



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
Second Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, October 22, 2020

Day 56

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 30th Legislature

Second Session

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

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

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

Party standings:

United Conservative: 63

New Democrat: 24

Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

Shannon Dean, QC, Clerk
Teri Cherkewich, Law Clerk
Stephanie LeBlanc, Clerk Assistant and
Senior Parliamentary Counsel
Trafton Koenig, Senior Parliamentary
Counsel

Philip Massolin, Clerk of Committees and
Research Services
Nancy Robert, Research Officer
Janet Schwegel, Director of Parliamentary
Programs

Amanda LeBlanc, Deputy Editor of *Alberta
Hansard*
Chris Caughell, Sergeant-at-Arms
Tom Bell, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Paul Link, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

Executive Council

Jason Kenney	Premier, President of Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Relations
Leela Aheer	Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women
Tracy L. Allard	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Jason Copping	Minister of Labour and Immigration
Devin Dreesen	Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Nate Glubish	Minister of Service Alberta
Grant Hunter	Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction
Adriana LaGrange	Minister of Education
Jason Luan	Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Kaycee Madu	Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Ric McIver	Minister of Transportation
Dale Nally	Associate Minister of Natural Gas and Electricity
Demetrios Nicolaides	Minister of Advanced Education
Jason Nixon	Minister of Environment and Parks
Prasad Panda	Minister of Infrastructure
Josephine Pon	Minister of Seniors and Housing
Sonya Savage	Minister of Energy
Rajan Sawhney	Minister of Community and Social Services
Rebecca Schulz	Minister of Children's Services
Doug Schweitzer	Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation
Tyler Shandro	Minister of Health
Travis Toews	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
Rick Wilson	Minister of Indigenous Relations

Parliamentary Secretaries

Laila Goodridge	Parliamentary Secretary Responsible for Alberta's Francophonie
Martin Long	Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Tourism
Jeremy Nixon	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Community and Social Services
Muhammad Yaseen	Parliamentary Secretary of Immigration

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Orr
Deputy Chair: Mr. Getson

Eggen
Glasgo
Gray
Jones
Phillips
Singh
Turton

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Chair: Mr. Neudorf
Deputy Chair: Ms Goehring

Armstrong-Homeniuk
Barnes
Bilous
Dang
Horner
Irwin
Reid
Rosin
Stephan
Toor

Select Special Democratic Accountability Committee

Chair: Mr. Schow
Deputy Chair: Mr. Horner

Ceci
Dang
Fir
Goodridge
Nixon, Jeremy
Pancholi
Rutherford
Sigurdson, R.J.
Smith
Sweet

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Ms Goodridge
Deputy Chair: Ms Sigurdson

Amery
Carson
Glasgo
Guthrie
Neudorf
Nixon, Jeremy
Pancholi
Rutherford
Sabir
Yao

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Schow
Deputy Chair: Mr. Sigurdson

Ceci
Lovely
Loyola
Nixon, Jeremy
Rutherford
Shepherd
Sweet
van Dijken
Walker

Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

Chair: Mr. Cooper
Deputy Chair: Mr. Ellis

Dang
Deol
Goehring
Goodridge
Long
Neudorf
Sabir
Walker
Williams

Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

Chair: Mr. Ellis
Deputy Chair: Mr. Schow

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

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Mr. Smith
Deputy Chair: Mr. Reid

Armstrong-Homeniuk
Deol
Issik
Jones
Lovely
Loyola
Pancholi
Rehn
Reid
Renaud
Yao

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Ms Phillips
Deputy Chair: Mr. Gotfried

Barnes
Dach
Guthrie
Reid
Renaud
Rosin
Rowswell
Schmidt
Stephan
Toor

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Chair: Mr. Hanson
Deputy Chair: Member Ceci

Dach
Feehan
Fir
Ganley
Getson
Loewen
Rehn
Singh
Smith
Yaseen

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 22, 2020

[The Speaker in the chair]

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 prejudices, keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all.

Hon. members, today being Thursday, we will now be led in the singing of *God Save the Queen* by Ms Nicole Williams. In observation of the COVID-19 public health guidelines outlined by Dr. Deena Hinshaw, please refrain from joining her today.

Ms Williams:

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: Hon. members, please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: I don't believe they've joined us, but I understand that there may be guests joining us this afternoon on behalf of the Member for Peace River. Ethan Lounsbury, VP of youth, United Conservative Party constituency association board in Peace River, thank you for being here. Oh, there you are. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford has the call.

Job Creation and Economic Development

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The UCP's central economic strategy, a \$4.7 billion corporate handout that rewards foreign shareholders, is doing nothing to create jobs. The Premier promised Albertans that his strategy would be a shot of adrenaline for the economy. Jobs and investment would flood into the province. Instead, his plan turned out to be a poisoned pill. The verdict is in: 50,000 jobs lost, a doubling of the deficit, and an economy that shrank, and this was all prepandemic.

Today more than a quarter of a million Albertans are out of work, and they are demanding real action from their government. Unfortunately, we see the UCP bereft of ideas, scrambling to do something. Despite a record of failure, they doubled down on their failing strategy. They accelerated their corporate handout and shovelled even more money off to wealthy foreign shareholders. To pay for this no-jobs corporate giveaway, they're firing front-line health care workers, chasing doctors out of the province, and going after the most vulnerable. Albertans deserve better.

Now more than ever they need a real economic plan, one that will create jobs and diversify the economy and a plan that harnesses the ingenuity of Albertans and builds a more prosperous future. That's

why the NDP opposition is taking action, talking to Albertans, and developing real economic proposals that will create jobs and bring investment dollars back into the province.

We are inviting all Albertans to join us in that work at albertasfuture.ca. In the coming days, weeks, and months Albertans will see more proposals to get our economy growing, take advantage of our resources, and own the future. We are launching this work because Albertans know we can't go back to the failed UCP strategy of rewarding foreign shareholders and then crossing our fingers and hoping for the best. That's not a strategy; that's buying a lottery ticket and praying Alberta will hit the jackpot. We can and we must do better. To my fellow Albertans: if you think our province can do better than buying a lottery ticket and hoping for the best, I ask you to join us at albertasfuture.ca.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche.

Driver's Licence Road Tests

Ms Goodridge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March 2019 the previous NDP government nationalized road tests, chasing away half of our driver examiners and significantly increasing wait times for road tests. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit our province, road tests were shut down to help slow the spread, creating a backlog of people wanting to get licensed. On June 29 Alberta became the very first province to relaunch road tests, but wait times are still quite high. This is exceptionally difficult for many would-be drivers who need to book a test in order to keep their jobs or get a job.

As Alberta's economy recovers, it is absolutely essential that we continue focusing on getting Albertans back to work, which is why I was so pleased when I heard that we will be transitioning our driver's road test system back to a privately run model. Privatizing driver exams for class 4, 5, and 6 licences will provide Albertans with quicker access to more road tests across the province. Starting on December 1, Albertans will be able to book a passenger vehicle road test directly with local registry agents or through our new online system for tests to be conducted after January 5, 2021. Registry agents will now be able to hire or contract driver examiners directly.

Alberta is facing the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression right now, and this year has turned a record-high deficit. As Alberta's government plans for Budget 2021, we are looking at ways to reduce costs, prioritize spending, and find opportunity for savings. Returning our road test system to a private delivery model will save up to \$12.1 million per year, and it will ensure that taxpayers are getting the most bang for their buck. We know how frustrated Albertans have been with the wait times and the backlogs for road tests, and returning to a model which Albertans used for years with confidence will repair the damage done by the NDP's nationalization of these road tests.

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

Provincial Parks

Ms Issik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented our province with many unprecedented challenges. Fortunately, we have courage in our DNA, passed down by generations of Albertans who faced extraordinary hardships of their own. So I'm not too surprised to see Albertans responding to this pandemic with courage and grace. What I am surprised to see is the NDP working so hard to spread fear and misinformation to

Albertans. The NDP has spread misinformation about doctors, municipal taxes, and, of course, about parks.

I grew up in our beautiful parks, whether it was skiing in Kananaskis or hiking in Fish Creek. I know how passionate Albertans are about their parks, so when I heard the government was interested in working with more groups like the Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society, I was encouraged. Dedicated partners like the friends of Fish Creek work year-round to conserve our landscapes. They do serious environmental work, maintain the state of these natural areas, and educate many park visitors each year on the value of our beautiful backyard. These partners provide important services, and they do it from a local point of view. They have a vested interest in preserving their site for future generations to enjoy.

So it's very disappointing to see the NDP and their friends on the green left trying to shut nonprofits, municipalities, and indigenous communities out of the parks system. We know the NDP believes that government should run everything, but frankly I'm disappointed to see them spreading misinformation and doing a disservice to the work that partner organizations have been doing in Alberta's parks for decades.

I encourage all Albertans to get outdoors and take their minds off the challenges we face, and I encourage the NDP to do better by Albertans.

Driver's Licence Road Tests

Member Loyola: Albertans are frustrated. They can't figure out why this UCP government can't get the simple things right. All across this province Albertans are waiting for months to get drivers' tests and get a licence. Getting a licence in Alberta used to be a rite of passage, but now it's a recipe for endless frustration and delays brought on by this UCP government. They're having a real impact on people's lives and their ability to earn a living.

Two years ago we had a system that was broken. It cost Albertans too much, it was plagued by improper practices, and we had far too many examiners making over \$200,000 a year. So our previous government fixed it. We worked to drive down costs. It became cheaper to get a road test. We worked to improve service levels, particularly in rural Alberta, and it was happening. We put in a system with real oversight to ensure that Albertans wouldn't get failed time and again so that private examiners could pocket more in fees. Then the election happened.

The new Minister of Transportation declared the system broken. He threw out misleading facts, saying that the number of examiners was down across the province while conveniently neglecting to share with Albertans that most of the new examiners were full-time positions, not part-time. But, as with all things, this government dithered and blamed anyone but themselves for their own failures. The Minister of Transportation has been in charge for 16 months, and the system is now in complete disarray. What has he been doing for 16 months? When the pandemic hit and tests were put on pause, he didn't make a plan to address the backlog. This Transportation minister is a case study in failure. He's not managing the problem; he is the problem.

1:40

Albertans deserve fair, competent driver testing at reasonable prices and they deserve timely access. It's time that this Premier step in and assign a minister that can get the job done, because after a year and a half of governing, it's clear that this minister is not up for the job. Albertans deserve better.

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

School Reopening

Mr. Turton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are uncertain times for Albertans in my riding and across the province. Parents in my constituency have expressed their concerns over sending their children back to school. As a father of two boys I understand and appreciate these concerns. Parents want their children to be able to learn in a safe environment, and it is our duty to provide that certainty.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to see that school reopening has been relatively smooth in Spruce Grove and Stony Plain, with no significant negative impacts within our schools. However, we must remember to be vigilant and follow Alberta Health guidelines and the advice of our chief medical officer, Dr. Deena Hinshaw. Reopening schools is very important to my constituents. The mental health of children and teens has been significantly impacted by the lockdown and changes in everyday life. Going back to school allows children and teens to reconnect with their friends. It allows them to return to their passions, their sports, and their pursuit of knowledge.

I am pleased to see schools quickly adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic by putting safety measures in place and providing fantastic online classes, which many families are taking advantage of. Now, it is not surprising that over 80 per cent of parents in my riding felt comfortable with our approach and sent their kids to school with the conditions that have been put in place.

Mr. Speaker, Spruce Grove-Stony Plain is one of the youngest urban ridings in the province. Many young families have moved to my riding in pursuit of a great quality of life. Some have had to take time off work or lose pay in order to educate their children during the last few months, and these parents have a deep desire to have their children back at school. Our government is committed to a thorough approach and a safe reopening in accordance with Alberta Health guidelines, and we have shown that this can be done. Now, I'm not willing to jump for joy quite yet, but I'm cautiously optimistic about this ongoing school year and how our children will learn and grow in 2020.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud has a statement.

Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day. There have been many skilled and compassionate early childhood educators in my family's life, and I'd like to recognize a few of them like Ashwak, who worked to keep my son's busy mind challenged as he struggled to adapt to having a new baby sister. In 2018 Ashwak received the Prime Minister's award for excellence in early childhood education, and it was very well deserved; and Huma, who did regular FaceTime calls with my daughter during the shutdown of child care centres in the spring just to keep connected with her; and Navneet, who regularly speaks highly of my daughter's strong leadership skills and kindly never refers to how exhausting that can be; and Roxy, who, when she reopened her out of school care program this fall, made sure that each child, like my son, had an individual bin of choice specific to their interests; and the four extraordinary Alberta early childhood educators who were just recognized with Prime Minister's awards for excellence in early childhood education: Shaylene Saxton from Edmonton,

Jennifer Vardy from Fort McMurray, Lynn Wytrykusz from Lethbridge, and Meghan Hetherington from Sherwood Park.

These are extremely challenging times for the early childhood education workforce. Thousands were laid off as a result of the closure during COVID, and many will not return. Repeated cuts by this government to child care, lack of adequate support during COVID, and the cancellation of the \$25-per-day program have limited professional development and put operators in the difficult position of cutting wages and reducing the number of highest qualified educators.

We know that a strong early childhood education workforce is the primary indicator of quality early learning. We know that early childhood educators are now being asked to do so much more with so much less in an uncertain environment. We cannot keep expecting those responsible for educating our children in the critical early years to keep doing so simply out of the kindness of their own hearts. We must value and support them for the professional work they do. We need a long-term workforce strategy for early learning and child care in this province, and I am proud that the Alberta NDP is committed to doing just that.

So today I thank early childhood educators across Alberta, but I know thanks alone are not what you deserve; you deserve action.

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

Foreign Qualification and Credential Recognition

Mr. Toor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past several months I have heard elevated concerns about Alberta's ability to recognize foreign credentials. According to the Conference Board of Canada 844,000 Canadian adults face challenges with verifying their foreign credentials. That number has increased by over 300,000 since 2001, and this trend is not expected to decline.

As an immigrant myself, I understand the difficulties that come with making a different country your new home. I had no more than \$10 when I first arrived in Canada, and even though I had a university degree, I knew I had to sacrifice to live my Canadian dream. But that doesn't mean immigrants should have to sacrifice hundreds of thousands of dollars, the numerous late-night studies, and their professional expertise simply because it's too difficult to verify their foreign credentials.

I will not accept this position, and we cannot stand by as a government. That's why I held a town hall in late September to understand how this issue is affecting my constituents. I heard from a civil engineer for the last 25 years, a radio host with a master's in philosophy, a pathologist, a qualified doctor, and many others who could not get their education recognized.

These stories are heartbreaking, but they are not uncommon. The truth is that our province is missing out on the international talent of many qualified professionals. These barriers are often a result of discretionary powers given to those regulators that undermine Alberta's ability to attract internationally trained professionals. This is an issue that must be addressed, and this is my commitment to my constituents. We all should have the opportunity to live the Canadian dream.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River.

St. John Paul II

Mr. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in the Legislature on the feast of St. John Paul II, the Polish Pope who, with his winsome charm, faced down a totalitarian superpower with no more than his faith and his words. Born into a continent in chaos in 1920,

Karol Wojtyła's early life was characterized by bloodshed and depression in Europe. Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland soon brought the carnage of war and the horrific death camps. Out of this anarchy, by contrast, was delivered a man of peace and prayer.

On October 22, 1978, he was elected the first non-Italian Pope in five centuries. Because of his resolute belief in the dignity of the human person, John Paul spoke truth to power everywhere he went, most notably in his crusade against the totalitarian Marxist Soviet Union. Speaking in victory square in Warsaw in front of the Soviet machine in all of its earthly might and hundreds of thousands of Poles, he defiantly called on the Polish people to embrace their culture and their faith and thus to reject the dehumanizing evil that is communism.

To the Catholic faithful and indeed to the west as a whole John Paul became the Polish Pope that defied an empire and liberated from its grip a continent, ending communism in Europe. John Paul II's love of youth led him to travel the world as an evangelist, visiting 104 countries during his papacy, more than all previous Popes combined. His legacy today is one that is more important than ever before. We remember John Paul on his feast day because, like Christ, he emulates dignity and purpose in his suffering and death.

Living under the political leadership of Nazism and Soviet communism with his countrymen was only the first act of his witness to the world. In the later years of his life John Paul II developed a debilitating case of Parkinson's. Barely able to speak due to neurological decay, the suffering he embraced made manifest that same dignity and showed to the children, the poor, and the disabled throughout his papacy what it is to suffer and give dignity back. This world needs examples of men and women who live with dignity and hope.

Thank you, and God bless.

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

Small and Medium-sized Oil and Gas Companies

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The oil and gas industry is the primary engine that has driven the economy of Alberta for decades, but how many Albertans realize that 95.8 per cent of this sector is comprised of small businesses? Big oil is mainly small oil in Canada. This is an important fact that needs to be considered when discussing recovery of this sector. Our junior oil and gas companies are the drivers of innovation. They are our risk takers and are a critical part of our energy ecosystem. I've been participating in round-table discussions with many from the sector, and they have been doing exactly what they do best, innovating. The solutions I hear are Alberta-made solutions that don't require government bailout, and in many cases they just need government to get out of the way.

Our government was elected on the principle of cutting red tape. Small and medium-sized oil companies also have the advantage of attracting different sources of investment than their bigger compatriots. Though this investment comes in smaller individual amounts, together they form a large pool of investment whose impact on our economic recovery cannot be understated.

1:50

I also want to highlight the numerous sectors of the economy that are linked with the energy sector, especially with small and medium-sized businesses. Economy of scale means that a lot of larger businesses are served by larger suppliers, and with small operators in the energy sector that also means that they, in turn, are supplied by small and medium-sized suppliers. Those suppliers are usually family businesses hiring locally, just like the companies that

they service. They are usually based out of small towns and cities nearest to the oil fields, places like Ponoka, Cold Lake, Fox Creek, and countless others. These towns thrive thanks to the business they receive thanks to local companies doing business locally.

I was proud to run on a platform of cutting red tape and creating jobs in the last election, and I'm confident that if this government expands its support to small and medium-sized businesses, we'll be able to do so.

Oral Question Period

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

COVID-19 Testing and Self-isolation

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to start by expressing on behalf of my caucus our best wishes to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for her full recovery, and I also want to say that we are very glad to hear that the Premier has tested negative so far. However, I must also say that this raises a bit of an awkward question. We all know that Albertans are waiting days for their test results, days full of stress and anxiety, yet the Premier received his results within hours. Can the government please clarify how the Premier received those results so quickly?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the reality is that the emergency cabinet and Alberta Health Services put in some protocols for certain Albertans who could receive tests at different times to be able to make sure that we're able to continue with services, including the government. The head of government is certainly part of that list. The rest of our MLAs are waiting through the regular queue. We continue to work to make sure that testing is available to all Albertans. Alberta has done an excellent job over the last year on that important issue. We're proud of Alberta Health Services, and we're confident we're going to be able to continue to execute testing across the province.

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, we know that many other members of this Assembly are waiting like everyone else, and I believe that no one should be jumping the queue to get COVID results no matter who they are. Now, the Premier stresses personal responsibility, but personally he's on a special list. There are single mothers who have had to isolate, who are leaving their jobs, who are pulling their kids from child care, who are waiting to get tested, and while waiting for those results, they are not getting paid. Why does this Premier think it's appropriate for him to cut the line and jump in front of Albertans when he still has to isolate and this has no impact on treatment?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Again, Mr. Speaker, Alberta has some of the highest testing inside the country, in fact in the world. The system is working. It's working well. Unfortunately, of course, you can't have all results immediately happen. They are happening, though, at a very rapid rate. We're proud of the work that Alberta Health Services has done to be able to make sure that our testing system is in place. We're confident it will continue to be able to do its job, and what we're going to continue to focus on is making sure that we can get testing done on time and be able to make sure people can get results and get back to work.

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, what we're seeing in this building is what happens when one case comes close to the workplace, but in many more hazardous workplaces some folks have exhausted their leave

as a result of having to isolate multiple times, and unlike the members opposite, they don't get paid while they're away from work. Ottawa has a one-time payment of \$1,000, but it simply won't be enough for many, many workers. When will this government introduce a strategy to help Albertans afford to exercise the very personal responsibility that the Premier is so fond of lecturing them about?

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, Alberta remains a leader in COVID-19 testing, with over 1.6 million tests to date, and roughly 1.2 million Albertans have been tested at least once. Alberta is currently averaging over 13,800 tests per day since September 1 compared to just over 2,500 in early April. The target surge capacity for fall and winter is 22,000 tests per day. On average, Albertans get their COVID test results in between three and seven days. The system is working well, probably the best in the country if not North America.

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

Ms Notley: The problem is that many of those people are losing wages while they wait.

Energy Industry Layoffs

Ms Notley: Now, the Premier's \$4.7 billion corporate handout is a failure. Right now there are more than 290,000 Albertans looking for work, trying desperately to make ends meet. They lost 50,000 jobs before the pandemic, and the layoffs just keep coming, recently at both TC Energy and at Suncor, and now we hear that Exxon is next. We don't know how many, but we do know this government is notified in advance. Can the government tell Albertans how many people were laid off from major energy companies so far this year and how many more are coming?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, we're very aware that the Alberta economy is challenged right now. Listen, we're facing the largest global contraction in the economy since the Great Depression, we've had the largest reduction, collapse in energy prices in modern history, and we're dealing with a pandemic within our borders here. That's why we have rolled out the economic recovery plan early. That's why Alberta was the first province to deliver a plan that will attract investment, create job opportunities for Albertans, and eventually create wealth for all of Alberta.

Ms Notley: Well, he's right. The government is in fact accelerating its corporate handout, and not only are there no new jobs, but they can't even guarantee the layoffs will stop or even slow down. Mr. Speaker, Suncor pocketed over a billion dollars from the Premier's handout and then announced plans to fire 2,000 workers. That's \$500,000 per job that's lost, not saved, from the people of Alberta. Why is the government handing billions to large corporations with zero guarantee of job protection for Albertans?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, 75 per cent of the beneficiaries of the job-creation tax cut are considered small businesses according to CRA rules. Many of these are entrepreneurs who've worked hard, who've given their life's work to grow their business, to create job opportunities, and create wealth in their communities. The opposition would look to increase taxes by 50 per cent on these job creators. That is nonsensical policy at a time of great economic challenge. This government will do no such thing.

Ms Notley: So no answer.

Mr. Speaker, Albertans are wondering when the Premier's plan is going to start working because so far – so far – what they've done is that they've raised Albertans' taxes, they've endangered their pension, they've stolen their overtime, they've cut their kids' education, and they've clawed back their parents' drug plan. Albertans expected you to keep your word and bring jobs here. Instead, EnCana pocketed \$55 million, moved to Denver, and changed its name. Why won't the government admit that in return for hundreds of millions of dollars per corporation, they failed to secure even one job?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, we're confident that by ensuring that Alberta has the most competitive business environment possible, it will result in increased investment, increased job opportunities for Albertans. In fact, a number of leading economists and business leaders in the province have commented. Janet Riopel, president and CEO of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, has stated that accelerating the job-creation tax cut will help job creators focus on what's most important for our economy right now: rebuilding their struggling businesses and bringing more people back to work.

The Speaker: The hon. the Leader of the Opposition for her third set of questions.

Educational Curriculum Review

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, we've not yet seen one job, but the curriculum advice released by this government is utterly shocking to behold. Whether it's blending church and state or forcing children into rigid, outdated memorizing rituals, this government has selected advisers who want to take our education system backwards. Experts say that it's, quote, utter nonsense and that it will make Alberta the laughingstock of Canada. At a time when we are allegedly trying to attract investment as a forward-thinking province, why is this government working so hard to undermine the international reputation of our education system?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you. These recommendations that came forward were just that, recommendations. In the fall they will be going to the curriculum working group, which is comprised of hundreds – hundreds – of teachers. These documents are only recommendations – they are not the final curriculum – and I can assure the people of Alberta and you, Mr. Speaker, that the new curriculum will teach our students a full history of Canada and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit history as well.

Ms Notley: Well, in fact, one of the worst things about this curriculum review is the hideous opinions of Chris Champion, the Premier's hand-picked adviser. Instead of walking the path of reconciliation, he wants to remove residential schools from the curriculum, citing the, quote: small number of indigenous students who attended. Outrageous. His ideas are racist, and I don't care if it's just advice; you sought him out, and you asked for it. Why won't you, right now, remove Chris Champion and get him and his racist recommendations as far away from Alberta's education system as possible?

2:00

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the member opposite would much prefer to have her defund-the-police, Extinction Rebellion promoting colleague back in charge of the

curriculum, but unlike the NDP we do not believe the curriculum should be used to create, as they previously said, and I quote, effective agents of change. Unquote. We believe in teaching the building blocks of knowledge so that students can think for themselves. I've been very clear. We will have First Nations, Métis, and Inuit content as well as residential school content in the K to 6 curriculum.

Ms Notley: Effective agents of change is what you often call innovators, but, you know, who am I?

Under our government thousands of teachers reviewed and collaborated on the future of our children. No politician or bureaucrat held the pen. Today the minister can't even muster the courage to reject racism even as Albertans are marching across the province and fighting racism in that minister's own constituency. The advice from your panel rejects antiracism. It rejects equality. Why don't you have Albertans' backs and put a stop to racism in our curriculum here and now and fire your panel?

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

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government and I reject racism, absolutely, but what the member opposite is referring to was not a final curriculum. It is only a recommendation. Frankly, some of these recommendations just aren't even realistic, especially at the ages that were suggested. That being said, as I've already stated and will state time and time and time and time again, the new curriculum will teach our students a full account of Canada's history but also will include indigenous history. I repeated it. I will continue to repeat it because it is the truth.

Thank you.

Support for Seniors

Mr. Nielsen: COVID-19 has been hard on seniors. Continuing care has become more isolating, and the UCP has failed to react adequately to outbreaks in continuing care. Yet it's clear in the AHS implementation plan that the UCP wants to make life even harder for seniors through increasing accommodation fees, new fees for home care, and increasing the price of drugs. Why is this minister making seniors pay for the UCP's \$4.7 billion no-jobs corporate handout?

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

Ms Pon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me start by thanking all of the staff, residents, and family members in our lodges and seniors' homes for working together in these unprecedented times to protect our seniors and also to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health and I and my ministry addressed the financial impact of increased costs due to COVID-19 by providing more than \$170 million to help keep the residents and the staff in seniors' lodges, long-term care, and designated supportive living safe from the virus. We were proud to do that.

Mr. Nielsen: Whoa. All of that and they're still going to have to pay.

Sixty thousand Albertans have already been kicked off the seniors' drug plan. COVID-19 is a challenging time for anybody that relies on medication, yet this Premier has shown no interest in federal support regarding pharmacare. With all of this, the AHS-implemented patient plan still intends to increase medication fees. Seniors built this province, and they deserve to be supported, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to not imposing increased fees for medication?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans will continue to receive the medications they need. That will absolutely not change. We'll also ensure that patients continue to have their medications administered. The new process under discussion would simply allow this to occur in a different health care setting and would ensure consistency of any fees associated with this service. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order.

Mr. Nielsen: Sounds like fees are increasing.

The rush of this UCP government to Americanize and privatize health care is leaving Alberta seniors behind. Seniors deserve a health care system that is funded, not cut. The target rates for accommodation spending in the AHS plan would add between \$2,000 and \$5,000 annually in extra costs for accommodation in long-term care and designated supportive living. Why does this minister think seniors, having been hit by the economic challenges of COVID-19, should be spending more to access the care they need?

Ms Schulz: Mr. Speaker, the NDP do nothing but shout empty slogans. They contracted surgery, housekeeping, home care, many other services, but when we change programs, they shout: U.S. style health care. Not true. They can continue to focus on ideology; we'll continue to focus on putting patients first. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka is the only one with the call.

Educational Curriculum Review (continued)

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday leaked documents came to light regarding Alberta's curriculum review. These documents were wildly misconstrued by media and the members opposite. Insinuations began that Alberta's government will be removing the teaching of residential schools from the curriculum. Can the Minister of Education please set the record straight and confirm that residential schools will be covered in the upcoming K to 6 curriculum?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the opportunity to set the record straight. As I have previously stated, Alberta's curriculum will teach the full history of Canada, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit history. This includes residential schools. I'll also reiterate that despite rhetoric from the members opposite, this document was not draft or final curriculum. It was only recommendations that will go to the curriculum working groups made up of hundreds of teachers later this fall.

Mr. Orr: Well, through you, Mr. Speaker, thank you to the minister for setting the record straight on that.

Given that the minister has confirmed that residential schools will be included in the K to 6 curriculum and given that the NDP have wildly blown this out of proportion with continued misinformation and given that, unlike the previous government, this government has been extremely transparent in curriculum development, can the Minister of Education please explain how this government is ensuring transparency within the curriculum development process?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unlike the NDP, who drafted curriculum behind closed doors, we've been completely transparent throughout the process. While we've disclosed who our advisers are and the timelines they're working under, the NDP kept their advisers secret and put an MLA who is in favour of defunding the police and wants extremist groups like Extinction Rebellion in the classroom in charge. Despite the fear and smear from the members opposite, unlike them we will continue to be open and transparent with Albertans.

Mr. Orr: Again, now, through you, Mr. Speaker, thank you to the minister for your response.

Given that these leaked documents are merely recommendations that will go into the working group of hundreds of teachers this fall and given that curriculum development is an important issue for many parents and students across Alberta, can the Minister of Education please explain the curriculum development process and when Albertans can expect to see the new curriculum?

The Speaker: The Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm most happy to. I'd like to reiterate that, despite the false reports and rhetoric from the NDP, what was leaked was not draft nor was it final curriculum. Later this fall recommendations and a draft will be moving forward to the curriculum working group, which is, as I said earlier, consisting of hundreds of teachers. Following the work of the curriculum working group we will be releasing the draft curriculum for a public engagement in early 2021. A finalized K to 6 curriculum will be piloted in September of '21, and we will continue to refine and adapt it based on the feedback we hear during this process.

Thank you.

Support for Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Sabir: Albertans were stunned to hear the Minister of Children's Services claim that the government has made no changes to the AISH program, a claim that it is demonstrably untrue. This government deindexed AISH, taking away a vital increase in the cost of living for disabled Albertans and making it harder for those on AISH to afford groceries, rent, and other necessities of life. Does the minister not consider this a change, or does she just not care about the impact, and will she finally commit to reversing it?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier this week, AISH funding levels have not changed. Benefits and eligibility do in fact remain the same, but, as I outlined, changes were made to the program to make it more efficient for those Albertans who need to access those services.

Mr. Sabir: Given that another change this government has forgotten about was how this government suddenly and without warning changed AISH payment dates and given that this minister shrugged off the impact of this change – it threw the lives of Albertans on AISH into chaos – will the minister finally apologize for the hardship she caused Albertans with disabilities with these changes?

2:10

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This AISH program continues to provide \$1.29 billion every year to almost 70,000 Albertans. Our government has in fact changed the date that AISH payments are made every month to ensure that these payments are provided on the same day each month. Once again, benefits and eligibility criteria remain the same.

Mr. Sabir: Given that only yesterday the government announced that it would lay off 930 Alberta workers, many of whom provide direct care and direct support to Albertans living with a disability, and given that this is yet another real change and a cruel hardship imposed onto vulnerable people to pay for the Premier's \$4.7 billion corporate handout, will the Minister of Community and Social Services stop with the spin and acknowledge that firing support workers causes real harm to real people living with real disabilities?

Ms Schulz: Mr. Speaker, I would hope to caution the opposition about playing politics when it comes to how our government is working to serve and support the most vulnerable Albertans. I want to remind the member opposite that these are vulnerable people, who are being cared for in a variety of services through a variety of programs. No specific decisions have been made about potential changes, whether that's direct operations or programming, and I would encourage the members opposite to quit playing politics with vulnerable Albertans.

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

Antiracism Strategy

Mr. Deol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When Albertans learned that the Premier's leadership call centre was run by someone who shared anti-Semitic and white supremacist messages, he promised action. The Premier promised to create a database of racists to keep them out of the UCP, but story after story about this Premier's racist speech writer and his racist curriculum writer, who is trying to remove the history of indigenous people from our curriculum – people have questions. Can someone in the government inform the people of Alberta whether the database of racists the Premier promised was ever created?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, our Premier, in this very House, moved a historical motion condemning racism inside this province, which enjoyed the support of every member of this Chamber, as it should. Our Premier has worked very hard, including during his time when he was immigration minister of this great country, to welcome people to this country. He is one of the most welcoming individuals that I know. It's ridiculous to see the opposition continue to attack people, calling them racist when they clearly are not. Can they get back to actually working for Albertans instead of making stuff up inside the Chamber?

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

Mr. Deol: Thank you. Given that the Premier and Education minister hand-picked Chris Champion as an expert for the social studies curriculum and given that Champion wrote previously that our First Nations perspectives in education was a fad and given that the recommendations of the expert the Premier hand-picked include removing indigenous history from the curriculum, including anything about residential schools, if the Premier isn't going to take Champion's recommendation, will he show he understands the concerns of the First Nation communities and fire him today? If he ever builds his racist database, will he add Chris Champion to it?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to assure the member opposite and all of Albertans that our future curriculum will include a broad and inclusive account of history, including black history and indigenous history. It will also address concepts, topics, and issues related to antiracism, particularly in social studies. This is a commitment that I and we as a government have made numerous times and one that we are going to keep. More specific details will be available in the draft that I am happy to be putting out to the public early in 2021.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Deol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this Premier defended both his racist speech writer and racist curriculum writer and given that First Nation community education experts and Albertans have called on the government to denounce the racism we have seen in the leaked documents but given that rather than listening to these concerns this Premier defended both Champion and his planned curriculum, how can Albertans count on this Premier to fight racism when they see him trying to institutionalize it in our schools and when he can't even keep his own promises to fight racism and keep it out of his own political party?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dr. Champion is an established academic who is currently a visiting research fellow at Queen's University and has lectured at Concordia, McGill, and the University of Ottawa and has served our country as an army reservist in the Canadian Armed Forces. To suggest that he and he alone holds the pen on future curricula is simply, simply not true. As I have stated over and over again, the new curriculum will teach our students a full account of Canada's history, including indigenous history, and will have residential school content.

The Speaker: I believe that Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche is next.

Energy Industry Update

Ms Goodridge: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche is home to Alberta's oil sands and the heart of our province's energy sector. No one can argue the fact that Alberta's oil and gas industry is the driver of economic prosperity in Canada. The government of Canada has committed to providing a billion dollars in funding for Alberta's site rehabilitation program to help our struggling energy sector, yet our province has yet to see this funding. To the Minister of Energy: can you please update us on the status of the site rehabilitation program?

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you to the member for the question. The site rehabilitation program was launched back in the spring this year, and we've now progressed through four rounds of the program. We'll be rolling out round 5 and round 6 in the very near future. The intention of the program was to get people back to work, and there's good news with that. We have already announced over \$217 million of awards to 351 Alberta-based companies. This work is going out to each and every corner and region in the province. It's estimated to have created over 1,039 jobs while also addressing important environmental work. This program is meant to get people back to work and . . .

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche.

Ms Goodridge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. Given that the COVID-19 pandemic, global economic downturn, and the recent crash in oil prices have left Alberta's economy in a state of financial hardship and given that Alberta's government released a recovery plan to get people back to work, diversify our economy, and build infrastructure, to the minister. A large part of Alberta's recovery plan centres on creating jobs and stabilizing our economy. What energy initiatives are in the recovery plan that will promote our energy sector and create jobs for Albertans?

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you again for the question. I know this is a very important question for the member and her constituents as well as many other Albertans. There are lots of reasons for optimism, and that's because oil and gas will remain the dominant part of our energy mix for decades to come. The International Energy Agency released its world outlook report just weeks ago and forecast that world oil demand is actually going to grow by 5 per cent by 2030 and 6 per cent by 2040. But we also know the world is changing, and we'll need to ensure that Albertans benefit from both a strong oil and gas industry as well as being a leader in emerging . . .

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Goodridge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. That really is great news. Given the fact that the previous NDP government failed at building pipelines and solving our market access issues and really crippled our oil and gas sector and given that our UCP government was elected on the tag line jobs, economy, and pipelines, to the Minister of Energy: can you please update the House on the progress of our various market access pipelines that are absolutely essential to Alberta's energy future?

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you for that question, and you're right. The NDP progress on getting pipelines built was zero, zero kilometres of pipeline built in four years. Mr. Speaker, we're making progress. On TMX spread 1 in greater Edmonton is close to complete. It's being constructed in B.C. Spread 2 is under way in British Columbia. It's due to be in service by the end of 2022. KXL construction is under way now, and we're hearing that there's a mini economic boom in Oyen. Enbridge line 3: we've recently heard good news on it. It's complete here in Canada. It's complete in North Dakota.

Opioid-related Deaths

Ms Sweet: Mr. Speaker, 449 Albertans are dead due to an opiate overdose in the first half of this year, and almost 18 more Albertans are dying every single week. The death toll has never been higher. Far more Albertans have died in the opiate crisis this year than have died from COVID-19, but this government's response is to cancel programs, close facilities, and ignore professional medical advice. To the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions: why have you allowed so many Albertans to die on your watch?

2:20

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

Mr. Luan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic has had such a devastating impact to Albertans, particularly for folks who have suffered from mental health and addiction. Unfortunately, the opioid overdose fatality rate has increased across the whole country because of COVID-19. Because

of that reason, we rolled out the most comprehensive \$53 million response for COVID-19 mental health action in Alberta.

The Speaker: The hon. Official Opposition House Leader.

Ms Sweet: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the associate minister just closed Gunn, I don't think that's necessarily the case. Given that Alberta Health Services was ready to deploy a telephone-based pilot project that would call an ambulance for an Albertan that is laying dying alone and given that any one of those 449 Albertans could have used that service and survived to enter treatment and given that the associate minister personally cancelled that program the day before it was ready to start, how many of those 449 deaths are the direct result of this minister and this Premier's decision to cancel this program?

Mr. Luan: Mr. Speaker, every loss of life is too many. My heart goes to all the families and friends who lost their loved ones. Because of that, we rolled out the most comprehensive plan in Canada with \$53 million. We drastically increased the online and in-person support for people accessing addiction treatment. We also increased the public response by creating a community fund, mobilized the community, working together with us. We can only overcome this when we work together.

Ms Sweet: Again, Mr. Speaker, the associate minister has cancelled and closed addictions programs in this province. Given that the minister cancelled the successful injectable opiate agonist treatment program, or IOAT, that protected the lives of Albertans who have struggled to recover through multiple other treatment methods and given that IOAT patients are suing the government and calling this cancellation a death sentence, will the associate minister put the lives of Albertans ahead of his own personal prejudice and commit to preserving the IOAT program? Yes or no?

Mr. Luan: Mr. Speaker, our approach is to take a recovery-focused system and create a full continuum of care. That IOAT program, by the way, is a mess left by the previous government. They created a pilot with no transfer plan. Upon taking office, we extended that transition for one more year. We're working around the clock to figure out other options to take care of those patients. They left them with uncertainty.

Child Intervention Services

Ms Pancholi: In June 2018, following a year-long consultation by a crosspartisan ministerial panel with families, stakeholders, child intervention experts, front-line staff, and indigenous leaders across Alberta, the NDP Minister of Children's Services released a detailed action plan to build a stronger and safer child intervention system. The 16 immediate actions under that plan were completed primarily under the former NDP government. However, there's been no formal public update from this government on the remaining 23 immediate and long-term actions. To the Minister of Children's Services: when can Albertans expect a formal and public update on this important work?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I do appreciate the question. The recommendations of the panel continue to drive significant policy and practice shifts within the ministry. I have said a number of times in this House that I truly am grateful for the important work done by the all-party panel on child intervention. As I've said before, many of the short-, medium-, and long-term

recommendations from the panel have been acted upon. The indigenous advisory groups that were established by the former government have also continued to meet, albeit somewhat differently and with some delays with the situation we're in around the COVID-19 pandemic. But our system continues to be responsive and nimble to meet the needs of vulnerable children in . . .

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

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that two members of that panel now sit at the cabinet table and that the action plan called for nine specific actions to be completed by 2020 and given that an important goal of this work is to reduce the number of indigenous children in care and given that in order to support that action, the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act was supposed to be amended this year, to the same minister. You've had almost two years to take action on this work, which was already started for you. Can we expect amendments to this act during the fall session, and if not, why not?

Ms Schulz: I'm very grateful, again, for a very important question from the member opposite. As I have said before, while we continue to work on all of the actions put forward that came out of the panel's work, we do have to acknowledge that the circumstances have shifted significantly in the time since the panel work began, especially with respect to the federal implementation of Bill C-92 and, obviously, some increased federal funding for on-reserve services. We will continue to work with First Nations and Métis partners across Alberta, to work within these new parameters in this new legislation. Ultimately, we have to make sure that no matter how we provide services . . .

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the minister continues to assure Albertans that we should just trust that the work is being undertaken but has provided no formal update in two years and given that according to the most recent child intervention statistics released by this government, the number of indigenous children in care increased by 6 per cent in the first three months of this fiscal year – this means it increased under this government's watch – to the same minister: do you feel you are meeting your responsibilities to indigenous children in Alberta, and when can we expect meaningful action and updates on this file?

Ms Schulz: Mr. Speaker, I do understand that the federal legislation, Bill C-92, is potentially very difficult for some outside of this file to necessarily understand. There are a lot of nuances. There are a lot of things that we have to continue to work to define with the federal government. We are already working on that legislation and those changes within the ministry, adhering to that legislation, that is, and will continue to work with First Nations and Métis partners and organizations across the province on this important work to ultimately ensure that kids are safe and supported and that we can work together to reduce the number of indigenous children and youth in care.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Camrose.

Seniors' Benefit Program Enrolment Personal Identification Cards

Ms Lovely: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. When seniors in our province are about to turn 65 years of age, Alberta Health Services sends out a letter which states: our records show that you may be

turning 65 soon. Seniors are then asked for proof of age documents before they receive their benefits. It appears to be a redundant request. My question is for the Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction. Do you think we can fix this redundancy?

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for her question. She is a tireless advocate not only for seniors but also for all of her constituents. As the member knows, our red tape reduction initiative was set up to bring common sense back into the regulatory process. No one likes red tape. However, the forms the member is referring to are sent to only the seniors who don't have a proof of age document already on their health file. In this case, this protects Albertans' private information and documents.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Camrose.

Ms Lovely: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for the answer. Given that our government is focused on reducing red tape and given that our government wants to make life better for Albertans and given that documents AHS is sending are clearly redundant, to the Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction: would it be possible for seniors in Alberta to automatically be enrolled for benefits?

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, we're leaving no stone unturned. We're committed to root out every meaningless hoop Albertans are forced to jump through. In fact, we have spent over a year counting and cataloguing where those irritating shards of red tape are hiding. Albertans have waited long enough for their government to get serious about this issue, and we're not going to disappoint. When I table my first-year report next month, every Albertan will be able to see how aggressively we've pursued this goal. But, again, only seniors who haven't provided a proof of age will be filling out this form, no one else.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Lovely: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for the answer. Given that Albertans are issued several pieces of government identification and given that the cost to print a driver's licence, Alberta health care card, Blue Cross card, AHS card is expensive and inconvenient and given that everyone would prefer to have fewer cards in their wallet or purse, once again to the Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction: could streamlining this process be a priority?

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member brings up an important point. Albertans are required to carry multiple pieces of identification. These used to be needed but not anymore. Now these forms of ID are relics of an antiquated system. Albertans deserve a government that will ask the questions: should we be doing this, and is there a better and a faster way to do it? This is exactly what we've been doing. For example, last year we moved to a digital pink card for car insurance. We are one hundred per cent committed to decluttering lives and making Alberta the freest, fastest moving economy in North America.

2:30

La Crête Bridge Proposal

Member Loyola: The Premier made a promise to all Albertans during the election – no tolls on roads and bridges – but now this Transportation minister is pulling a U-turn and making threats. He's telling municipalities that if they want new roads or bridges, they have to pay tolls or wait 20 years for provincial dollars. This minister is hammering rural Alberta. For the bridge at Tompkins

crossing the message is clear: pay up or see you later. To the Minister of Transportation: why are you breaking your no-tolls election promise? Albertans deserve an answer.

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, in fact, the Minister of Transportation is doing a great job to help rural Albertans recover their economy and stabilize smaller communities across Alberta. I have travelled, so I heard from my stakeholders that the Minister of Transportation indeed is consulting all those Albertans. When the member opposite is asking about that specific bridge, that request came from that local community, including First Nations. They wanted that, and we are consulting Albertans, and we will build that project. [interjections]

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie has lots of opportunities to ask his question. I encourage him to do that now.

Member Loyola: Given that the good people of northwest Alberta need a new bridge to secure their economic future and given that this government promised that they would never use tolls, but the people in La Crête are hearing a different message from the minister – it's pay up or goodbye – and given that there are billions of dollars without tolls for roads and bridges in southern Alberta, to the minister: why are you treating the people of the north like second-class citizens in their own province, and why are they being held hostage by their own government?

Mr. Panda: Only this member opposite can talk about second-class citizens, Mr. Speaker.

Member Loyola: Answer the question.

Mr. Panda: I am answering the question. The local community asked for this project, and we are consulting Albertans, and the Minister of Transportation is going to consult Albertans. He's going to give them options, unlike the NDP, which would have built bridges to nowhere. This Transportation minister is building economic development projects to build up the communities. Stop fearmongering and join us in building . . . [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. I encourage the hon. Minister of Infrastructure to speak through the chair.

Member Loyola: Given that the good people of La Crête pay taxes, just like all other Albertans, and given that these taxes fund roads and bridges all across this province and given that the infrastructure in southern Alberta isn't being threatened with tolls and given that it's clear from the actions of this government that there is one set of rules for northern Alberta and one set of rules for everybody else, to the Minister of Transportation: why do the people of La Crête have to pay taxes to fund untolled bridges outside of their community but have to pay tolls inside their community?

Mr. Panda: Through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to repeat this one more time, if the member is open to hear. People will have the opportunity – also, unlike them, we actually consult Albertans. We actually put that on our campaign commitment, and Albertans gave us the mandate to build that particular bridge. Even then we are saying that our Minister of Transportation is going to give options to Albertans. If they don't want to pay a toll and they want to travel across a long way to get to their destination, it's up to them. But this bridge will create economic . . .

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

COVID-19 Cases in Lethbridge

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Premier talks about personal responsibility, but both he and the Health minister have the responsibility to keep seniors, school children, workers, and businesses safe in this pandemic. Lethbridge has the highest number of cases per 100,000 population. There are four outbreaks in schools, three in seniors' homes. On behalf of the Member for Lethbridge-West, who is home because of a school outbreak, will the Minister of Health take personal responsibility for better information sharing between AHS and the city of Lethbridge and a better pandemic response and management plan?

The Speaker: I would urge caution to the hon. member for referring to the absence or presence of any member in the Assembly for any reason.

The hon. Member for Children's Services.

Ms Schulz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government continues to balance the need to protect Albertans with the need for people to earn a living, kids to go to school, communities to keep functioning. We've had the lightest restrictions in Canada but among the best results. In fact, only 117 individuals are in hospital as of last week, and based on April modelling our peak was 300 in a low scenario. We continue to watch these numbers very closely. We need to protect system capacity, but we also need to protect lives and livelihoods.

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

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, given that the outbreak at Cavendish Farms in the Lethbridge area has nearly doubled in a week and given that Lethbridge has seen outbreaks at schools, seniors' homes, and a child care facility and given that the economic impact of this pandemic cannot be understated, with hundreds of jobs in the balance, will the minister take personal responsibility for the plan to keep the Lethbridge economy moving while keeping workers in retail, health, education, and food processing safe, and has he briefed the mayor and council of Lethbridge about this plan to manage the second wave?

Ms Schulz: Mr. Speaker, I do want to point out that throughout Alberta's relaunch rates of hospitalization and admission to the ICU remain the key triggers for action. The current number of hospitalizations is within our current capacity here in Alberta, and less than 25 per cent of ICU beds set aside for COVID-19 patients are currently being used. Alberta has been able to quickly remove restrictions, get Albertans working again, balancing lives and livelihoods. We were the first province or territory to end our state of public emergency, and to date more than 80 sets of guidance documents have been developed for keeping businesses and the public safe.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Lethbridge now has the highest rate of active COVID-19 cases of major cities in Alberta, with 143.5 active cases per 100,000 people, and given that keeping workers, students, parents, and seniors safe should be the top priority, will the minister state clearly when the people and officials of Lethbridge will see a plan from this government to address the pandemic, or is it up to the mayor to tell Lethbridge we are in a second wave because the UCP have abdicated their personal responsibility to folks in southern Alberta?

Ms Schulz: Mr. Speaker, we continue to take very seriously the advice and guidance being put forward by our chief medical officer of health. We have provided \$500 million in funding to assist AHS in the pandemic response and take aggressive measures to protect those most at risk, also \$170 million for continuing care to protect seniors and others at high risk, \$53 million for mental health and addiction supports during the pandemic, \$30 million for a public mask initiative, which saw 40 million free nonmedical masks distributed to Albertans and community partners, as we work to protect both lives and livelihoods.

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

Highway 60 Capital Plan

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The high traffic situation around highway 60 through Acheson is creating a disincentive for further investment into the area. Transportation and productivity are stifled by the train traffic, and the roads are not wide enough to meet the traffic for the demand in the area. Even as the global climate begins to shift, this area has been noted internationally as a prime place to invest in agriculture but requires the infrastructure necessary to support major growth. To the Minister of Transportation: what are the timelines for getting started on the highly anticipated overpass and twinning of highway 60 by Acheson?

Mr. Panda: In contrast, Mr. Speaker, unlike the NDP member, this member from Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland is actually advocating strongly for a project in his riding for economic development. As the member knows, twinning four kilometres of highway 60 between highways 16 and 16A and building an overpass at the CN Rail tracks is a significant project along a major trade corridor, and it's also a top priority for the Edmonton metropolitan region. At this time highway 16 improvements are in their design phase. They are being . . .

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

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister for that answer. Given that it's important to build the transportation infrastructure to ensure a strong economy and that our province is experiencing high unemployment and we need jobs to help the families make ends meet and the Alberta government is presently executing the Alberta recovery plan to create those much-needed jobs for Albertans, to the minister: how many jobs will be created by building this key infrastructure in the Acheson area?

Mr. Panda: That's a great question again. As part of our government's plan to get Albertans back to work, we have announced \$10 billion in economic stimulus, and Alberta's recovery plan will create tens of thousands of jobs when they are needed most and as we build and diversify and improve the economy and prepare our province for the next generation of growth. We estimate that a total cost of \$96 million will be spent on these highway 16 improvements, \$4 million of which was delivered in Budget 2020 for . . .

2:40

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

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister. Given that investors look for solid timelines around completion of projects like this and that there are many different types of investments we could harness in the Acheson area such as manufacturing, agriculture, and food processing and we're trying to get as many people working in Alberta again as soon as possible, to the minister:

once we begin this project, how long is it expected to complete the overpass twinning and the intersection improvements that are in the plan for this area?

Mr. Panda: Transportation is currently working to acquire the necessary land and relocate the utilities before it is able to begin construction, and construction is also dependent on providing final funding through our capital plan. Projects of this scale and scope, as you know, typically take between two to three years to complete. I know that during the town hall in your riding we heard about how to expedite the projects. In fact, in Acheson we had the town hall, and we know that businesses in Acheson Industrial Park and many companies rely on this corridor each and every day, so we'll continue to work on this project that is so critical to growth in Parkland county.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

School Re-entry Plan and Capital Maintenance and Renewal Projects

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, the government was quick to take action by protecting our students and teachers. Since the beginning the safety of all Albertans was a priority. Now, students and teachers were recalled, and isolation precautions were implemented. However, the government acknowledged and realized that staying in isolation for the foreseeable future was not beneficial to the economic progress of our province and for future generations. My question to the Minister of Education is this: how has the government supported school re-entry and Alberta's economic recovery?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To support school re-entry, we have provided three-quarters of a billion dollars in Alberta taxpayer-funded supports. This includes an \$120 million increase in operating funding, \$10 million in PPE, access to \$363 million in taxpayer-funded reserves, and \$250 million in accelerated capital maintenance funding as part of Alberta's recovery plan. As always we remain committed to providing school authorities with the resources they need for a safe school year.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for your answer. Given that the government is actively working on implementing an Alberta recovery plan that is robust and measured and given that the government has provided various projects through CMR funding, could the Minister of Education please expand on what type of projects were supported by the accelerated CMR funding?

Member LaGrange: I'm happy to, Mr. Speaker. The accelerated CMR funding supported building enhancements, mechanical upgrades, electrical upgrades, site improvements, and interior upgrades to schools. Additionally, roughly \$59 million was used towards COVID-related projects such as ventilation upgrades, hands-free sinks, automatic flush toilets, touchless soap and paper towel dispensers, automatic doors, and bottle-filling stations.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the government has been focused on implementing a safe school re-entry plan and given that my constituents of Drayton Valley-Devon consist of

young families, which help comprise Alberta's future, and given that the government has been committed to ensuring that renovations in schools continue while maintaining safe re-entry measures, once again to the Minister of Education: how has this funding helped create jobs and supported a safe return to school?

The Speaker: The minister.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This CMR funding supported many projects to help enhance our schools for a COVID-19 learning environment, including the ventilation upgrades I previously mentioned. To support Alberta's economic recovery, this particular program created roughly 3,750 jobs in communities right across Alberta, and they were at a time when they were desperately needed, so I'm very pleased to say that we were able to support these much-needed projects for our schools, and our schools have benefited from them.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. members, this concludes Oral Question Period.

In 30 seconds or less we will proceed to the remainder of the daily Routine.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The minister of agriculture.

Bill 40 Forests (Growing Alberta's Forest Sector) Amendment Act, 2020

Mr. Dreeshen: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 40, the Forests (Growing Alberta's Forest Sector) Amendment Act, 2020.

Mr. Speaker, the old Forests Act hasn't seen any significant changes for the last 50 years. Modernizing this act would directly contribute to the delivery of the forest jobs guarantee and red tape reduction initiatives by this province, and the proposed changes would demonstrate our commitment to reduce the regulatory burden that slows government approvals. As well, it would provide more flexibility for foresters on when they can harvest and also would remove redundant licensing requirements. Albertans own 87 million acres of forest. This year that is paying Albertans nearly over \$350 million in royalties. This piece of legislation also shows that we're committed to ensuring fibre security for our foresters and to becoming a top jurisdiction for forest companies to do business here in the province.

With that, I move first reading of Bill 40, the Forests (Growing Alberta's Forest Sector) Amendment Act.

[Motion carried; Bill 40 read a first time]

Tablings to the Clerk

The Clerk: I wish to advise the Assembly that the following documents were deposited with the office of the Clerk. On behalf of the hon. Mr. Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks, pursuant to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act the Environmental Protection Security Fund annual report, April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020.

On behalf of the hon. Mr. Copping, Minister of Labour and Immigration, pursuant to the Land Surveyors Act the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association Report of the Proceedings of the One Hundred and Eleventh Annual General Meeting and Proceedings of a Special General Meetings.

The Speaker: Ordres du jour.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 36 Geothermal Resource Development Act

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader on behalf of the hon. Minister of Energy.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. It's my great pleasure to move Bill 36, the Geothermal – two seconds. I'll make sure we're on the same page. Anyways, happy to move Bill 36, the Geothermal Resource Development Act, inside this Chamber, an excellent piece of legislation creating a regulatory framework and the process to be able to bring in geothermal across this province, taking the time, of course, afterwards to create the regulation after the legislation has passed.

This legislation is enabling legislation that will then allow the work to take place to be able to create the regulations that will take place with consultation with landowners, Mr. Speaker, as well as with the industry to be able to make sure we can get it right. This is yet another sign of us working to be able to get Albertans back to work. I'm proud of the hon. the Energy minister and the hard work that she's doing all across this province to be able to make sure that our energy industry can continue to succeed inside the province of Alberta.

That's a sharp contrast, of course, with the Official Opposition, Mr. Speaker, who, as you see day in and day out, are betting against Alberta and betting against the energy industry and praying and hoping that Alberta fails. We're not here and not our hon. Energy minister. We're betting for Alberta because we know that we have the greatest asset in the world right here, and that's Albertans, who are innovative, who are going to continue to be able to create technology advancements and use new technology like geothermal to be able to advance our economy.

I do hope that the opposition supports this type of legislation. We do know that in the past they have not been a friend of things like any sort of major energy development, including geothermal. Their main focus, of course, has been primarily to support their friends at Ecojustice and other organizations like that to try to stop Alberta from having success, so with us bringing this in – in fact, Mr. Speaker, I think this legislation is so good, we should go ahead and pass all the stages today, but I don't know if the opposition actually wants to talk about it.

2:50

The Speaker: Hon. members, the hon. Government House Leader has moved on behalf of the Minister of Energy Bill 36, I believe the number was. Is there anyone else wishing to join in the debate this afternoon? I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford is on his feet.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the opportunity to join the debate on these bills, and despite the ridiculous rhetoric that we just listened to, there are actually some interesting things to talk about in this bill. I am certainly hoping that after we are able to address some of the questions that we have on this side of the House, we'll be able to support this bill.

You know, in fact, the work to move this bill being brought into the House started in 2017 under the previous government, and we're glad to see that this present government hasn't abandoned all good sense and has brought forward some good work that has been

happening by the civil service here in the province of Alberta at this time.

We know that Alberta is a jurisdiction that has done very well in the area of resource development, and we hopefully will continue to do so into the future. But we also know that we're in a time of transition and that the nature of that development may be very different, just as we were in an earlier time, for example, when we moved from just drilling wells to moving toward the oil sands development, a time when we had to make a transition, a time when the government, a Conservative government of the day, put in a lot of energy and money to ensure that there was a transition so that we'd be successful in this province for the next 45 years. We thank that government for having the foresight to do that, and we certainly would hope that this government would finally – finally – come to the place where they actually take responsibility for the transition moving forward and contribute to the work that is happening in this province to try to move this government and this province into the future instead of trying to relive the glory days of the past.

I look forward to talking about Bill 36 because I think that, given that the NDP initiated this work, they are seeing, finally, that there is a role for government moving forward in our transition in this economy to our future economy, to that which will be good for us in the future.

Mostly I just have questions at this point for the Minister of Energy, that I hope she will be able to address at some future opportunity, when that moment arises, to help me understand a little bit more about some of the choices that are made in this bill and, hopefully, get to the point where I can actually stand and support this bill, which, actually, I would absolutely fundamentally like to be able to do.

Let me just start with some of the basic concerns that I have, some of the basic things that I think are a little bit problematic, only because, you know, the clarity is not there in the bill. Perhaps we are on the same page, and if we are, that's great, and I'd be happy to support it. Maybe at some point we can suggest some alterations to the bill and some amendments to bring us to the place where the clarity is there.

The first thing that's of a particular concern for me is the fact that there has not, of course, in the history of Alberta, been a good set of policies around geothermal development in this province because we haven't been in the place of needing the same level and type of regulations that we have had, for example, for our more established, mature industries like oil and gas.

The very first question that comes to mind in the discussion of this particular bill is the lack of clarity in terms of the ownership of the resource itself. Now, one thing that's really clear when it comes to oil and gas is that we indeed are very clear that the oil and gas that is under the ground in the province of Alberta belongs to the province, and the province is allowing industry to extract that resource and to sell that resource on our behalf. That's very clear. You know, no oil and gas company can say that they own the deposits under the ground in the province of Alberta, yet in this case it seems to be that there is a definition that places the province in a position not of being the owner of the resource but as the owner of the mineral right, to the mineral rights holders, not resource owners.

I just want to be clear about the government's intention of doing that. How is it that they came to the decision to define this in this particular way? How does this differ from the type of status that may be from other resources such as oil and gas or other subsurface minerals that exist in the province, and how does this compare, for example, to other provinces? Can you tell us: is this the status of the geothermal resource in other provinces? If it is, then perhaps you can help me understand why a choice would be made to do this, to

make the province the mineral rights holder as opposed to the resource owners.

I think there is some complication here, so I am certainly seeking an answer. I understand that up until now much of the heat coming out of oil and gas has actually been seen not as a resource but rather as a side effect which sometimes has been put to very good use, by the way, but not always. Sometimes it's just been dissipated in various ways. Now, we are understanding that this could be viewed not as a by-product but as an actual resource that is a renewable resource because the generation of this product is a natural process largely extending from the heat at the centre of the Earth coming forward through volcanic processes up to near the surface of Alberta.

As such, we then have to go back to the question of: if it is a naturally occurring and existing resource in the province of Alberta, should the province of Alberta declare it as a resource that is owned by the province and therefore extend our rights beyond the rights of having the mineral rights as described in this bill? Now, hopefully, the minister will have an opportunity to either assure me that this is standard practice and demonstrate how and why it is done in this particular way, or perhaps we have further discussions to have over the future.

Now, the second thing that I, you know, am concerned about as I see this bill is that I see that there is a certain lack of specific support by the government for the development of this industry. Perhaps it's because you've chosen not to put it into the bill and the actual financial resources and other kinds of supports that government can offer will be brought forward in regulation or in other announcements by the government, but at this particular time we are not seeing the government actually making a step toward moving this industry ahead with the support of government resources.

I think of this because I think of Denmark, for example, who made a decision that they as a government would actually support the wind turbine process in the world, and they actually invested in the program, just as Peter Lougheed invested in Suncor, for example, and it made sure that Denmark actually became the world leader in building wind turbines. I think this is a perfect example of an opportunity for government to step up, do the work, become participants, and take the benefits of it.

One of the things that we see as very problematic with this government is that every time that they do give money to corporations, they do it very differently than we have done it in the past and the way we'd like to see it done, and that is that they simply give money to the corporations and say, "I hope you do good things with this" instead of saying, "We actually want to become participants in the process and we would like a return on our investment, that we become owners in part of the resources as we move forward and that we gain a benefit from that resource." For example, when we did our tax credits for high tech, we said: "You don't get this money up front. What happens is that if you grow and if you hire more people, then we will give you a tax deduction." A very different process than throwing away \$4.7 billion without any ties at all to it.

What we'd like to see as we develop this resource is that the government actually understands itself as a value creator and therefore has a right to the benefits of the value that is created, that most of the technology that has been created for geothermal already exists in this province, and much of it has been developed by the great minds here in the province of Alberta, including our industry partners and, of course, the incredible research departments at the University of Alberta that have contributed substantially to the success of our ability to drill and to take advantage of things like geothermal.

Because we have made those investments, we should see ourselves as being part of the owners of the profit that comes out of these investments. We should in our bills identify that we have a place and a role in deriving the value that comes from the development of these kinds of resources and the development of the industry and make sure that in future we gain some of the benefits from that and don't simply give it away and hope like heck that rich companies will create more jobs when, in fact, we've seen they've done exactly the opposite, things we told you they would, that they would take the money and they would use that money to buy back their own shares, increase their profit margins, and not create any jobs.

3:00

In fact, we actually had the example of one oil company taking the money and using that money to move out of the province of Alberta and firing people here in the province of Alberta. That's because the government fails to understand their role in the creation of value in this province. So I would like to see us do it differently as we begin this new project called geothermal.

I also think that I have some concerns that the government is not providing us clarity on the different types of geothermal systems that may be used in this case, because I do believe that they will require different kinds of legislation.

Now, we have five general areas of geothermal systems. We have a hot dry rock system, wherein water is injected into deep, very hot rock to produce steam. We have the dry steam resources, which are naturally occurring steam in porous rock formations, which is kind of the best resource, of course, but not always easy to find or easy to locate. We have hot water resources, where the geological water is above 180 degrees Celsius, which flashes to wet steam capable of driving a steam turbine. We have the warm water resources, where the geological water is between 50 and 180 degrees Celsius, which is used for heating or electricity and produced with a binary plant alongside, a cogeneration sort of process. And, of course, we have low-temperature ground heat pumps for shallow depths.

I think that those are very different kinds of systems. Some of them require a high level of technology, and some of them do not. Some of them will be very beneficial for some companies but not necessarily for the province as a whole, and I think that it's important that if you're going to bring forward an act, you should probably separate out how you're going to treat these different types of geothermal resources so that you can ensure that you are supporting the types of resource development that are most beneficial.

Now, I know that things are changing, so anything I say today may be changed by those experts that know those things. But they certainly are telling me right now when I consult – and I have been consulting with a number of engineers on this very topic. In fact, you can look forward to our geothermal paper coming out very soon when you go to albertasfuture.ca, and we invite you to read our paper and to add to it because we do know it's a growing science, and we do know it needs to be expanded and needs a richer, deeper policy thought behind it. We certainly are inviting Albertans to participate with us at albertasfuture.ca.

Now, when we talk to the scientists at this particular time, they say that we have to be careful not to get too lost in terms of the different types of potentials of geothermal and that the geothermal where it is turned into electricity and transported around the province is something that's probably still pretty problematic in terms of economic cost-benefit analysis, that while we can produce electricity through steam generation and turning a turbine, it doesn't mean that we can then transfer that energy over great distances at an economic cost given the amount that comes from the ground.

Instead, what we'd like to see is: should we be exploring, rather, the use of the local heat for local communities? It would be a benefit, not for the larger energy grid in the province but, rather, specific communities that have had previous great benefits from local oil wells in terms of linear assessments – well, of course, that's been taken away from them now, too – and local jobs, which, of course, this government has failed to produce any of, but could potentially actually use this resource to provide local heat and therefore reduce their own costs, helping every small town and municipality in the province of Alberta. I'd like to see if the government is emphasizing that kind of exploration versus the electrical production type, like, generation, given that that's what the engineers and scientists are telling me in my consultations.

I'm not quite sure how much time I have. Can I just ask the Speaker? Five minutes. Okay. Good. I never have enough time for all the things I want to tell this government.

[Mr. Milliken in the chair]

I also have another set of questions I'd like to ask, and I think that, again, this is just a question. Perhaps the minister could take the opportunity at a future time in the House to potentially, you know, address these kinds of concerns. The section that I'm particularly wondering about at this time is section 8, which is a section that talks about the relationship for abandoned and orphan wells being transitioned into geothermal wells. I guess my questions just simply are around the responsibility for the remediation costs for the original oil well that is there. Section 8 appears to me to describe something about the relationship and the responsibility for orphaned and abandoned wells and the transition to geothermal, indicating that only the licensee can rework the well and that somebody else can't come in to do that.

But what it doesn't seem to indicate is that if we have a well that presently needs to be remediated from the oil and gas situation, are they allowed to transition that well to a geothermal well before or without completely remediating the oil and gas things? Is it considered still an open well and therefore not needing remediation? And if it is considered a closed well, do they have to demonstrate full remediation of oil and gas before they move on to geothermal?

If the licence is given not to the original owner who actually owned the oil and gas well but, rather, to a new licensee who is a geothermal licensee, do they take on the remediation responsibilities for the future? Are they responsible for the ultimate remediation should that well ever stop being a geothermal well? Is it possible that they could run a geothermal well on a well site that was not actually remediated from oil and gas completely, and does that mean that we might have wells going into the future that are never remediated from oil and gas because now they're in use as a geothermal so they don't have to be remediated as a closed well?

I just want to know. I mean, there may be a simple answer to this. It may take three seconds for the minister to say: we assure you that all remediation will be done before the well is transitioned so that we don't use the movement of wells from oil and gas to geothermal as a way of hiding the need to do remediation, because we know remediation is a huge responsibility right now in the province. It's a major debt by this province and one that many generations will have to pay off, and we don't seem to be able to get the oil companies to take full responsibility for this.

Let me tell you, I certainly support the work the government is doing right now on that particular issue as we started it when we were in government. I certainly appreciate the fact that we are now trying to move toward asking the oil companies to take better responsibility and get these things done. Unfortunately, here it is again: the citizens of the province of Alberta and not the oil

companies who got all the benefit from those wells are paying for this. I find that unfortunate given that the oil companies suggested that they would take responsibility and now find themselves coming back to the trough to get support. I guess I just want some answers about responsibility for remediation, how that's affected by this transition. Where is that in the act? Can you help me to understand who maintains that responsibility and what happens?

In the transition there are a number of other people, of course, that are also going to be affected by this transition, and one of them is the landowners. Now, I know that a number of landowners have been very upset that they've had oil wells on their land and that the oil companies are gone, that their land has not been properly cared for for many years, sometimes for 10 or 20 years. It has really affected their own ability to reclaim their land and do with it what they want. Now we may have the situation where, again, it may not be a recovered piece of land, where it may be transitioning to geothermal, and again the question becomes: what role does a landowner have in terms of allowing or disallowing this transition to occur? If someone comes along and says, "We'd like to turn that well into a geothermal well," can the landowner have some input into the process about whether or not they'd like that well to be transitioned as opposed to stay in line to be completely remediated?

I just would like to have some greater understanding about the landowner's role and their rights in this particular process and the process of objection or participation or something of that nature in this process. I just think that we need to think very clearly about that before we move forward, and I look forward to the answers to be given to me by the Minister of Energy.

Thank you.

3:10

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

As we all know, there is no 29(2)(a) at this time. There will be after the next speaker.

Are there any hon. members—I see the hon. Member for Highwood has risen.

Mr. Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta has been at the forefront of the energy sector for decades. It's always been our pride and joy, allowing us to build one of the most prosperous societies in the world, not only to support the citizens of Alberta but also the rest of Canada. I don't think I need to remind everybody here in this House of the tens of billions of dollars that have been sent to all Canadian governments and how that has provided the revenue to be able to fund programs, build roads, support health care, support education here in Alberta and all the way across Canada.

That's why I'm really excited to talk in support, strong support, of Bill 36, the Geothermal Resource Development Act. It shows our government's fulfillment of our promise to continue to support this integral sector of Alberta's economy while also allowing Alberta to integrate renewable resources and clean power into our existing energy industry. Mr. Speaker, everyone on this side of the House knows that Alberta's energy sector has powered Canada's economy and prosperity from coast to coast for decades. The revenue from these royalties from Albertans have built infrastructure projects and employed Canadians all across our nation, from Vancouver all the way to central Canada, in manufacturing and just general employment. We are a beacon and always have been a beacon across Canada for people to come here and find employment.

Mr. Speaker, our energy sector has been knocked down. For four years this province had a government that attacked it, that raised taxes on it, and drove out investment at a time when global oil prices were dropping. When our industry needed a champion, instead they got a government whose members talked out of one side of their

mouths saying that they supported the energy sector while protesting on the steps of the Legislature against it.

Now, on this side of the House we've been looking for ways to diversify and strengthen our energy sector in the wake of five years of an economic downturn, and geothermal is an energy answer for Alberta. It's not going to be the whole answer, but it can be a very large piece of reigniting our energy sector. This is a perfect example of a bridging opportunity. Not only do we already have the potential within the earth here in Alberta, but we already have the skilled workforce with experience in areas like drilling that will be necessary to expand these geothermal technologies.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Canadians have been exploring the potentials of geothermal since the 1970s, sending drilling crews thousands of kilometres away to pursue the potential of geothermal energy, and now we will be able to keep those Albertans here and create jobs within our own province. Geothermal energy requires the exact same equipment, workers, and experience used in oil and gas drilling. As a former driller in the oil field I'm excited to support this bill. I'm excited to continue to honour our platform commitments to create jobs. As a rig worker for many, many years I know there are so many people that understand the benefits of what this brings to Alberta. I've always said and looked at it month by month, the rig count in Alberta. It will say a lot about what's happening in our province and a lot about what's happening in our rural communities. These rig workers: these are high-paying jobs. These are people that fill restaurants. You know, they're the ones that are in these small towns spending their money, so this is a huge benefit for our province.

Now, in creating and implementing this legislation, our government is taking a deep dive to attract new investment in geothermal and continue on our promise to diversify this province's energy sector. Through geothermal we will safely and successfully harvest the Earth's clean energy potential, which allows us to provide electricity generation, heat municipalities, industries in remote areas of the province.

Already in our province there are innovative examples of this technology being developed and implemented. Currently Razor Energy is working with the University of Alberta on an oil-geothermal project that captures heat from hot water reserves on oil field sites and transforms that into electricity.

This is the first of its kind in Canada and has the potential to be applied to other sites across the province and other jurisdictions. This plant was created to retrofit geothermal energy technology into an existing oil and gas battery. This technology reduces the cost and infrastructure necessary to bring electricity to Alberta, and it does it while utilizing the technology and workforce that Alberta has spent years being a leader in, and we have that human capital here. It will bring clean energy to rural areas of the province and lower emissions while powering our economy. Mr. Speaker, we are setting the stage for geothermal energy, and we're doing it while using Alberta-made technology and world-class drilling expertise to harness this incredible new energy.

Mr. Speaker, we need to look no further than Eavor, who took an improbable mash-up between two legacy energy solutions, geothermal and oil industry technologies. Eavor is operating in Alberta and is solving the problem of how the oil industry has been unable to grow traditional geothermal large enough to become economically relevant. As they continue to transition towards clean energy sources, the future of our oil and gas industry is dependent on this ongoing and rapidly advancing sector. Despite the environmental stereotypes surrounding clean energy technology, like at Eavor, innovation has its roots in the oil sands and needs the expertise of drilling and other recent oil field advantages.

Mr. Speaker, geothermal is the solution to getting clean energy at an oil and gas scale. I don't know about you, but I want Alberta to throw our hat into the mix and utilize our competitive advantages in this field. I stand today proud to support this legislation. We need a policy and legislative framework to address and regulate this developing technology. We need to provide the legislative authority to enable, regulate, manage, and administer geothermal resources in Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, it is incredible that we'll be able to put people back to work in the drilling and energy sectors, and it is incredible that we have the opportunity here in our province to utilize innovations designed for traditional sectors and continue to use them in a clean and renewable way. It is time that Alberta renews its competitive advantage and continues to build on our leadership in the energy sector, and what better way to do it than with a technology that we have developed and built right here in Alberta?

Mr. Speaker, I'm incredibly happy to stand here in strong support of Bill 36. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available should anybody be looking to that.

Seeing none, are there any hon. members looking to join debate on this? I see the hon. Member for Calgary-McCall has risen.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to the Geothermal Resource Development Act, and I will begin by saying that I am pleased to see this government bringing forward this framework and considering other renewable energy resources as a way of diversifying our energy markets and as a way of diversifying our economy.

I think it's important for many reasons. Before the pandemic, even when we were in government, I think it was abundantly clear that the world around us was shifting. They are moving towards renewables, towards renewable sources of energy, and they are taking concrete actions around environment. They are trying to reduce the carbon footprint of human activity on the environment.

Aside from environmental reasons, I think that in financial markets as well we have seen lately that financial institutions are basing their financing decisions on some jurisdictions' ability to take steps to protect the environment, on jurisdictions' record of protecting the environment, and on a strong framework of legislation respecting the environment.

3:20

We saw that in a number of recent decisions while this government was in charge. The Teck Resources project that was unable to secure financing from financial markets: one of the reasons for them pulling out of that project was that they're facing challenges because of not having a strong environmental framework in place. That was one reason that they gave for not being able to secure financing from financial markets.

But more recently we saw with respect to Keystone XL that they were unable to secure financing from financial markets for a number of reasons, political uncertainty and environmental concerns. For that reason, the government has had to step in and provide that financing, and the government of Alberta pledged \$7.5 billion to support that project, which we are still waiting to see the details of.

In short, I think it's good news that the government is considering renewables. The government is changing direction from what we heard just a few months ago, like, six months ago. I was personally present at the Calgary Chamber of commerce event where the Minister of Finance said that diversification is a long-term luxury and that it was not in the mix at that point. But we are glad to see

some movement towards exploring some other resources that Alberta has.

It's certainly not something new that the government is starting because when we were in government, we had considered a number of initiatives that were considered for diversifying our economy. We knew that Alberta needs an economy that is oil and gas plus more. As much as we focused on supporting our oil and gas industry, as much as we focused on supporting the Kinder Morgan pipeline, we also put in time and effort on diversifying our economy and certainly renewables, and work on geothermal was part of that strategy as well. We invested money into petrochemical diversification. We invested in new tax credits. We invested in tech spaces in postsecondary universities. Much of that progress has been reversed by this government.

This is a good first step, but this needs a lot of work to get something out of it because so far in the last 16, 17 months what we have seen is that the government focus has remained on providing \$4.7 billion in a corporate handout, expecting that that will create jobs, that that will help our economy move forward. But after 16 months I think the results are pretty clear that that policy, that economic policy, that singular focus of this government, has not paid off. Even before the pandemic we saw job losses everywhere. We saw job losses in the private sector, we saw job losses in the energy sector, and we saw job losses in Education, in Health, and other government sectors as well. While many of the companies were getting direct benefit from the government's \$4.7 billion handout, instead of investing here in Alberta and instead of creating jobs for Albertans, what Albertans were getting in return was layoffs, pink slips, and investment moving out of the province.

Clearly, in the face of the failure of that government policy I think the government put forward this plan, which is half baked. They have not done their homework on this policy, and that's why we have a lot of questions with respect to this piece of legislation. As much as we want to support the development of renewable resources in our province, as much as we want to support any diversification efforts coming forward from this government, we need that information. We need the clarity to be able to understand this legislation and be able to support that, and that clarity is not there.

For instance, we are talking about geothermal resources. As my colleague for Edmonton-Rutherford mentioned, there are various different kinds of these resources, five major kinds of these resources. Before we even get into different kinds and potential of those resources, the basic question is: who owns these resources? What's the nature of this ownership? What will the ownership regime look like? I don't think that the government needed a piece of legislation to engage with Albertans, to engage with stakeholders on that very basic issue. There is still as much uncertainty about the ownership of this resource out there as there was before this piece of legislation because this framework is merely a government indication on behalf of government that they will engage with stakeholders on this.

That's the fundamental question, the basic question: who owns this resource? What will be the nature of that ownership? What will that ownership regime look like? What interest will Albertans have in that ownership? What kind of engagement will the government have with Albertans prior to settling that ownership of this resource and before going too far out promising what it may look like? That's a fairly fundamental question that needs to be addressed by the government, and I think that will help us understand this piece of legislation better as well, where the government is heading with this piece of legislation.

The second thing, as I said, is that we are all in favour of diversification. We are all in favour of renewable resource development.

I think that, for the most part, what we hear in this Chamber from the government side is that they will say that the government has no role in markets, that the government should stay out of the markets. But the thing is that we have seen in this province that even when we developed our oil and gas resources, it was because of the government's role and strong leadership coming from Premier Lougheed. Public money was invested into Suncor and its predecessor companies to set up that enterprise, that generated prosperity for all Albertans, in fact, all Canadians, that attracted people from all around the globe to this province. There was that vision of a government, there was that leadership of that government that attracted that investment, that attracted the talent, that attracted people from all across Canada and the globe to Alberta and put Alberta on the world map.

3:30

That industry continues to generate prosperity, continues to remain important, but we know that with the passage of time and over time there have been many technological developments that Alberta can benefit from, and Alberta can position itself to be the leader and to be the focus in coming decades. Certainly, geothermal can be one. Hydrogen can be one. There are many other important resources that Alberta has that can help Alberta position itself for a future economy.

More importantly, Alberta has a growing population. Alberta has a young, skilled workforce that can lead Alberta into a future economy. When we talk about diversification, when we talk about renewables, and when we talk about a future economy, I think, then we have to come up with policies that support the development of that economy and that support new and innovative industries. I think we cannot put together a bill in hope that it will generate prosperity and it will set up industry. We have to put money behind it. We have to engage with stakeholders, with Albertans on it.

We have to invest in these new and emerging technologies not only through industry but through our postsecondary institutions as well. Like, when we were in government, we supported 3,000 tech spaces across our postsecondary institutions, and the reason for that was that that investment will position Alberta for a future economy, for a tech economy, and it will support government efforts to diversify our economy.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available. I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie has risen.

Member Loyola: Yeah. I'd like to ask the member – unfortunately, time was called in the middle of what he was saying – if he wants to just take a few more minutes to wrap up his thoughts that he was hoping to share with the rest of us members in the House.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you.

With four and a half minutes left, the hon. Member for Calgary-McCall.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you. I was talking about our government investment in creating tech spaces across postsecondary institutions. I think universities are a hub of innovation. That's where you generate new technologies, you generate knowledge, you generate a skilled workforce that helps you transition into a future economy, that helps you develop technologies to develop the resources that Alberta has.

However, I think what we have seen from this government is that they have cut funding for postsecondary institutions. They have increased tuition fees for postsecondary institutions, and we have

heard, like, in the last year or so that postsecondary institutions across this province are laying off teachers, laying off their staff. If we are serious about setting Alberta up for a future economy, I think we should be focusing our efforts on supporting universities, postsecondary institutions, which will generate that knowledge, which will generate that technology, which will generate that skilled workforce that is needed and necessary for a future economy that is based on technological advancements and that is able to compete with the global developments. But we have seen this government cutting from postsecondary budgets and laying off staff there.

Then we had Alberta Innovates. When we were in government, we were supporting the efforts of industry and Alberta Innovates' work that were leading to diversifying our economy, that were helping Alberta's position as a world leader when it comes to renewables, when it comes to technological developments. But what we have seen there as well is that this government has reduced funding for those kinds of efforts.

In terms of this geothermal bill I think at this point it remains just an announcement because we don't know how ownership issues will be dealt with. We do not know what kind of technological support government is willing to provide. We do not know what kind of financial resources government is willing to invest in. We do not know how the issue of remediation will work, whether wells will be able to transfer to geothermal wells without dealing with the liability that exists out there. These are quite fundamental questions that need to be answered.

If government wants to be taken seriously in their efforts towards renewables and diversification, I think government needs to then show that they are serious. They need to invest in universities, they need to invest and work with innovators, they need to invest in Alberta Innovates, and they need to put money where their mouth is. Otherwise, I think it's not clear from this how this framework will help us attract investment and set up this new renewable industry here in Alberta.

With that, I think we look forward to hearing from the government benches about these questions, in particular about the ownership issue, and what kind of support government will provide, technological support and financial support, and how they will deal with the liability, remediation liability and those issues.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any hon. members looking to join debate on second reading? I see the hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore.

Ms Issik: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. You know, throughout this debate, the debates that happen every day in this House, especially recently, the members opposite are constantly talking about their plan to diversify the economy. Well, it's a plan that they largely used when they were in government, and I can tell you that it did nothing except impose job-killing taxes on job creators. It was curbing growth, and it permanently shut down a whole lot of businesses. They were actually stymying innovation, and they took away tools entrepreneurs needed during an economic recession. Suffice it to say that the NDP was pretty oblivious to economic reality then, and I think they continue to be now. However, I don't think they really support business, and I'm not entirely sure they're supporting Bill 36 today. I know they don't support business; in fact, they keep wanting to boycott some of them.

3:40

However, unlike our predecessors, Mr. Speaker, this Alberta government has a plan to build, diversify, and create jobs, and it's

called the Alberta recovery plan. It's bold, and it's ambitious, and it's a long-term strategy to build, diversify, and create tens of thousands of jobs now and beyond. By diversifying our economy and attracting investment with Canada's most competitive tax environment, we're putting Alberta on a path for a generation of growth, and this legislation before us today seeks to attract new investment in geothermal energy as part of Alberta's recovery plan.

I guess I'll contrast that to what the previous government did – in fact, the Member for Edmonton-Rutherford was talking about it – with their tax credit from their time in government. We found that they had an overly prescriptive plan where they would go out and seek investors who had to fill out – get this: you had to fill in a form and qualify to be an investor, and then all the people that were looking for investment also had to fill out forms to qualify to receive investment, and then they tried to do a little matchmaking service. Well, I've got to tell you that all that did – I guess it might have created some economic growth and a cottage industry of form fillers and, I guess, bureaucrats to look at all the forms.

So I think I'll take our plan here, which is to create the – this bill here, Bill 36, is creating the framework, the legislative enablement so that the geothermal industry can now get under way, and it's going to enable a whole bunch of work to put together a regulatory framework that's streamlined and efficient and that will enable investors to see that we have a solid plan here in Alberta and that these folks involved in geothermal have a solid footing here in this province that nobody has to guess about. That will attract investment into a new industry that will help us reduce our carbon footprint here in Alberta, and it will also provide a lot of good-paying jobs, particularly for those who are now in our drilling industry and our energy industry. I'm excited to support this bill.

As we know, renewable energy in the form of geothermal is natural heat that originates from the earth, and it's used for heating and cooling. It can also generate electricity. Currently what we're doing with geothermal is that we're assessing everything project by project. But there's increased interest now, and we've made it possible for some pilot projects to get going, including Eavor-Lite, which is a demonstration project near Rocky Mountain House. Razor Energy is doing oil-geothermal coproduction near Swan Hills, and Alberta No. 1 is exploring geothermal potential near Grande Prairie. We're making sure that we've got an enabling piece of legislation here, as I said, to create a regulatory framework.

But I would say that I'm a little concerned with, you know – and I understand. It's important in a debate to ask questions when you're not clear on things, but I'm a little concerned about some of the comments from the Member for Edmonton-Rutherford where he talks about what I really consider to be pretty overprescriptive measures. I understand that this is early on in this industry, but I get a little concerned when we're talking about really, really prescriptive legislation such that you can stifle an industry altogether.

I think we've seen throughout history that when we stifle industry with overregulation, we just drive investment away, and I would argue – I'm not sure which member brought it up, but when they were talking about Teck leaving, the reason Teck left was because of uncertainty around regulatory burden. They took one look at what was going on with the federal government and said: that's it; we're out. We need to understand that uncertainty really does create problems for investment, and I think we have a chance here with a clean slate to create a great regulatory framework, but I really am concerned about becoming too prescriptive in this legislation.

I think that one of the speakers also brought up that they wanted to see more consultation. Well, I think consultation is great. It really is. We do a heck of a lot of it and seem to get actually criticized for it from the other side pretty often, if I'm not incorrect. They keep talking about their economic plan and how they're going to consult

on it. Well, I'd say that we consulted pretty broadly already. It was called a general election, and I think we consulted with several million people.

An Hon. Member: A clear message.

Ms Issik: Yeah. I think we got the answer that we were looking for.

You know, geothermal is a perfect example of how we're bringing that plan to life here in Alberta by diversifying our economy, creating economic growth. That's what we promised. We're doing that now in the middle of a pandemic and after one of the worst crises we've ever seen economically with the oil crash. I think that we all know that this recovery plan we're proposing proposes great hope for Albertans, and that's what people need right now, hope. This nascent industry in geothermal provides hope for an industry that has been battered pretty heavily not only by pricing and battles between Russia and Saudi Arabia and OPEC and the rest, but it's also had to battle the onslaught from the green left. I've got to tell you that here in Alberta we need some hope, and this will provide that hope for really qualified, hard-working people from Alberta to get back to work in an energy industry.

I have to tell you that I'm pretty tired of hearing the criticism of our energy industry, and I think that every time we're doing something innovative to ensure that we're building upon the solid foundation that energy has given us in this province, we need to make sure that we support that wholeheartedly and make sure that we're doing everything possible to drive as much investment into that as we can. That's by creating a solid regulatory framework that's thoughtful, that takes into consideration all of the things that energy has been doing really well for a long time, that takes into consideration our environment and environmental responsibility, again something our energy industry has done very well, better than any other energy industry in the world, and it's time we took some credit for that. Our energy industry has really done a good job in ensuring that we respect the environment.

At any rate, the other thing about geothermal that I think is important to remember is that this is a great opportunity for our indigenous communities and for our rural communities. This is something that will be happening in places where economic growth can be difficult at times, and I think it creates opportunities for indigenous participation in real, meaningful ways. Another thing that our government has taken on over the last while: meaningful participation in our economy.

An Hon. Member: Partners in prosperity.

Ms Issik: Partners in prosperity.

I'm really excited about Bill 36 and all of the incredible things that can come out of this, not the least of which is clean energy in the form of electricity, in the form of heat, and, you know, it's going to drive some really innovative industry just on that front. Think about some of the greenhouse operations that can come out of this. There's a lot of great industrial opportunity here, and I think that, too, will bring investment into our province, so I'm pretty excited about that.

I'm a little concerned with some of the other comments that were coming from the other side. Obviously, there are, you know, some things in the regulations that are going to have to be dealt with. They were speaking about abandonment and remediation, and that's important, absolutely. The regulatory framework, I'm sure, will deal with that in a streamlined and an efficient way. But I noted as those comments were being made that, again, they did not miss a chance to take another shot at our energy industry, and that's got to stop. That's got to stop. You can't say on one day that you support it and at the very next moment the words out of your mouth are just

taking another shot at the industry. That's got to stop. I know that on this side we do support our energy industry.

3:50

We support solid environmental regulations, we support streamlined, efficient frameworks that attract investment, we support our rural and indigenous communities to make sure that they have opportunity, and we make sure that we consult with people, not only during elections. I'll tell you that with this one, we've talked to a lot of stakeholders that include the Geothermal Energy Association, energy futures lab, the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors, and they're all excited to be part of this.

I'll just say this. We've got to keep growing our economy. We've got to protect livelihoods. We've got to generate prosperity for generations to come. This bill will accomplish that. I am absolutely confident of it, and I'm really proud to support it. I think it's our duty and commitment to Albertans to make sure that we pass this bill, get the regulations set up, and set the foundation for a really strong geothermal industry here in Alberta.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available. I believe I see that the hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon has risen.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very excited today to stand up and speak to Bill 36, the Geothermal . . .

The Acting Speaker: I hesitate to interrupt, but this is 29(2)(a).

Mr. Smith: Sorry.

The Acting Speaker: If you would like to . . .

Mr. Smith: No.

The Acting Speaker: Okay. I will at this moment, then, take the opportunity to see if there are any other takers with regard to 29(2)(a).

If not, then I will cede the floor to the hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon should he wish to continue.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry about that. I should have listened before I stood up. As I was saying, I'm very excited about being able to speak to this bill, which explains why I jumped up at the first opportunity.

I remember meeting in I think it was 2016 or 2017 with a geothermal company called Eavor. I met with them and began my journey on the geothermal path and had a very interesting conversation with them and learned a lot about their technology. It appeared to me that this was going to move the geothermal industry in Alberta forward. I remember meeting with various people when we were in opposition, with Wildrose critics, I believe with the hon. Minister of Infrastructure. We met at that time. I even remember meeting with some of the ministers from the then NDP government, trying to encourage them to consider diversifying the Alberta economy into the geothermal energy area.

In 2019 I was excited when the United Conservative Party committed to exploring innovation in a wide range of areas, of sectors of the economy but mentioning geothermal energy as one of those that we would be prepared to look into. I believe that the geothermal energy industry – we have a prime opportunity here to diversify our economy. I believe it's a resource that needs to be harvested and to be used for the benefit of Albertans.

One of the reasons that I explored geothermal energy is because it has the potential to put the very people in the very companies that

are responsible for exploring and drilling and harvesting and maintaining our oil and gas industry – we have the capacity to place these people and to put these people back to work doing exactly what they were already doing – drilling and exploring and harvesting – only this time doing it for geothermal heat. The fact that in creating a brand new geothermal industry in Alberta, you are also employing our energy workers is only one of the benefits that I believe that a geothermal energy industry will bring to Alberta.

In a world that is transitioning energy sources, over the next 60 or 70 or whatever number of years that it takes, the fact that geothermal energy will be a part of that equation, that it will help to reduce the carbon emissions in Alberta, that it will help to green the barrel in Alberta, is an advantage with the geothermal industry. Geothermal energy is a renewable resource, but unlike solar and wind, which only produce energy some of the time, geothermal energy is baseload energy. It's available 365 and a quarter days of the year and 24 hours a day, and geothermal projects are going to help to ensure that the Alberta grid is the most stable electrical grid anywhere in the world.

During cold spells and hot spells the draw on our grid is at its greatest. Solar and wind renewable energy is not consistent, not constant. As a matter of fact, when it's 40 degrees below zero in Alberta, the wind often doesn't blow. Anybody that decides to go on the AESO site can see that at that point in time, renewable energy is often at a zero for our grid. This can result in a decrease in the electricity being generated, and there have been times in the last few years when the electricity on the grid has come perilously close to being overtaxed.

Geothermal energy can provide a stable source of renewable energy that is significantly more reliable than solar- or wind-generated energy. Geothermal energy, I believe, can attract new industries to Alberta. Data centres use huge amounts of energy, and many want at least a portion of that energy to be renewable. A geothermal source, because it is baseload energy, fits the bill for industries like data centres. Geothermal projects have the capacity to bring black start capable electricity to the Alberta grid. Should the Alberta grid go down, each of the geothermal loops, for instance, from Eavor has the capacity to start up the coal and the natural gas electricity plants and help them to boot back up. This provides a significant increase in Alberta's flexibility and stability within our electrical grid.

Geothermal energy offers First Nations and rural communities opportunities to benefit from the energy of the Earth. These communities can repurpose inactive wells or use a system of cogeneration that harnesses the heat from active wells to provide energy that can be used for greenhouses that will produce local, badly needed food and jobs to those communities. It will increase our food certainty in the province of Alberta.

Now, one of the things that I've learned over the past four years or so about this geothermal energy is that there are various types of geothermal energy. There's deep well. There's co-production or cogeneration and high-heat reservoir geothermal energy. The traditional form of geothermal energy that's been used in the past in various areas of the world is restricted to very high source heat reservoirs, where the specific geological conditions exist that could provide the desired heat necessary for geothermal energy to make sense economically.

Now, what we can find is that Alberta entrepreneurs and businesses are beginning to apply new technologies and knowledge garnered from our oil and gas industry in Alberta and apply it to the geothermal industry and that they are beginning to widen the application and the capacity and the economic opportunity for geothermal energy to a much wider swath of the geography of Alberta. For instance, deep well, closed-loop systems and cogeneration situations, where

the heat from existing wells can be used as a source of heat, are beginning to change the geothermal landscape. Indeed, Eavor's pilot project near Rocky Mountain House, which I had the pleasure to visit in 2019, clearly established that a deep well, closed-loop system was capable of tapping into the Alberta heat reservoir up and down almost the entire foothills of the Alberta Rocky Mountains. In many other areas of Alberta they could tap into that heat source, and they were only looking for a heat source of around 100 to 120 degrees Celsius. Alberta has the potential to diversify its energy economy, and this legislation is going to help move Alberta forward by setting the legal and the regulatory framework needed to have a geothermal industry in Alberta.

Now, the Drayton Valley-Devon constituency is just one constituency where there are projects just beginning to start up or where they're starting to have conversations about access to both deep well, closed-loop geothermal heat as well as cogeneration from existing oil and gas wells with enough heat to be able to use for projects like hydroponic greenhouses. The geothermal energy has great potential across Alberta. It could generate up to 6,100 megawatts of thermal power and a capacity for about 1,000 to 1,150 megawatts of recoverable power. In the process, this is going to put many companies and workers in the drilling industry and the service industry back to work using the very skills that they have perfected in Alberta's oil and gas industry.

4:00

Bill 36, the Geothermal Resource Development Act, is one piece of the puzzle of the Alberta recovery plan, and it's going to help to grow and to diversify the Alberta economy. Now, Alberta currently has a policy in place for the accumulation of ground-source heat exchange systems, or geoexchange projects, and for projects that are completed, like, above the base of the groundwater protection. This is obviously regulated by Environment and Parks and the Water Act and the water (ministerial) regulation.

What we're talking about is an act here that is going to go beyond that.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Much deeper.

Mr. Smith: Yeah. Much deeper.

Alberta's current policy and legislative framework does not specifically address or regulate geothermal resource development below the base of groundwater protection, and Bill 36 is going to rectify this situation. Bill 36 will provide regulatory certainty in the geothermal industry, which will lead to investment and to jobs and a stronger, more diversified Alberta economy.

As in any new industry there are going to be bumps along the way, but companies like Terrapin and Eavor and Razor, among many others, are moving forward rapidly to take advantage of Alberta's geothermal opportunity. But in order for them to move forward, legislation like Bill 36 needs to be passed.

For instance, what is heat? Is it a mineral? How can it be assessed? Surface and downhole rights need to be clearly spelled out. Clarity on issues like this allows geothermal companies to have the legal foundation necessary to seek out capital investment, to talk to banks so that where geothermal energy makes economic sense, they can move forward, providing jobs for Albertans.

Bill 36 provides the opportunity to put drillers back to work on new projects drilling for heat and electricity, and we will have the legal framework to begin repurposing abandoned and inactive wells for a new life in producing geothermal energy. This legislation will set the foundation for companies to begin the process of putting drillers and service workers back to work, doing what we do better and more environmentally responsibly than any country in the

world. We produce energy in this province, and we do it better than anywhere else in the world.

Obviously, Bill 36 is going to propose the creation not only of this enactment but a number of consequential amendments to other pieces of legislation. This is a technical document. This is creation of a brand new industry, so the Mines and Minerals Act, the Responsible Energy Development Act, the Oil and Gas Conservation Act, the Pipeline Act, the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act are all going to need to be amended to make room for this industry in the province of Alberta.

The Alberta Energy Regulator will regulate the deep well geothermal projects while Environment and Parks will continue to regulate ground-source heat and exchange systems. Bill 36 will allow for the monetizing of geothermal heat both through direct ways like tenures, fees, and royalties and other indirect economic benefits. Bill 36 is bringing a whole pile to the table here, but at the end of the day it's also going to allow us to enable Albertans to be able to compete with other jurisdictions, not only in Canada, like Saskatchewan and B.C., but around the world, who already have these regulations in place.

When we take a look, Bill 36, the Geothermal Resource Development Act, is a step forward in Alberta's energy future. It's an act that speaks to a positive economic future. It builds on the resources and skills that we presently have while expanding and diversifying our energy economy. This is a new and an exciting opportunity for Alberta, and I congratulate the Minister of Energy on her vision for Alberta energy in Bill 36. It is this kind of leadership that will continue to move Alberta forward as the world's premier energy economy.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available, and the individual who caught my eye by jumping up so quickly was the hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely happy to be able to speak on this under 29(2)(a) for my colleague from the wonderful riding of Drayton Valley-Devon, of which I probably share the borders in Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

A number of years ago, as a young field engineer stuck in the middle of the Territories on a diamond mine project – some have said that the construction industry is, well, kind of like the French Foreign Legion, if you would, of most industries: we get people from all around the world, different walks of life, and you get all of these challenges while stuck out in the middle of nowhere to build something. If you want to talk about putting a team together, literally throw us 350 kilometres northeast of Yellowknife out in the tundra. When there isn't much to do other than work, you end up working more. You go back to camp, have your sandwich, do whatever, and go back to work.

Well, Marco was a gentleman, and in a prior life he was a merchant marine. This is me out of college for – well, you know, in all fairness, there were some times when we did get prime rib, but it was only when a mine truck had managed to hit a caribou or something. But the whole thing up there was that you'd get to talk to folks. Marco: in a prior life he was a merchant marine, so when I'm talking to him about the shipping industry, he was saying: you guys in Canada are doing this all wrong. If you look at the marine industry, what you do is that you look at everything that's as efficient as possible because those ships are out in the ocean. You're scavenging heat, you're saving your water, and you're doing those other things. That was imprinted on me as a young technical person at that time.

When I'm out in the industry and I'm looking around at all of our big industrial sites that I had the pleasure of working on, pipelines

and otherwise, all of a sudden we have all of this extra heat, all of these resources there. Roll the clock forward, and we're sitting in caucus, and I have the absolute honour to be an MLA and listen to all of these innovators coming forward. They're talking about systems where they can scavenge heat from existing sites. You've got the downhole, the closed-loop systems but scavenging off existing sites.

When we open up these dialogues to these individuals, they're asking for freedom of movement. They're not asking for tight, tight, tight regulations because they need it loosened a little bit for a new, innovative technology. They need to have the ability to move, to develop it, and to grow and have that innovation, and I believe that's what Bill 36 is doing here for us. It's given us a chance to let these folks, these innovators do that.

When I'm talking to some of the leading firms in that field, most of their technology is coming from Europe. So when I'm challenging them, saying: "Okay; it's not just the drillers we're looking at. It's not just the construction guys. What are the chances of us bringing this fabrication and technology back here?" They said, "Actually, it's pretty high." If we develop enough of a market, we can put the folks in Nisku, Drayton Valley – we can put folks to work all over the province with our transferable skill sets from our energy sector because pipe is pipe, pumps are pumps, and all the tech that goes with it.

With that, I'd love to be able to hear more from the Member for Drayton Valley-Devon to tell us about the opportunities when we open up that side of the equation, both to industry salvaging our waste heat, which now becomes generating revenue, and also potentials for fabrication.

Mr. Smith: Well, Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have?

The Acting Speaker: Two minutes.

Mr. Smith: I think I could speak for about 24 hours on this.

One of the things that has been really a joy as I have learned a little bit more about the geothermal industry is to see that one of the really valuable components that Bill 36 is going to move us forward on is the actual capacity to export the knowledge and our capacity from oil and gas into a new industry and move that around the world. I know that there are Alberta-based companies that are going to be able to take their drilling expertise, their engineering skills, their capacity for accessing geothermal heat energy, and they're actually going to be moving into countries like Holland and Germany. I know of I think it's a \$200 million project using Alberta technology from Eavor that's being drilled and put online in Germany to create electricity from a geothermal source.

We have an opportunity here, should we pursue and pass this legislation, to create an industry that's not only going to create jobs here in Alberta and in western Canada, but it's going to create jobs for Albertans internationally. We have that capacity. There is no better place in the world for doing that. We can make this work here in Alberta, where we have some of the lowest electricity prices in the world. We can make this work in Germany. We can make this work in the EU. We can make this work in Japan. We can make this work in India and in China, where the energy prices are significantly higher. But our drilling expertise continues to remain the best in the world. We have a capacity here in this province to create jobs, create wealth, create a future, and this bill is the start of that.

4:10

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Joining debate, I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Nielsen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to rise for the first time here in the fall sitting of the Second Session of the 30th Legislature and, of course, more specifically, to add some beginning thoughts to Bill 36, the Geothermal Resource Development Act. While I must say that I'm encouraged seeing this legislation come forward, I'm a bit, I guess, confused because what I've seen from the government before this is a little bit of a lack of enthusiasm around renewable energy sources, and this being a potential one of those, like I said, I'm a little confused but definitely encouraged by where this could be going.

I've listened intently to some of the comments that we've heard thus far. I have to admit that I was rather confused every time I heard some of the members opposite talking about how, you know, members here in the Official Opposition hate business, chased away investment, were cheering for Alberta to fail. As somebody who came from the labour movement, Mr. Speaker, I am highly supportive of businesses because those can be potentially good unionized jobs with good unionized wages and good unionized benefits, which help move business forward. So I'm constantly astounded every time I hear some of these things.

To get back to Bill 36, more specifically, I'm hoping, Mr. Speaker, that this will be a little bit more than just a piece of legislation that we pass in this House and nothing else is done about it, because the one thing that I don't want to see happen with this is that potentially it trips right at the starting line. We've certainly seen investors and lenders take some positions around climate change and whether they'll be supporting projects and whatnot. You know, it's more than just legislation, and sometimes it's even more than just money that will attract them. I think I would be remiss if I didn't point some of these things out that I think might pose challenges to getting people to invest within this industry.

I'm hoping they will come in droves, Mr. Speaker, but when we do things like cut our education funding to postsecondary, where individuals can go to learn about this industry to eventually become participants within this industry – because we know that investors will look at what kind of people they have in place. They don't want to just have to truck everybody in from everywhere else; they look for what's local. So if we find ourselves shortchanging our education system, we could find people that either aren't able to access that postsecondary education to get involved in this industry, or as soon as they do manage to get that education, because this industry might have tripped at the finish line, they'll be going to some of those other places that we just heard would be great locations to bring that kind of industry to because they are investing in their education system.

We see things like cutbacks within our health system. We see fights with our doctors. We see fights with our nurses. These are also things that investors look at in terms of infrastructure around health care and the health of Albertans in general. If they don't see these kinds of things in place, they won't bring their investment dollars here. Again, are we now setting ourselves up potentially to have this industry, that I think could bring a lot of prosperity to Alberta, trip at the starting line here? My hope is that as this discussion progresses, we get a chance to bring in some of these thoughts to the debate and, hopefully, we start to see some movement on that.

More specifically around Bill 36, you know, we've heard this brought up by some of the members from our side of the House here around the actual investment within the industry to be able to encourage those investors, those companies to come in because it's not going to be cheap. What other, I guess, incentives do they have? I know that in the previous NDP government we brought in things like the investor tax credit, the capital investment tax credit, and

what we were saying to these investors was that when you spend your money here, you will get something in return. It's kind of like the \$4.7 billion corporate handout that we saw, which didn't create any jobs, which didn't create any investment. Prepandemic, Mr. Speaker, we saw 50,000 jobs lost. It was supposed to create jobs. We saw investment being done in other jurisdictions, not here in Alberta.

Again, I'd be remiss if I didn't bring up these concerns. I know that as we proceed further in the debate, probably more specifically the Committee of the Whole, we'll get a chance to maybe have a more fulsome discussion around these kinds of things.

I also had some questions around, for instance, orphan well locations. You know, are we going to see potential investors have to take on the liability of those locations? If they're not, will they potentially have liabilities on the back end of their investment? I'd like to see maybe some discussion evolve around some of those concerns. Essentially, at the end of the day, as they always say, who are these costs going to be borne by where we do have an orphan well? I think, as was mentioned, they still have equipment there. The land hasn't been remediated, so who needs to take on those kinds of things?

Again, I'm encouraged by what I'm seeing here so far, work that had begun back in 2017 with regard to geothermal activity. It's funny. It seems in the last little while I've joked with some people that, you know, maybe we need to bring in legislation to talk about all the wind that we've seen within the province. It's been certainly very windy in Edmonton as of late, so the wind industry, the solar industry, I think, are quite viable. They're doing very, very well. I think there are some opportunities in the north part of Alberta should we be able to maybe see some changes to encourage investment there. I think that when you look at it from a business point of view, any chance that you can get your thumb into those pies, I think you should take those opportunities.

Geothermal, I think, is just one of those opportunities, so I'm glad to see that at least the government is wading into the pool if a little

bit of one toe or two toes at a time. It's good to see. Like we said, we've seen lenders take a position environmentally. We've seen investors that have made decisions based on environmental concerns and, you know, those things aren't going to go away, and we have to make sure that we're addressing those to try and attract those kinds of things.

Now, I guess from a red tape perspective on this I can't help but wonder about bringing in all kinds of new regulations and whatnot around this industry, which I'm not saying aren't needed. We're certainly going to have to look at that. But I've always had this concern. There's been this stance by the government about how much red tape they want to reduce over the course of their mandate: the one in, one out. So as we bring in all of this new what could be considered red tape, are we going to find ourselves racing to try to find something else to eliminate or to cut to be able to say, "Well, look, we got one in, and we got one out, yet we didn't actually look at what it was we were pulling out"? I've always got that concern when it comes to red tape, and I would encourage the government not to react too rashly.

4:20

Hopefully, as we move forward on this, we'll get a chance to discuss this a lot more further. I suspect it will probably be in Committee of the Whole, and I certainly look forward to hearing some of the thoughts that the government will be able to add with regard to some of the questions that we have.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

The Acting Speaker: I see the hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we adjourn until Monday, October 26, at 1:30 p.m.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:21 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, October 22, 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 Sitzings.

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 (\$) (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 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 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 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 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 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 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, with certain sections taking 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 aft.*) [Comes into force on various dates; 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*)
Committee of the Whole — 2432-475 (*Jul. 27, 2020 eve.*), 2512-20 (*Jul. 28, 2020 aft.*), 2523-31 (*Jul. 28, 2020 eve., passed with amendments*)
Third Reading — 2539-61 (*Jul. 28, 2020 eve.*), 2562-69 (*Jul. 28, 2020 eve., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Jul. 29, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force July 29, 2020, with exceptions; SA 2020 c27]

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*)
Committee of the Whole — 2404-32 (*Jul. 27, 2020 eve.*), 2475-85 (*Jul. 27, 2020 eve.*), 2502-12 (*Jul. 28, 2020 aft.*), 2531-39 (*Jul. 28, 2020 eve., passed*)
Third Reading — 2569-78 (*Jul. 28, 2020 eve.*), 2579-86 (*Jul. 28, 2020 eve., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Jul. 29, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2020 c28]

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*)
Third Reading — 2401-04 (*Jul. 27, 2020 eve.*), 2485-88 (*Jul. 27, 2020 eve., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Jul. 29, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2020 cA-26.4]

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 35 — Tax Statutes (Creating Jobs and Driving Innovation) Amendment Act, 2020 (Toews)

First Reading — 2616 (*Oct. 20, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 2666-81 (*Oct. 21, 2020 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 36 — Geothermal Resource Development Act (Savage)

First Reading — 2616 (*Oct. 20, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 2696-2706 (*Oct. 22, 2020 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 37 — Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2020 (Glubish)

First Reading — 2665 (*Oct. 21, 2020 aft., passed*)

Bill 38 — Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 (Madu)

First Reading — 2665-66 (*Oct. 21, 2020 aft., passed*)

Bill 40 — Forests (Growing Alberta's Forest Sector) Amendment Act, 2020 (Dreeshen)

First Reading — 2696 (*Oct. 22, 2020 aft., passed*)

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*), 1839 (*Jul. 8, 2020 aft., reported to Assembly; not proceeded with*)

Bill 204 — Voluntary Blood Donations Repeal Act (Yao)

First Reading — 1839 (*Jul. 8, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*), 2288 (*Jul. 22, 2020 aft., reported to Assembly*)

Second Reading — 2379-93 (*Jul. 27, 2020 aft., passed on division*)

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

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

Table of Contents

Introduction of Guests	2685
Members' Statements	
Job Creation and Economic Development.....	2685
Driver's Licence Road Tests	2685
Provincial Parks.....	2685
Driver's Licence Road Tests	2686
School Reopening.....	2686
Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day	2686
Foreign Qualification and Credential Recognition	2687
St. John Paul II	2687
Small and Medium-sized Oil and Gas Companies	2687
Oral Question Period	
COVID-19 Testing and Self-isolation	2688
Energy Industry Layoffs.....	2688
Educational Curriculum Review.....	2689, 2690
Support for Seniors.....	2689
Support for Persons with Disabilities	2690
Antiracism Strategy	2691
Energy Industry Update.....	2691
Opioid-related Deaths.....	2692
Child Intervention Services	2692
Seniors' Benefit Program Enrolment, Personal Identification Cards.....	2693
La Crête Bridge Proposal	2693
COVID-19 Cases in Lethbridge	2694
Highway 60 Capital Plan.....	2695
School Re-entry Plan and Capital Maintenance and Renewal Projects	2695
Introduction of Bills	
Bill 40 Forests (Growing Alberta's Forest Sector) Amendment Act, 2020.....	2696
Tablings to the Clerk	2696
Orders of the Day	2696
Government Bills and Orders	
Second Reading	
Bill 36 Geothermal Resource Development Act	2696

Alberta Hansard is available online at www.assembly.ab.ca

For inquiries contact:

Editor

Alberta Hansard

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875

E-mail: AlbertaHansard@assembly.ab.ca