



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
Second Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, March 18, 2021

Day 87

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 30th Legislature

Second Session

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United Conservative: 62

New Democrat: 24

Independent: 1

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 18, 2021

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

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

Hon. members, please remain standing as we are led in the singing of *God Save the Queen* by Ms Brooklyn Elhard.

Ms Elhard:

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

The Speaker: Hon. members, please be seated.

Statement by the Speaker International Francophonie Day

The Speaker: Members, March 20 is International Francophonie Day, and 2021 marks the 51st year of la Journée internationale de la Francophonie. On this day Franco-Albertans join 300 million francophones from around the world celebrating the French language and the diverse culture.

As many of you know, Alberta's Francophonie heritage dates back more than 200 years to the earliest days of the fur trade, which was largely responsible for bringing voyageurs westward. French language and culture were integral parts of our province's growth and development, and they continue to enrich lives in many important ways.

Today's Francophonie is made up of people who have been here for generations along with French-speaking newcomers, anglophones who have chosen to learn French and immerse themselves in the language and the culture. I am aware of more than a dozen members of this Assembly who are fluent French speakers, and opportunities are greater than ever for Albertans to learn the language. This paints a hopeful future for Francophonie in our province.

Please join me in recognizing Franco-Albertans and francophones from all around the world as we celebrate International Francophonie Day on Saturday, March 20.

Introduction of Visitors

The Speaker: Hon. members, we have very special guests in the Speaker's gallery joining us today. Please join me in giving a very warm welcome to Ms Darleen Reid, the wife of the Member for Livingstone-Macleod, as well as Speaker mom, my actual mom, Mary Cooper.

Members' Statements

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

Supportive Housing in Edmonton

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to speak for my constituents and stakeholders in Edmonton-City Centre. From business owners to baristas, students to seniors, executive suites to the city streets, they have told me straight. They want to see their provincial tax dollars invested in concrete action to end the crisis of homelessness, and they are clear that the solution isn't more shelters; it's permanent supportive housing with wraparound services.

That's what I told the Minister of Community and Social Services when she kindly met with me in July 2019. I outlined Edmonton city council's plan to build 900 units and the need for provincial funding to support health and social services at each site rather than giving more to problematic shelter providers. I trust that she shared this at the cabinet table as they've considered Mayor Iveson's repeated requests for support, including his most recent, for \$5.9 million. If she has, though, it's clear that her voice hasn't been heard.

While the government of Canada and the city of Edmonton have committed over \$50 million for 210 units, consecutive UCP budgets have instead doubled down on the same broken shelter system, without a single new dollar dedicated to permanent supportive housing, all while this government has disrupted supports like AISH, income supports, and rent supplements, that keep individuals housed. Their lack of action is now blocking the city of Edmonton from accessing federal funding for 480 more units. More federal dollars, that could be creating jobs and building real solutions to community needs, are being left on the table because this government refuses to commit one-fifth of the budget of their embarrassment of an energy war room, an investment that would ensure safety, support, and dignity for hundreds of unhoused Albertans while saving millions for our health, justice, and social support systems.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents I am calling on this government to do the right thing for unhoused Albertans, for our communities, and for the future of our city and province and immediately commit \$5.9 million to operate 210 units of permanent supportive housing in Edmonton.

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

Budget 2021 Vote

Ms Goodridge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Budget 2021 is an incredibly important one, especially in the circumstances which our province currently faces. This is a budget focused primarily on two things, the lives and livelihoods of Albertans. After a year of the pandemic, the economic impacts that we have felt because of it, along with the unprecedented drop in oil prices from the Saudi-Russia price war, our province needs a boost. Along with the progress that we are making with vaccines, this budget gives us the boost we need to support our economic recovery and our continued fight against the pandemic.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have been less than supportive. Just yesterday they made their position crystal clear. They oppose the historic supports that Budget 2021 delivers. The NDP opposed \$1.25 billion for the COVID-19 health response, they opposed a historic \$900 million increase in the Health budget,

and they opposed \$120 million to increase surgical capacity and reduce wait times for surgeries.

Mr. Speaker, it's astonishing, but it doesn't stop there. The NDP opposed \$500 million in capital investments for our continuing care facilities. They even opposed \$246 million to finish the construction of the Gene Zwozdesky centre right here in Edmonton, in a constituency represented by an NDP MLA. Their opposition to job-creating capital projects didn't stop there. Their opposition to Budget 2021 means that they opposed \$6 million to finish the Willow Square continuing care centre, that will support the seniors within my riding of Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche. It's not just health care infrastructure either. They can't even support a budget that funds 14 new school projects, one of them to expand elementary capacity in the community represented by the Member for Lethbridge-West. It's a head-scratcher.

Mr. Speaker, frankly, the NDP should ditch the extreme partisan opposition to all of these investments and support this government's plan to protect the lives and livelihoods of Albertans.

Airlines and COVID-19

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Speaker, 2020 bore witness to the strongest headwinds the global airline industry has ever faced, with 2021 bringing further turbulence to an already uncertain flight path: loss of vital air routes, the termination of talented employees, parking of hundreds of aircraft, and in some cases the suspension of entire operations. To remain airborne, Canada's airlines have had to meet stringent health protocols, be vigilantly compliant with a patchwork of regulations, all while working with employees and guests in managing expectations and pandemic-driven perceptions.

Mr. Speaker, while we empathize with the lives and livelihoods impacted by this near shutdown, this fast-paced and competitive industry remains grounded by the lack of regulatory certainty, the spectre of heightened restrictions, the absence of targeted relief, and a failure to sustain operationally feasible protocols at Canada's airports. It's clear from our control tower that broader co-operation and timely action are required to protect our airlines, airports, and vitally important visitor economies.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to remind all Canadians, particularly our leaders, of the important role our airlines play in the functioning of a modern and global economy. Prepandemic Canada's airlines transported 80 million passengers annually and employed 60,000 Canadians, and through their broad commercial impact they indirectly supported an estimated 630,000 mortgage-paying jobs. Our lives, livelihoods, and lifestyles have become inextricably linked with the timely and global movement of people and goods.

1:40

From pandemic-driven e-commerce to lifesaving movements of PPEs and vaccines, we also gratefully live in a world where people can connect, rejoin, rejoice, and be enthralled by people's cultures and nature on a scale scarcely imagined just a generation ago. Mr. Speaker, these are the forgotten, much-coveted privileges that we must vow never to take for granted as we collectively face the perilous challenges of an industry in crisis while bringing focus, resolve, advocacy, and leadership to our modern-day battle for the skies.

Thank you.

Child Care Costs

Ms Pancholi: Mr. Speaker, today the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives released a report on the effect of COVID on child care

in Canada, and the results for Alberta are not good. Edmonton, with a decrease of 10,000 children in child care, ranks in the top 10 for enrolment drops. In Calgary that number is 7,000. But while enrolment has gone down, parent fees are rising. Both Calgary and Edmonton are in the top 10 for percentage fee increases. In Edmonton parents now pay an average of \$950 per month for their toddler; in Calgary \$1,250 per month. The report notes that this doesn't even take into account the increases expected when the \$25-per-day program ends later this month. Not surprisingly, in cities with lower fees parents were more likely to keep their children enrolled in child care. Seems pretty obvious.

Here are some other numbers Albertans should be aware of: 3,000, the number of unemployed early childhood educators in Alberta; 54 per cent, the percentage of monthly income a family in Calgary pays for two kids in child care if they make just over the subsidy limit; \$57, the average cost of child care in Calgary; zero dollars, the amount per day low-income, subsidized families paid under the \$25-per-day pilot program; one-quarter, the amount of the child care budget blown by the UCP on the one-time working parent benefit, that won't do anything to help working parents next month; \$4, the return on investment for every \$1 put into child care; \$6 billion, the potential GDP growth if the \$25-per-day program was province-wide; 42,500, the number of Albertans who could get back to work if \$25-per-day child care was expanded; and zero dollars, the increased investment in child care by this government this year.

The UCP is hiding behind their ideology of parent choice, but parents who can't find, afford, or access child care do not have choice. They're pushing families into unlicensed child care or out of the workforce altogether. Mr. Speaker, this is a message to Alberta parents and child care providers: the NDP understands what you need to get back to work and the benefit of quality early learning for your children, and we won't stop until all Alberta families have access to universal, quality, affordable child care.

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

Economic Recovery in Calgary

Mr. Singh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been a year now since this tremendous challenge for our province began. Albertans had already experienced years of economic downturn, low oil prices, and a government without its priorities in order. Since 2014 many of Calgary's constituents lost a huge amount of their income or their jobs. Families were struggling to put food on the table and to pay their bills. When Alberta was hit with this unprecedented happening brought on by COVID-19, the economic shutdown, and a total collapse of oil prices, our government was ready. This challenge we are facing did not break Albertans' spirit of strength and resilience, which provides a great help for us to get through this. Health measures allowed us to limit the spread of the virus, at the same time protecting the lives of all Albertans and maintaining their livelihoods to safely operate.

The government has made sure that all supports were available, especially to those who needed them most, whether you are self-isolating, a small-business owner, a worker, or a student. I have visited businesses in Calgary to encourage them to make use of the relaunch grant for them to remain open and ease their financial burden. Also, I have delivered food hampers to those self-isolating. I want to assure my constituents that our government is working tirelessly to create more jobs, bolster the economy, and get our province to stay on track through our recovery plan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Oldman River Basin Water Allocation

Mr. Schmidt: Yesterday at the rural municipalities association convention the minister of the environment was confronted by municipalities from all along the eastern slopes who had grave concerns about the potential negative impact that future coal mines will pose to water quality and water quantity. On Tuesday the RMA passed a resolution, with 85 per cent support, calling on the province to ensure that southwestern Alberta municipalities continue to receive adequate supplies of uncontaminated water.

The RMA is worried about the government's proposal to open water allocations in the Oldman River basin to take water from ranchers and municipalities and give it to coal mines. Municipalities wanted the environment minister to say in no uncertain terms that their water was not at risk. How did the environment minister respond? By gaslighting them. The environment minister said: Alberta continues to have some of the most rigorous water licence rules and environmental rules when it comes to the protection of water; there's nothing changing to the water process or the licensing process in that area; I know there are rumours that it is, but it is not. That statement sure raised some eyebrows because it directly contradicts what the minister has been telling municipalities all winter.

A slide deck prepared by his department dated November 20, 2020, openly discusses changing the Oldman water allocation order to allow billions of litres of water to be transferred from irrigation users and municipalities to industrial users. By industrial users the minister means coal mines. This slide deck has been presented to many of the municipalities who voted in favour of the RMA resolution, but now, according to the minister, official documents and meetings are just rumours.

The minister needs to stop covering up what he's doing with the Oldman River allocation order and just clearly communicate his plan, but continuing to deny the truth and treating Albertans like suckers to be played will do nothing to protect the water in the Oldman River and all those whose health and jobs depend on it. All it will do is ensure that the minister and all of his colleagues are unemployed after the next election.

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

COVID-19 and Religious Observances

Mr. Turton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a devout Christian I have seen first-hand the resilience of our religious communities. Communities of all faiths, whether Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, and others, have shown remarkable resilience during this difficult and stressful time. I am grateful for this resilience because it is during times of difficulty and uncertainty that faith becomes so much more important. For Christians, the importance of faith during tough times can be expressed by Psalm 18:2, which says, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, [He is] my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

Faith of all forms is a sturdy force in our lives which helps guide us down a right and just path even when a chaotic world surrounds us, and that is why I'm proud that our government has put the highest amount of flexibility and freedom for religious communities and congregational worship across Canada. While other provinces have implemented strict, across-the-board capacity rules, and some have even restricted all worship services, we have allowed our places of worship to continue to perform the vital services that benefit our communities and our mental health.

I would like to thank all the places of worship in Spruce Grove-Stony Plain and across Alberta for your resilience and your

dedication to your community and worshippers. Places of worship across this province have done an incredible job in ensuring that worship services are safe for worshippers during the pandemic by dutifully sanitizing, wearing masks, following the lenient capacity requirements, and providing online services for those who may have health problems or other worries. Our places of worship have shown that no pandemic can stop us from our constitutional right of religion and worship.

Thank you to all the pastors, priests, imams, rabbis, and other religious leaders who continue to provide this essential service to our communities. May God continue to watch over us during this difficult time and give us the strength we need to get through it.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright.

Residents in Recovery Program in Lloydminster

Mr. Rowswell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Residents in Recovery program which is stationed in Lloydminster has been an invaluable aid for those struggling with addictions and recovery. The program offers a vast suite of services that aim to help patients overcome their addiction and return to life as normal again. The program currently has four houses and is capable of housing 25 individuals. The program is also partnered with the Thorpe Recovery Centre in Blackfoot.

Residents in Recovery offers pretreatment sober living facilities. These are for the phases between jail or detox. Residents must be sober for seven days in order to qualify for this support, that can last anywhere from one to five months. The program also offers posttreatment living facilities for up to one year. During this year residents can utilize services such as a variety of therapies aimed at recovering and learning valuable life skills. Residents in Recovery also offers outpatient addiction services, which include day programming and treatments such as psycho-educational programming and trauma therapy.

This program has received three separate funding grants from the Alberta government, the most recent of which was \$40,000, and this money is just another piece of the historic funding our government has provided to mental health and addictions. They have been able to use this recent funding to create specialized treatment groups for men and women. In the future the Residents in Recovery program is hoping to add more houses so they can provide more help for more individuals. The program is also hoping to eventually add an equine-assisted learning service to their list of current helpful tools. Finally, the program would like to expand to be able to provide a family-focused posttreatment program.

The Residents in Recovery program is truly making a difference in the lives of those battling to overcome addiction. I'd like to thank the Residents in Recovery for all the work they do to help struggling residents of Lloydminster to attain a better and brighter addiction-free future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1:50

Oral Question Period

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

Oldman River Basin Water Allocation

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the environment minister told municipal leaders that expanding coal mines on the

eastern slopes wouldn't threaten our watersheds. After this bold pronouncement the minister refused to take questions. Never a good sign. Needless to say, no one was convinced, not even the reeve of Pincher Creek, who heard the minister speak and still wants to know just where the heck these mines are getting their water from. Premier, the Oldman River basin is stretched thin. Why don't you do Albertans a favour and commit to supporting our bill to defend our mountains and protect the water in that basin?

Mr. Kenney: Well, as is usually the case, Mr. Speaker, the entire premise of that question was false. There have been no changes to the water allocation. The member may be aware that stakeholders in southern Alberta spent several years in developing the South Saskatchewan River land-use planning framework. There have been no changes to that framework or to water allocation rules, nor have there been changes to diminish Alberta's world-leading environmental protections, including for water quality, all across our province.

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, allow me to educate the Premier. It turns out that folks that work for him and his minister of environment took the time in November to consult with people in the Oldman water basin. They proposed a number of things, including the reallocation of almost 40 per cent of the water from agriculture to coal. Not surprisingly, people are very distressed that this proposal was made. Why won't the Premier come clean and commit to those folks that they are not going to ever be facing that proposal for their water in that basin?

Mr. Kenney: Yeah, well, Mr. Speaker, I can imagine how they would characterize it if I stood up and said: let me educate the member on the following. They dish it out, but they can't take it. They certainly can't take the facts or the truth because the facts are that there is consultation going on with respect to improving water habitat for fish in the Oldman dam and the Oldman River system and, secondly, with respect to the overall water availability for all those who draw on it in the municipalities in that area. It's perfectly normal. It's what we should be doing.

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, it's one thing for members opposite to gaslight Albertans, but watching the Premier get advice from his minister of environment, it appears as though his minister of environment is gaslighting his boss. The fact is this. The documents that were presented to the people of southern Alberta proposed an allocation of almost 40 per cent to industry, particularly coal. Why don't you learn the file, and, more importantly, why won't the Premier commit that those documents are done and that the water basin will be protected?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, yes, the water basin will remain protected. We've been absolutely clear about that. Yes, there have been ongoing consultations in the Oldman River region, primarily around fish habitat and making sure there's enough water for fish in that area. There are some of the most endangered fish in the world within that corridor of our province. There is no proposal that has been put forward from my office or from Alberta Environment and Parks to change the allocation for water to go to coal mines. That is completely and utterly false.

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

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, we will table those documents, and I look forward to having the minister then get up and explain how he didn't know what was going on.

AgriStability Program

Ms Notley: Now, the pandemic has had tremendous impacts on all sectors, including agriculture. While Alberta's producers have had a good year, with strong markets, it's clear these benefits are not even, and many producers are still struggling. Ottawa's AgriStability program supports producers who've lost revenue through no fault of their own. It used to kick in at 85 per cent of previous revenue until Stephen Harper lowered it to 70. Now the current Ottawa government wants to raise it back to 80, but the Premier is blocking it. Premier, why won't you sign on? Producers want to know.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, to be blunt, the last person in this province I'm going to take advice from on agriculture policy is the Edmonton socialist who imposed Bill 6 on our farmers, that we repealed with the farm freedom act. She wouldn't understand this, but I can tell you that the fifth-generation farmer who is Alberta's ag minister certainly does. We want the best possible deal for Alberta farmers, and that's why all three prairie provinces are working together to get the best possible deal through negotiations and a vote in this cost-shared program.

Ms Notley: Well, I know that the Premier likes to live in the past, but producers would like him to pay attention to the present. The timing of this proposal still gives the government of Alberta enough wiggle room to come up with its own program later if that's what they want to do. The new agreement would only cover producers until 2023. There are no risks here. I don't see how signing this now does anything to get in the way of that. All it does is support Alberta producers while delaying for the sake of politics actually hurts them. Premier, when will you stop using rural Albertans as a political prop and start standing up for them?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, rural Albertans were the last consideration of the previous NDP government when they tried to unionize the family farm with Bill 6. Do you remember that? I'll tell you. This agriculture minister, a fifth-generation Alberta farmer, is going to do everything possible to get the best program and have a proper negotiation and a vote amongst the provinces and the federal government. We're not going to have Justin Trudeau forcing a farm program on Alberta farmers without the provinces having a say. Yesterday the NDP voted against every single farm support program run by the government of Alberta. Shame on them.

Ms Notley: Politics over results, Mr. Speaker. Here's what those producers actually are saying and what they want. "Alberta's producer groups express urgency on the matter as the April 30, AgriStability enrollment deadline nears." Premier, I know your entire political strategy is about dividing and about attacking Ottawa, but producers have come together in an unprecedented way to beg you to step up, sign the document, give them the support they need, and then if you want to work something better out later, do it, but stop making them a political toy.

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, thanks for the shouting from the divider-in-chief of Alberta politics. I'll tell you what. She wedged rural and urban Albertans against each other in a despicable way with her Bill 6 effort to unionize the family farm, and that is why she lost every single rural seat in this province by a massive margin and yesterday added insult to injury when she forced her caucus to vote against, in the estimates and in the budget, the funding of . . .

Mr. Dang: Point of order.

Mr. Kenney: . . . every single agricultural support program delivered by Alberta's government. Shame on the antifarm NDP.

The Speaker: A point of order is noted at 1:58.
The hon. Member for Lethbridge-West.

ATB Financial

Ms Phillips: It's looking like the Laurentian elites on Bay Street are on the hunt to acquire ATB Financial. Detailed polling is being conducted by Angus Reid on a prospective sale of our bank to TD Canada Trust. They are going so far as to probe specific elements of a deal. The language in the poll is clear. It's a takeover, Mr. Speaker. I'll table the appropriate copies at the appropriate time. To the Minister of Finance: has the minister or his political staff, officials had any meetings or conversations about the sale of ATB to TD Canada Trust?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no idea what the member opposite is talking about. Right now we're working hard to position this province for economic recovery and growth. That is our sole focus, to create the most competitive business environment across the country. We will not be distracted by media reports from somewhere else in the nation.

Ms Phillips: It's clear, Mr. Speaker, from the polling that someone is actively exploring a sell-off of ATB. Someone is paying for detailed polling. One does not waste real money on a figment of the imagination, and it's possible that the Minister of Finance simply may not have full visibility on this. So will the minister report back to Albertans by the end of the day that no government entity, agency, contractor, or consultant is exploring the sale of ATB to Bay Street, as this polling indicates?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, the Alberta government is doing no such thing. Again, right now we are focusing on positioning the Alberta economy for disproportionate investment attraction and growth, growth that will put tens of thousands of Albertans back to work, provide great opportunities for Alberta businesses. In Budget 2021 we are proposing spending \$21 billion on core infrastructure in this province. Why will the opposition not support that bill?

2:00

Ms Phillips: The Finance minister may not be able to explain who is message testing, but if it is his own government, I think it's reasonable to expect him to get back to Albertans by the end of the day. But the minister is able to give us his own message right now, so can the Finance minister commit categorically, right now, in this House that as long as this government remains in office, they will not sell off ATB or any of its lines of business?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, we have no plans to sell ATB. Again, we are focused on ensuring economic recovery and growth for this province, and I call on the members opposite to support Budget 2021, a budget that positions this economy for growth, a budget that will put tens of thousands of Albertans back to work at a time they desperately need an opportunity. Shame on the members opposite for not supporting it.

FOIP Requests and Access to Information

Mr. Carson: Mr. Speaker, the UCP claims that there are no issues with the freedom of information process, but one such request on

their Alohagate scandal turned up just seven records from the Premier's office. There's clearly a cover-up afoot as I now have hundreds of individual pieces of correspondence on this scandal, and journalists have said that they have the same. To the Minister of Service Alberta: how come you only handed over seven records? What are you hiding, and will you release those records today?

Mr. McIver: Well, Mr. Speaker, let me just say that it's fairly rich for the NDP to be complaining about not following the FOIP rules. The 2016-17 and 2017-18 annual reports required by section 86 of the FOIP Act were not released by the NDP when they were in government, breaking the law. I'm not sure they should be lecturing anybody else about following the law around FOIP today. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order.

Mr. Carson: Mr. Speaker, I'm going to keep asking questions about this Alohagate cover-up until we get answers, and I promise you that we will get those answers. Yesterday the Minister of Transportation told me that there was nothing wrong with the FOIP process, when clearly there is. The Minister of Transportation also replaced the Minister of Municipal Affairs after she vacationed in Hawaii while the rest of us stayed home to stop the spread of COVID-19. To the Minister of Transportation and Municipal Affairs: will you release all records related to Alohagate in both of your offices? If not, what are you hiding?

Mr. McIver: Mr. Speaker, the NDP again complaining about FOIP is doubly rich. For those of us that have been around, we saw the then Minister of Health, the hon. member, stand up in this House and say: when we don't want people to know, we use – she actually used air quotes – voice mode. Wow. Those folks, when they were in government, didn't want anybody to know what they were doing, so they used voice mode instead of writing things down. I'm not sure they're the ones to lecture anybody on privacy.

Mr. Carson: The government's response to past delays is that they're actually going to cut the budget for the FOIP process. When Albertans want to learn the objectives of government, a logical place to look is under the key objectives section in their business plans. It lays out their agenda clearly for the next year. However, a key objective for Service Alberta from 2020, to enhance government transparency and protection of personal information, was removed from this year's report. Also, \$1 million was cut from the budget this year. To the Minister of Service Alberta. The Premier, your boss, is the most untrusted Premier in the country. Is now really the time to be cutting off access to public records?

Mr. McIver: Once again, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member just never gets tired of being wrong. If they were paying attention, they would know that in December this government launched a new online tool, the FOIP request service, which allows applicants to submit and track FOIP requests, pay fees, provide identification and documents, and receive response packages, all within a secure environment. We're taking action on transparency through the FOIP process. The hon. member should try to keep up.

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

Budget 2021 Vote

Mr. Turton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the members opposite voted unanimously against Budget 2021. Now, this is a budget focused on protecting both the lives and livelihoods of all Albertans and to ensure they are supported during this pandemic.

This budget includes \$1.25 billion for COVID-19 supports and a \$900 million increase to the operating budget of the Ministry of Health. It's unclear to me why the opposition doesn't feel these supports are necessary. To the Minister of Finance: can you please explain to the members opposite why this investment is so critical at this time?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Budget 2021's primary focus, number one priority, is ensuring that Health is resourced to battle the pandemic – job number one – so we have included adequate funding in the baseline budget of Health as well as a COVID contingency line for Health to be able to adequately deal and battle the pandemic on behalf of Albertans. I want to thank the Minister of Health and his officials for doing an excellent job of the vaccine rollout. I call on the opposition to support the bill.

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

Mr. Turton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that answer. Given that Budget 2021 includes a capital plan that spends \$20.7 billion for critical infrastructure projects and given that this includes the building of the La Crête maternity and community health centre, upgrades to a NICU centre at Foothills, and \$268 million in new funding to build and modernize 14 new school projects, some of which are even located in the members opposite's own ridings, to the same minister: can you please explain to the members opposite how troubling it is that they voted against these projects?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. It is troubling that the members opposite will not support Budget 2021, which includes a capital plan over the next three years of almost \$21 billion. Projects included in the capital plan are the completion of the Calgary cancer centre, eight new ICU beds at the Rockyview general hospital, 19 new neonatal intensive care beds at the Foothills medical centre, 14 new school projects across the province, and renovations for the Lac La Biche Youth Assessment Centre. I could go on. I call on the members opposite to support them.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Turton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the members opposite are opposing economic development with their vote against the budget and given that yesterday they also voted against diversifying Alberta's economy and given that they opposed \$50 million for growing the film sector, \$30 million for growing the tech sector, \$22 million for growing tourism, and \$500 million for growing other sectors such as pharmaceuticals, to the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation: can you please tell the House what other diversification measures the NDP voted against in this budget?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation.

Mr. Schweitzer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to that member for the question. You know what? We're having a banner year in film and television, just this week a brand new film studio going up in Alberta. That is diversification. Failure on the other side when it came to film and television. We're supporting the tourism

industry, increasing the budget for Travel Alberta by 50 per cent, because we want a bounce back in tourism here in our province. Pharmaceuticals: we have a Nobel prize winner at the U of A. We want proposals right now to build out our pharmaceutical capacity in Alberta to keep Albertans healthy and diversify our economy.

Coal Development Policies

Mr. Schmidt: The UCP lifted the Lougheed coal policy on the advice of Australian billionaires because they want to strip-mine our mountains. They expect Albertans to believe them when they say that they will sincerely consult with Albertans about protecting our beautiful spaces, but the Member for Calgary-Glenmore said that she believes that the current suite of policies in place has struck the right balance. Minister, can you explain to Albertans if you actually believe that you're engaging in open-minded consultation when your own MLAs appear ready to continue to allow strip-mining of our natural areas?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy is launching a consultation process when it comes to the 1976 coal policy. I hope the hon. member takes the time to participate. I know that members of our caucus will at the time when it comes forward. I appreciate the effort from the Minister of Energy. I think the biggest thing is that we have to continue to stand up against the fearmongering and the things that are being made up by the NDP when they tell communities that mines have been approved or that water allocations have changed, these types of things. That's not taken place. But Albertans can rest assured that the Minister of Energy will proceed with consultation as promised.

Mr. Schmidt: Given that the disdain this government has towards consulting Albertans was made clear when they tried to sneak the lifting of the Lougheed coal policy under the noses of Albertans on the Friday before the May long weekend and given that the Member for Calgary-Glenmore has already made up her mind on this critical issue and decided that listening to Albertans isn't worth her time, Minister, Albertans don't trust you when it comes to coal because of your secretive actions. How can people trust that these consultations aren't just for show?

2:10

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Calgary-Glenmore is actively participating in consultation. I've actually seen her speak about this lots with her constituents, and she's actually leading the climate change consultation across the province right now, is a very active member and a hard-working MLA who represents her constituents well.

But what is misleading Albertans is the fact that that hon. member will not recognize in this place that almost all of the exploration that is taking place in the province was approved underneath . . .

Mr. Dang: Point of order.

Mr. Jason Nixon: . . . that member's former government, Mr. Speaker. He just doesn't want to talk about that. So let's be transparent about what the NDP approved inside the eastern slopes.

The Speaker: A point of order is noted at 2:10.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, given that the minister of environment doesn't even understand the very damaging impact the coal mines will have on Alberta's most sensitive natural areas, including those utilized and treasured by his own constituents, and given that I will be hosting an online town hall about my legislation later this month and will be personally inviting the minister's constituents to attend

and given that the minister could just stand in this House for the first time ever and admit that he was wrong and pledge to support my bill, Minister, will you support my legislation so that you can go back to your constituents and tell them that you did the right thing for once?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, my constituents are absolutely appalled at what the NDP continues to do. The fact is that any exploration that's taking place within my constituency in the eastern slopes started underneath the NDP government, and there is no mine actually going through any regulatory process anywhere within my constituency, which yet again shows that the NDP just makes things up. They're trying to distract from the fact that they voted yesterday against funding our health care system, funding our parks system, funding our police. That's the reality of what they focus on inside this Chamber, trying to stop Alberta's budget from going into place.

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

Bill 57

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night the minister finally held a town hall to talk about Bill 57. Right after I was contacted by Métis members frustrated with the lack of transparency and non answers that were provided. The failure to properly consult was the big issue. The minister said that he gave six months for consultation, but multiple participants pointed out that this was during the height of the pandemic and that many members do not have cell service or Internet connection to consult with safely. The only thing the minister said was: my hands are being tied. To the minister: what do you think constitutes proper consultation? Why do you think you can ignore Métis concerns?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Wilson: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did have a very robust discussion last night. In fact, for an hour I took rapid-fire questions, and we had a very good discussion with a lot of members there and answered their concerns. Over the past year we've had over 19 – 19 – engagements with myself and the department and their technicians discussing these amendments, and beyond that I've travelled across the province and met with many of the settlements over the past year and met with their people. A lot of these concerns are from their people looking at transparency, and that's what we're doing, preparing the Métis settlements for the future.

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

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the minister was asked what he will do when settlements can't afford their basic needs and their members can't afford to pay and given that his answer was to levy additional fines on Métis people to make up for revenue shortfalls – the minister actually went on to say that the council can create bylaws to fine members and take them to court and that this will generate more revenue for the settlements – to the minister. This is reprehensible. Are you really expecting that the Métis settlements create new bylaws and fine their membership to make up for the loss of funding from your UCP government?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Wilson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the member is wrong once again. Over the past couple of years we've been working

on what we've called the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, and we've made sure the Métis settlements are able to participate in that. There are some very good programs coming forward. They've asked me for a hand up, not a handout. This is what we're giving them, a hand up to work with them to develop and give them that pride in ownership and working in their communities. Nothing could be farther from the truth, and we're working hard with the Métis settlements always.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that another tool for settlements to generate new revenue is to start charging fees for services and new taxes and given that a participant last night had to ask the minister twice, "What is this government going to do to help elders and lower income members when they are unable to pay the new fees and levies?" and given that the minister could not provide a reasonable answer or point to a specific program that he'd be bringing in to help with these additional fees, to the minister. You are increasing the cost of living for Métis people. Do you ever think of what real damage you are doing by forcing more Métis Albertans further into poverty without additional support?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Wilson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, any of the amendments we put forward are just empowering amendments, giving them the flexibility to handle their own affairs. We've given them the option. One of the options was to empower them if they want to go from five council members down to three. Some of the settlements are quite small, so three council members would be quite sufficient. That would save them a couple of hundred thousand dollars a year. I know that's not a lot of money to the members opposite, but a couple hundred thousand dollars over a year: in 10 years that's \$2 million. That's real money. That's what we're working on, to help them be sustainable in the future.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod has a question.

Rural Health Facilities Revitalization Program

Mr. Reid: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is home to some of the best health care facilities in the entire world. Let me let you know of a little secret: not all of these facilities are just in Alberta's large cities. There are fantastic hospitals and clinics throughout rural Alberta and especially in my riding of Livingstone-Macleod. But many of these facilities are in need of upgrades. Can the Minister of Health please let this House know what the government is doing to support rural health care?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. Earlier this week the Premier announced the creation of the rural health facilities revitalization fund. Alberta taxpayers will be investing \$50 million over three years to upgrade neglected rural health facilities. For the member's riding of Livingstone-Macleod that means \$1.5 million to upgrade the medical device reprocessing area in the Crowsnest Pass health centre, \$1.6 million to add to the ambulance garage at the Claresholm general, and \$4.7 million to renovate the medical device reprocessing area in the High River general hospital.

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

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for that response. Given that Alberta is a massive province that is dominated by rural communities and given that Alberta's economy relies on rural communities being both healthy and vibrant and given the strong importance of sustainable health care to my constituents in Livingstone-Macleod and constituents around rural Alberta, can the same minister let us know how this funding announcement continues to show our commitment to building a more sustainable health care system within rural Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to see the members opposite so excited about this fund after their four years of ignoring these facilities. The rural health facilities revitalization fund protects people's lives and health in rural communities and also protects their livelihoods by creating jobs as part of our multibillion-dollar capital plan. The renovation projects are vital to modernizing smaller rural facilities to ensure that they offer the best and safest health services possible in all corners of the province. No matter where people live in Alberta, it's important that their health care needs are met as close to home as possible, and these renovation projects make that a reality.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the COVID-19 pandemic has put stress on our health care system, which has extended wait times for elective surgeries, and given that the government has focused much of its additional health care funding on dealing with the pandemic, can the Minister of Health explain to this House why he believes that it is important to fund these essential capital health projects in rural Alberta at this time?

The Speaker: The minister.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The priority projects have been identified in all five health zones across the province. The projects each ring in at \$5 million or less and are expected to create about 280 construction jobs and stimulate the local economies. The funds are important to the upkeep, the quality of care, and the long-term sustainability of our rural health facilities. We're committed to improving rural health care and the services that Albertans can rely on. This is an important part of our ongoing work to strengthen our publicly funded health care system in Alberta.

Coal Development Policies and Red Tape Reduction

Mr. Nielsen: Quote: look, I guess whenever you attack red tape, there could be unintended consequences; we saw that when it came to the coal policy. That was the associate minister of red tape at RMA talking about how his government's sneaky plan to strip-mine the Rocky Mountains by lifting the Lougheed coal policy was just an unintended consequence of this minister's lust for slashing red tape. Minister, you have to be seriously incompetent to accidentally have the Rocky Mountains torn down. What are you doing to prevent other catastrophic unintended consequences resulting from your actions?

2:20

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We inherited a government that was full of regulatory burden and red tape, that was limiting the actions and opportunities for Alberta businesses,

entrepreneurs, Alberta families, Alberta nonprofit organizations. I could go on. We have made a high priority of reducing regulatory burden, modernizing our regulatory environment so we can compete in the modern economy. We make no apology for that.

Mr. Nielsen: Well, given that in a FOIP we received from the Department of Finance, it was revealed that the associate minister of red tape failed to hit his own targets by more than 60 per cent, which in anyone's eyes is a failing grade, Mr. Speaker, to the minister: is the reason for nearly destroying the eastern slopes of Alberta because you were rushing to catch up on the failure to meet your own targets, and if you were more competent the first time around, would Albertans have needed to fear for the future of our mountains and critical headwaters?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, you want to talk about incompetence when it comes to red tape? When this government came into power and took over from the NDP, it took three years on average to get a grazing lease transferred. It took seven years on average to get a simple water licence if you were a municipality or a homeowner. I'm happy to report that now it takes about 30 days to get a grazing lease transferred and about 60 days to get a simple water licence. That's competence, and we're proud of our minister of red tape leading the way to help Alberta get back to work.

Mr. Nielsen: Given that at the RMA forum the minister attempted to justify his mistakes and failures and blamed the amount of regulations he's trying to eliminate and given that he literally conceded he would make mistakes as he races to slash red tape to hit some fictional goal set by his boss, what other essential protections is this minister trying to eliminate so he can justify keeping his ministerial salary? Workplace safety? Food safety? Maybe water safety?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, this government inherited a regulatory environment that received an F from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business brought on by the members' opposite incompetence in working through the regulatory process. The members' incompetence on the other side of the aisle left Alberta businesses disadvantaged, uncompetitive. It sent billions of dollars of investment out of this province. The Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction is reversing that investment flow, with an A.

Critical Worker Benefit Eligibility for Child Care Workers

Ms Pancholi: On February 10 the Minister of Children's Services told child care providers in writing that the only requirements for early childhood educators to be eligible for the critical worker benefit was to have worked, quote, 243 hours total between October 12 and January 31. Around the same time her ministry told child care programs that, quote, the \$25-per-hour cap will not apply. Fast-forward a few weeks, and suddenly the \$25-per-hour cap does apply. This means that more than one quarter of all early childhood educators in Alberta don't qualify for this benefit. To the minister: do you remember telling child care workers you valued their work during the pandemic, or was that a mistake, too?

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

Mrs. Sawhney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Community group care workers and support staff as well as early childhood educators have played a critical role in keeping children and youth safe and healthy throughout the pandemic. In a letter to child care providers on

March 9 Children's Services explained payments would be distributed to all licensed daycare, group family child care, out-of-home care, and contracted family day home agencies on behalf of early childhood educators who have worked at least 243 hours between October 12, 2020, to January 31, 2021, and are paid \$25 an hour or less before the government wage top-up.

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

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that I think early childhood educators already read that letter, given that workers who cook meals and snacks and keep up with the vigorous COVID cleaning requirements to ensure that children are healthy, safe, and fed in childcare programs are also inexplicably excluded from the critical workers benefit, and given that workers who perform these same cooking and cleaning services in other settings in Children's Services and in other parts of the social services sector are eligible but these workers are not, to the same minister: why have you made arbitrary distinctions about which work is critical in child care when all of it is essential?

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, given the large scale of this initiative across many sectors, eligibility requirements vary slightly between sectors. For the child care sector this benefit is focused on certified early childhood educators as they have the most direct contact with children and parents and are therefore at most risk of contracting COVID-19. This does not minimize this importance of the work done by other child care support staff during the pandemic.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that if that member had actually been in a child care centre, she would know that workers who are cleaning and cooking are in direct contact with children all the time and given that more than 3,000 early childhood educators have left the sector since the pandemic hit – and let's be clear; that workforce is predominantly women – and given that the only reason the child care sector has survived this pandemic at all is thanks to the federal government because this government does not believe child care is critical to economic recovery, to the minister: why is it that whenever you've had the opportunity to do the right thing for the thousands of women who work in the child care sector, the working parents who rely on it to get back to work, and children of this province, you always do the wrong thing?

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Children's Services is incredibly grateful for the work unlicensed providers do in caring for kids and families across Alberta as they play a vital role in ensuring parents have flexible options for child care. By being unregulated and unlicensed, they are not subject to the same stringent rules and regulations that others are, nor are they expected to pay for things like licensing fees. But I want to say again that none of this minimizes the importance of the work done by other child care support staff during the pandemic.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Airdrie-Cochrane.

Recall Act

Mr. Guthrie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the 2019 election campaign a promise was made by this now government, one that I, too, made to the constituents of Airdrie-Cochrane, in regards to holding elected officials accountable through recall legislation. Politicians are elected by the people and should be accountable to the people through their entire term, not just during election

periods. With that said, reversing the will of the people should not be an easy task. To the Minister of Justice: can you please provide a summary of what will be required to recall an elected official?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General.

Mr. Madu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for that very important question. Recalling an MLA is a two-step process. First, a citizen must start a petition by submitting an application to the Chief Electoral Officer, explaining which elected official should be recalled and why. Then they must collect signatures from 40 per cent of eligible voters in that MLA's constituency. If the petition is successful, then a recall vote will be held in that constituency. If a simple majority of the voters agree, then that MLA is recalled and a by-election will be held to replace that MLA.

The Speaker: The hon. the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane.

Mr. Guthrie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. Given that we campaigned on introducing recall legislation in 2019 and given that the cynics on social media have been claiming that it is an empty gesture that will never be successful, to the same minister: can you provide assurances to my constituents that this legislation will provide meaningful reform to voters across Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

Mr. Madu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We govern for the people of Alberta that told us in the last election that they wanted voter recall. We have delivered on that commitment and promise. Of course, there are the cynics who lack the vision and will to deliver sustainable democratic reform. This government delivered. The United Conservatives believe that voters should be given the opportunity to hold their elected officials accountable between elections. Voter recall would put Albertans in the driver's seat of our democracy.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Airdrie-Cochrane.

Mr. Guthrie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you again, Minister. Given that there are more than just members of this Assembly that are elected in this province and given that consultations were done with Albertans on this issue and given that Albertans were clear about the range of elected positions they wanted to be part of this legislation, to the minister: can you let this House know who will be subject to recall, and when will it come into force?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Madu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to say that here in Alberta we took recall one step further than in British Columbia. Albertans won't just have the ability to recall provincial officials but other local elected officials as well. School board trustees, municipal councillors, mayors, and reeves could be subjected to recall election. If passed, we expect this legislation to come into effect later this fall. Another promise made, another promise kept.

2:30

Hate Crimes

Member Loyola: In a province that prides itself on multiculturalism and respect for diversity, multiple black Muslim women were attacked for being black, for being women, and for being Muslim. We need to send a strong message that hate-motivated crimes are absolutely unacceptable. That is why I call upon the government to establish a provincial hate crimes unit and publish the record of its

enforcement. Premier, consider that perpetrators of hate crimes look at the government's actions or lack thereof to see if they can act with impunity. Will you create such a unit and publish its record of enforcement, and if not, why not?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

Mr. Madu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure this House that anyone out there who commits crimes, hate crimes, or any crime of any nature in this province would have to face the full consequences of the law. We condemn acts of racism and discrimination against our minority communities, especially Muslim women and our sisters and brothers. As Minister of Justice I am committed to making sure that we build a province in which everyone who calls this province home gets to thrive and live their full potential.

Member Loyola: Given that these black Muslim women who were attacked are all Albertans, just like everyone else, and given that this government is supposed to take care of all Albertans, which is why after the 2017 Quebec mosque shootings the NDP established the province's first Anti-Racism Advisory Council and worked on creating a provincial hate crimes unit, and then the UCP axed funding to antiracism initiatives at a time when hate crimes were on the rise and then given that the lack of action encourages perpetrators of hate crimes, why is the UCP not taking any substantial actions to address hate crimes and prevent future ones?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Madu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me assure this House once again that this government and we on this side of the aisle are committed to make sure that everyone in this province is treated with respect and the dignity that they deserve. As Justice minister I and many of my colleagues have held town halls across our province with our cultural communities to assure them that this province is their home and that they will be protected. In the months to come we are going to be rolling out all kinds of programs and services to make sure that everyone in this particular province who would commit crimes against our people are held to full account.

Member Loyola: Given that these women were just going about their lives when someone decided to target them, yelled racial slurs, threatened to kill them, and physically attacked them and given that understandably these incidents traumatized the victims and given that we're behind B.C. and Ontario, who already have a provincial hate crimes unit, and, Premier, given that these calls for a provincial hate crimes unit came out of consultations with various cultural groups across Alberta, how can you justify lack of action on a provincial hate crimes unit, and will you act now?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Madu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The simple answer is that, yes, I would act, and this government has continued to act. If members of this House recall, in November 2020 we banned the practice of carding, the number one problem that members from cultural communities have complained of for decades. Before the steps of this Legislature, 2016 to 2018, the members from my community and other cultural communities came here to protest. They pleaded with the members opposite to ban the practice of carding. They did not. This is about action; this is not about talk.

Energy Industry Surface Rights and Property Tax Payments

Mr. Schmidt: Results from a freedom of information request show that last year the government gave more than \$20 million to landowners to cover oil and gas companies who were delinquent on their payments to landowners. This is a 3,000 per cent increase from 2010. This hurts responsible producers and unfairly burdens the taxpayers. Private companies should fulfill their obligations, not the taxpayer. Can the minister promise that action will be taken to recover the money paid to landowners on behalf of taxpayers?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Municipal Affairs may want to get up shortly and talk about recovery processes in greater detail, but what I do want to do is inform the House of the hard work this government has done when it comes to surface rights payments inside this province. Underneath the former NDP government landowners were waiting upwards of three years to have their day in court. Together the ministry of environment with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Finance were able to get full funding to the Surface Rights Board for the very first time. That's why we're seeing the increased payments. At the end of the day that's the right thing to do because this government respects landowners, unlike the NDP.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Mr. Schmidt: Given that the minister missed the point in that I was asking him to recover the money from the oil companies and given that the government gave a huge tax cut to those same companies and given that taxpayers are already supporting the industry to address well-site liabilities without sufficient assurances from the taxpayer and given that unpaid obligations are a reputation risk to our industry and our province, can the minister promise that action will be taken this year to reverse this very concerning trend to protect landowners and taxpayers from letting oil companies off the hook?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. McIver: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was, the last couple of days, at the rural municipalities association gathering here just south of Edmonton, and I assured them that I would work with the municipalities, with our government, and with the industry to get paid back some of the money they're owed. The RMA's own report shows that they are owed \$245 million. That's just the rural municipalities. It's something we take seriously. We've already started the work to see the best way to go forward.

Mr. Schmidt: Given that municipalities are also struggling to recoup money from the industry and given that municipalities are forced to support the industry without additional tax breaks and given that landowners and municipalities are struggling due to the effects of COVID-19 and the downloading of the government, can the government promise anything more than hollow words from this minister and actually take action to develop a stronger regime to protect landowners, municipalities, and responsible producers? This is a responsibility of the Minister of Finance, and I would appreciate an answer from him.

Mr. McIver: Well, the hon. member should probably listen to the answer he's already gotten, because he just asked the question that he got an answer to 10 seconds before he asked the question. Since he can't think on his feet and think of a third question, it will give

me an opportunity to repeat the fact that we will continue because it's important to work with municipalities, to work with industry so that they can pay taxes to those municipalities and Albertans for the next decades to come and to work with our government to get this done. It's an important issue he does point to, the hon. member, and we are on it.

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

COVID-19 and AISH and Income Support Benefits

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the pandemic we have heard how vulnerable Albertans, especially those on AISH and income support, have struggled to make ends meet. The vulnerable already have challenges securing employment under present economic conditions, and with the increased challenges of COVID one would expect that the government would assist them where possible. Given that our government is investing over \$1.3 billion into this program, Minister, what have you and your ministry done to support vulnerable Albertans accessing these benefits?

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

Mrs. Sawhney: Thank you to the hon. member for that question, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak to the disability community directly through you and say that I'm proud of them for taking such good care of themselves during this pandemic. It's been tough times, but they've done well. Alberta's government continues to support Albertans through the pandemic, including those on AISH and income support. I'm pleased to confirm that we have fully exempted CRB payments received by AISH and income support clients since the federal program was introduced last September. That exemption runs until the end of the month, meaning clients receiving CRB are not seeing any deductions right now on their provincial benefits.

Mrs. Pitt: Wonderful. Thanks, Minister. Given that vulnerable Albertans need our support now more than ever and given that Alberta's government has fully exempted AISH and income support recipients from CRB payments and further given that our government values protecting the lives and livelihoods of all Albertans, to the minister: what financial impact did this exemption provide to clients accessing CERB and CRB, did they see any true financial benefits, and if so, by how much?

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, the government partially exempted CERB, meaning that, for example, a single AISH client could have taken home about \$2,400 in CERB and AISH benefits every month. While the CRB exemption is in place, a client receives the full benefit amount for which they are eligible from both CRB and AISH. I know many Albertans are struggling due to the pandemic, and these temporary exemptions are another way that this government is supporting vulnerable people.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. Given that our government has worked hard to ensure that every Albertan who needs support is supported and given that the Minister of Community and Social Services is passionate and working diligently to help vulnerable Albertans, to the same minister: how long will the exemption be in place, and once it ends, how long will it take for people to see a change in their benefit rates?

2:40

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, the exemption for CRB benefits is temporary and will be in place until the end of this month. That means clients still receiving CRB as of April 1 will see deduction from their May benefit payments. Alberta's government continues to protect lives and livelihoods during the pandemic, and this exemption is one way that we are doing that, amongst many others.

The Speaker: Hon. members, that concludes the time allotted for Oral Question Period.

In 30 seconds or less we will return to Members' Statements.

Members' Statements

(continued)

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake has a statement to make.

Federal Energy Policies

Mr. Rehn: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak on a piece of Albertan and Canadian history as on this day 47 years ago, in 1974, the countries that were participating in the ongoing OPEC embargo of the United States and its closest allies came to an agreement to end the embargo. The world before and after the five-month embargo was truly never the same as the price of oil in March 1974 was 300 per cent higher than it was when it started in October 1973.

Mr. Speaker, this embargo served a poignant notice to governments across the First World and the entire world that a robust, independent foreign policy now also required a robust and independent energy policy as for the first time the oil market, which previously operated on a trend of consistency, gradual growth, and abundant supply, became uncertain and volatile.

While Alberta saw tremendous increases in investment in our energy sector, we also saw a change in federal-provincial relations as the federal government, under the ministry of the elder Trudeau, responded to this economic uncertainty with plans for federal control over the energy sector, which culminated in the country-wide infamous national energy program. As the Premier himself spoke of yesterday, today's Trudeau government's carbon tax raise demonstrates an equally out-of-touch federal response to such uncertainties in our own time.

As a proud Albertan and a proud Canadian I say that Canada does not just reap economic benefits when Albertan resources are expanded upon. Indeed, Canadian values, foreign policy, and our national security are all reaffirmed when Alberta is able to meet market demands. A true north strong and free and a Canada free is only possible when every part of our Confederation is able to employ their God-given resources. I hope, Mr. Speaker, all of my colleagues in this Assembly take the time to reflect on how we best can make that a reality.

Thank you.

Notices of Motions

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to give oral notice of Government Motion 69, to be put on the Order Paper in my name as follows:

Be it resolved that

1. A Select Special Committee on Real Property Rights be established and consist of the following members: Sigurdson, chair, Highwood; Rutherford, deputy chair; Ganley; Glasgo;

Goodridge; Hanson; Rowswell; Milliken; Nielsen; Orr; Schmidt; and Sweet.

2. The committee's mandate is limited to consideration of the following matters:
 - (a) whether the legal remedies available to a real property owner who is deprived of the use of their real property are adequate;
 - (b) whether the real property rights should be expanded, or in the case of an individual, constitutionally protected;
 - (c) whether the law of adverse possession should be abolished;
 - (d) whether the expropriation processes provided under the Expropriation Act are adequate;
 - (e) any other matter that the committee decides is necessary to ensure the completeness of its review.
3. The committee may, if it considers it relevant to its mandate, review any part of the following acts, including any regulation made under that act:
 - (a) Alberta Bill of Rights;
 - (b) Alberta Land Stewardship Act;
 - (c) Expropriation Act;
 - (d) Land Titles Act;
 - (e) Law of Property Act;
 - (f) Limitations Act;
 - (g) Responsible Energy Development Act;
 - (h) any other act, a review of which the committee determines is necessary to ensure completeness of its review.
4. During the course of its review the committee
 - (a) continues despite a prorogation of a session of the 30th Legislature, and
 - (b) may, without leave of the Assembly, meet during a period when the Assembly is prorogued.
5. The committee may, subject to the chair's approval, pay any reasonable costs necessary for the effective conduct of its responsibilities, specifically the costs of advertising, staff assistance, equipment and supplies, rent, travel, and other similar costs.
6. The committee may, during the course of its review, utilize the services of any of the following:
 - (a) Legislative Assembly Office employees, or
 - (b) subject to the approval of the head of a department or an office of the Legislature, the public service employees of that department or office.
7. No later than December 15, 2021, the committee must submit a report to the Assembly that sets out recommendations, if any.
8. If the Assembly is not sitting on the day that the committee completes its report, the chair of the committee must, as soon as practicable
 - (a) deposit the report with the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 38.1, and
 - (b) provide a copy of the report to each Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: Are there tablings? The hon. Member for Lethbridge-West, followed by Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the requisite number of copies of the poll conducted by Angus Reid to which I referred in question period today, asking Albertans their thoughts on a takeover of ATB Financial by TD Canada Trust.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two tablings this afternoon. The first is an appropriate number of copies of a document

produced by the Alberta canola producers saying that Alberta producer organizations encourage the government of Alberta to accept the current AgriStability program. That is dated March 17, 2021.

My second tabling is a document that the minister of environment claims doesn't exist. It's entitled Oldman River Basin Water Allocation Order, an information briefing prepared by Alberta Environment and Parks, dated November 20, 2020.

The Speaker: Are there others? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table – I have eight tablings today, and I'll beg your indulgence because they are from constituents from the fine constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. These are eight messages sent from Jennifer Peressini, Joy Zieverink, Jacklyn Norris, Dallas Goetzinger, Eryn Dezall, Sarah Thompson, Julius and Che Cabantan, Iana and Anatolii Dudko. These are letters that were sent to the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills regarding the importance of the \$25-per-day program located in Olds and the positive impact it has had on their families, also asking that the program not be ended.

The Speaker: Good member, that.

Hon. members, we are at points of order. At 1:58 the Deputy Opposition House Leader raised a point of order, which he later withdrew. At 2:10 he also raised a point of order, which we will hear now.

Point of Order Parliamentary Language

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the time of my point of order my hon. colleague from Edmonton-Gold Bar was asking a question in regard to the secretive actions that this government has taken regarding the Loughheed coal policy and how it appears that this government had already made up its mind and was doing consultations for show. In reply – and I'm without the benefit of the Blues – the hon. Government House Leader rose and said in this place that "what is misleading Albertans is that that hon. member" and then went on and spoke at length about actions that the member had taken while in government.

I think we know very clearly in this place that you cannot say indirectly what you cannot say directly. I think that when the Government House Leader rises in this place and states that the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar is misleading Albertans, directly insinuates and makes allegations under 23(h), (i), and (j) that an individual member of this place is misleading Albertans, I think that, Mr. Speaker, we know that that is something that is very clearly set in precedent, not allowed in this place.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. the Government House Leader.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have the benefit of a transcript. While the hon. member who's asking me questions refers several times to me misleading, I do not do that. In fact, what I say is that that hon. member will not recognize in this place that almost all of the exploration that is taking place in the province was approved underneath that former member's government. At no time do I say to that member that he was misleading this House. I could list several exploration projects, but I'm not going to waste your time with that today. It is clearly a matter of debate.

The Speaker: Thank you for your submissions. I do have the benefit of the Blues. The hon. the Government House Leader was answering a question, and he said, “But what is misleading Albertans is the fact that that hon. member will not recognize in this place that almost all of the exploration that is taking place in the province was approved underneath that member’s former government.”

2:50

I have said much on the record about when it is misleading and when it isn’t misleading. I think a case can be made here that the hon. Government House Leader was referring to generally speaking misleading Albertans because in his following statement he doesn’t imply that that member was the one that was misleading Albertans. Again, when we try to walk this tightrope of what is parliamentary, what isn’t parliamentary, it rarely ends well for everyone. At this point in time I’ll provide a caution to the hon. Government House Leader. This isn’t a point of order, but a caution is noted. I consider the matter dealt with and concluded.

Ordres du jour.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders

Second Reading

Bill 53

Service Alberta Statutes (Virtual Meetings) Amendment Act, 2021

[Adjourned debate March 15: Mr. Glubish]

The Speaker: Hon. members, is there anyone wishing to join in the debate this afternoon? I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday has risen.

Mr. Carson: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s an honour to rise to Bill 53, the Service Alberta Statutes (Virtual Meetings) Amendment Act, 2021. Through my consultations with constituents and stakeholders across the province it’s very clear that this is an important piece of legislation, and I would just take a moment to point out that I believe and our caucus believes that this should have been implemented quite some time ago. We see other jurisdictions, which I may get to later on in my speech, that were able to do this before 2021 even arrived. When I think back to some of the conversations that I’ve had, specifically with community league groups in my community, who are very concerned about being able to adhere to their bylaws and ensure that processes are in place to support moving forward with their AGM through the pandemic, it’s unfortunate that we didn’t see this come forward earlier.

Once again, organizations have had to navigate these meetings and the requirements of the bylaws while balancing public health orders and recommendations for the past year. While I’m supportive in principle from what we can tell of the legislation so far, I think that the stakeholders that I’ve spoken to, whether they’re community leagues or nonprofits who must adhere to these rules of when and how their meetings happen – everyone would have appreciated to see this quite some time earlier.

I think that in terms of the consultation process I’m not sure that I saw any kind of formal public consultation on this legislation. I did hear from a few stakeholders through my consultations that they had heard of this legislation, though it came very quickly, and while there are some things that are going to be left to the regulations, as far as we can tell, overall, they are supportive of this but, once again, would have appreciated a better timeline.

We do have a few questions. First of all, the most glaring issue is: why did it take so long to implement or bring forward this legislation

in the first place? We saw the ministerial order expire, and there is quite a large amount of time or a time period between when that expiry happened and where we are now. A lot of organizations have been looking for guidance and, once again thinking back to some that came forward to me, had zero direction based on a lack of information coming from this government.

There have been certain questions around concerns of privacy related to these meetings and having it easier for people to join these meetings online. While we can all appreciate that everyone has had to adjust, whether members in this House or organizations out in our community, to this new normal for now – it’s hopefully not for forever, but we’ve had to adjust to doing meetings online, which is understandable. How are we going to handle privacy concerns as well as how are we going to ensure that there are identification processes in place? If there is, for instance, a condo board that is meeting and hoping to have their AGM, if certain members choose to take part virtually or if they must take part virtually, how are we going to ensure that proper identification protocols are in place, ensuring that we know that the person who’s saying who they are is indeed that person? Whether they own a unit or they are on the board, how are we going to ensure that there are processes in place to, first of all, protect their privacy and information but also to ensure that they are who they say they are?

We see some pieces in this legislation regarding the red tape implementation act. I am thankful for the conversations that I was able to have with the minister during the technical briefing, and the ministry assured us that these are housekeeping changes more than anything. We see the red tape implementation act fit its way into this bill regarding a few things that no doubt we were concerned about when the red tape implementation act came forward. Specifically, when we look at page 5 of the legislation, regarding how section 90 previously read, 90(1) stipulates that “at least 50% of the members of the board of every company shall be resident Albertans.” We were very clear that we had concerns about that specific line when that legislation came forward, and now we see it fit its way into this bill. I suppose we ask once again why it was necessary to move forward with that in the first place, but here we are.

Just quickly when we look at Bill 53, it’s amending five acts to allow virtual meetings, electronic notifications for meetings, and electronic voting. It’s amending the Business Corporations Act, the Companies Act, the Condominium Property Act, the Cooperatives Act, and the Societies Act. Once again, there are some housekeeping amendments due to the red tape implementation act. You know, while we see five pieces or acts being amended here, in each of those instances it may interact differently with those pieces of legislation, so we will most definitely be watching to ensure that, whether we are talking about condominium owners or boards, whether we’re talking about people who are affected by the Business Corporations Act or the Companies Act, the legislation that we see here before us in Bill 53 is serving the purpose that it was set out to do in the first place.

We have heard and see in the legislation that the bill is retroactive to August 15, which is, once again, the end of that ministerial order. Between March 17 and August 14 the ministerial order allowed organizations to meet online, which was a very important adjustment, and we’re thankful that those considerations were made. Once again, I had community leagues in my own community and stakeholders wondering how exactly they were supposed to follow the public health guidelines and orders that were in place when the legislation and bylaw stated that they had to meet in person or else it was an invalid meeting in the first place. We’re thankful that that happened.

But once again, when we look at the time it's taken to implement this and some of the other jurisdictions who have been able to do it as far back, I believe, as May of 2020, why have we waited so long?

Now, I want to be clear. I've had some e-mails from constituents and other relevant stakeholders come in that were concerned about potentially a senior or somebody with a disability who wasn't able to join these meetings virtually. We've been assured by the ministry that if a board so chooses, they can set out bylaws that stipulate that these meetings need to continue in person or that there are opportunities for people to be there in person and access those services, and those bylaws would supersede what we see in this legislation. I think that's an important point to make, and that's the reassurance that we've received from the ministry through the technical briefing.

Just quickly looking at some of the acts that are being amended here, the Companies Act allows nonprofits to engage in business activities and sets out governance requirements. Once again we see the red tape implementation act change that legislation, which is why, I believe, we see it included in here. We continue to have concerns about the requirement of around 50 per cent of members of those boards being resident Albertans, but I think that we've shared those concerns in the past. I'm not sure, as far as I know, if we're actually able to amend those, but we will have an opportunity to do that in future readings. I will leave it to you to consider the other acts that have been amended.

Once again, when we look across Canada in a cross-jurisdictional analysis, we see that B.C. also enacted a law in June of 2020 that allowed organizations to hold virtual meetings. They had enacted a ministerial order on April 21, 2020, that allowed these meetings but enacted that into law when questions regarding the constitutionality of that ministerial order were raised. It's not that this is a new issue, but I believe indeed that the government here, the UCP government in Alberta, are quite late to the game, and it's unfortunate because there are a lot of people in the community who were concerned about this and were looking for guidance.

3:00

It's important that these meetings take place, especially now when we see the cuts that are coming through from this government and the unwillingness for this government to support whether it's nonprofits in our community, whether it's community leagues, through a recent conversation that, I've had that are really struggling. Once again, not only from a funding perspective are we seeing the government failing these Albertans and these organizations, but when we compare to other jurisdictions, whether it be B.C. – Ontario also on May 12, 2020, passed similar legislation to what we're seeing here – many other jurisdictions beat us to the punch on this one, and it's unfortunate that we find ourselves here.

Once again, Madam Speaker, we can appreciate that this is finally coming forward. I think that in principle we definitely will be able to support this, recognizing that these organizations in our community have been looking for answers and finally we have some of them here in Bill 53.

With that, I imagine I will have further things to say as we move into readings and consider amendments to Bill 53, but with that, I would thank you for the opportunity to rise to speak to Bill 53 today. Thank you.

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

Seeing none, any other members wishing to join debate?

[Motion carried; Bill 53 read a second time]

Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Mrs. Pitt in the chair]

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

Bill 59 Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2021

The Chair: Are there any members wishing to join debate? The hon. Member for Lethbridge-West.

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thanks for the opportunity to speak to Bill 59 this afternoon to provide some thoughts on supplementary supply as proposed by the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board as part of a budget last year and ongoing quarterly updates that we've had over the course of 2020 to meet the needs of Albertans, in the first instance to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and in the second instance to, as much as we could and have been able to, recover from the economic shocks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, there is no question that the COVID-19 pandemic has provided significant challenges both to the overall fiscal situation – that is to say, the revenue situation – for the province of Alberta as it has done for all industrialized countries, but not all COVID-19 economic response and recovery and eventual resilience strategies, plans, undertakings by government, whether it's at the national or subnational level, are indeed created equal, Madam Chair. In fact, some have shown themselves to be quite effective at quite quickly responding and then recovering economic growth and economic potential whereas other jurisdictions lag significantly behind.

One of the ways, for starters, that we have seen that leads to success is more quickly responding. What we saw through 2020 and what the supplementary supply is designed to address is some of the public policy undertakings that this government took at a very late date. I'm thinking here of the commercial rent supplement program. It took this government a full business quarter to figure out how they were going to bring legislation into this House and finally did so in a much delayed fashion in July of 2020. I recall standing in this House debating that piece of legislation.

Businesses were in a massive economic shock. There was no question that certainly we had good-faith criticisms of how the federal government rolled out that particular rent supplement program for commercial real estate tenants. Certainly, the government did, too, and we shared some of those concerns. But that did not take away from the fact that it took them – during an economic crisis, for small business a business quarter is an eternity, and it meant that so many businesses that shut down in March of 2020 have simply not opened back up. We all have, I think, businesses like that in our constituencies.

So, too, we do see in the supplementary supply provision for particular jobs efforts. I'm thinking of the critical worker benefit. We do see provision for that within this supplementary supply. Fantastic. What we're talking about there – I do not think that we need to break out the pompoms to congratulate the government for simply showing up to do the job description many months after other jurisdictions did so. This is drumbeat of government stuff. If there is a federal government program worth hundreds of millions of dollars designed to put money in the pockets in a way that it will stimulate the local economy, the first priority should be to move those funds out into the economy, supporting the small businesses that I talked about just now who needed that commercial rent support.

This government did no such thing. Instead, they sat on that money for months on end, engaging in some sort of bureaucratic merry-go-round, trying to figure out if they could use it for politics or not. Was it, you know, part of the ongoing saga of their interpretation of Canadian federalism or not? I can assure you, Madam Chair, that literally no one who has been serving people with developmental disabilities or bagging groceries or delivering prescriptions to elderly people or any of the other essential, critical work that has been done in response to this pandemic, literally none of those people care about the palace intrigue of the various ins and outs and what-have-yous, of little tiddly fights with Ottawa when that money sat in somebody's figurative drawer in Treasury Board and Finance.

This moves that money out. How does it do so? In a way that creates a forest of paperwork and bureaucracy and hoops and other – you know, people who have been responding to the pandemic for now a year: just every available opportunity to drive them into a cul-de-sac of not being able to receive this benefit the government took. Yes, the money is moving via this mechanism of supplementary supply, but we have to ask ourselves why it is that it has taken so long and it has been such a bureaucratic disaster in its implementation.

3:10

So, too, there are provisions within this supplementary supply that provide an Alberta jobs now program. Well, that would be good. People would like jobs now. I think that for the two-thirds of people who report to us that they don't like the Budget 2021 efforts – that is what public opinion surveys are now showing – one of the reasons is because they do not see any jobs now. They see jobs maybe later as the product of an essay-writing exercise that the government has undertaken in the fiscal plan, but what they don't see is jobs now.

Out of this supplementary supply, while there is the \$62 million to get out the door in the next four business days – that is good; hopefully it will go towards jobs now – but we see the problem here of not putting the training and apprenticeship and other mechanisms that are contained within labour market development agreements front and centre in terms of our investment in people and the economy. We see here that this has dragged its feet for reasons of politics, and that is lamentable, Madam Chair, because we know the consequences in a province that has been hit hard by an economic downturn, that is suffering greatly throughout many places, in particular for people involved in the oil and gas industry and people in tourism and other service sectors. They, too, are waiting for that money to move in the next four business days. To be clear, \$62 million: this is not inconsequential.

Those folks, too, that are looking for Alberta jobs now programming, not Alberta jobs maybe later, they too – and I believe Mr. Klein once said this in this Chamber: they do not give a tinker's cuss about the various, you know, palace intrigue between Ottawa and this Legislature. They simply don't. They want a job. They want the top-up. Those small businesses want the programs to stay in business. So while we are standing here having this lovely conversation about supplementary supply that ultimately our caucus – you know, obviously we support these COVID response and recovery programs. One must ask oneself what the actual substance of this vote is and where this money is actually going and how it has been deployed out into the economy for the best effect of working people. That is where we see a lot of delay, and we do not necessarily see the most, I would say, good-faith engagement with public policy design. We see more of a priority on political gamesmanship.

That has had an economic effect. We are, in fact, sixth in terms of job creation this year, behind all of the larger economies and some others. We are set to make up the least amount of ground in all provinces when it comes to returning to prepandemic levels. This government is not forecasting our total number of Albertans employed to surpass 2017-18 levels until 2023. So the confidence being instilled by the economic programs put forward by this government, some of which are contained within this supplementary supply, is not even enjoyed by the government's fiscal plan itself. They themselves in their own documents show that the economy is not recovering as it should, nowhere near to the levels – it's taking five years to recover to 2017-18 levels in terms of total employment. Our unemployment rate remains double-digit, particularly in Calgary. Yet we are waiting until the very last minute, four days that we have, to get \$62 million out the door for the jobs programs, a full business quarter for small business, commercial rent programs, you know, just a storm of paperwork for people to get a few dollars an hour more for very, very difficult work, and so on.

The other business assistance programs have been opaque. They have been late to the game in terms of their application process. Perhaps the dollars are reflected in this supplementary supply, but the intention to help people is not by what they have done, not what they have said, Madam Chair. In our business we look more for what folks do, not what they say. A lot of things get said, so the action is what is important. The action behind the proposal from the government in supplementary supply that has been put before the House here is actually what concerns us.

With that, I will conclude my comments on this bill before the House. Thank you, Madam Chair, for the consideration of those thoughts.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to join debate? I see the hon. Member for Calgary-East.

Mr. Singh: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise today to offer my support for Bill 59, the Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2021. This act follows closely behind our government's creation of Budget 2021, a historic piece of legislation that promises funding to numerous sectors. This budget will both boost our economy and help Albertans weather this health crisis through 2021.

While Budget 2021 covers the fiscal year of 2021-2022, the supplementary supply act focuses on the current fiscal year, between 2020 and 2021. This current fiscal year ends March 31. We have found, Madam Chair, that there is a need for more funding to finish off our current fiscal year. While Budget 2021 is designed to support Albertans in the long term, this supplementary funding will serve our province in the immediate term. I believe this funding is necessary because last year our revenue declined; our expenses increased. This was due to our province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures put in place to offer financial aid to Albertans and to support their well-being.

Now, with this supplementary supply, we can continue to focus on improving the lives and livelihoods of Albertans. Madam Chair, Albertans are counting on us to provide the economic support and capital investment they need to recover financially and get back to work. They are also counting on us to fight this pandemic and, in so doing, promote health and economic recovery. There will be a time to balance the budget, and I hope this time comes soon. It is important to keep a balanced budget and to ensure we are not spending beyond our means. However, this time has not come yet.

Before the pandemic we were on the path towards economic stability. Of course, we had to shift our focus when the pandemic hit our province. However, even with the currently projected debt in Alberta, our provincial deficit is relatively low compared to the

rest of the country. Right now we need to focus on boosting the sectors that have been impacted the most by the pandemic and recession. This supplementary supply act is a vital part of our current focus.

This act includes funding towards Health, Children's Services, Education, and Labour and Immigration. In total, this bill proposes \$1.3 billion in expense and a further \$750,000 in capital investment. Madam Chair, this is excellent news for Albertans. Capital investment is an important component of economic recovery. By investing in capital projects such as infrastructure, we'll be bringing more direct and indirect jobs to Albertans.

3:20

Madam Chair, Albertans have told us over and over again that they want to get back to work. This year, as restrictions are slowly lifted, more and more Albertans have been able to do just that. With the added supplementary funding to capital projects, we will be able to further implement success in this area.

I'm pleased to note that the supplementary estimates also cover over \$11 million in child care grants. Child care is a significant thing that many Albertans need to budget for. I am certain that this supplementary funding will give aid to working parents who rely on child care on a regular basis, but child care is only one of many factors of this act.

Madam Chair, I'm pleased to be able to voice my support for this legislation. While I do not have time to discuss every component of this act and the funding it offers Albertans, I'm confident that it will serve as a vital component of economic recovery. That is what Albertans need most. They need confidence in Alberta's government and the knowledge that our ministers have drafted a piece of legislation that meets their needs. Bill 59, the supplementary supply act, will do just that. It will give Albertans what they need to complete the current fiscal year and continue forward through 2021 and 2022.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Are there any other members wishing to join debate? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's a pleasure to rise and address Bill 59. I want to thank my colleagues from Lethbridge-West and Calgary-East for their interventions in this debate. What a remarkable contrast in the comments from those two colleagues. I think my colleague from Lethbridge-West has quite accurately set out the challenges that are facing this province, you know, yet we hear the Member for Calgary-East counter with this mythical tale of Alberta being on the path to recovery but if only for the pandemic.

What the Member for Calgary-East conveniently forgets, Madam Chair, is that 50,000 Albertans had lost their jobs long before the pandemic even hit. Oil prices were on their way to recovery, but we saw no capital investment coming back to the province. In fact, it dropped. Even the supposed measures that the government had tried to implement at the time, the multibillion-dollar corporate tax cut, you know, these fictitious red tape battles that they fought, resulted in a net 50,000 jobs lost before the pandemic even hit. Now things are really, really bad. Hundreds of thousands of people are out of work.

Not only that, Madam Chair, but almost 2,000 people have lost their lives unnecessarily to the COVID pandemic. Thousands more are sick right now, fighting for their lives. Thousands have not fully recovered from COVID. We know that long COVID is going to be a debilitating disease that thousands and thousands of Albertans are going to have to struggle with the rest of their lives. This government has been completely unconcerned about tackling the

COVID pandemic or the resulting economic crisis, and I think this bill is a record of their failure to deal with both of those things.

In fact, what's incredibly frustrating to me, Madam Chair, is that not only has this government already demonstrated throughout the past year their unwillingness to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; they haven't learned their lessons from the past. Right now, as of March 16, 479 new cases of COVID were reported, and a shocking number of those cases are the highly transmissible, highly fatal U.K. variant. That is becoming the dominant variant in this province, and it will result in a massive explosion in cases. We already see cases going up. What do the Premier and the government do? They give in to their tinfoil-hat caucus in the government caucus who believe that the lockdown was too restrictive and didn't work.

Mr. Schow: Point of order.

The Chair: The hon. Member for Cardston-Siksika.

Point of Order Language Creating Disorder

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise under 23(h), (i), and (j). The member calling the tinfoil-hat caucus here: you know, language to cause disorder in this Chamber, especially on a Thursday, when we're all almost set to head back to our constituencies – some of them are closer than others – isn't necessary now or at any time. But this is not uncharacteristic for the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, to say such things that do cause disorder in this Chamber. He thinks that because it's difficult to hear him, he can get away with these kinds of comments. I would ask that that member please retract those comments and apologize, and let's get through the rest of this day with some level of decorum.

The Chair: The hon. Member for Edmonton-South.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Madam Chair. Certainly, I think that we understand that in committee and certainly in this place we have a certain amount of latitude when we debate these bills and certainly when we're debating the actions and records of certain members in this place and how it relates to these bills. We have seen in the past that certain members of this place have in fact spoken out against the current health restrictions and things like that. I would submit that in this case, even though it may be language that the hon. member does not appreciate, I think this is simply a matter of debate, not a point of order.

Thank you. [interjections]

The Chair: Hon. members. [interjections] Hon. members, order. It's certainly interesting when the debating of the point of order becomes more heated than the debate itself.

However, hon. members, I appreciate the Thursday afternoon fun that we're having here. I would tend to agree that the language used by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar is creating disorder in this House, and I would ask that the hon. member apologize to this Assembly, withdraw the comments, and continue with his debate.

Mr. Schmidt: Madam Chair, I apologize and withdraw my comments.

Debate Continued

Mr. Schmidt: But while we are on the subject of apologies, there are 2,000 families of dead Albertans who are waiting for an apology from members of this government for their mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic, and there is nothing forthcoming from them.

Mr. Schow: Point of order, Madam Chair. This is absurd.

The Chair: The hon. Member for Cardston-Siksika.

**Point of Order
Language Creating Disorder**

Mr. Schow: Point of order, Madam Chair, under 23(h), (i), and (j). This is ridiculous, and there isn't a single member on that side of the aisle who should be able to condone this kind of language. If the Deputy Opposition House Leader can get up and argue that that kind of language is appropriate today or any time – it's foolhardy, and it's dangerous. That kind of language and accepting that is ridiculous. That language should be apologized for, retracted. This is the second time in – what? – 30 seconds. It's absurd.

The Chair: The hon. Member for Edmonton-South.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Madam Chair. I understand that the deputy government whip here is certainly excited by the language being used here today. I did not see a citation of the standing orders when this was raised in this place, and I think that certainly, when we look at this, we'll seek your guidance and act accordingly.

Thank you.

The Chair: I think it's probably safe to say that the hon. member can stand up and withdraw and apologize for his comments again.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, Madam Chair, out of respect for the position that you hold, I will apologize for my comments.

Debate Continued

Mr. Schmidt: But, again, my point that I was making was that 2,000 people have unnecessarily died of COVID, this government is intentionally walking into a third wave, and this government refuses to learn its lessons and is subjecting thousands and thousands of Albertans for future suffering and death.

Ms Rosin: Point of order.

The Chair: The hon. Member for Banff-Kananaskis.

**Point of Order
Imputing Motives**

Ms Rosin: Madam Chair, under 23(i), imputing false motives. To say that we are intentionally walking into a third wave I would strongly argue most definitely imputes false motives to this government. It is a disgusting kind of language that no person in this province or this country should have to hear from an elected official.

The Chair: The hon. Member for Edmonton-South.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think that this is well established, that in this place, when a member speaks around a group of members such as a government caucus or the government but not about individual members, those types of statements around what may or may not be an allegation, as we saw in question period today, are sometimes walking that line. It's very difficult, as the Speaker mentioned today in question period, to make a ruling on that matter. Certainly, I think that this is a matter of debate and not a point of order.

3:30

The Chair: Hon. members, I would tend to agree with the Official Opposition deputy House leader that this is a matter of debate. However, this is certainly not relevant to the debate which we are on, which is Bill 59, Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2021. I will be forced to move to another speaker if we continue to have matters that cause disorder in this House.

Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, please continue with your debate on Bill 59.

Debate Continued

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Madam Chair, for your ruling and your guidance.

The point that I was trying to make is that this bill is a record, is at least a partial financial record of this government's past failures to address the past COVID pandemic. I think one of the things that we're being asked to vote on is a \$323 million additional financial support for health care which, in the supplementary estimates document that was provided to us, was supposed to be spent on additional testing, additional contact tracing, vaccine rollout, all of those things. I think there isn't a single Albertan who doesn't remember how incredibly difficult it was to find a COVID test in the early days of this pandemic. In fact, even in October and November, when cases were going up to almost 2,000 cases a day, people had to stand in line, wait for up to a week to get a COVID test, wait for three or four days, if they were lucky, to get the results of that test. While they were waiting at home, isolating from their school, isolating from their jobs, there was no support for them. Madam Chair, this money is not enough. We haven't seen contact tracing improve. Already – what is it? – about half of the daily cases of COVID are from unknown sources. It's absolutely shocking how poorly this government has responded to COVID-19.

It's not just a health care crisis that this government has prolonged and created; it's an economic crisis as well. We know this because there are comparator jurisdictions that have done a much better job of managing the COVID-19 crisis and, as a result, have much better economic prospects than our province does. One need only look at Australia and New Zealand. They have almost zero cases of COVID currently. Their economies are set to rebound. In fact, they already have. I think the official unemployment rate in New Zealand right now is something like 4 per cent. I appreciate that you can't compare those directly because every jurisdiction collects unemployment rates using different methodologies, but I think the difference is stark enough that we know that this government has failed to protect Albertans' health.

Mr. Yao: Point of order.

**Point of Order
Language Creating Disorder**

Mr. Yao: Again the member, under 23(h), (i), (j), is trying to escalate a lot of disrespect to our House and blame our government for the current situation. I would challenge the member from across the way, from Edmonton-Gold Bar, to reach out to their federal counterparts as well as their best friends in the federal Liberal caucus in understanding why Canada is in the situation where it is because they've been inept.

The Chair: Hon. member, I hesitate to interrupt, but we're not debating this matter. Perhaps the case for the point of order which you called needs to be made first.

Mr. Yao: Say again now?

The Chair: Just argue the point of order at hand and not the argument on the point of order. What is your point of order?

Mr. Yao: Again, that the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar's commentary and blame on this provincial government are disqualified. It's inaccurate, and the things that he's referring to actually are implications of what the federal government's decision-making and actions have been in regard to COVID. I would challenge that, that his arguments and his attacks are unwarranted and should be targeted more towards the federal Liberal government and our Prime Minister. The fact that he outright says that it is our provincial government that is responsible for the current situation is highly inaccurate.

The Chair: Okay. The hon. Member for Edmonton-South.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Madam Chair, and I'd like to thank the member for his interjections. But I certainly don't think this is a point of order; it's a matter of debate. The member is clearly speaking to the programs and services that are being delivered under this bill and how they may or may not be affecting the response under the current emergency.

Thank you.

The Chair: Hon. members, I would tend to agree. This is a matter of debate. I would challenge everyone in this Assembly to make it the 13 more minutes that this member has left to speak without another point of order for anybody or a need to have one.

Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, I challenge you with that.

Debate Continued

Mr. Schmidt: Well, thank you, Madam Chair. It's remarkable to me that I have 13 minutes left. The past seven have just flown by, shall we say.

The point that I was making was that the health care spending that we are voting on right now was woefully inadequate to the task of managing the COVID-19 pandemic. There weren't enough COVID tests available, there weren't enough contact tracers available, and there were almost no isolation supports available from the provincial government. Not only that, Madam Chair; there's nothing, of course, that the government has done to indicate that they've learned from their mistakes and are fixing them. The point that I was trying to make repeatedly is that it would have been nice if the government would at least have presented this bill and said: "You know what? Yes, we should have spent more than \$323 million on the health care system. We've learned our mistakes. We're sincere about our efforts to protect Albertans from the COVID-19 virus, and we're going to do better in the future." But, of course, they didn't do that.

I want to turn my attention now to the child care spending that is included in this bill, which includes \$11.5 million that has been issued for a one-time rebate to Albertans who have their kids in child care. I want to thank my friend from Edmonton-Whitemud for her excellent advocacy on the issues of child care, particularly through the COVID pandemic but pre-COVID pandemic and post-COVID pandemic, that are facing Albertans with young children right now. When the minister announced her woefully inadequate child care rebate, that we're voting on here in this bill, my friend from Edmonton-Whitemud quite succinctly stated that a one-time payment is not a child care system, and she was completely accurate on that point.

She's not alone in her position that in order for Albertans to have a meaningful economic recovery, every family has to have all

members be able to participate meaningfully in that economic recovery, and that means readily accessible, dependable, affordable child care. We've heard it from child care advocates for decades, that this is an issue that has held Alberta families back, but now we're even starting to hear it from places like the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, the Calgary Chamber of commerce. I think that even the Business Council of Alberta, in their latest documents, stated that they are in favour of affordable, accessible child care for the province of Alberta.

We know from the statistics that women have been hit harder than men by the economic crisis that has been created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and Alberta women have been hit harder than women in other parts of the country, in no small part because of our failure to provide adequate, affordable child care. For this minister to announce an \$11.5 million program that will grant families a one-time rebate is a real slap in the face, in my opinion, to families who are struggling to make ends meet and need help from the rest of our community in providing affordable and accessible child care. If this government were serious about investing in the things that Alberta needs to recover from the economic crisis that has been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, they would be investing serious money in making sure that child care is available to everyone.

3:40

I know that we've heard from members opposite the concern that if we spend a little bit of money on child care, well, maybe some families in the upper income brackets will accidentally get something that they don't deserve, which is shocking, Madam Chair, that the government, in this case, is really concerned that somebody who might make more than \$75,000 a year is getting government money, because we hear no such concern when they pass a \$4.7 billion tax cut that only benefits people in the upper income brackets.

We hear no concern when the government spends untold billions on the Keystone XL pipeline, which isn't getting built. All of that money ends up in TC Energy shareholders' pockets. Where is the outrage on the spending of government money on rich people in that case? It's peanuts.

Mr. Getson: Come on. Welders aren't that rich.

Mr. Schmidt: I hear the Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland saying that some of that money is going to welders, and some of it did. Most of it went to TC Energy shareholders. I wish the government caucus would stop holding up working Albertans as their shield, behind which they hide when they're shovelling money, billions and billions of dollars, into the pockets of the wealthiest Albertans and foreign-owned corporations. It's offensive.

I urge the government to reconsider its past actions on child care, their failure to address the serious child care crisis that is in this province, and commit to providing all Albertans with affordable, accessible child care because we cannot have a meaningful economic recovery that includes everybody without that program in place.

Now, one of the final things that I want to mention in my comments today is the sport and cultural event relaunch program, which targeted \$14.7 million for that particular program. All in all, I think that was mostly good news, but I do have to say on behalf of a number of my constituents that there were some glaring omissions in that program that will have significant impacts on the community of Edmonton-Gold Bar; namely, the fact that curling clubs were left out of the program. Now, I have two curling clubs in the constituency of Edmonton-Gold Bar, Shamrock and Ottewell curling clubs. Madam Chair, it's been pleasantly surprising to me

to see the growing popularity that curling has enjoyed over the past few years. In fact, a couple of years ago I had the opportunity to be a substitute on a team. I was playing in a bonspiel at the Shamrock curling league, and much to my shock I was one of the oldest guys on the ice. It's very encouraging to me that all of these unruly youngsters are learning to curl.

Part of the problem, Madam Chair, is that these curling clubs have been incurring incredible expenses because the government hasn't been clear to them what their future was going to be throughout the pandemic. Now, when the government finally, after much delay, announced widespread public health measures to control the spread of COVID-19 in December, curling clubs had to shut down. But they were never clearly told when and under what conditions they could reopen, so they left their equipment running, and they left the ice in, and this has cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars a month. The members haven't been able to curl, and the Shamrock and the Ottewell curling clubs basically had to go back to their members and beg them on bended knee to forgo their membership fees this year just to help curling clubs through their time of crisis.

It would have been nice, Madam Chair, if the Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women had given a thought about supporting curling clubs through the sporting and cultural event relaunch program because the Shamrock and Ottewell curling clubs are left with a massive financial hole. They don't know how they're going to fill it. It certainly would have been nice if the minister had given some consideration to the curlers in my riding and, I suspect, all across the province when they rolled out this relaunch program. I would suspect that curling is probably one of the most popular sports in Alberta by rates of participation. We want to make sure that our curling clubs are able to function once the pandemic is over, and it would have been excellent if the government had provided meaningful financial support to curling clubs in my riding as well as across the province, but of course the government had other priorities, and curling clubs and curlers are forgotten once again.

Madam Chair, just a time check.

The Chair: Two minutes left.

Mr. Schmidt: Two minutes left.

In summation, as I said, we are voting on at least a partial record of incredible failure on the part of this government to deal with the health and the economic crises that have been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We've seen woefully inadequate health care spending. We've seen woefully inadequate child care spending. We've seen woefully inadequate spending to help sporting clubs and cultural clubs in my riding and all across this province. There's no sign from this bill or any of the other messages that are coming from the government that they've learned their lesson and are going to take any meaningful action to deal with these crises and make sure that Albertans are in the strongest position possible to recover from COVID-19.

Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you very much, hon. member.

I see the hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche.

Ms Goodridge: Thank you, Madam Chair. It is spectacular to be able to get up and speak today to Bill 59 in the Committee of the Whole. I know, for myself, that when I speak to students, one of the favourite stories that they love to hear, no matter whether they're here in the Legislature or if I'm talking to them back in the riding or, in this virtual time, doing virtual meetings, is telling them about the Legislature cheeseburger. It's probably one of the stories that

the students connect with the most, and they're really always curious to go and see the cheeseburger.

One of the reasons why I bring up the cheeseburger story is the fact that it came to be because the cheeseburger was tabled during a debate around supplementary supply. I then explain to the students how the budgetary process works at the Legislature, how money is spent, and how if we end up spending money outside of what we had voted for in the budget, we have to bring in supply bills, because every dollar has to be voted on in the Legislature. It's a really cool story that teaches the kids about some of the mechanics of how the Legislature works. Every time I see supply since that point of learning about the cheeseburger story, I share that with the students, and it typically actually helps them remember a little bit more about the process that we follow here.

3:50

I think it's so important to remember that these debates matter, these debates can go in history. Here I am talking about something that happened in a supply debate over 60 years ago, and it's still relevant, it's still important because every dollar that is spent by the government of Alberta is important. Those aren't just government dollars; those are dollars that belong to the taxpayers, and each and every one of us is a taxpayer.

One of the things that I think is really key to highlight is that we did not expect the pandemic nor the absolute drop in oil revenue when the last budget came out, in 2020. Those were not items that were necessarily well known or anticipated at the time. As a result, there was some additional spending that had to be made by the government of Alberta to be able to serve Albertans and to be able to make sure that we were meeting the needs of Albertans all across this province.

One of the pieces that I'm wanting to highlight is that \$373 million of the \$381 million in the supplementary funding for Jobs, Economy and Innovation went to the small and medium enterprise relaunch grant. This relaunch grant offered financial assistance to businesses throughout Alberta that were ordered to close or to curtail their operations in some form or that saw reduced revenues as a result of the economic times we were facing. It got rolled out in multiple phases, and it offered up to \$20,000 in funding for organizations established before February 10, 2020. It included unregistered sole proprietors. It included a series of different types of businesses.

One of the reasons why I highlight this is because in the last few months this was the biggest piece as I've gone and visited with businesses throughout my riding. Whether it be restaurants, dance schools, martial arts clubs, small businesses, medium-sized businesses of all different shapes and forms, one of the big pieces I have come to see and hear, actually, directly from the business owners was how important the relaunch grant was for them to get back on track, to be able to either buy the supplies needed to be able to comply with the new COVID protocols – I'm pretty lucky; I have a pretty fresh haircut, Madam Chair. When I was in my hair salon and chatting with my hairdresser, she was telling me about just how important these relaunch grants were to the operation of her business and how they really did help her prepare for what the COVID reality was and make up for some of the loss of revenue that she faced, having been shut down for a period of time.

In total 174 businesses within my riding of Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche ended up receiving funding in the first round of the relaunch grant, and that is absolutely spectacular. One of the things that we tried to do, actually, in my office is that I had my office staff reach out to every business that we could find that was within my riding that we thought might have been impacted by the restrictions, whether it be a hair salon or a tanning studio, a dance school, a

martial arts club, a gym, restaurants. We tried to contact each and every one of those businesses and let them know of the different supports available to them through the government of Alberta as well as through the federal government to ensure that our businesses had the supports they needed so that they could get back on their feet and get back to serving Albertans.

It's been one of the pleasures I've had. I'm not sure how many people follow my social media, but I started to go to a variety of different restaurants, particularly throughout my riding. Many of these restaurants I'd gone to before, but prior to the pandemic I actually cooked at home a lot and ate at home a lot. During the pandemic we kind of got more into the cooking. One of the big pieces that we've done since restaurants have been allowed to reopen to in-person dining is making a concerted effort to have date nights and go out to some of the different amazing restaurants throughout my riding and explore them, chat with the business owners, chat with the servers, see how they were doing.

One of the common themes was how many business owners or managers, servers mentioned the importance that they had in the relaunch grant and how important it was for the overall operation of their business. For that, I really want to thank the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation for putting forward such an innovative solution to this problem and for really listening to the needs of Albertan business owners. It really was wonderful, and as the different phases have gone through, this program has continued to evolve to really accommodate the needs of Alberta business owners. I think that it's really benefited business owners throughout every single riding in Alberta.

Just one of the things in Bill 59: it was needed to help make sure that the government could – the supplementary supply in general was trying to make it so that the Alberta government could achieve the goals of Albertans during these unprecedented times and make sure that we were taking the actions that we needed to take in order to protect the lives and livelihoods of Albertans all across the province, because for so many of us it was really unprecedented times. The government has definitely stepped up, and we've definitely put a historic amount of investments to ensuring that we were protecting the lives and livelihoods of Albertans.

The bill requests, in total, an additional \$1.3 billion in expenses, which also includes \$750 million in capital investments. The capital investments piece was one of the fun parts of the supply because we took the supply dollars and we looked at some of the projects that were needed, whether it be in capital maintenance and renewal, whether it be in transportation, and we accelerated those projects so that we could (a) get Albertans back to work as soon as possible. We were also building critical infrastructure pieces or maintaining our critical infrastructure so that it would not just benefit us today, but it would benefit generations of Albertans, because we all know that if your road is in really bad condition, you might have a little less traffic, and if you have less traffic, you have less business, and if you have less business, you make less money.

One of the key pieces of our accelerated capital maintenance program was really trying to ensure that we were doing what we needed to do to get Albertans back to where we needed to be so that we were ultimately just protecting the lives and livelihoods, and we've made some large gains over the last few months. I really am proud of all of the work this government has done to find that balance and push things forward despite being in these very difficult times.

I really thank you, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Thank you.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's a pleasure to rise and speak to Bill 59 today in Committee of the Whole. I want to begin by just commenting that during these COVID times, of course, as elected officials we have additional responsibilities to role model health and safety regulations. I do have to put on the record that I have noticed some members having difficulties understanding how to wear their mask over their nose, so I'd like to remind all members that that is certainly an important responsibility not only for modelling behaviour but also for the safety of all the members here and the staff who are here today.

With respect to Bill 59 I also would like to speak to a number of the comments that my colleagues have mentioned a number of times. Really, what we see with this supplementary supply bill – and I appreciate the comments from the Member for Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche when she sort of gave a little bit of a history about supplementary supply. For those who may not know and who may be following along, when we see a supplementary supply bill, it's really the government saying that whatever is existing in their current ministry budgets, they need additional funds in those budgets. So when we see the specifics of the estimates that were put forward for the supplementary supply, it's really those individual ministries indicating that they need additional dollars than were originally approved in the budget for 2020-21. That's what we're focusing on here, these additional asks into each ministry's budget from the general revenue fund.

4:00

What we see – and I think I'd like to single out the comments from the Member for Lethbridge-West, who very eloquently described the sort of scrambling that we're seeing with respect to this supplementary supply bill. What we're seeing with what was presented to this Assembly is the current government scrambling to do the things that they should have been doing all along. Partially some of that is around accessing federal funds, and of course a lot of the federal funding programs, not all of them but many of them, had requirements around matching provincial dollars, right? A number of the programs and supports that came from the federal government required the provincial government to put in dollars to match that, and that's why we're seeing some moving around.

What is remarkable, though, is how much of this is sort of scrambling at the last minute. You would think that the government had just been elected. I mean, certainly, the pandemic caught all governments off guard, but we are well into this. Much of what we have experienced over the last year – and the first few months were certainly challenging and hard to predict, but as we got through into the summer of 2020, everybody was talking about the impact of the second wave and what was coming. Well, everybody except this current government.

We see a lot of that lack of preparation now reflected in the supplementary supply bill. That's the only explanation I can have as to why we are seeing now, mere days before the end of this budget year, a jobs now plan that's actually unfunded. It's currently March 18, Madam Chair. They have no plan. I watched, I'm sure many Albertans watched with great interest as the members of this House debated the details of the supplementary supply bill. It was absolutely remarkable to hear the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Labour and Immigration stand up and basically admit that their jobs now plan is not finished. I can't even imagine why they have not even begun this jobs plan months ago. We know that the federal funding that is related to the dollars that are being rolled out now was actually announced and available in December of 2020, yet here we are, three months later, and the current government still has not settled on the details of that program.

The Minister of Labour and Immigration stood up repeatedly and said: here we are, less than two weeks before the end of the fiscal year, and we're asking the Legislative Assembly's permission for an additional \$62 million that we promise will go out the door in less than two weeks on a program that has not been settled, has not been announced, but somehow that \$62 million is going to magically go out the door in less than two weeks. I mean, it's been two days since that debate, and we still don't have any more details on that jobs now plan, which really means – and again, I give full credit to my colleague the member for Lethbridge-West, who said that this is not a jobs now plan; it's a jobs maybe later plan. Given this government's track record to date, it's jobs never. That's really what we're looking at.

I cannot believe that here we are, a year into this pandemic, and the government still hasn't decided what their jobs plan is. We saw a thousand Calgarians laid off earlier this week in a move that many of us saw coming. Again, the members of the opposition, when we heard the announcements last year of what was happening with Husky and Cenovus, we all saw this was coming, yet the Minister of Energy at that time was optimistic that somehow the right thing would happen, they'd do the good thing, that Husky wouldn't pocket those millions of dollars from the corporate handout that the government gave them and would still somehow create jobs. But no, to the surprise of many – and again, the members of the government often stand up and claim that they seem to understand better than anybody else what's going on in the province – everybody saw that coming but this government, apparently.

A thousand Calgarians just this week laid off, and this government still doesn't have a jobs plan? They're standing before this Assembly less than two weeks before the end of the fiscal year and saying: we promise we're going to get \$62 million out the door for retraining from a program that's been available for months. Yet there's still no announcement? This government has been scrambling from day one. Frankly, Madam Chair, it's shocking to me, because even we as the Official Opposition, a third the number of members as the government caucus – we don't have the apparatus of government behind us, yet we have been engaged in a detailed consultation and proposal process for Alberta's future. We've been talking about economic policy for postpandemic recovery for well over six months at this point, yet this government, two weeks before the end of the fiscal year, still doesn't have anything for the jobs now plan. This is scrambling. This is not a government that has given any real thought to what the pandemic recovery is going to look like, and that's likely because they're in denial about a lot of the facts around the pandemic.

That leads me to my second concern, Madam Chair, around this supplementary supply bill. I have spoken at length in this House about it and my colleagues have spoken at length in this House about it, about the facts of this pandemic, about the impact and who's feeling it. It's women, and particularly it is women with young children. We can debate the statistics about, you know, which province is worse or are we looking at national levels, but there's no doubt about it that working mothers of young children have been hit hardest.

Now, perhaps in the government's eyes this group of Albertans is just a niche group. Maybe they're a special-interest group, so that's why they find it so easy to ignore this group of Albertans, but they are an economic driver of this province. Working mothers and fathers – but let's be clear; it is working mothers who have been hit hardest. We cannot simply just turn a blind eye and pretend that we don't care. Perhaps there are ideological reasons. Perhaps there are, you know, different values that go around. Maybe in some Albertans' worlds it would be nice – and I appreciate that there are some families who make the choice to have a parent, usually the mother, stay home with the children, and that's great. It's great if

it's a choice, if it's a real, genuine choice about the way they want to raise their children and what they want to do, but that is not the reality that working parents face in this province.

We do not live in the 1950s anymore. Most parents need to work. Most households require two parents to work, and even if they can afford for a period of time that one parent stays out of the workforce, you know what? That has economic implications for us all. When we ignore full participation of women in the workforce, we are basically saying that we do not care about economic growth. There are perhaps – actually, in my heart I believe that there are ideological reasons for why this government is ignoring the impact of this pandemic on women. I believe they just do not value women's participation in the workforce the same way that other people do, and that's fine, except for that there are economic implications for the entire province when that's the case.

When I see this supplementary supply bill and I see a request for \$11.5 million from general revenue fund into the Children's Services budget for the one-time payment of the working parents' benefit, it boggles my mind, Madam Chair. It boggles my mind that this government has taken a quarter of their annual child care and then asked for additional dollars instead of investing it into what would make the most difference for the most Albertans, which is what I was calling for, what my colleagues, the members of the Official Opposition, have repeatedly been calling for: investment. It boggles my mind. I've said that a few times now because that's how it feels.

This government claims to be – I guess they think that they have the upper hand or they have great knowledge around the economy, yet they keep throwing away dollars. They throw dollars away on a pipeline that, while we would have liked it to have been built, all the cards were showing it wasn't going to be. It was for posturing. It was for show, billions of dollars. They threw it away here on a working parents' benefit, covering the cost of two weeks of child care for most parents in this province. Gone.

That payment will come out April 1 in prepaid Visa cards, I'm understanding, which of course begs the question of whether or not the Minister of Children's Services is aware that most child care centres don't even take Visa. But anyways, they're going to come out in prepaid Visa cards, and they will perhaps be able to pay for not their child care fees but something else. Two weeks' worth of child care, and gone. And then the next month? Child care centres across the province, we just heard it today: their fees are going up. In Calgary families are going to be paying – and let me be clear. These are families who are not going to be eligible not only for subsidies, but they're not even eligible for this working parent benefit, families making more than \$100,000 in household income. They're going to be spending 43 per cent of their take-home pay if they have two children in child care per month. That's the average using the average cost of child care, which is \$1,250 per month, but in reality many parents are paying much more than that in Calgary. It is not unheard of to hear of parents having to pay \$1,900, \$2,000 per month per child.

4:10

It simply is a waste of money to take millions of dollars, a quarter of the budget, and simply throw it away and then ask for \$11.5 million more. I actually have to get on the record here, Madam Chair, on the supplementary supply debates because I was puzzled when I listened to the Minister of Children's Services' explanation for this request for \$11.5 million for child care rebates. As we know, supplementary supply is about asking for additional funds from the general revenue fund. It's not about moving money around within your own budget if you're a minister, right? You can do that. You have the authority as a minister to move money around within your

own budget. We know that happened a lot during the pandemic. Yet when the minister was asked to explain why she was requesting \$11.5 million from the general revenue fund, she said that she was doing it because she was moving it from line 3.2 to line 3.1 of her budget, which, again, you don't have to do through supplementary supply. I question where that \$11.5 million is really coming from, then. It must be coming from the general revenue fund. That's what supplementary supply is for.

The Minister of Children's Services has asked for \$11.5 million from the general revenue fund beyond her own budget to go towards child care rebates. Well, you know what goes into the general revenue fund? Madam Chair, you probably do know. A lot of things, but one of the things that goes into the general revenue fund is federal funding. In this past year we have seen the federal government, when it comes to child care, carry the weight of supporting Alberta's working parents and children and our child care sector; 83 per cent of the funding that went to keep child care centres barely alive over this past year has come from the federal government. So there have been a lot of federal dollars that have gone into the general revenue fund.

When I hear that \$11.5 million is being taken out – my guess is for child care – it's probably coming from federal funding. I just have to raise that because federal funding for child care is keeping this system afloat. I've heard this government stand up over and over and over and over again and talk about how, "We want to chart our own path, our own Alberta way forward," yet when it comes to certain things like child care, like the critical worker benefit, which is another example, Madam Chair, of a program that was scrambling at the last minute to get out the door, it's being done haphazardly. We're seeing people who are doing work on the front lines being cut off for arbitrary reasons. It's months late. But all of a sudden when it comes to actually helping people, this government is nowhere to be seen. They're happy to say thanks to their good buddy Justin Trudeau about that. Then they're pretty happy to take federal dollars – right? – when it's actually going towards supporting people. When it's going towards supporting parents and children, then their hands are wide open.

I have a lot of questions about this supplementary supply bill and why none of this planning, none of this planning for critical care workers, which was available – for nine months we've had that program available, the jobs now funding. What a joke. It's been available in negotiation for months. This government: here we are two months before the end of the fiscal year, and they still don't have a plan. How could they have rolled out a new budget, introduced a new budget for economic recovery, as they say, without a plan for jobs? I simply do not understand it because I looked at their Budget 2021 and I didn't see a plan for jobs. They don't care about it. There are huge sectors of this population that they don't care about when it comes to the jobs. Then they can't even roll out a jobs now plan. It's a jobs maybe later plan.

This supplementary supply bill: I have no problem, I will not be ashamed to stand up and vote against this bill because it is a disaster, and it reflects that this government has showed that they are not following what they're supposed be doing. They don't have a plan.

Now, the only reason that would keep me from voting against this is because I do think that these individuals and these Albertans need to get those dollars, but in spirit this is a bill that shows a failure by this government, scrambling at the last minute every second. So be clear. Let's be clear. This is not a good bill. It does not reflect that this government has thought through what we've all been experiencing for the past year. What it does show is that we need to get dollars out the door because this government has left it to the last minute. We will need to get dollars out the door to Albertans because they failed.

The Chair: Member, I hesitate to interrupt.

Under Standing Order 64(4) the chair of the Committee of the Whole shall immediately put a single question proposing the approval of every appropriation bill then standing referred to the committee, which shall be decided without debate or amendment, and the committee shall immediately rise and report. Pursuant to Standing Order 64(4) I must now put the following question: does the committee approve the following bill, Bill 59, Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2021?

[Motion carried]

The Chair: Hon. members, pursuant to Standing Order 64(4) the committee shall now rise and report.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

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

Ms Rosin: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Committee of the Whole has under consideration certain bills. The committee reports the following bill with some amendments: Bill 59. I wish to table copies of all amendments considered by the Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly.

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

Hon. Members: Aye.

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

The hon. Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation.

Mr. Schweitzer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We've had a very busy week here. I move that the Assembly adjourn until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:16 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 30th Legislature - 2nd Session (2020-2021)

Activity to Thursday, March 18, 2021

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

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

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

Bill 1 — Critical Infrastructure Defence Act (Kenney)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Royal Assent — (May 12, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force 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.*), 2741-55 (*Oct. 26, 2020 eve.*), 2803-15 (*Oct. 27, 2020 eve.*), 2841-47 (*Oct. 28, 2020 aft.*), 2860-69 (*Oct. 28, 2020 eve.*), 2940-43 (*Nov. 2, 2020 eve.*), 2986-94 (*Nov. 3, 2020 eve.*), 3072-83 (*Nov. 5, 2020 aft.*), 3126-36 (*Nov. 16, 2020 eve.*), 3208-12 (*Nov. 17, 2020 eve.*), 3265-72 (*Nov. 18, 2020 eve.*), 3361-65 (*Nov. 23, 2020 eve., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 3834 (*Dec. 7, 2020 eve.*), 3886-92 (*Dec. 8, 2020 eve., passed on division*)
Third Reading — 3900 (*Dec. 8, 2020 eve.*), 3903-09 (*Dec. 8, 2020 eve., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 9, 2020, with certain sections having effect on various dates; SA 2020 c40]

Bill 36 — Geothermal Resource Development Act (Savage)

First Reading — 2616 (Oct. 20, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 2696-2706 (Oct. 22, 2020 aft.), 2755-60 (Oct. 26, 2020 eve.), 2925-29 (Nov. 2, 2020 eve.), 2974-78 (Nov. 3, 2020 aft.), 3121-24 (Nov. 16, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3224-32 (Nov. 18, 2020 aft.), 3292-94 (Nov. 19, 2020 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 3336-42 (Nov. 23, 2020 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2020 cG-5.5]

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

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

Second Reading — 2774-84 (Oct. 27, 2020 aft.), 2828-38 (Oct. 28, 2020 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3024-29 (Nov. 4, 2020 aft.), 3031-48 (Nov. 4, 2020 eve.), (Nov. 24, 2020), 3398-3401 (Nov. 24, 2020 aft., passed with amendments)

Third Reading — 3529-30 (Nov. 25, 2020 eve.), 3544-45 (Nov. 26, 2020 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2020 c30]

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

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

Second Reading — 2795-2800 (Oct. 27, 2020 eve.), 2838-41 (Oct. 28, 2020 aft.), 2884-93 (Oct. 29, 2020 aft.), 2960-65 (Nov. 3, 2020 aft.), 3124-26 (Nov. 16, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3232-36 (Nov. 18, 2020 aft.), 3419-24 (Nov. 24, 2020 eve.), 3503-13 (Nov. 25, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 3611-14 (Nov. 30, 2020 eve., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 9, 2020, with exceptions, and with section 6 taking effect January 1, 2021; SA 2020 c37]

Bill 39* — Child Care Licensing (Early Learning and Child Care) Amendment Act, 2020 (Schulz)

First Reading — 2827 (Oct. 28, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 2883-84 (Oct. 29, 2020 aft.), 2929-40 (Nov. 2, 2020 eve.), 2979-86 (Nov. 3, 2020 eve.), 3206-08 (Nov. 17, 2020 eve.), 3272-76 (Nov. 18, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3357-61 (Nov. 23, 2020 eve.), 3401-09 (Nov. 24, 2020 aft.), 3411-19 (Nov. 24, 2020 eve.), 3513-25 (Nov. 25, 2020 eve., passed with amendments)

Third Reading — 3685 (Dec. 1, 2020 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force February 1, 2021; SA 2020 c31]

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

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

Second Reading — 2784-93 (Oct. 27, 2020 aft.), 2800-03 (Oct. 27, 2020 eve.), 2849-59 (Oct. 28, 2020 eve.), 2965-74 (Nov. 3, 2020 aft.), 3136-38 (Nov. 16, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3424-27 (Nov. 24, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 3606-11 (Nov. 30, 2020 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 1, 2021, with exceptions; SA 2020 c34]

Bill 41 — Insurance (Enhancing Driver Affordability and Care) Amendment Act, 2020 (Toews)

First Reading — 2882 (Oct. 29, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 2915-24 (Nov. 2, 2020 eve.), 3011-23 (Nov. 4, 2020 aft.), 3051-58 (Nov. 4, 2020 eve.), 3164-73 (Nov. 17, 2020 aft.), 3255-65 (Nov. 18, 2020 eve.), 3276 (Nov. 18, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3679-85 (Dec. 1, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 3700-07 (Dec. 2, 2020 morn.), 3753-58 (Dec. 2, 2020 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 9, 2020, except part of section 3, which has effect January 1, 2022; SA 2020 c36]

Bill 42 — North Saskatchewan River Basin Water Authorization Act (Nixon, JJ)

First Reading — 2907 (Nov. 2, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 3009-11 (Nov. 4, 2020 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3048-51 (Nov. 4, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 3072 (Nov. 5, 2020 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 9, 2020; SA 2020 cN-3.6]

Bill 43 — Financing Alberta’s Strategic Transportation Act (McIver)

First Reading — 2956 (Nov. 3, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 3150-64 (Nov. 17, 2020 aft.), 3276-80 (Nov. 18, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3594-3605 (Nov. 30, 2020 eve.), 3687-3700 (Dec. 2, 2020 morn.), 3721-33 (Dec. 2, 2020 aft.), 3751-53 (Dec. 2, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 3784-88 (Dec. 3, 2020 aft., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 9, 2020; SA 2020 cF-13.5]

Bill 44 — Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 (Toews)

First Reading — 2956 (Nov. 3, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 3115-21 (Nov. 16, 2020 eve.), 3354-57 (Nov. 23, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3591-93 (Nov. 30, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 3685 (Dec. 1, 2020 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 9, 2020; SA 2020 c33]

Bill 45 — Local Authorities Election Amendment Act, 2020 (No. 2) (Allard)

First Reading — 3006 (Nov. 4, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 3175-79 (Nov. 17, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3525-29 (Nov. 25, 2020 eve.), 3654-65 (Dec. 1, 2020 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 3685 (Dec. 1, 2020 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force January 1, 2021; SA 2020 c38]

Bill 46 — Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 (No. 2) (Shandro)

First Reading — 3071 (Nov. 5, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 3176-92 (Nov. 17, 2020 eve.), 3342-54 (Nov. 23, 2020 eve.), 3459-65 (Nov. 25, 2020 morn.), 3614-22 (Nov. 30, 2020 eve.), 3675-76 (Dec. 1, 2020 aft.), 3788-93 (Dec. 3, 2020 aft., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 3823-34 (Dec. 7, 2020 eve.), 3853-60 (Dec. 8, 2020 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 3869 (Dec. 8, 2020 eve.), 3872-79 (Dec. 8, 2020 eve., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 9, 2020, with exceptions; SA 2020 c35]

Bill 47 — Ensuring Safety and Cutting Red Tape Act, 2020 (\$) (Copping)

First Reading — 3070-71 (Nov. 5, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 3192-206 (Nov. 17, 2020 eve.), 3236-45 (Nov. 18, 2020 aft.), 3367-73 (Nov. 24, 2020 morn.), 3427-41 (Nov. 24, 2020 eve.), 3445-59 (Nov. 25, 2020 morn.), 3622-28 (Nov. 30, 2020 eve.), 3630-42 (Dec. 1, 2020 morn.), 3743-51 (Dec. 2, 2020 eve., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 3763-70 (Dec. 3, 2020 morn.), 3893-3900 (Dec. 8, 2020 eve., passed on division)

Third Reading — 3901-02 (Dec. 8, 2020 eve.), 3910-16 (Dec. 8, 2020 eve., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2020 c32]

Bill 48* — Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act, 2020 (No. 2) (Hunter)

First Reading — 3096 (Nov. 16, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 3247-55 (Nov. 18, 2020 eve.), 3387-98 (Nov. 24, 2020 aft.), 3441-43 (Nov. 24, 2020 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3665-75 (Dec. 1, 2020 aft.), 3733-40 (Dec. 2, 2020 aft.), 3759-62 (Dec. 2, 2020 eve.), 3834-36 (Dec. 7, 2020 eve.), 3861-68 (Dec. 8, 2020 aft., passed on division)

Third Reading — 3869-70 (Dec. 8, 2020 eve.), 3879-86 (Dec. 8, 2020 eve., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on December 9, 2020, with exceptions; SA 2020 c39]

Bill 50 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2020 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 3502 (Nov. 25, 2020 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 3545-52 (Nov. 26, 2020 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3587-91 (Nov. 30, 2020 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 3677-79 (Dec. 1, 2020 eve.), 3685 (Dec. 1, 2020 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 9, 2020; SA 2020 c29]

Bill 51 — Citizen Initiative Act (Madu)

First Reading — 4058 (Mar. 16, 2021 aft., passed)

Bill 52 — Recall Act (Madu)

First Reading — 4028-29 (Mar. 15, 2021 aft., passed)

Bill 53 — Service Alberta Statutes (Virtual Meetings) Amendment Act, 2021 (Glubish)

First Reading — 3971 (Mar. 9, 2021 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 4043-44 (Mar. 15, 2021 aft.), 4129-30 (Mar. 18, 2021 aft., passed)

Bill 54 — Irrigation Districts Amendment Act, 2021 (Dreeshen)

First Reading — 3992 (Mar. 10, 2021 aft., passed)

Bill 55 — College of Alberta School Superintendents Act (LaGrange)

First Reading — 3979 (Mar. 9, 2021 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 4044-45 (Mar. 15, 2021 aft.), 4107-10 (Mar. 17, 2021 aft., adjourned)

Bill 56 — Local Measures Statutes Amendment Act, 2021 (McIver)

First Reading — 4005 (Mar. 11, 2021 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 4045 (Mar. 15, 2021 aft., adjourned)

Bill 57 — Metis Settlements Amendment Act, 2021 (Wilson)

First Reading — 4005 (Mar. 11, 2021 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 4045-46 (Mar. 15, 2021 aft., adjourned)

Bill 59 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2021 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 4083 (Mar. 16, 2021 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 4099-4102 (Mar. 17, 2021 aft.), 4110-4115 (Mar. 17, 2021 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 4130-38 (Mar. 18, 2021 aft., passed)

Bill 60 — Appropriation Act, 2021 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 4099 (Mar. 17, 2021 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)

Committee of the Whole — 2720-33 (Oct. 26, 2020 aft.), 2908-09 (Nov. 2, 2020 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 3096-3103 (Nov. 16, 2020 aft., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 9, 2020; SA 2020 c41]

Bill 205* — Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month Act (Singh)

First Reading — 2718 (Oct. 26, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), 3070 (Nov. 5, 2020 aft., reported to Assembly)

Second Reading — 3103-08 (Nov. 16, 2020 aft.), 3307-14 (Nov. 23, 2020 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3813-14 (Dec. 7, 2020 aft.), 3948-59 (Mar. 8, 2021 aft.), 4036-37 (Mar. 15, 2021 aft., passed with amendments)

Bill 206 — Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 (Glasgo)

First Reading — 2827 (Oct. 28, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), 3223-24 (Nov. 18, 2020 aft., reported to Assembly)

Second Reading — 3314-21 (Nov. 23, 2020 aft.), 4037-42 (Mar. 15, 2021 aft., adjourned)

Bill 207 — Reservists' Recognition Day Act (Rutherford)

First Reading — 3224 (Nov. 18, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), 3719 (Dec. 2, 2020 aft., reported to Assembly)

Bill 208 — Alberta Investment Management Corporation Amendment Act, 2020 (Phillips)

First Reading — 3782 (Dec. 3, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), 4005 (Mar. 11, 2021 aft., reported to Assembly; debate on concurrence motion to take place Monday, March 15, 2021), 4029-36 (Mar. 15, 2021 aft., not proceeded with on division)

Bill 209 — Cost of Public Services Transparency Act (Stephan)

First Reading — 3806-07 (Dec. 7, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), 4005 (Mar. 11, 2021 aft., reported to Assembly)

Bill 211 — Municipal Government (Firearms) Amendment Act, 2020 (Glasgo)

First Reading — 3849 (Dec. 8, 2020 aft., passed), 3930 (Feb. 25, 2021 aft., moved to Government Bills and Orders)

Second Reading — 4006-15 (Mar. 11, 2021 aft.), 4102-07 (Mar. 17, 2021 aft., passed)

Bill 212 — Official Sport of Alberta Act (Yaseen)

First Reading — 3849 (Dec. 8, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), 4088 (Mar. 17, 2021 aft., reported to Assembly; debate on concurrence motion to take place Monday, March 22, 2021)

Bill 213 — Traffic Safety (Maximum Speed Limit for Provincial Freeways) Amendment Act, 2021 (Turton)

First Reading — 3992 (Mar. 10, 2021 aft., passed)

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

First Reading — 1125 (Jun. 4, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), 3292 (Nov. 19, 2020 aft., reported to Assembly)

Second Reading — 3629-30 (Dec. 1, 2020 morn., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 3740 (Dec. 2, 2020 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 3740-41 (Dec. 2, 2020 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 9, 2020; SA 2020 c42]

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