll continue to support them to do their job, that they were elected to do by Albertans.

The Speaker: Hon. members, a point of order is noted at 2:22.
The hon. Official Opposition House Leader.

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Premier's phony kamikaze leadership campaign undermined democracy and given that Lorne Gibson had levied over \$200,000 in fines in connection with this scandal and given that the committee was tasked with investigating ways to improve democracy, to the Premier: is the reason you won't let Lorne Gibson come to present because you think we need more kamikaze campaigns in our democracy?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, one of the great things about our Premier is that he respects private members' rights to do their job inside this Chamber. In fact, he had me as his House leader enshrine that in the standing orders of this Chamber, to respect their role. I can tell you our hon. Premier would not get involved in a standing committee. Now, I understand the confusion from the Opposition House Leader because her former leader liked to micromanage that process, but on this side of the House we're a team. We know each member of this Assembly was elected by Albertans to do their democratic duty, and we trust them to do it.

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

Antiracism and Black History Content in Educational Curriculum

Mr. Deol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently the public school curriculum is under review. Advocates have stressed that the UCP government has, quote, a tremendous opportunity with this review to address the absent dialogue regarding antiracism and social justice in Alberta's school curriculum. The Minister of Education has also acknowledged that there is a gap when it comes to addressing the antiracism issues in our public schools. To the minister. The new curriculum the NDP government planned, the curriculum you stopped for partisan reasons, did a better job of addressing racism. Why won't you just let it go ahead?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the hon. member was asking me if the new curriculum will be addressing concerns around antiracism and other such issues, and the answer is yes.

Mr. Deol: Given that the Alberta antiracism education committee has initiated a letter-writing campaign and given that the minister recently met with members starting the petition and given that one of this group's calls is for the education curriculum to have several additions made in regard to black, native history and antiracism coursework and given that other provinces such as B.C. are beginning to work with community groups to establish curriculum, to the Minister of Education: when can we expect more antiracism coursework and acknowledgement of black history in our curriculum? Please give a specific timeline.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. Racism of any sort is abhorrent, and we very much, in our

curriculum and in our schools, support opportunities for children to learn about how they can be better citizens and how they can be active within their diverse communities. Absolutely, we are looking to address that, and the new curriculum will have elements that will address antiracism.

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

Mr. Deol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that advocates and instructors have been working and helping for decades collecting information on Alberta and racialized Canadians' history and given that most of this information is available already online and that community members have held talks and events discussing the history and contributions of blacks, people of colour, and indigenous people, to the minister: can't you move faster to utilize our curriculum as one way to help combat systemic racism in our society?

The Speaker: The Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question. Yes, we are working on enhancing the new curriculum, the K to 4, and there'll be more coming out very quickly on this particular piece. But, yes, we are looking to address all of the elements that you were talking about, and it will happen as quickly as we can.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River.

Forest Industries and Caribou Conservation

Mr. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our forestry industry is the consistent, day in, day out backbone of our economy. In the midst of boom-and-bust cycles it's the forestry industry that supports our communities. For the record and for the members of this House our forestry industry employs 16,000 jobs directly, another 23,000 jobs indirectly, and countless families in my communities that would perish without the ability to make a living through the industry. To the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry: what is this government doing to support the vital industry, create jobs, and diversify our economy?

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

Mr. Dreeshen: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to thank the Member for Peace River for that very important question. Just two weeks ago I toured La Crête and Crestview Sawmills in the member's riding, and it's evident that family foresters in Alberta are critical to maintaining our young, healthy forests and creating thousands of jobs. That is why this year we deferred \$37 million in timber dues and are committed to a 33 per cent increase in the annual allowable cut to make sure that our foresters do what they do best, which is maintain our forests for generations to come.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River.

Mr. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister for his response. Given that this government understands the importance of the industry and therefore the importance of working with mill owners, harvesters, First Nation and Métis communities to make sure they have access to fibre and given that predictable access to fibre is essential for any forestry industry – this government ran on a platform that wants to “ensure that forest companies have long-term access to a sustainable fibre supply with our Forest Jobs Guarantee, including current quotas and forest management agreements” – and given that woodland caribou are native to Alberta, can the Minister of Environment and Parks please inform

this House why caribou and the subregional range task forces are so important in this government?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, Mr. Speaker, we are committed, of course, to working on the caribou situation in our province, but unlike the previous NDP government, who were committed to doing that on the backs of hard-working Albertans, we have taken a different approach. I thank the hon. member for chairing the caribou task force. Instead, we've worked with environmental organizations, municipalities, and the industry, focusing on socioeconomic and conservation needs in the area. Those committees have done an excellent job providing recommendations. I'm confident we're going to be able to help protect the caribou but keep people working and protect our economy. That's the Alberta government way, and it's a heck of a lot better than the former government's way.

The Speaker: The Member for Peace River.

Mr. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that beyond its economic necessity the forestry industry is the most sustainable part of the Alberta economy and that its presence is not only important economically but ecologically is there to have a healthy forest and given that over the last four years the NDP government threatened access to fibre with their disastrous land grabs, taxed operators of mills and harvesters with a job-killing carbon tax, and was ashamed of our resource industry by calling us the embarrassing cousins of Canada, to that same minister: how does this government feel about our sustainable and economically necessary and ecologically important forestry industry?

2:30

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, Mr. Speaker, the forestry industry is critical to the future of this province, and they've been critical to this province getting to where we are now. We will continue to stand with our forestry industry. Most importantly, the forestry industry is very environmentally conscious. They're dedicated to protecting species and protecting the landscape. The approach of the current Alberta government is to partner with the forestry industry to get this right. Instead of going out of our way to make it harder for the forestry industry, we believe that we can work with the forestry industry and all other industries to balance the environment and protect our economy, and each and every day in the province of Alberta we're proving that very point.

Invest Alberta Corporation

Mr. Nielsen: This government is all say one thing and do another when it comes to red tape. Workers' overtime: that's red tape that can be slashed. Holiday pay: red tape this government couldn't cut fast enough. But creating a new agency to do the job that the economic development minister is failing to do? Well, that's just common sense to this UCP government. To the associate minister of red tape: can you explain why Alberta needs a separate agency to do the job your so-called economic development minister is failing to do, and why is this red tape duplication okay to you?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

Ms Fir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can easily answer that question. We created the invest Alberta corporation to do the job that the members opposite failed to do. They drove out billions of dollars of investment from this province, cost thousands of jobs, and their solution to that is, oh, to come up with some boutique-

style tax credits. This investment agency will do the job that they didn't.

Mr. Nielsen: That's your job, Minister.

Given that theoretically the job of the associate minister is to eliminate duplication and redundancy in government but given that the associate minister is endorsing an agency that exists solely to do the job of the economic development and trade minister, does the associate minister of red tape really think that we need two agencies to do the same job? Will he commit to shutting down this red tape, redundant agency, or is his support of this bill, that has just recently been tabled, a message to the minister that she might be out of a job?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

Ms Fir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, it's the members opposite that are out of a job. They're not in government anymore, and that's why they're sitting on that side. All they did was spend, spend, spend, tax, tax, tax, and they got fired, fired, fired. Economic Development, Trade and Tourism staff will continue to retain and expand the existing investors and investment that we already have, and the invest Alberta corporation will target new foreign direct investment aggressively and confidently.

Mr. Nielsen: Well, given that this minister has zero problem growing red tape when it suits him and given that the minister of economic development and trade has failed to draw a single new dollar in investment to Alberta and given that clearly this government agrees, since they are creating new bureaucracy to do her job for her, to the associate minister of red tape: is the reason you are so eager to slash workers' rights and benefits so that you can silence those who think this government's so-called economic recovery plan is really just a bunch of baloney?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

Ms Fir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, the one thing – the one thing – I'll thank the members opposite for is for getting elected and then getting fired because it's given me the opportunity to work with all of the amazing people on this side of the House, people that know that the way you attract business and the way you attract investment is by creating a corporation like the invest Alberta corporation, that will have people attract foreign direct investment into our province to bring back what the members opposite drove out and still take zero accountability for.

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

Physician Services in Pincher Creek

Mr. Shepherd: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. In April the Minister of Health walked out of a meeting with the mayor of Pincher Creek to take a phone call and never returned. In June hundreds of residents protested the health care crisis while the Premier was only 30 minutes away at the time, and he ignored them. Now, last night the Pincher Creek attraction and retention committee wrote, and I quote, that one-third of the emergency shifts are still not covered, and there has still been no news of a long-term plan for sustaining in-patient surgical and obstetrical services. Why is the minister ignoring the crisis that he has created in Pincher Creek?

Mr. Shandro: Gosh, Mr. Speaker, if the NDP were compelled to tell the truth when they came into this room, what would they have

left to say? None of that is true. Look, we do have a plan for how to expand our recruitment and retention for physicians in rural Alberta. That was our plan that we announced on April 24.

Ms Hoffman: And you're driving them away.

Mr. Shandro: By the way, something that Edmonton-Glenora ignored for four years when she was in this chair. We're not going to ignore rural Albertans. We're going to expand the ability for rural Albertans to have access to the care that they deserve. The NDP ignored that.

Mr. Shepherd: Given, Mr. Speaker, that rural Albertans are not having that faith in this minister that he claims, because committee chair Dick Burnham wrote:

We would like to remind you that our doctors are simply asking for an agreement so that they are able to plan for the future. Without job security there is no way to attract much needed recruits to our community, and they fear current physicians will leave for a better work environment in other provinces.

Now, given that this minister has heard this from me, from doctors, indeed from members from his own caucus and now he's hearing it from the residents and leaders in Pincher Creek, why does this minister refuse to get back to the table with doctors and work out the agreement they're desperate for in Pincher Creek?

Mr. Shandro: Again, Mr. Speaker, it is embarrassing that a Health critic would stand in this room and admit how little he knows about the health system. Our doctors are paid through legislation. They provide patient services.

An Hon. Member: What about Pincher Creek?

Mr. Shandro: They can heckle me all they want. It doesn't change the fact that our physicians are paid through legislation. We are compelled to pay them through legislation. We're going to pay them \$5.4 billion. They are less than a quarter of a per cent of the population of Alberta, and they get 10 per cent of the budget of this government. We are paying them the most generously on a per capita basis in this country.

Mr. Shepherd: Given, Mr. Speaker, that what's embarrassing is a minister who cannot admit the mess he has created and the reality that people are facing in Pincher Creek, because given that Mr. Burnham wrote of a "healthcare crisis in our community as a result of the government's ongoing dispute with physicians across the province," the embarrassment is that this minister can't even acknowledge that. Given that Pincher Creek doctors are leaving the hospital in nine days, how can this minister explain to the people of Pincher Creek that he has \$4.7 billion to hand out to profitable corporations but can't be bothered to lift a finger to ensure that we have rural physicians at their hospital?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, none of that is true. Look, we were elected on a mandate by over a million Albertans in the last election. We were elected on a mandate to get spending under control but also to make our system more efficient. We're going to continue with that commitment to Albertans. We are paying our physicians in this province \$5.4 billion. There are 10,800 physicians in this province receiving \$5.4 billion, the highest amount in the history of this province and the highest in this country on a per capita basis. We are paying our physicians in this province the most generously in the country.

Child Care Funding (continued)

Mr. Neudorf: Mr. Speaker, access to affordable, high-quality child care is a key piece of Alberta's economic recovery. As a parent of five children myself, even though they are too old for this program, I was pleased to see our government announce a \$45 million agreement with the federal government to support working families and working moms. I am confident that this will be a huge step in getting Albertans back to work and supporting those who need it. To the Minister of Children's Services: how will these new investments support our economic recovery?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a working mom I'm proud of this plan to help get Albertans back to work and ensure that parents have access to safe, high-quality, accessible, affordable child care so that we can build, diversify, and grow our economy. This \$45 million builds on \$400 million that we already invested as the Alberta government respects parent choice and directs supports to those who need it most.

Mr. Neudorf: Mr. Speaker, given that Albertans rejected the NDP and their \$25-a-day child care that put a billion-dollar tax burden on Alberta's working families and given that we have received letters from parents sharing their frustrations with families earning over \$300,000 a year receiving this subsidized child care and given that in doing this they chose winners and losers in terms of who receives supports and racked up huge provincial debt, to the same minister: how will our approach improve upon the many shortcomings of the NDP's program?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, this program ensures that parents who need supports can get back to work and will receive more, with among the highest subsidy levels in the entire country at a level of \$75,000 per year. The NDP also failed to actually create the spaces they committed to and left spaces sitting empty in downtown Edmonton, which is oversaturated, while other communities went without. Our realistic plan will focus on creating 385 spaces in areas of real need.

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

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you to the minister. Given that one of the few bright spots of the NDP's pilot program was to push for inclusivity supports for children in communities with diverse needs and given that our government is committed to extending these successes as a pillar of our child care strategy, to the same minister: how will the new agreement build upon and continue to improve on this success?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Schulz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In addition to creating 385 new spaces, we're also looking at innovative ways to meet the needs of parents who work outside the typical 9 to 5. The NDP government also spent \$9 million in Edmonton on inclusive child care, \$1.4 million in Calgary, and left the rest of the province without. We're expanding this program because every child, regardless of ability or circumstance, deserves equal access to high-quality child care.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont has a question.

2:40

Surgery Wait Times

Mr. Rutherford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans have long been impacted by inevitably long surgical wait times for many procedures. This has caused a massive backlog in our health care system. Albertans experienced an average of 28 weeks median wait time in 2019. This is unacceptable and creates a situation where the health of Albertans can drastically change while they wait for their surgery, and this does not account for wait times for MRI scans and other services prior to a procedure. To the Minister of Health: what is the government doing to ensure that Albertans in all parts of the province have shorter surgical wait times so that Albertans have increased access to the health care to meet their needs?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We campaigned on reducing wait times, and we're going to deliver on that promise. The Auditor General in 2017 wrote, "Albertans already pay for the most expensive health [care] of any province in Canada" yet the results lag "health systems in other jurisdictions . . . Albertans are paying for the best. Why would they not demand the best?" We take that seriously, unlike the NDP, and that's why we're moving ahead with our Alberta surgical initiative. It's a plan to provide every scheduled surgery within a time that's accepted by medical experts, and that means Albertans will have the best access to surgery in Canada.

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

Mr. Rutherford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. Given that health authorities across the province have various avenues to contract chartered surgical facilities and given that the approval process for one of these chartered surgical facilities takes up to two years to approve with ministerial orders and subsequent updates, to the Minister of Health: how is the ministry approaching the issue to streamline the approval process so that Albertans across the province can utilize these facilities?

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another quote, this time from the Supreme Court of Canada. "Access to a waiting list is not access to health care." Increasing access means doing more services. Through the Alberta surgical initiative we're going to fund 80,000 more surgeries over three years in hospitals and in our independent clinics. As part of Bill 30 we're streamlining the process to approve new chartered surgical facilities. We're not changing the clinical requirements for accreditation by the CPSA, the College of Physicians & Surgeons. We're not privatizing. We're not Americanizing. We're Alberta-izing. We're tired of the talking points, quite frankly, of the NDP and what they keep on repeating every day in this room.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Rutherford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again to the minister. Given that in the next three years, as the minister has just mentioned, there'll be an estimated need for an additional 80,000 surgeries, it is easy for Albertans to imagine the need to increase our capacity to accommodate these important health procedures in a timelier manner. Again to the minister: what results does the ministry expect to see after these changes are implemented?

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is – it's a short answer – the best access to scheduled surgery in Canada. The pandemic has forced some changes, but it hasn't changed that commitment. We're moving ahead with relaunching scheduled surgery as part of – well, actually, we did relaunch it on May 4. I think we're about up to 75 per cent of our pre-COVID surgical capacity. AHS is aiming to be back at 100 per cent by September, and we're looking at plans to increase further from there, maybe even getting to 150 per cent by July of next year. We'll announce further announcements related to the surgical initiative later on this year.

The Speaker: Hon. members, that concludes question period, but given Royal Assent immediately following Members' Statements, we will go immediately to Members' Statements, following the hon. Government House Leader to extend the Routine.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do rise to use my ability within the standing orders to extend the daily Routine.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora has a statement to make.

Official Opposition School Re-entry Plan

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, today I was proud to release on behalf of the NDP Official Opposition a report that we called Safe Schools, Successful Students, an alternative plan to relaunch Alberta's schools. We talked to thousands of Albertans to develop this report, we looked at best practices in other jurisdictions, and we explored the concerns raised with the unfunded plan released by the UCP government earlier this week.

Our final report contains 15 recommendations and would cost about a billion dollars to implement. This is a necessary price to pay to keep 740,000 students and the tens of thousands of teachers and other staff they work with as well as all of their families safe. It also pales in comparison to the spending that the Premier already moved forward with with his gambling \$7.5 billion on a single pipeline earlier this summer and an accelerated failed \$4.7 billion corporate handout, which has yet to create a single job.

Governing is about choices and priorities. Albertans have repeatedly told us that their children's safety must be a top priority. While these recommendations come at a cost, the consequences of pretending things can operate near normally will be far more costly.

I am proud of the report that we released, Mr. Speaker. I hope Albertans read it, consider ideas, and debate them. This issue is far too important to ignore. I also plan to hand deliver hard copies of this report to the Premier. I sincerely hope that he reads it and reconsiders his own plan, which does nothing to keep students safe or their families or our staff.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Official Opposition Parks Policy Advertisements

Mr. Loewen: Mr. Speaker, many here know that I love wildlife. I enjoy watching them, taking pictures of them, hunting them, and, yes, even eating them. That's why when I was looking through Twitter yesterday afternoon, a wildlife picture from the Leader of the Opposition's Twitter feed caught my eye. One of these animals was named Ric. Well, when I read the tweet, to my astonishment, I found that Ric was a liar. You see, Ric is quoted in the tweet as

saying that the UCP are selling parks. Now, we all know that is not true. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition has even admitted it. That's why it was sad to see the NDP put those vile words in Ric's mouth.

Then I looked a little closer and found that Ric was an imposter, too. You see, he signs his picture as Ric, a deer. But he is not an Alberta deer. He's actually a European red deer stag. Now, obviously you'll find the red stag in Europe, but they've also been introduced in New Zealand, Texas, and some South American countries, and they are farm-raised in Quebec. But do you know where you won't find a red stag? That's right. You won't find one in Alberta, not even on a game farm. While the UCP care about Alberta wildlife and parks, the NDP spend their energy promoting European species like Ric. We will listen to Albertans in regard to parks and wildlife management, not European imposters.

Now, this has become a regular theme as the NDP misrepresent the facts about parks. Not even a week ago the Member for Edmonton-Glenora tweeted about Tracy, a wolf, but I'm sorry to say that Tracy isn't a wolf. Tracy is a coyote. Here we have it again, the NDP crying "wolf," or – sorry – crying "coyote," I guess. Now, I'm pretty sure that the NDP will be getting tired of making bumper stickers for fundraising only to find out they are not only misrepresenting the facts about parks, but they are misrepresenting Alberta wildlife. This proves just how out of touch the NDP is.

Mr. Speaker, through you to all Albertans, if you see Ric in any Alberta parks, please notify authorities. No, not because he's an imposter and has been used as a way to perpetuate lies but because he's an invasive species who would set back decades of work preserving native Alberta habitat for the majestic wapiti.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-North has a statement.

Dr. Abdul Quddus Qureshi

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honour a respected community leader, friend, and a great volunteer, Dr. Abdul Quddus Qureshi. Dr. Qureshi passed away at the age of 92. He came to Canada as a newcomer in 1974 and laid down his roots in Carstairs, Alberta, where he provided services as a surgeon and a family physician for many years. By keeping his practice in Carstairs, he was able to provide jobs and better the local economy. His community of Carstairs was like an extended family. He often extended the hours of his clinic and donated extra proceeds to the local museum.

Dr. Qureshi was well respected and recognized in his community for his philanthropic and humanitarian work. He led by example and surprised people along the way. When he was in his late '70s, Dr. Qureshi, his hospital staff, and some friends were raising money for a swimming pool in Didsbury. Sponsors could give \$5 or more per pool lap. Some bet on Dr. Qureshi, thinking he would only last a couple of laps, but he just kept going and going and going. There were shouts asking him to stop as he was going to bankrupt them.

Dr. Qureshi used to say that most people live and strive for the betterment of their own lives, but the real test is when you live for others, and that is what makes the difference. Dr. Qureshi was very instrumental in establishing the first Muslim cemetery in North America, near Cochrane, Alberta. He will be remembered by many for his acts of kindness both in Alberta and abroad.

Albertans like Dr. Qureshi work hard to better their life and the lives of those around them. Our province is a place that encourages people to succeed and to create opportunities for others. Dr. Qureshi was an exemplary citizen. He is greatly missed, but his legacy will continue on. May God bless his soul. Thank you to Dr. Qureshi's

daughter Tahira Shuaib and her husband, Dr. Ashfaq Shuaib, and their daughter Iman for joining us in the gallery.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: With some indulgence of the House, I can confirm, as he was a former constituent of mine, that Dr. Qureshi was indeed a very good man.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.

2:50 Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier stated that this government would not be able to insulate everyone from the impacts of the coronavirus. He told school boards that the province is broke, so there's no money to help them safely reopen schools. But what he did not say is what he would rather use the tax revenue for. The Premier never told Albertans that he planned to take their tax dollars and use them to bail out his party. He did not tell Albertans that he would use a loophole to take money from a federal program designed to help small businesses so that UCP headquarters could spend it on birthday cards for the Premier, who himself failed to donate a single cent to the UCP.

This scenario smells to high heaven. As a taxpayer, it turns out, I gave money to the UCP, not willingly, though. My friends and neighbours also gave money to the UCP, not willingly.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

While our team, Madam Speaker, knuckled down and got to work to raise money legitimately, the UCP went to Justin Trudeau with their hands out for taxpayer dollars to pay for party operations. The results show that the Alberta NDP raised over a million dollars in a single quarter.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud that our NDP chose to stand on its own two feet during the pandemic rather than taking a federal handout from Justin Trudeau and abusing taxpayer dollars to pay for memes and birthday cards. This government claims to support taxpayers. But on behalf of the taxpayers, who have given more to the UCP than the Premier, I just have one question: can we have our money back?

Racism

Mr. Yao: I'm happy to call the Minister of Infrastructure a friend. Madam Speaker, back in 2015 I had the honour of door-knocking with my good friend in the by-election to represent northwest Calgary. The one thing that's interesting about Calgary-Edgemont is that it's the most Chinese constituency represented in this House.

Now, Madam Speaker, like many of his constituents, the Minister of Infrastructure is also an immigrant to Alberta. He came here because Alberta offered the most opportunity of any place in the world, and he came here because he knew that in Alberta it doesn't matter if you're a descendant of the first homesteaders or if you just moved here from 10,000 kilometres away; if you work hard, abide by the law, and you're a good neighbour, you're an Albertan.

That's why I find it so disappointing that no matter what the issue, the NDP and their fellow socialists' solution is to sow division amongst their fellow citizens. I refer to the Member for Edmonton-South's accusations of racism and the failed NDP staffer turned candidate whose SWAT team descended, chalk in hand, to deface the sidewalks, the roadside sign, and the walls of the minister's constituency office in Calgary. They wrote "support hard-won labour laws" and misspelled "misogyny," then wrote "United Conservative Party; United communist party" and "racist".

Mostly ridiculous comments, but racism is a very serious accusation.

As the Premier has said, racism is "an unqualified evil . . . a sickness of the soul . . . a stain on humanity." Racism should not be conflated with criticism of the Chinese communist government or their handling of the coronavirus.

Members from across the way have accused this member, who is of Chinese descent, of trying to sell Canadian plasma to China. Now, I wonder why the NDP would choose to racialize a private member's bill that encourages access to plasma-based medications for Canadians. The Member for Edmonton-South needs to have a chat with his NDP comrades and ask them to take a serious look in the mirror.

Madam Speaker, the NDP is all about identity politics and division, but my good friend will continue with Alberta's recovery plan and our \$10 billion investment in infrastructure, and the United Conservative Party will keep our focus on what Albertans sent us here to do: create jobs, grow the economy, and build pipelines.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Antiracism and Black History Content in Educational Curriculum

Mr. Deol: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to acknowledge the hard work of a very dedicated group of individuals. The Alberta anti-racism education committee, led by Nicole Dodd, Ikennah Browne, Cinde Adegbesan, and Pam Tzeng, has put forth a letter-writing campaign that has already sent out hundreds of letters to myself, my caucus colleagues, the Minister of Education, and several other MLAs.

[The Speaker in the chair]

They are asking for several additions to be made to the education curriculum in regard to black Canadian history and antiracism course work. They should not have to be asking. This work was well under way in the curriculum review that the current Minister of Education has paused. The history and the contributions of black Canadians and people of colour in shaping the multicultural fabric and building Alberta as a strong province need to be part of our curriculum. It is a travesty, Mr. Speaker, that children in Alberta are not taught about the history of slavery and racism in Alberta and Canada.

From Africville, Nova Scotia to black settlers of Amber Valley, Alberta, from Rosemary Brown to Viola Desmond, the history of black Canadians is missing in our curriculum. It is not enough to simply know of these places and names; we must teach our children why they are important. Only by having a good understanding of history can we understand its impact on today. By not including black history experiences and ancestry, we deprive all Canadians of the ability to understand Canada in all of its intricacies.

We have a duty today to remember these places, these people, and the history behind them. We must always strive to ensure that the mistakes of our past do not happen again in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East has a statement to make.

Agrifood Hub Development in Lethbridge

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today grateful for the funding that has been announced as part of our Alberta recovery

plan. Lethbridge has been fortunate, and I would like to take a moment to recognize the funding for our exhibition park. This \$27.8 million investment will create approximately 400 jobs during construction and another 50 when completed and will increase investment in the agrifood industry.

Lethbridge is a community rooted in agriculture. With 120 agrifood businesses, 13 irrigation districts, and 1.42 million acres of irrigated land, the region brings in \$1.1 billion in annual agricultural investment alone, with 90 per cent of this staying within the region. With emerging markets, technologies, and industries as well as new consumer awareness and market challenges, the EXolution group sought to carve out a place to become a central hub for southern Alberta where people could come together for agriculture and entertainment purposes.

EXolution will be a place where the community can gather to learn, celebrate, conduct business, and be entertained. It is a place where leaders in the agricultural industry can rub shoulders with local farmers, a place where the world will gather to showcase the work of southern Alberta agriculture, and it is my hope that this will attract even more investment in the weeks and months and years to come.

Lethbridge is our province's third-largest city and has long been a hub for agricultural innovation and value-added industries. With EXolution and our government's support Lethbridge can undertake the next evolution to continue to grow on the provincial, national, and global stage as a primary hub for agriculture, for innovation, and for the entrepreneurial spirit in Alberta.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Economic Recovery and Seniors' Safety

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Speaker, our resilience and resolve have been challenged in many ways over the past few months: hailstorms, the crash of oil prices, and a global pandemic, to name a few. But despite this, Albertans have not lost their fighting spirit.

These unprecedented times have seen communities come together by responsibly staying apart and helping prevent the spread of COVID-19. Albertans from many sectors and walks of life have been able to respectfully move to phase 2 of our relaunch strategy as we ambitiously roll out Alberta's economic recovery plan, a plan, Mr. Speaker, that will boldly grow and diversify our economy, creating tens of thousands of jobs across multiple sectors. This plan includes a commitment of \$261 million towards continuing care supports and protection of our valued and vulnerable seniors. In addition, our government has allocated \$10 billion towards infrastructure that will create employment and provide much-needed stimulus to the economy.

This is an encouraging step forward, not just in terms of employment but also in terms of focusing on improving care and supports for seniors across our province as we embark on a system review, which I will be honoured to chair in the months ahead.

We already see the seniors' care and housing sector embracing lessons learned from COVID-19, and we encourage and support them in fiercely and ably protecting our most vulnerable family, friends, and neighbours. This is particularly heartening as seniors have been extremely patient and resilient as we cautiously re-engage them with their communities and protection of their health while also being mindful of their quality of life.

After a long period of responsible isolation it will be a time to rejoice for both seniors and the community when we can finally come together with our loved ones. Mr. Speaker, Albertans are deeply committed to a bright, engaged, and healthy future for our treasured and active seniors, and I know we can count on this

government, our government, to be thoughtful and compassionate in caring for those that in so many ways built this great province.

Thank you.

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

3:00 AFL President's Remarks on Bill 32

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week Alberta Federation of Labour president and NDP lieutenant Gil McGowan compared our government's efforts on Bill 32 to the Nazi regime. Now, what atrocity did Bill 32 commit? Well, it gave union members the right to decide if their hard-earned money could be used for partisan causes and for the likes of Gil McGowan's political agenda. Alberta is a vibrant economy, and our government will always support the free and open debate of bills, but we will not tolerate comparisons to genocidal regimes.

Within minutes of his first unhinged tweet Gil McGowan doubled down on this repugnant statement with, "yes, I'm accusing the UCP of adopting tactics pioneered by the Nazis." This is a reprehensible statement that makes light of the crimes committed by a regime responsible for the genocide of millions of people. This is a regime that Canadian soldiers fought bravely against when they stormed Juno Beach. This is a regime that claimed 42,000 Canadian lives in World War II to defeat evil, and their memory deserves better than the comments made by the AFL president. Even when he had the chance to apologize, Mr. Speaker, Gil couldn't resist more partisan attacks, stating, quote: I am not apologizing for standing up to the UCP and calling out their use of authoritarian tactics.

In 2019 our party ran on a platform that included giving union members the ability to opt out of having their dues fund political causes, and Albertans responded by giving us a historic majority, a majority, Mr. Speaker, that we are using to create jobs and make Alberta the most competitive jurisdiction in North America. While Gil McGowan is busy rage-tweeting, Alberta's government is busy working on creating tens of thousands of jobs by diversifying our economy, implementing bold policies, and investing in the largest infrastructure build in history.

Thank you.

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: Are there tablings? The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with several tablings today. I'll be very brief with them. They are all in regard to my obligation as environment minister to help the Official Opposition understand which mammals are which inside our province so they can stop misrepresenting my constituents who can't speak on behalf of themselves. I first table the appropriate number of copies of pictures of a white-tailed deer. They definitely don't like to be compared to red stags.

I table the appropriate number of copies of a picture of a mule deer, and the only thing that mule deer hate more than being compared to red stags is being compared to a white-tailed.

I table the appropriate number of copies of a Rocky Mountain elk, and they hate to be compared to tule elk or Roosevelt elk, who do not exist in Canada.

Of course, I table the appropriate number of pictures of a caribou. They really hate being compared to reindeer or being told that they pull Santa's sleigh.

I table the appropriate number of pictures of the majestic bison. Certainly, don't compare it to a cow.

Second last, I table the appropriate number of pictures of a moose. Have you ever seen a moose? Don't call a moose anything but a moose. They're very big.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I table the appropriate number of pictures of a bighorn sheep, Alberta's mammal, who certainly hates being compared to a Dall sheep.

The Speaker: Hon. members, are there other tablings?

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, I rise to table the requisite number of copies of hundreds of letters, as you can see. These letters were sent to myself as well as the Minister of Education, and they're advocating for the inclusion of black history and antiracism education in Alberta's curriculum. The responses received to date from the minister have been far from adequate. I am grateful to my colleague the Member for Edmonton-Meadows for also raising this earlier today and to the guests in the gallery who facilitated this: Nicole, Ikennah, Cinde, and Pam. Your work is appreciated. We'll keep fighting for you.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Are there other tablings?

Mr. Neudorf: Mr. Speaker, I rise to table the documents I spoke to in my speech on Bill 30 yesterday. I used a Wikipedia article as my jumping-off point and then looked into peer-reviewed sources, other articles, and opinion pieces to form my argument on why I support the bill. I table the requisite number of copies of each of the articles.

The Speaker: Are there others? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora has an additional tabling.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have the requisite number of copies of the report we released earlier today, Safe Schools, Successful Students: 15 Recommendations for an Alternative Relaunch Plan for Alberta Schools. I'll personally deliver a copy to the Premier. It's tabled, so all members of this Assembly can access this and consider what we can do. Many of the recommendations in here don't actually cost any money and would certainly go a long way to help keep children safe. Most of them do cost money, though.

The Speaker: I appreciate your brevity.

Hon. members, I do have a tabling today. As per the Health Quality Council of Alberta Act I have the requisite six copies of the Health Quality Council of Alberta 2019-2020 annual report.

Hon. members, we will now proceed to Royal Assent, but as is the long-standing tradition inside the Assembly, if you can ensure that all computers, laptops, electronic devices are placed away under the desks. We will just allow approximately 30 seconds or so to do that, and then I will call upon the hon. Premier in a moment.

I should also note, and I thank the Official Opposition House Leader, that given the arrival of our special guest, she was very kind to withdraw her points of order, so there are no points of order today.

Royal Assent

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

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

[The Mace was draped]

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

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

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

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

Her Honour: Please be seated.

3:10

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

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

- 21 Provincial Administrative Penalties Act
- 22 Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act, 2020
- 23 Commercial Tenancies Protection Act
- 25 Protecting Alberta Industry from Theft Act, 2020
- 26 Constitutional Referendum Amendment Act, 2020
- 27 Alberta Senate Election Amendment Act, 2020
- 28 Vital Statistics (Protecting Albertans from Convicted Sex Offenders) Amendment Act, 2020
- 29 Local Authorities Election Amendment Act, 2020
- 31 Environment Protection Statutes Amendment Act, 2020
- 34 Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2020

[The Lieutenant Governor indicated her assent]

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

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

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

[The Mace was uncovered]

The Speaker: Hon. members, please be seated. Ordres du jour.

Orders of the Day
Government Bills and Orders
Second Reading

Bill 30
Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020

Ms Sweet moved that the motion for second reading of Bill 30, Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, be amended by deleting all of the words after “that” and substituting the following:

Bill 30, Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, be not now read a second time because the Assembly is of the view that the government has provided insufficient evidence to prove that the implementation of the provisions of the bill, if passed, will not result in barriers to Albertans’ ability to access health care.

[Adjourned debate on the amendment July 22: Mr. Eggen]

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that if you seek it, you will find unanimous consent of the Chamber to move to one-minute bells for the duration of the sitting day, including Committee of the Whole.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: Hon. members, we are at second reading of Bill 30, Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020. Debate was adjourned on amendment RA1 with the hon. Member for Edmonton-North West speaking, and he has 11 minutes remaining should he choose to use it.

Are there others wishing to speak to amendment RA1?
Seeing none, I’m prepared to put the question on the amendment.

[The voice vote indicated that motion on the amendment RA1 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:15 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Carson	Irwin	Shepherd
Eggen	Sabir	Sweet

Against the motion:

Aheer	Kenney	Savage
Allard	Lovely	Sawhney
Amery	Luan	Schow
Armstrong-Homeniuk	Neudorf	Sigurdson, R.J.
Dreeshen	Nixon, Jason	Smith
Getson	Pon	Turton
Gotfried	Reid	Williams
Guthrie	Rowswell	Wilson
Issik	Rutherford	

Totals:	For – 6	Against – 26
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[Motion on amendment RA1 lost]

The Deputy Speaker: We are back on the main bill. Are there any members wishing to join debate? The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to speak to Bill 30, and I will be introducing an amendment as well. Do you want me to read it?

The Deputy Speaker: Just wait till I have a copy, please.

Hon. members, this will be known as amendment HA1.
Please proceed.

3:20

Mr. Sabir: I move that the motion for second reading of Bill 30, Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, be amended by deleting all of the words after “that” and substituting the following: “Bill 30, Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, be not now read a Second time but that it be read a Second time this day six months hence.”

Madam Speaker, we believe that this bill is a fundamentally flawed piece of legislation that has profound and adverse implications for our health care, the way that we deliver our health care, what it represents, and what it means for Albertans. On top of that, I think the timing of this piece of legislation couldn’t be worse. The government is bringing forward this piece of legislation in the middle of a global pandemic, when we need our health care system the most. This bill, coupled with the changes that the government previously brought forward and made to the health system, will significantly and profoundly damage the system, damage the health care that Albertans have available to them.

Initially they made changes to the coverage for seniors, they cancelled the Edmonton lab project, a world-class lab that was going to be built in Edmonton, and they provided notices of layoffs to many health care professionals. Now they are moving forward with this bill and changes that will have deeply troubling aspects, and I will highlight some of those things.

First, they are making changes to the structure of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta and other health professions. I think that at first blush you will look at it, and you will see that there is increased public representation on the boards, but when you really look into it, then we see that the government will be hand-picking those people to put on those boards. Quite frankly, the government’s record so far has been shameful on what they have done with these appointments.

For instance, they put Leighton Grey on the Provincial Court Nominating Committee, who thought, among many other things, that there were already too many women on the bench. They put a failed UCP candidate as the head of their war room. They put people on the AER who have empty environmental views, quite extensively reported views. They are putting those kinds of people on the AER. Then they put a mountain climber as the Houston business rep for Alberta. So, in looking at their troubling history of appointments, I think it’s troublesome that they are making this change in the middle of this pandemic.

Also, given the history of the Minister of Health with doctors – threatening them on their doorsteps, threatening them with consequences if they decide to leave, all those things – I guess it makes it even more problematic that in the middle of this pandemic the government is giving itself power to appoint more people to these professional boards, which were very well managed, very well governed by the members of these professions. I think that Albertans can’t trust this government with some more powers to appoint people to these boards.

Then the other thing which is fairly problematic is that through this piece of legislation they are making changes to the Health Quality Council of Alberta – they are making changes to reduce its independence, to reduce transparency – an organization that is set up to keep independent oversight of our health care system, how it’s delivered. They were required to report to the Legislative

Assembly, to all members here. What they are doing: they are making it so that now they only will report to the minister, and we do know how the minister has dealt with this file, so it's problematic that the Health Quality Council of Alberta now will be less independent. There will be less transparency because of the changes contained in this piece of legislation.

Other changes, major changes, are that this piece of legislation contains provisions which will make it possible that publicly funded health services will be delivered privately by for-profit entities. Certainly, that is problematic in that it fundamentally changes how health care had worked in Alberta, how it's supposed to work. This bill removes even the minister's obligation to consider public health options before private delivery. We have evidence and we know from other jurisdictions that this process will erode public health care, and that's a classic strategy of Conservatives, to starve the public system to a point where people even start saying that no public delivery is better. This will further erode our public health care system. That's why this change is deeply problematic, not acceptable, and I think it will have lasting implications for quality of care.

Also, as the system stands now, only doctors are able to bill Alberta Health and the government, but changes in this piece of legislation will allow for-profit, private entities to be able to bill the government. There are many aspects of that change that are problematic. One, Albertans' health should never be treated as a for-profit enterprise. Health care is people's basic right, and they should get it as a right.

The other thing is that when doctors are billing, they are the ones keeping the health records, and they are governed by a profession which has a history of excellent governance, excellent rules, and procedures in place to keep everything in check and balance, to keep the high-class quality of care going. Now some corporation which is not governed by these professional colleges – they are not obliged to follow their rules – will be the ones who will be delivering these services. They will be the ones who will be even keeping the private health records of Albertans, and that certainly is a troubling aspect of this piece of legislation. In short, we are of the view and I am of the view that this should never have been introduced, but this amendment says that it “be not now read a Second time,” at least for six months.

With that, I urge all members of this House that this impacts your constituents in each one of your ridings. Talk to your constituents. Represent them. Talk to them about the changes that your government is going to make, how it will impact their health care, how it will impact the future of health care in Alberta. It's an important and serious obligation, and as their representatives I am urging you all to take time to discuss these changes with your constituents because this is not in their best interests. This is not in the interests of how Alberta health care delivers services.

With that, I hope that members will consider this amendment and will take the time to talk to their constituents and represent them on the concerns which, I think, this bill presents to all Albertans. Thank you very much.

3:30

The Deputy Speaker: Any members wishing to speak under Standing Order 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, any other members wishing to speak to amendment HA1 to Bill 30?

Seeing none, I will call the question.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment HA1 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:31 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Dach	Irwin	Shepherd
Eggen	Sabir	Sweet

Against the motion:

Aheer	Lovely	Rutherford
Allard	Luan	Savage
Armstrong-Homeniuk	Madu	Schow
Dreeshen	Neudorf	Sigurdson, R.J.
Getson	Pon	Smith
Gotfried	Rehn	Turton
Guthrie	Reid	Wilson
Issik	Rowswell	Yao

Totals:	For – 6	Against – 24
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[Motion on amendment HA1 lost]

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, given that it was a hoist amendment, we will now vote on second reading of Bill 30, the Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion for second reading carried]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:35 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Luan	Savage
Allard	Madu	Schow
Armstrong-Homeniuk	Neudorf	Sigurdson, R.J.
Dreeshen	Pon	Smith
Getson	Rehn	Turton
Gotfried	Reid	Williams
Guthrie	Rowswell	Wilson
Issik	Rutherford	Yao

Lovely

Against the motion:

Carson	Irwin	Shepherd
Dach	Sabir	Sweet

Eggen

Totals:	For – 25	Against – 7
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[Motion carried; Bill 30 read a second time]

Bill 32

Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act, 2020

Mr. Carson moved that the motion for second reading of Bill 32, Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act, 2020, be amended by deleting all of the words after “that” and substituting the following:

Bill 32, Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act, 2020, be not now read a second time because the Assembly is of the view that a thorough consultation by the government with Alberta's workers for the purpose of identifying all potential impacts of the proposed changes is required before the Assembly can further consider the bill.

[Adjourned debate on the amendment July 22: Mr. Feehan]

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, we are on amendment RA1. Are there any members wishing to join debate on the amendment to Bill 32?

Seeing none, I will call the question.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment RA1 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:40 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Carson	Irwin	Shepherd
Dach	Sabir	Sweet
Eggen		

Against the motion:

Aheer	Lovely	Savage
Armstrong-Homeniuk	Luan	Schow
Dreeshen	Madu	Sigurdson, R.J.
Getson	Neudorf	Smith
Gotfried	Pon	Turton
Guthrie	Rehn	Williams
Hanson	Rowswell	Wilson
Issik	Rutherford	Yao

Totals:	For – 7	Against – 24
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[Motion on amendment RA1 lost]

The Deputy Speaker: We are now back on the main bill. Are there any members wishing to join debate? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

Ms Sweet: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and speak to Bill 32, Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act, 2020. It will be my first time speaking to the bill, so I do have a few comments that I'd like to make. Before I do that, though, just so I don't run out of time, I do have an amendment, which I will read into the record once you have a copy.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, this will be known as amendment HA1.

Hon. member, please proceed.

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Madam Speaker. For the benefit of the members in the Assembly I will read the amendment. The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning to move that the motion for second reading of Bill 32, Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act, 2020, be amended by deleting all of the words after "that" and substituting the following: "Bill 32, Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act, 2020, be now not read a second time but that it be read a second time this day six months hence."

Madam Speaker, the reason that we're introducing this amendment is that there are substantial changes that are being made with Bill 32 in many different areas when it comes to labour relations, wages, holiday pay, a variety of different things that impact the average worker in this province. Now, I know that the government will say: well, this is something that was in our platform. Of course, the argument they will say is: we were voted into government; therefore, everybody knew. We all know in this Chamber that there aren't very many people that actually read party

platforms, so the majority of Albertans probably are not aware of the substantial changes that are going to be made in regard to their work and what their compensation for their work will be.

When we look at the fact that this is going to impact averaging pay, this is going to impact people's holiday pay – you're impacting bargaining units and their ability to bargain effectively with their employer. You're looking at pension plans and impacting the collective bargaining for police officers, the collective bargaining for public education. Post-secondary Learning Act, Public Service Employee Relations Act, the Employment Standards Code, the Labour Relations Code: there are six pieces of legislation that are going to be substantially impacted by Bill 32. The amount of consultation that occurred with my constituents, with the constituents of Alberta, with all Albertans has really been null, so I think that it would be fair and reasonable to say that this piece of legislation should be provided to Albertans and allowed to be given six months to review it, look at it, and decide what they think is fair and should be able to provide that feedback to the government.

We know that normally workers are paid overtime after eight hours a day or 44 hours a week. That's how it is right now. They can normally get paid out, or they can get in lieu time, but in the case of any of these agreements, because pay as time off will soon be averaged, two weeks on at 12-plus hours per day and two weeks off, as an example, would be averaged and would eliminate all the overtime.

You know, we hear a lot from this government talking about oil and gas workers – how important oil and gas workers are to the province, and they're one of the backbones of our economy, and without them the province wouldn't be the province that it is today – yet we clearly see that in this piece of legislation those workers are no longer going to be able to get overtime. They won't be paid out. The flexibility of the employer will determine whether or not they choose to get paid overtime, and the amount of hours that they work and the on/off shifts that they work will be determined, which would then allow the employer to be able to no longer have to pay overtime or to pay it over an average throughout the year, therefore making people ineligible to access any other type of employment supports. I mean, that's a huge issue.

We also see the fact that there's going to be a minimum wage exemption for certain age groups and for certain areas within the sectors, including the hospitality sector. We know that there is a possibility that an employer could choose to adjust individuals' work and their minimum wage to have it less and then be compensated in other ways, so there are significant changes here.

One of the things that is the struggle is that although the government will talk about big union and that this is about, you know, getting labour out of the way for political engagement, the reality of it is that the majority of this bill actually impacts the average working person every day. It impacts their daily livelihoods. Although the government can talk about labour and they can talk about union dues, which is a small part of this bill, for sure – it is not the majority of the bill, and because it's not the majority of the bill, Albertans should be able to have feedback into how they should be compensated and how their overall livelihoods will be impacted.

3:50

This government found a way, as we all know, to hand out \$4.7 billion to corporations because they said that they were going to create jobs, and then what we see is that we now have the highest unemployment rate in the province, at 15.5 per cent, and Calgary has the worst unemployment rate, yet what we see this government doing is trying to create even more loopholes to make it so that Albertans will struggle even more than they are already struggling

right now because they will not get compensated for the work that they're doing.

To be a reasonable government, to actually be open and transparent, as this government continues to say that they are, they would be best – and I would recommend that this bill not be read a second time, that government go back and consult for the next six months, and then they can come back to the Legislature after six months of consultation and report back to the Assembly about what they've heard.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available.

Seeing none, any other members wishing to speak to amendment HA1?

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment HA1 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:51 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Carson	Irwin	Shepherd
Dach	Sabir	Sweet
Eggen		

Against the motion:

Aheer	Loewen	Rutherford
Armstrong-Homeniuk	Lovely	Savage
Copping	Luan	Schow
Dreeshen	Madu	Sigurdson, R.J.
Getson	Neudorf	Smith
Gotfried	Pon	Turton
Guthrie	Rehn	Wilson
Hanson	Rowswell	Yao
Issik		

Totals: For – 7 Against – 25

[Motion on amendment HA1 lost]

The Deputy Speaker: Given that it is a hoist amendment, we will now vote on second reading of Bill 32, Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act, 2020.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion for second reading carried]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:56 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Loewen	Rutherford
Armstrong-Homeniuk	Lovely	Savage
Copping	Luan	Schow
Dreeshen	Madu	Sigurdson, R.J.
Getson	Neudorf	Smith
Gotfried	Pon	Turton
Guthrie	Rehn	Wilson
Hanson	Rowswell	Yao
Issik		

Against the motion:

Carson	Irwin	Shepherd
Dach	Sabir	Sweet
Eggen		

Totals: For – 25 Against – 7

[Motion carried; Bill 32 read a second time]

4:00 Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Mrs. Pitt in the chair]

The Chair: Hon. members, I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order.

Bill 33 Alberta Investment Attraction Act

The Chair: Are there members wishing to join debate? The hon. Member for Edmonton-City Centre.

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate the opportunity to rise and speak again to Bill 33, the Alberta Investment Attraction Act. Now, this bill has some specific provisions. Section 3 sets out the corporation, defines what its mandate would be, that being identifying investments that could be attracted to the province, attracting those investments, and making the process of investing here easy. Sections 12 and 13 give the minister the ability to issue directives to the corporation as part of that work.

My colleagues and I have spoken a number of times now about the fact that this seems to be a bit of a duplication. We already had Invest Alberta, which was created within economic development and trade, but now we are creating another external corporation, to which this government intends to appoint 11 members who will be paid to carry out this work.

I think it's important that if we want to consider the value of the creation of this corporation in light of the mandate that I just noted here and the fact that the minister will be issuing directives to the corporation in fulfillment of that mandate, perhaps we consider a recent example of how this government has approached the attraction of investment to Alberta in a particular industry.

Now, luckily for us, just yesterday we got to see the report of the innovation working group for this government. The government has acknowledged, as they did yesterday with a grand announcement, at long last the importance of tech and innovation in the province of Alberta and the need for, in fact, the government to take concrete steps to encourage investment in that industry and allow it to grow in the province of Alberta. Certainly, that falls under the mandate of this corporation. It's an investment that can be attracted to this province. It requires some work to attract those investments, and we want to make the process of making those investments easy. The process of that is at the directive of the minister.

What did the innovation working group say about this government's work on that file so far? Well, it said that during their consultations with investors and technology companies across the province they heard a clear message:

Alberta is not competitive, and early stage technology businesses and investors do not think it makes sense to locate here.

Now, why is that, Madam Chair? That is because, as they say: The elimination of the provincial portion of the SRED and the Alberta Investor Tax Credit . . . has created a perception among investors and start-ups that the technology industry is not a priority for Alberta and not part of the economic mix for the future of the province.

Now, let's be clear. While this government is fond of talking about chasing away investment, that is one hundred per cent on this government. Those decisions were directives of the minister, much like the directives she will be making to this corporation, her directive, her decision, her cabinet that chose to eliminate the Alberta investor tax credit and indeed the provincial portion of the SRED, which, the innovation working group notes, no other province in Canada ignores or eliminates. Alberta became a leader in that, which was not a terribly good step because, as the innovation working group noted in their report to this government, that sent a message to the technology sector in Canada: do not invest in Alberta; this is not a place to grow a technology company.

Indeed, what we heard from this minister when we raised this concern – and I did raise this concern. Indeed, I brought the very words of groups like the A100 into this Legislature. The response we got from that minister was: we've given the job-creation tax cut, and that helps all Alberta companies; that's all we need. The innovation working group clearly states:

The Job Creation Tax Cut simply does not hold the same benefit – or indeed, any benefit – for early stage and start-up companies that focus more on revenue than earnings and deploy as much additional capital as possible toward additional growth.

So it is my hope, Madam Chair, that as we are now going to have this corporation, at the direction of the minister, looking to bring investment into Alberta in important areas like technology and innovation, we will see a bit more careful thought from this government and this minister. If we are going to spend these additional dollars and create this entire additional corporation, let us hope that the 11 individuals who are put in charge of this corporation will have more foresight than this government has so far and, indeed, that the direction of the minister is going to be a bit more nuanced and considerate and not based simply on partisan ideology.

Page 44 of the working group report:

These eliminations were particularly hard on technology entrepreneurs and investors and has led to concerns about Alberta as a place to grow and invest for technology amongst many in the sector.

The elimination of these tax credit programs has resulted in Alberta becoming the only Canadian province that does not support technology entrepreneurs through the tax system and is not providing mechanisms to attract and entice innovation capital.

The cancellation of SRED was particularly impactful.

Let me be clear, Madam Chair. Our government didn't create SRED. I understand that this government wanted to eliminate absolutely anything they thought our hands had touched. Let's be clear. SRED existed long before us and in every other province in Canada.

Page 45 of the report noted:

The result of the SRED decision in the absence of [any] countervailing measures will be a substantial reduction in research and development within Alberta . . .

For several stakeholders who provided feedback to the working group, the elimination of SRED and other technology incentives resulted in a loss of:

- competitiveness in terms of innovation;
- investment, as investors were attracted to incentive programs;
- innovation and R&D;
- jobs, as these programs were used, in part, to employ technical experts;

- tax revenue from employees due to job losses; and
- companies . . .

losing actual businesses,

[that chose] to relocate to more competitive jurisdictions or expand operations in provinces that offered assistance.

Indeed, on page 46 they said:

Alberta has become “a conspicuous outlier” by being the least competitive jurisdiction in Canada . . .

which they said would likely become a benefit for neighbouring provinces, who were likely to take on the technology companies which this government, by its decision, drove out. As they said on page 47:

A corporate income tax reduction will not benefit the typical early stage technology business and is not a factor in their decision to locate.

Now, Madam Chair, I will recognize that this government did change its mind. Thankfully, we saw a pivot. I'm not sure how it happened. Certainly, I tried to raise these concerns here, as did my colleague the Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, our critic for economic development and trade. Certainly, I know that a number in the technology industry reached out and reached out to their local representatives and were certainly reaching out to the minister's office. It seems the message got through. For all the vitriol and the denial that we heard in this House that what was actually happening, as reflected in this report, was actually happening, we at least see the recognition by the minister, by this government of the importance of this sector and the need to attract investment for it. It's unfortunate, the amount of damage that was done in the interim period, as I listed there, directly quoted in the report: loss of revenue, loss of companies, loss of investment, loss of research and development. A year of chaos and uncertainty that did not have to happen.

4:10

Now, I do not want to stand here and say anything that would hurt that industry. I know they have worked hard to have their voice heard by this government. I'm thankful that it has been, and I'm thankful we are seeing some concrete steps taken by this government to respond. I hope that that will continue because these are important businesses, these are important individuals, and I have seen the hard work they have done. I never, in the work that I do as a critic or a member of the opposition, want to get in the way of people being able to do good things in the province of Alberta.

But I think that as we discuss how this government intends to approach investment in the province of Alberta, to create this additional corporation to do that work, that will again be at the directive of the minister, that will duplicate some of the work that was already being done by Invest Alberta – we recognize that this job-creation tax cut or, as we call it, the \$4.7 billion corporate giveaway is not the be-all and end-all for investment in Alberta, and indeed the fact that the government is creating this and giving this corporation the ability to give out additional grants to create additional supports acknowledges that very fact. It acknowledges that indeed up to this point this government has been unsuccessful in attracting any additional investment to the province of Alberta.

And though they've accelerated their race to the bottom and plunged us down now to the 8 per cent tax rate, creating a larger hole in the provincial treasury, they still recognize that there is additional work that needs to be done to actually diversify our economy. Again, I support work to do that, but it's unfortunate that this government is so late to the table, that they expended so much vitriol and indeed did damage to key industries in the province of Alberta in the interim.

Indeed, in the working group report they talk about how Alberta “is losing its young population faster than the national average. Calgary [specifically] has seen a 5.5% decline in those aged 20-24.” They note that “losing graduates from our post-secondary institutions to other jurisdictions should be deeply concerning to Alberta leaders and decision makers.” Indeed, that’s in a number of fields. We’ve seen recently the number of medical residents and young doctors that are choosing to leave this province rather than set up shop here. Let’s be clear. Keeping young people here to invest their talents is wider again than a \$4.7 billion corporate giveaway.

We had made investment to create technology spaces at our postsecondary institutions so that more Albertans could actually get trained for the very jobs that this government is now recognizing we need more of. The working group report, of course, says that we don’t have nearly enough of the people that we need. Indeed, the provincial government’s own statistics and projections note that we will not have enough of the key kinds of technology workers that we need in this province. This government cancelled the program for those seats, eliminated them despite the fact that indeed, on page 38 of the report, “the provincial government is projecting a major labour shortage of computer and information systems professionals by 2025, as well as . . . software designers, programmers, and developers.” Good-paying jobs, Madam Chair.

What we have seen from this government so far is that they are indeed, as asked for by the working group, looking to accelerate the program for provincial nominees to bring people from outside Alberta to fill these positions. Yes, industry is asking for that, and that is a necessary step for the time being. But at a time when we have unemployment here in Alberta and people that are looking for opportunities to transition to other good-paying jobs, why are we not training more Albertans?

This investment corporation: we will see what the value is. It’s going to depend on a lot of other choices that this government makes, and the creation of this additional, duplicated bureaucracy will not be the salvation for the province of Alberta. I hope that it’s successful, I surely do, that this investment actually will yield additional investment dollars coming back into the province of Alberta. I question whether it’s the most efficient way to do it, but

let’s hope it works, and let’s hope that this government is able to set aside its blinders in terms of how this corporation operates to attract the new kinds of businesses and opportunities that we can capitalize on so well here in the province of Alberta.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Anyone wishing to join the debate?

[The remaining clauses of Bill 33 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

The Chair: Shall the bill be reported? Are you agreed?

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Any opposed? Carried.

Mrs. Savage: I move that the committee shall rise and report Bill 33.

[Motion carried]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

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

Mr. Hanson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Committee of the Whole has had under consideration a certain bill. The committee reports the following bill with some amendments: Bill 33.

The Deputy Speaker: Does the Assembly concur in the report? All those in favour, please say aye.

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Deputy Speaker: Any opposed, please say no. So carried.

Mrs. Savage: I move that the Assembly adjourn until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2020.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:17 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 30th Legislature - 2nd Session (2020)

Activity to Thursday, July 23, 2020

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 — Critical Infrastructure Defence Act (Kenney)

First Reading — 4 (*Feb. 25, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 12-18 (*Feb. 26, 2020 morn.*), 96-98 (*Mar. 2, 2020 aft.*), 791-98 (*May 27, 2020 morn., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 859-91 (*May 28, 2020 morn., passed*)
Third Reading — 861-69 (*May 28, 2020 morn., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Jun. 17, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 17, 2020; SA 2020 cC-32.7]

Bill 2* — Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Amendment Act, 2020 (Hunter)

First Reading — 30 (*Feb. 26, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 857-58 (*May 28, 2020 morn.*), 1004-09 (*Jun. 2, 2020 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 1238-44 (*Jun. 9, 2020 eve., passed with amendments*)
Third Reading — 1364-70 (*Jun. 15, 2020 eve., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*Jun. 17, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 17, 2020; SA 2020 c9]

Bill 3 — Mobile Home Sites Tenancies Amendment Act, 2020 (Glubish)

First Reading — 30 (*Feb. 26, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 431-46 (*Apr. 7, 2020 morn.*), 458-65 (*Apr. 7, 2020 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 465-76 (*Apr. 7, 2020 aft.*), 477-507 (*Apr. 7, 2020 eve.*), 572-83 (*Apr. 8, 2020 eve.*), 659-66 (*May 6, 2020 morn., passed*)
Third Reading — 703-09 (*May 7, 2020 morn., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*May 12, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on Proclamation; SA 2020 c8]

Bill 4 — Fiscal Planning and Transparency (Fixed Budget Period) Amendment Act, 2020 (Toews)

First Reading — 62 (*Feb. 27, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 858 (*May 28, 2020 morn.*), 869-75 (*May 28, 2020 morn.*), 933-35 (*Jun. 1, 2020 aft.*), 970-72 (*Jun. 1, 2020 eve.*), 1040-43 (*Jun. 2, 2020 eve.*), 1077 (*Jun. 3, 2020 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 1257-66 (*Jun. 10, 2020 aft.*), 1311-16 (*Jun. 11, 2020 aft., passed*)
Third Reading — 1442 (*Jun. 17, 2020 aft.*), 1452-55 (*Jun. 17, 2020 aft., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Jun. 26, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 26, 2020; SA 2020 c14]

Bill 5 — Fiscal Measures and Taxation Act, 2020 (Toews)

First Reading — 110 (*Mar. 3, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 224-32 (*Mar. 17, 2020 aft., passed on division*), 222-23 (*Mar. 17, 2020 aft.*)
Committee of the Whole — 232-33 (*Mar. 17, 2020 aft.*), 234-41 (*Mar. 17, 2020 aft., passed*)
Third Reading — 241 (*Mar. 17, 2020 aft.*), 242-48 (*Mar. 17, 2020 aft., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*Mar. 20, 2020 Outside of House Sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2020 c3]

Bill 6 — Appropriation Act, 2020 (S) (Toews)

First Reading — 215 (Mar. 17, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 216-22 (Mar. 17, 2020 aft., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 222 (Mar. 17, 2020 aft., deemed passed on division)

Third Reading — 222 (Mar. 17, 2020 aft., deemed passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Mar. 20, 2020 Outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 20, 2020; SA 2020 c1]

Bill 7 — Responsible Energy Development Amendment Act, 2020 (Savage)

First Reading — 827 (May 27, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 858-59 (May 28, 2020 morn.), 891-99 (May 28, 2020 aft.), 972-76 (Jun. 1, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 1266-72 (Jun. 10, 2020 aft.), 1370-75 (Jun. 15, 2020 eve.), 1406-11 (Jun. 16, 2020 aft.), 1413 (Jun. 16, 2020 eve.), 1479-81 (Jun. 17, 2020 eve.), 1539-40 (Jun. 22, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 1636-37 (Jun. 24, 2020 aft., adjourned), 1678-79 (Jun. 25, 2020 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — (Jun. 26, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 26, 2020; SA 2020 c16]

Bill 8* — Protecting Survivors of Human Trafficking Act (Schweitzer)

First Reading — 431 (Apr. 7, 2020 morn., passed)

Second Reading — 509-21 (Apr. 8, 2020 morn.), 551-58 (Apr. 8, 2020 aft.), 559-72 (Apr. 8, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 593-618 (Apr. 8, 2020 eve.), 671-73 (May 6, 2020 morn., passed with amendments)

Third Reading — 709-12 (May 7, 2020 morn., passed)

Royal Assent — (May 12, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 12, 2020, except Part 2, which comes into force on July 1, 2020; SA 2020 cP-26.87]

Bill 9 — Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2020 (Madu)

First Reading — 276 (Mar. 20, 2020 morn., passed)

Second Reading — 277-80 (Mar. 20, 2020 morn., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 280-82 (Mar. 20, 2020 morn., passed)

Third Reading — 282-83 (Mar. 20, 2020 morn., passed)

Royal Assent — (Mar. 20, 2020 Outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on March 20, 2020; SA 2020 c2]

Bill 10 — Public Health (Emergency Powers) Amendment Act, 2020 (Shandro)

First Reading — 296-97 (Mar. 31, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 307-20 (Apr. 1, 2020 morn.), 337-44 (Apr. 1, 2020 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 354-57 (Apr. 1, 2020 aft.), 407-09 (Apr. 2, 2020 morn.), 426-28 (Apr. 2, 2020 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 428-29 (Apr. 2, 2020 aft., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Apr. 2, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on April 2, 2020; certain sections took effect on earlier dates; SA 2020 c5]

Bill 11 — Tenancies Statutes (Emergency Provisions) Amendment Act, 2020 (Glubish)

First Reading — 297 (Mar. 31, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 298-301 (Mar. 31, 2020 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 301-03 (Mar. 31, 2020 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 303-05 (Mar. 31, 2020 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — (Apr. 2, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2020 c6]

Bill 12 — Liabilities Management Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 (Savage)

First Reading — 297 (Mar. 31, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 320-25 (Apr. 1, 2020 morn.), 344-49 (Apr. 1, 2020 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 350-54 (Apr. 1, 2020 aft.), 401-05 (Apr. 2, 2020 morn., passed)

Third Reading — 406 (Apr. 2, 2020 morn., passed)

Royal Assent — (Apr. 2, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2020 c4]

Bill 13 — Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2020 (No. 2) (Madu)

First Reading — 431 (Apr. 7, 2020 morn., passed)

Second Reading — 521-26 (Apr. 8, 2020 morn.), 537-51 (Apr. 8, 2020 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 583-93 (Apr. 8, 2020 eve.), 619-35 (Apr. 9, 2020 morn.), 648-57 (Apr. 9, 2020 aft.), 673-74 (May 6, 2020 morn.), 688-99 (May 6, 2020 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 699-701 (May 6, 2020 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — (May 12, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 12, 2020, with exceptions; SA 2020 c7]

Bill 14 — Utility Payment Deferral Program Act (Nally)

First Reading — 687 (May 6, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 724-45 (May 7, 2020 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 758-86 (May 8, 2020 morn., passed)

Third Reading — 786-90 (May 8, 2020 morn., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (May 12, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 12, 2020, with certain provisions having effect as of March 18, 2020; SA 2020 cU-4]

Bill 15 — Choice in Education Act, 2020 (LaGrange)

First Reading — 887-88 (May 28, 2020 aft, passed)

Second Reading — 937-54 (Jun. 1, 2020 eve.), 1011-40 (Jun. 2, 2020 eve.), 1058-67 (Jun. 3, 2020 aft.), 1228-38 (Jun. 9, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 1375-78 (Jun. 15, 2020 eve.), 1470-79 (Jun. 17, 2020 eve.), 1541-51 (Jun. 22, 2020 eve.), 1575-88 (Jun. 23, 2020 aft.), 1620-25 (Jun. 24, 2020 aft.), 1639-47 (Jun. 24, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 1657-59 (Jun. 24, 2020 eve., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Jun. 26, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force September 1, 2020; SA 2020 c11]

Bill 16 — Victims of Crime (Strengthening Public Safety) Amendment Act, 2020 (Schweitzer)

First Reading — 888 (May 28, 2020 aft, passed)

Second Reading — 954-70 (Jun. 1, 2020 eve.), 1109-12 (Jun. 3, 2020 eve.), 1127-35 (Jun. 4, 2020 aft.), 1179-81 (Jun. 8, 2020 eve.), 1209-22 (Jun. 9, 2020 aft.), 1285-96 (Jun. 10, 2020 eve., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 1428-29 (Jun. 16, 2020 eve.), 1455-59 (Jun. 17, 2020 aft.), 1551-55 (Jun. 22, 2020 eve.), 1588-90 (Jun. 23, 2020 aft.), 1647-50 (Jun. 24, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 1676-78 (Jun. 25, 2020 aft., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Jun. 26, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 26, 2020, with exceptions; SA 2020 c18]

Bill 17 — Mental Health Amendment Act, 2020 (Shandro)

First Reading — 1125 (Jun. 4, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 1203-09 (Jun. 9, 2020 aft.), 1272-74 (Jun. 10, 2020 aft.), 1316-23 (Jun. 11, 2020 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 1396-1406 (Jun. 16, 2020 aft.), 1413 (Jun. 16, 2020 eve.), 1461-70 (Jun. 17, 2020 eve.), 1605-08 (Jun. 23, 2020 eve.), 1630-36 (Jun. 24, 2020 aft.), 1650-54 (Jun. 24, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 1675-76 (Jun. 25, 2020 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — (Jun. 26, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; certain sections come into force on June 26, 2020; SA 2020 c15]

Bill 18 — Corrections (Alberta Parole Board) Amendment Act, 2020 (Schweitzer)

First Reading — 912 (Jun. 1, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 989-1004 (Jun. 2, 2020 aft.), 1011 (Jun. 2, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 1413-24 (Jun. 16, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 1655 (Jun. 24, 2020 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Jun. 26, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2020 c12]

Bill 19 — Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Amendment Act, 2020 (Shandro)

First Reading — 989 (Jun. 2, 2020 aft, passed)

Second Reading — 1079-98 (Jun. 3, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 1424-28 (Jun. 16, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 1495-97 (Jun. 18, 2020 aft.), 1555-56 (Jun. 22, 2020 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Jun. 26, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2020 c17]

Bill 20 — Real Estate Amendment Act, 2020 (Glubish)

First Reading — 1057 (Jun. 3, 2020 aft, passed)

Second Reading — 1125-27 (Jun. 4, 2020 aft.), 1169-79 (Jun. 8, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 1185-90 (Jun. 8, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 1279-85 (Jun. 10, 2020 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Jun. 17, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2020 c10]

Bill 21* — Provincial Administrative Penalties Act (Schweitzer)

First Reading — 1125 (*Jun. 4, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1181-85 (*Jun. 8, 2020 eve.*), 1296-97 (*Jun. 10, 2020 eve.*), 1355-57 (*Jun. 15, 2020 aft.*), 1442-52 (*Jun. 17, 2020 aft.*), 1819-22 (*Jul. 8, 2020 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1983-99 (*Jul. 14, 2020 aft.*), 2071-74 (*Jul. 15, 2020 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2264-68 (*Jul. 21, 2020 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft.*) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2020 cP-30.8]

Bill 22 — Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act, 2020 (Hunter)

First Reading — 1301-02 (*Jun. 11, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1591-95 (*Jun. 23, 2020 eve.*), 1655-57 (*Jun. 24, 2020 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1798-1804 (*Jul. 7, 2020 eve.*), 1879 (*Jul. 8, 2020 eve.*), 1939-57 (*Jul. 13, 2020 eve.*), 1965-66 (*Jul. 13, 2020 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 2050-51 (*Jul. 15, 2020 aft.*), 2053-59 (*Jul. 15, 2020 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft.*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2020 c25]

Bill 23* — Commercial Tenancies Protection Act (Fir)

First Reading — 1392 (*Jun. 16, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1529-35 (*Jun. 22, 2020 aft.*), 1601-05 (*Jun. 23, 2020 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1879-80 (*Jul. 8, 2020 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2181-83 (*Jul. 20, 2020 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft.*) [Comes into force on July 23, 2020, with certain sections taking effect March 17, 2020; SA 2020 cC-19.5]

Bill 24 — COVID-19 Pandemic Response Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 (Shandro)

First Reading — 1494 (*Jun. 18, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1537-39 (*Jun. 22, 2020 eve.*), 1569-75 (*Jun. 23, 2020 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1625-30 (*Jun. 24, 2020 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1679-81 (*Jun. 25, 2020 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 26, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 26, 2020; certain sections took effect on earlier dates; SA 2020 c13]

Bill 25 — Protecting Alberta Industry From Theft Act, 2020 (Schweitzer)

First Reading — 1494 (*Jun. 18, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1719-35 (*Jul. 6, 2020 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1804-05 (*Jul. 7, 2020 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1904-05 (*Jul. 9, 2020 aft.*), 2031-32 (*Jul. 14, 2020 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 23, 2020 t.*) [Comes into force on various dates; some sections take effect on September 1, 2020, or November 1, 2020; SA 2020 c24]

Bill 26 — Constitutional Referendum Amendment Act, 2020 (Schweitzer)

First Reading — 1568 (*Jun. 23, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1735-41 (*Jul. 6, 2020 eve.*), 1764-72 (*Jul. 7, 2020 aft.*), 1845-56 (*Jul. 8, 2020 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1964-65 (*Jul. 13, 2020 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 2081-86 (*Jul. 15, 2020 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft.*) [Comes into force July 23, 2020; SA 2020 c20]

Bill 27 — Alberta Senate Election Amendment Act, 2020 (Schweitzer)

First Reading — 1568 (*Jun. 23, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1741-47 (*Jul. 6, 2020 eve.*), 1772-79 (*Jul. 7, 2020 aft.*), 1822-27 (*Jul. 8, 2020 morn.*), 1899-1904 (*Jul. 9, 2020 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1999-2001 (*Jul. 14, 2020 aft.*), 2074-76 (*Jul. 15, 2020 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 2076-81 (*Jul. 15, 2020 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft.*) [Comes into force July 23, 2020; SA 2020 c19]

Bill 28 — Vital Statistics (Protecting Albertans from Convicted Sex Offenders) Amendment Act, 2020 (Glubish)

First Reading — 1619 (*Jun. 24, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1704-17 (*Jul. 6, 2020 aft.*), 1779-82 (*Jul. 7, 2020 aft.*), 1856-60 (*Jul. 8, 2020 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1880-82 (*Jul. 8, 2020 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1896-99 (*Jul. 9, 2020 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft.*) [Comes into force July 23, 2020; SA 2020 c26]

Bill 29 — Local Authorities Election Amendment Act, 2020 (Madu)

First Reading — 1619-20 (*Jun. 24, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 1784-97 (*Jul. 7, 2020 eve.*), 1962-63 (*Jul. 13, 2020 eve., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 2163-81 (*Jul. 20, 2020 eve., passed*)
Third Reading — 2239-64 (*Jul. 21, 2020 eve., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft.*) [Comes into force September 1, 2020; SA 2020 c22]

Bill 30 — Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 (Shandro)

First Reading — 1695 (*Jul. 6, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 1783-84 (*Jul. 7, 2020 eve.*), 2032-37 (*Jul. 14, 2020 eve.*), 2086-2103 (*Jul. 15, 2020 eve.*), 2189-97 (*Jul. 20, 2020 eve.*), 2210-27 (*Jul. 21, 2020 aft.*), 2289-96 (*Jul. 22, 2020 aft.*), 2313-28 (*Jul. 22, 2020 eve.*), 2360-61 (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft., passed on division*)

Bill 31 — Environmental Protection Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 (Nixon, JJ)

First Reading — 1760 (*Jul. 7, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 1878 (*Jul. 8, 2020 eve.*), 2023-31 (*Jul. 14, 2020 eve., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 2233-39 (*Jul. 21, 2020 eve., passed*)
Third Reading — 2309-12 (*Jul. 22, 2020 eve., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft.*) [Comes into force July 23, 2020; SA 2020 c21]

Bill 32 — Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act, 2020 (Copping)

First Reading — 1760 (*Jul. 7, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 1861-63 (*Jul. 8, 2020 eve.*), 2003-23 (*Jul. 14, 2020 eve.*), 2051-53 (*Jul. 15, 2020 aft.*), 2059-69 (*Jul. 15, 2020 aft.*), 2147-62 (*Jul. 20, 2020 aft.*), 2268-73 (*Jul. 21, 2020 eve.*), 2296-307 (*Jul. 22, 2020 aft.*), 2328-40 (*Jul. 22, 2020 eve.*), 2361-63 (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft., passed on division*)

Bill 33* — Alberta Investment Attraction Act (Fir)

First Reading — 1760-61 (*Jul. 7, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 1807-19 (*Jul. 8, 2020 morn.*), 1927-37 (*Jul. 13, 2020 aft.*), 2117-27 (*Jul. 16, 2020 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 2227-31 (*Jul. 21, 2020 aft.*), 2233 (*Jul. 21, 2020 eve.*), 2340-44 (*Jul. 22, 2020 eve.*), 2312-13 (*Jul. 22, 2020 eve.*), 2363-65 (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft., passed with amendments*)

Bill 34 — Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 (Nixon, JJ)

First Reading — 1839 (*Jul. 8, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 1966-69 (*Jul. 13, 2020 eve.*), 2116-17 (*Jul. 16, 2020 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 2117 (*Jul. 16, 2020 aft., passed*)
Third Reading — 2312 (*Jul. 22, 2020 eve., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft.*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2020 c23]

Bill 201 — Strategic Aviation Advisory Council Act (Gotfried)

First Reading — 62 (*Feb. 27, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*), 136 (*Mar. 5, 2020 aft., reported to Assembly*)
Second Reading — 914-26 (*Jun. 1, 2020 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 1156-61 (*Jun. 8, 2020 aft.*), 1337-47 (*Jun. 15, 2020 aft., passed*)
Third Reading — 1514-22 (*Jun. 22, 2020 aft., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*Jun. 26, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 31, 2020; SA 2020 cS-19.8]

Bill 202 — Conflicts of Interest (Protecting the Rule of Law) Amendment Act, 2020 (Ganley)

First Reading — 136 (*Mar. 5, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*), 1149-56 (*Jun. 2, 2020 aft., reported to Assembly;*), 1156 (*Jun. 8, 2020 aft., not proceeded with on division*)

Bill 203 — Pension Protection Act (Gray)

First Reading — 1148 (*Jun. 8, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*), (*Jul. 8, 2020 aft., reported to Assembly; not proceeded with*)

Bill 204 — Voluntary Blood Donations Repeal Act (Yao)

First Reading — *(Jul. 8, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), (Jul. 22, 2020 aft., reported to Assembly)*

Bill 33 — Critical Infrastructure Defence Act (Kenney)

First Reading — 4 *(Feb. 25, 2020 aft., passed)*

Second Reading — 12-18 *(Feb. 26, 2020 morn.)*, 96-98 *(Mar. 2, 2020 aft.)*, 791-98 *(May 27, 2020 morn., passed)*

Committee of the Whole — 859-61 *(May 28, 2020 morn., passed)*

Third Reading — 861-69 *(May 28, 2020 morn., passed on division)*

Royal Assent — *(Jun. 17, 2020 outside of House sitting)* [Comes into force June 17, 2020; SA 2020 cC-32.7]

Bill Pr1 — The Sisters of the Precious Blood of Edmonton Repeal Act (Williams)

First Reading — 1125 *(Jun. 4, 2020 aft., passed)*

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