



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
Second Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, April 15, 2021

Day 98

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 30th Legislature

Second Session

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

Aheer, Hon. Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)
Allard, Tracy L., Grande Prairie (UC)
Amery, Mickey K., Calgary-Cross (UC)
Armstrong-Homeniuk, Jackie,
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UC)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UC)
Bilous, Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-West Henday (NDP)
Ceci, Joe, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)
Copping, Hon. Jason C., Calgary-Varsity (UC)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP),
Official Opposition Deputy Whip
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South (NDP),
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader
Deol, Jasvir, Edmonton-Meadows (NDP)
Dreeshen, Hon. Devin, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UC)
Eggen, David, Edmonton-North West (NDP),
Official Opposition Whip
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (UC),
Government Whip
Feehan, Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP)
Fir, Tanya, Calgary-Peigan (UC)
Ganley, Kathleen T., Calgary-Mountain View (NDP)
Getson, Shane C., Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland (UC)
Glasgo, Michaela L., Brooks-Medicine Hat (UC)
Glubish, Hon. Nate, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (UC)
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)
Goodridge, Laila, Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche (UC)
Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UC)
Gray, Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP),
Official Opposition House Leader
Guthrie, Peter F., Airdrie-Cochrane (UC)
Hanson, David B., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UC)
Hoffman, Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)
Horner, Nate S., Drumheller-Stettler (UC)
Hunter, Hon. Grant R., Taber-Warner (UC)
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP),
Official Opposition Deputy Whip
Issik, Whitney, Calgary-Glenmore (UC)
Jones, Matt, Calgary-South East (UC)
Kenney, Hon. Jason, PC, Calgary-Lougheed (UC),
Premier
LaGrange, Hon. Adriana, Red Deer-North (UC)
Loewen, Todd, Central Peace-Notley (UC)
Long, Martin M., West Yellowhead (UC)
Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UC)
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (NDP)
Luan, Hon. Jason, Calgary-Foothills (UC)
Madu, Hon. Kaycee, QC, Edmonton-South West (UC),
Deputy Government House Leader
McIver, Hon. Ric, Calgary-Hays (UC),
Deputy Government House Leader
Nally, Hon. Dale, Morinville-St. Albert (UC),
Deputy Government House Leader
Neudorf, Nathan T., Lethbridge-East (UC)
Nicolaidis, Hon. Demetrios, Calgary-Bow (UC)
Nielsen, Christian E., Edmonton-Decore (NDP)
Nixon, Hon. Jason, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre (UC),
Government House Leader
Nixon, Jeremy P., Calgary-Klein (UC)
Notley, Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP),
Leader of the Official Opposition
Orr, Ronald, Lacombe-Ponoka (UC)
Pancholi, Rakhi, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)
Panda, Hon. Prasad, Calgary-Edgemont (UC)
Phillips, Shannon, Lethbridge-West (NDP)
Pon, Hon. Josephine, Calgary-Beddington (UC)
Rehn, Pat, Lesser Slave Lake (Ind)
Reid, Roger W., Livingstone-Macleod (UC)
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)
Rosin, Miranda D., Banff-Kananaskis (UC)
Rowswell, Garth, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright (UC)
Rutherford, Brad, Leduc-Beaumont (UC)
Sabir, Irfan, Calgary-McCall (NDP),
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader
Savage, Hon. Sonya, Calgary-North West (UC),
Deputy Government House Leader
Sawhney, Hon. Rajan, Calgary-North East (UC)
Schmidt, Marlin, Edmonton-Gold Bar (NDP)
Schow, Joseph R., Cardston-Siksika (UC),
Deputy Government Whip
Schulz, Hon. Rebecca, Calgary-Shaw (UC)
Schweitzer, Hon. Doug, QC, Calgary-Elbow (UC),
Deputy Government House Leader
Shandro, Hon. Tyler, QC, Calgary-Acadia (UC)
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-City Centre (NDP)
Sigurdson, Lori, Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)
Sigurdson, R.J., Highwood (UC)
Singh, Peter, Calgary-East (UC)
Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (UC)
Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UC)
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP)
Toews, Hon. Travis, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UC)
Toor, Devinder, Calgary-Falconridge (UC)
Turton, Searle, Spruce Grove-Stony Plain (UC)
van Dijken, Glenn, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (UC)
Walker, Jordan, Sherwood Park (UC)
Williams, Dan D.A., Peace River (UC)
Wilson, Hon. Rick D., Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin (UC)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC)
Yaseen, Muhammad, Calgary-North (UC)

Party standings:

United Conservative: 62

New Democrat: 24

Independent: 1

Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

Shannon Dean, QC, Clerk	Michael Kulicki, Clerk of Committees and Research Services	Amanda LeBlanc, Deputy Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>
Teri Cherkewich, Law Clerk	Nancy Robert, Clerk of <i>Journals</i> and Research Officer	Chris Caughell, Sergeant-at-Arms
Trafton Koenig, Senior Parliamentary Counsel	Janet Schwegel, Director of Parliamentary Programs	Tom Bell, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms
Philip Massolin, Clerk Assistant and Director of House Services		Paul Link, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms

Executive Council

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

Parliamentary Secretaries

Laila Goodridge	Parliamentary Secretary Responsible for Alberta's Francophonie
Martin Long	Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Tourism
Muhammad Yaseen	Parliamentary Secretary of Immigration

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Orr
Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Eggen
Gray
Issik
Jones
Phillips
Singh
Yaseen

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Chair: Mr. Neudorf
Deputy Chair: Ms Goehring

Armstrong-Homeniuk
Barnes
Bilous
Irwin
Reid
Rosin
Rowswell
Sweet
van Dijken
Walker

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Ms Goodridge
Deputy Chair: Ms Sigurdson

Amery
Carson
Glasgo
Gotfried
Lovely
Neudorf
Pancholi
Rutherford
Sabir
Smith

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Schow
Deputy Chair: Mr. Sigurdson

Ceci
Lovely
Loyola
Rosin
Rutherford
Shepherd
Smith
Sweet
Yaseen

Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

Chair: Mr. Cooper
Deputy Chair: Mr. Ellis

Dang
Deol
Goehring
Goodridge
Long
Neudorf
Sabir
Sigurdson, R.J.
Williams

Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

Chair: Mr. Ellis
Deputy Chair: Mr. Schow

Amery
Dang
Getson
Glasgo
Irwin
Nielsen
Rutherford
Sigurdson, L.
Sigurdson, R.J.

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Mr. Smith
Deputy Chair: Mr. Reid

Armstrong-Homeniuk
Barnes
Deol
Ganley
Gotfried
Jones
Lovely
Loyola
Rehn
Renaud

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Ms Phillips
Deputy Chair: Mr. Guthrie

Armstrong-Homeniuk
Lovely
Neudorf
Pancholi
Renaud
Rowswell
Schmidt
Singh
Turton
Walker

Select Special Committee on Real Property Rights

Chair: Mr. Sigurdson
Deputy Chair: Mr. Rutherford

Ganley
Glasgo
Goodridge
Hanson
Milliken
Nielsen
Orr
Rowswell
Schmidt
Sweet

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Chair: Mr. Hanson
Deputy Chair: Member Ceci

Dach
Feehan
Ganley
Getson
Guthrie
Issik
Loewen
Singh
Turton
Yaseen

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 15, 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 for the playing of *God Save the Queen*.

Recording:

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.

Members' Statements

Home Education and School Re-entry Plan

Ms Phillips: There are two words my grades 4 and 6 boys live in fear of. Those words are not "bedtime." They're not "enough PS4." The most feared words in our house are "online school." After the novelty wore off, a year ago, my kids said to me: "Mom, I want to go to school. Online is stressful. You're an okay math teacher, but sometimes your French isn't very good." They are not wrong. Recently a friend of mine told me a story about a mom getting up at 3 a.m. to work from home when the kids were off for two weeks. That way, she could get in a few solid hours of work before she needed to start helping the kids at 8 a.m.

Parents are struggling. They're trying to do their best, just as we're asking our kids to do their best. But the government didn't do their best, not at all. If they did, there would have been a real plan to keep schools open. Yesterday 80,000 students heard the two dreaded words yet again: online school. Parents are scrambling again. The Premier shrugs, says that it's not his problem. He tries to speak for parents. He has absolutely no idea what he's talking about. In Calgary there aren't enough teachers to keep the schools open because the virus is making some sick, forcing even more into isolation.

Yesterday the Premier said that everything is going great in schools. He's made other bizarre and scientifically wrong statements about COVID and kids and COVID in schools. I talk to a lot of parents. None of them can fathom what planet this Premier is on. Families are frustrated with the UCP. There's not been enough effort to truly make sure schools can stay open, which is the best case scenario for the economy, for jobs, for kids, for parents. The Premier failed to give schools resources or listen to the professional advice of school boards. It did not have to be this way. If only the Premier had stopped the love affair with his own voice long enough last spring, which was the time to get to work on this issue, to listen to Albertans about the best way to keep schools open. Now parents pay the price.

Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act

Mr. Sigurdson: Mr. Speaker, this week the Minister of Advanced Education introduced Bill 67, the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act. I'm thrilled to finally see a serious commitment to encouraging, lifting, and strengthening the skilled trades, and throughout this piece of legislation it presents a positive legislative update of apprenticeship education in skilled trades professions. This new act will replace the 30-year-old Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act with legislation that supports a more modern, flexible, and efficient system. Apprenticeship education is critical to supporting learning and success, and this career path should always be recognized to have as much value, merit, and worth as any form of postsecondary education. It is without question that the skilled trades workers in our province are indispensable to our economic recovery as well as our entire society. Alberta's recovery plan is focused on building infrastructure and shovel-ready jobs, none of which will happen without them.

As a member of the skilled trades caucus I know that the contributions of these workers are integral to the success and the growth of Alberta. Also, as a former student of the skilled trades and now a red seal journeyman I have experienced first-hand how trades education and apprenticeship programs work. Through my education, I believe that these programs were vital to my learning. They taught me hands-on knowledge that I would have never learned in a classroom. These changes are essential to support student learning for Albertans wanting to get into the skilled trades.

This bill also encourages more individuals to pursue trades professions, not as an alternative option but as a meaningful, lifelong career. Alberta's construction industry will need almost 65,000 additional skilled workers over the next decade to meet growth expectations. This bill is critical for our future. I want to express my extreme support and appreciation to the minister and the government for this legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Jones: East.

Mental Health

Mr. Jones: The COVID-19 pandemic and related public health measures are affecting our families, children, and youth. As the representative for Calgary-South East, a constituency filled with young families, I hear about these effects daily. In normal times routines and structured days support both physical and mental health, but these are anything but normal times. Our lives have changed dramatically over the last year. I hear concerns from parents over growing education gaps; decreased physical activity and increased screen time; impacts on nutrition and on their children's mental health; higher concerns over increased depression, anxiety, irritability, boredom, and stress. Youth who were accessing mental health supports prior to the pandemic are often experiencing worsened symptoms. These effects are in addition to family stressors such as unemployment or loss of income, which are challenging relationships, marriages, and households.

During these unsettling and uncertain times it is important to remember that social distancing does not mean social isolation. In fact, it is more important than ever for us to stay connected to one another. Participate in small and distanced outdoor social gatherings, make a phone call, send a text or an e-mail, or reach out to friends and family members who might be struggling or feeling alone. We are at our best when we support one another.

If you or anyone you know is in need of assistance, know that you are not alone and that supports are available. In addition to the many community and faith-based supports across Alberta, you can call 211 or the mental health help line at 1.877.303.2642. Children and youth can also live chat on the Kids Help Phone website, at kidshelpphone.ca. The government has acknowledged and is responding to these challenges through increased investments in mental health, financial supports for families, and through upcoming initiatives to assess and address the social, mental, physical, and educational impacts on our children.

Again, you are not alone, supports are available, and together we will get through this.

The Speaker: My apologies to the East portion of your riding.
The hon. Member for Edmonton-City Centre.

Premier's Remarks on COVID-19

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just over a year ago, at the start of the pandemic, the Premier released COVID-19 modelling, and he was asked why he was presenting the data. His response: I'm the Premier and ultimately responsible for the government of Alberta's response to this public health emergency. But every time the Premier has been challenged since or held accountable for his mishandling of the pandemic, he has refused to accept responsibility. Instead, he's launched personal attacks at this side of the House and members of the media for simply trying to do their jobs.

In early December, as cases spiked, despite advice from medical professionals, the Premier refused to act to curb the spread of COVID-19. When asked by a reporter if he took responsibility for not acting sooner, the Premier lashed out by accusing them of being partisan. One day later he again denied his responsibility for pushing our health care system to the brink, labelling any criticism of his handling of the pandemic as Alberta bashing. Mr. Premier, you are not Alberta.

Now, as we face down the third wave of COVID-19, we're seeing more of the same: more personal attacks, more bluster and spin, more refusal to take any responsibility. Indeed, just this week he was challenged during a radio interview about calling COVID-19 a flu. The Premier had the audacity to claim that he never had, despite having done so multiple times in his bizarre speech in this House last May. Now he faces a revolt within his own caucus, and he's looking the other way as they undermine public health orders essential to help our province get this deadly virus under control and embolden others to ignore the rules.

Mr. Premier, your words and those of every member of this House carry weight. We're leaders in our communities. It's time you started acting like one and living by your words from a year ago. It is time, Premier, that you took some responsibility.

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

1:40 COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

Ms Issik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have hope. Though many people are frustrated with the latest rounds of public health orders, there is a beacon of hope, a light at the end of the tunnel, so to speak. We are finally receiving the vaccines we need. Over the last several weeks we've received half a million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with another 250,000 expected to be delivered this week. This has allowed us to expand our vaccine rollout, and that is exactly what we're doing.

By moving into phase 2C of our vaccination rollout, an additional 240,000 Albertans are eligible to receive their vaccine. This means that front-line workers who were not eligible in the previous phases

are now able to book their vaccines. This will be in addition to the 55,000 health care workers in COVID wards, ICUs, and ERs, roughly half of the AHS staff, and 33,000 continuing care staff who have already been vaccinated. Other people who are eligible are people over 65, people aged 55 to 65 for the AstraZeneca vaccine, First Nations aged 50-plus, and anyone 16-plus with a pre-existing medical condition as outlined on the vaccination website.

As of yesterday we reached a milestone figure for vaccinations. We now have over 1 million people who have been vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine. The more people we vaccinate and the quicker we vaccinate, it allows our province to be safer and will lead us to ease restrictions and open businesses over time.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to anyone over 55, you can walk into a pharmacy today and get your first dose of AstraZeneca vaccines. I strongly encourage you to do this. I received mine last Friday and have experienced zero side effects.

We are getting closer and closer to normal. I understand that many Albertans are sick of this. We all are, but we are almost at the end, and I encourage all Albertans who are eligible to receive their vaccine as soon as possible.

Jessie's House Shelter in Morinville

Ms Renaud: This last year of living with COVID has taught us many things and shone a light in dark corners, one of those being domestic violence. We've all heard the faceless statistics about how many women are abused and killed every year, statistics that should be enough to ignite action.

Jessica Martel, a 26-year-old mother of three, was murdered by her common-law husband in 2009. Jessica's mother, Lynne Rosychuk, described the frustration of trying to access supports, only to be told that no shelter spaces were available. In 2012 the Jessica Martel Foundation was founded, with the goal of building a shelter for survivors of domestic violence in the Morinville, St. Albert, Sturgeon county area. Thanks to the generous support of local businesses and residents, Jessie's House, an accessible, 35-bed, trauma-informed facility, is capable of addressing the gap of emergency shelters in rural communities. It opened in May 2020. This beautiful new home is able to provide shelter to women, children, men, and seniors, whether as a large family or as a single. They've remained open throughout COVID, responding to hundreds of crisis calls, providing shelter and supports to Albertans needing refuge from abuse. The demand is not decreasing. In fact, each time COVID restrictions ease, there is a surge in demand.

You'd think that with this type of civil society initiative, the first of its kind in decades, the government would be tripping over themselves to fund it, but that is not the case. Jessie's House is surviving on a patchwork of grants. What they need is a firm commitment in terms of operating funds. Budget '21 did not include any additional operating funds for women's shelters, and I find this alarming given the fact that the minister chose to move \$7 million from her budget to the new Premier's civil society slush fund while failing to invest in core supports for rural Alberta.

Jessie's House needs \$1.5 million in operating funds every year. Grants do not provide stability. It is my sincere hope that the MLA for Morinville-St. Albert will join me in pressing the government to commit to operational funding for Jessie's House.

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

Local Businesses in Rural Alberta

Mr. Loewen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My heart goes out to businesses that are desperately trying to work within the COVID

restrictions. On the weekend I helped a small-business owner on an outside dining area so they could try to keep their business going. I did a little rough carpentry; hopefully, it wasn't too rough. I've seen Facebook posts of others that have worked and invested in outside dining areas. Unfortunately, many businesses don't have that opportunity. I think of gym owners like Carly Schoorlemmer in Spirit River and Leah Fox in Fairview. I visited both of them about a month ago and listened to their challenges with these restrictions.

Businesses are some of the most important contributors in what binds our communities together. Without them, our small towns suffer. Business owners have been living through the uncertainty of whether they're allowed to be open and the regulations that they face on the day-to-day operations. Business owners are resilient, and I'm proud to be their representative along with all other constituents of Central Peace-Notley. Business owners have pushed through the entire pandemic while putting the communities that they are a part of before themselves.

I would also like to thank business owners for engaging with the community and championing so many good causes. For example, Scotty's Burger Shack and Valleyview Freson IGA came together with Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation school to recognize student achievement, and I got to witness first-hand the boost a good meal had on students and teachers served by local business owners.

Finally, I'd like to encourage Albertans to do what they can to support their local businesses. Local businesses are the life's work of the owners and their families. When they succeed, our whole community succeeds.

We also need to think about those suffering from COVID itself. There are many heart-wrenching stories, and our thoughts are with them.

I know that not everyone agrees with everything I do or stand for as an MLA. That is the nature of the position; I have to accept that. In the time I have been an MLA, I have often thought that when my time as an MLA is over, I need to be able to look my family and my community in the eye. I hope and pray that when that day comes, the look I receive back is kind and respectful of what I've tried to accomplish while in this position as I hope to live in my community the rest of my life.

Please continue to reach out with your concerns and suggestions. I promise to listen.

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

Pet Adoption from Shelters

Ms Fir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April 30 is National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day. Each year National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day raises awareness for thousands of pets that are waiting for and needing adoption from shelters.

Animal shelters require year-round assistance, with adoption being a main part of the process. As animals arrive, the shelters must work quickly to ensure the animals' health and well-being, with the final goal of giving them a permanent home. In 2018 Humane Canada reported that Canadian shelters took in more than 81,000 cats and just under 30,000 dogs. According to 2018 statistics by Humane Canada, Alberta is home to 19 Humane Society and SPCA shelters. These shelters are essential to ensuring the care and rehabilitation of animals in a loving and caring home.

Since 2013 the Calgary Humane Society has been proud to be one of the only open-admission animal shelters in North America able to say this simple phrase, "At Calgary Humane Society, every single healthy and adoptable animal is able to stay until they are adopted." Recently I had the pleasure of visiting the Calgary Humane Society in my riding of Calgary-Peigan to check in on the progress

of their renovation project. Our government supported this project as part of our community facility enhancement program, CFEP, a large grant through the Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, and I thank the minister for this. The grant will be used towards their building enhancement project, focusing on changing and expanding housing for animals that come through the shelter, which will lower animal stress, illness, and behavioural decline while at the facility.

I want to personally thank Carrie Fritz, the executive director of the Calgary Humane Society, for the tour of the facility and letting me visit with some of the animals.

Thank you.

Rumble Alberta Touring Challenge

Mr. Rehn: Mr. Speaker, recently a constituent of mine and champion of Alberta history, Sheila Willis, who you may know as the creator of the History Check heritage and travel companion app, brought a fantastic tourism initiative to my attention. Drum roll, please. The Rumble Alberta touring challenge will bring a series of road-trip challenges across this great province, beginning on May long weekend and running until October. The Rumble Alberta touring challenge has a goal to connect Albertans to hidden gems that they may not know about, spread across more than 400 communities, with a special focus on rural Alberta.

The touring challenge is being led by the Canadian Motorcycle Tourism Association, located in Grande Prairie. The CMTA has partnered with numerous others to create challenges along the more than 55 routes. Given the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic Rumble Alberta has been designed as a way for Albertans to support Albertans during this difficult time. Through partnering with small businesses along the routes, those that have suffered the most from the pandemic will have an opportunity to serve Albertans that may not know about them. With event passes going on sale, the first \$20 from each ticket will go to support partnering businesses. Additionally, Rumble Alberta has launched a pay-it-forward campaign for non travel related businesses to offer support to local tourism-dependent businesses.

Finally, I cannot forget to mention the rumble of the bands. Nominations are now being accepted for this program that gives local musicians the chance to be the soundtrack of one of the challenge's routes. Fellow MLAs, this is your chance for you to make your marvellous singing voices known. I'm proud to be the first ticket holder in the province for this event, and I encourage you, Mr. Speaker, all my fellow MLAs, and all Albertans to purchase your tickets and support communities across our province.

Thanks, Sheila, and thanks CMTA. Let's get ready to rumble!

The Speaker: Might have my job soon.

1:50

Oral Question Period

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

COVID-19 in Schools

Ms Notley: "Fewer than 1 per cent of students have been affected by in-school transmission": Mr. Speaker, that's the Premier yesterday, just a few hours before 80,000 Calgary students were told that they would be sent home starting next week. Why? Because of in-school transmission causing more teachers to get sick, causing a chronic shortage of substitute teachers, causing more students to go into isolation, et cetera, et cetera. To the Premier. We tried his plan,

and schools just keep closing. When will he consider trying our plan, which would keep schools safe and open?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now, as we've said a number of times in this House, the safety and well-being of staff and students continue to be our top priority. From the beginning of the pandemic we've worked very closely with the education system and school boards as well as the chief medical officer of health to make sure that learning can continue safely. In this case, we are responding to the requests of two school boards that have a significant operational challenge. We respect their autonomy by having a clear process in place that gives them flexibility to move to at-home learning when necessary, as is their request right now.

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, "respect their autonomy" is code for: they're on their own.

Now, the Premier said yesterday that I only listen to NDP special interests on schools. Now, if that's what he calls students, teachers, parents, trustees, and health experts, then guilty as charged. We have two months left before summer break, and by my count the Premier has about \$150 million left in his contingency fund. Will he dip into it to (a) stop the spread in other schools and (b) support kids who are again being forced to move back online because of his failure?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now, as we've said, these shifts are based on the request of school boards and were not directed by the chief medical officer of health. Teachers and administrators are doing a great job of keeping kids and staff safe and healthy throughout this pandemic. However, the NDP's plan was unfeasible. It called for 13,000 additional teachers, but one of the things that we're hearing right now is that there are not enough substitute teachers in the system. That's, in fact, one of the reasons why these two Calgary school divisions have requested the move to online learning.

Ms Notley: There aren't enough teachers because they all have to quarantine because you're jamming them into too small classrooms.

Now, when this Premier diminishes the impact of this pandemic on students, he demonstrates just how out of touch he is with parents and kids' families. The kids being sent home will need more help in class, more mental health supports. Students with disabilities will need that even more. Without that, we risk our kids becoming distracted, demoralized, or simply disengaging from their learning. Given that the Premier has so far resisted help, will he commit to providing it now to them?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We know that the last year has been very difficult for all Albertans, including teachers and administrators, and for students and families. Now, I do want to point out that school boards have had access to \$1 billion in additional supports throughout the last year. We are going to continue to work with school boards and take the advice of the chief medical officer of health. Vaccine rollout is going very well in Alberta. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and we ask the members opposite to quit with the politicization and help us get through the next couple of weeks and months.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora is next.

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, here we are in the spring, and it feels like déjà vu all over again. The Premier yesterday tried to tell us that everything was fine, that COVID in schools was hardly impacting anyone. Hours later 80,000 kids in the city that he claims to have his primary residence in were told to go home for at least two weeks because of the impact of COVID in schools. Will the Premier acknowledge today that COVID is having a significant impact on families in Calgary and across Alberta and at least step up to provide direct funding to support learning at home?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would just point to my last response to the previous question to answer the member's current question. We know that this has been a difficult year. We absolutely know this. We know that teachers and administrators have been doing an excellent job of keeping kids and staff safe. But, you know, when we look at the decisions that were made yesterday by the two Calgary school boards in co-ordination with the Minister of Education, these criteria are based on things like staff shortages and students in quarantine. We know this is difficult, but we are absolutely there to support them.

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, last year at this time the Premier told us that everything was fine: budgets were in place, and kids were simply transitioning to home learning, and there'd be no layoffs. A few days later he changed his mind and laid off more than 20,000 education workers via Twitter on a Saturday. Premier, show Alberta families that you've learned from your mistakes and pledge here and now that you will not lay off a single education worker because you failed to keep their schools safe.

Ms Schulz: Mr. Speaker, in addition to COVID-related supports, the members opposite know full well that full funding has been restored and that school divisions have the autonomy to make staffing decisions in their schools. We are so incredibly grateful for the work that administrators, boards, and teachers have done over the last year. We see the light at the end of the tunnel, and we will continue to be there to support school divisions and schools as we make it through the final weeks and months of this pandemic.

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, we're simply asking for a commitment that you won't make the same mistake, that you won't lay off 20,000 education workers. We know that there are 2,000 fewer workers in schools today. Your budget shows it, so surely the minister knows it. Kids need more support when they're living through chaos, chaos caused by this government failing to keep their schools safe. We still have 59 school boards in Alberta with all grade levels in class; however, we know that boards feel that they may have to close some of those as well. Will the Premier step up today and give more funding to boards to hire staff to implement new safety measures and make sure there are more substitutes so kids can stay in school? We want them there.

Ms Schulz: Mr. Speaker, we do know that it is in the best interests of students to be in the classroom with teachers when safely possible, and this is why we continue to take advice from the chief medical officer of health. As I have said before – and the member keeps asking about funding for EAs – they know full well that this funding has been fully restored. We will continue to be there to support school divisions over the coming weeks. We do want to thank educators and administrators for doing an exceptional job of limiting in-classroom spread and keeping kids safe over the last year.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

Kindergarten to Grade 6 Draft Curriculum

Member Irwin: Alberta teachers have made it clear that they don't support this Premier's garbage curriculum and its regressive content. In a press conference today teachers vouched support for the two dozen school boards and counting that have rejected the pilot being imposed on them by this government. They're giving this Premier a failing grade of epic proportions: 91 per cent of teachers don't support this curriculum; 91 per cent. Who exactly is going to teach this curriculum? The Premier?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now, the member opposite is talking about a number, 91 per cent. I think another interesting number may be 93 per cent, which is the number of teachers who didn't respond to their union's survey. We've been very clear on our desire to hear feedback from all Albertans when it comes to this curriculum. That includes hearing from teachers and the teachers' union. The teachers' union has not requested a meeting with the Minister of Education to provide their feedback, and if they really, truly wanted to do what's in the best interests of students, they would reach out to the Minister of Education to collaborate. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. It's getting very difficult to hear the answers to the questions.

Member Irwin: No consultation with teachers, with school boards, with indigenous leaders, with partners in other provinces, and now we see the result. This Premier is having a heck of a time finding any experts to support his work. He had to go all the way to Manitoba to find someone to validate his math curriculum. Premier, I'm listening to Albertans. We're listening to Albertans, the people you're supposed to be listening to as well. Teachers today called for an independent review of this curriculum. Will the Premier agree to this? If not, what exactly is he hiding from: teachers, students, parents, indigenous leaders, Albertans, all of us?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This week – as I have said many times on behalf of the Minister of Education, we have a year to collect feedback from all Albertans. That includes educators, it includes teachers, that includes school boards, and we want to hear that feedback. Now, teachers have and will continue to be involved in the feedback phase of the draft curriculum. To suggest otherwise is completely false. We would encourage both educators – I know as an MLA I'm meeting with a couple in my community tomorrow to hear their feedback and bring that forward.

2:00

Member Irwin: Thousands of parents, teachers, students, school boards, and others have written articles about this curriculum, and they've written their MLAs. We're making news across Canada for all the wrong reasons. The director of curriculum from the Northwest Territories stated that our curriculum ranks dead last when it comes to indigenous perspectives and inclusivity. This curriculum does nothing to prepare students for their futures. It prepares them for the past, and it will leave them behind. Premier, no one endorses your curriculum other than you and your friends, and if you follow through with this – mark my words – our kids will

suffer and so will our economy. How does this possibly help us build for Alberta's future?

Ms Schulz: Mr. Speaker, the NDP is trying to make the curriculum an election issue, and, news flash, it actually was in 2019. We heard loud and clear . . . [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order.

The hon. Minister of Children's Services is the only one with the call.

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now, we heard loud and clear, I know, as a current sitting MLA, but back before the last election we heard a lot about getting ideology out of the classroom, and we have delivered on getting back to basics in math, to focusing on literacy, to building financial literacy right into the curriculum, making sure that it is inclusive, making sure that it has First Nations, Métis, and Inuit content. These are the things that will prepare students for the future.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning now.

Provincial Elections

Ms Sweet: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our province is in the midst of great uncertainty. We are now in a third wave of the pandemic that is likely to be worse than the second. We see that hospitalizations and the number of people in ICU are increasing dramatically, and at the same time we are facing an economic crisis. Hundreds of thousands of Albertans are unemployed, but rather than get the government caucus in order, promote public health orders, and get our economy back on track, media reports that the Premier is threatening to call a snap election. To the government. I believe Albertans should know what your election plans are. When is the Premier considering calling the next election?

Mr. Shandro: Well, Mr. Speaker, we're focused on a pandemic. We're not focused on the games that the NDP are trying to play. They're going to continue to try and undermine public confidence in the response to the pandemic. We're focused on lives. We're focused on livelihoods. That's our focus. Obviously, it's not a priority of the NDP's.

The Speaker: Edmonton-Manning has the call.

Ms Sweet: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to several of his own MLAs as the Premier tried to rein in his caucus members that are openly defying the public health orders, the Premier told them that if they didn't have confidence in the government, they should let him know, and he'll go to the Lieutenant Governor to call an election. Why does this Premier's government caucus think he's going to call an early election? Has he already set the date?

Mr. Shandro: Well, I'm betting right now that Derek Fildebrandt is very happy that he and his alt-right website are being quoted by the Member for Edmonton-Manning. Mr. Speaker, I guess perhaps the member could also let us know if she's also going to let us know what Infowars is also telling us about our response to the pandemic.

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

Ms Sweet: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know it won't come as a surprise, maybe, to the minister that we actually have fixed election periods in this province. It's shocking that the government would go to such lengths as to manipulate the law to get the caucus dissension under control. Again, this government's playbook

involves firing the very person investigating election fraud in the party leadership campaign, so I'm going to make this very, very simple. Will the government commit to holding an election between March 1 and May 31 in 2023 as it's spelled out currently in the law?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, again, the member is quoting the *Western Standard*, an alt-right website. It's disappointing to see that from the NDP. We have our priority, which is to respond to the pandemic. We're going to focus on lives. We're going to focus on livelihoods. The Premier has made that very clear. That's our focus of this government. Obviously, the NDP have different priorities. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East is next.

COVID-19 in Schools

(continued)

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we heard that some Calgary schools made the difficult decision to suspend in-person classes because of the risk of COVID-19 transmission. While this is unfortunate, as students benefit from being in school in terms of their mental health and to maximize their opportunities to learn, can the Minister of Education highlight some of the ways in which rapid tests in our schools have helped Alberta teachers and students?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do want to say again that the reality is hundreds of thousands of Alberta students continue to learn in their classrooms every single day, and this is largely because of the exceptional job that educators and administrators have done to keep them safe. Now, I do want to again talk a little bit about rapid testing. We just announced last week that it is rolling out to up to 300 schools and communities most affected by COVID-19. When we look at the benefit of rapid testing, we look at it as one additional tool in the tool box to help stop the spread of this virus in schools.

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

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that answer. Given that COVID cases in general and in our schools are not distributed evenly across the province and given that students and teachers in Lethbridge and other cities and towns that have seen a rise in cases want access to rapid testing, to the Minister of Education: how are schools, students, teachers, and staff selected to receive the new infusion of rapid tests?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Schools are prioritized based on a variety of factors, and these include prevalence of COVID in their communities but also in schools. Now, Alberta Health works with Alberta Education as well as school boards to determine which schools could benefit the most.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks again to the minister. Given that we know that the prevalence of COVID-19 in schools is generally low but there are times when outbreaks occur because of outside socialization and other activities, again to the Minister of Education: what steps are taken in schools in case of a small outbreak?

The Speaker: The Minister of Children's Services.

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I said, we are in constant contact with school boards as well as education partners and will address any issues that arise. When it comes to specific outbreaks within a school, the schools work directly with Alberta Health Services as well, and we take the advice of the chief medical officer of health, who then works to follow a very specifically outlined protocol to make sure that we can do our best to keep kids and staff safe.

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

Municipal Funding

Member Ceci: That's right. Mr. Speaker, this week is the AUMA's spring convention, and municipal leaders and councillors are looking for leadership from this government. Instead, the UCP has spent two years fundamentally dismantling the partnerships between the province and our largest communities. Their ramming of Bill 56 through this Legislature was exactly that. They robbed communities of hundreds of millions of dollars in MSI funding for essential services and killed jobs on infrastructure projects. To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: if we're, quote, all in this together, why is he bilking and bleeding communities during a health crisis?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been clear in our economic recovery plan that we were going to pull forward capital expenditures to put tens of thousands of Albertans to work immediately, we were going to pull forward capital maintenance and renewal funding, and we were going to pull forward MSI funding, capital funding to municipalities, pull that forward. Between last year and the current year we've actually increased municipal capital funding by over \$700 million over the budget.

Member Ceci: Given that the UCP ripped up big-city charters and, though pulling forward, has slashed MSI to ribbons and given that they've cut back on grants in place of taxes at a time when municipalities are having challenges collecting property taxes to begin with and given that they've reduced funding for DRP, CFEP, GreenTRIP, ACRP, water for life, and virtually every other grant municipalities rely on, will this minister explain to the House why his government refuses to be a real partner and would rather be a great big bully?

Mr. Toews: Well, Mr. Speaker, that's a ridiculous assertion. Again, the reality is that we've increased capital funding to municipalities over last year and the upcoming budget year by over \$700 million, and that's on top of an additional \$200 million for the strategic transportation program, water for life, and waste-water infrastructure.

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

Member Ceci: Thank you. Given that the AUMA is debating a resolution from the village of Forestburg to allow a special tax bylaw to afford the UCP's policing cost changes and given that the Bashaw council found the policing changes could mean a whopping \$23,000 in extra taxes on their residents and given that councils across Alberta are having to resort to extreme measures, including reprofiling MSI funding, in order to avoid these tax hikes, can the minister, who forces these no-win scenarios on councils, tell us what he would choose? Should they kill local jobs or hike local taxes? Pick one.

Mr. Toews: Well, again, Mr. Speaker, we are making strategic investments as part of our economic recovery plan that will create critical infrastructure for Alberta's economic recovery, put tens of thousands of Albertans to work over the next couple of years, and position this province for economic recovery. At the same time we need to continue to work to deliver government services most efficiently, and we call on municipalities to work together with us on both our economic recovery and delivering most efficient government services.

2:10 Government Members' Remarks on COVID-19

Ms Phillips: Mr. Speaker, a week ago Alberta's former chief medical officer Dr. James Talbot said, quote: what I would say to the MLAs who signed that letter is to say, "Okay; well, your hypothesis is that what the Premier announced was overkill, so let's wait a week or two – that's how long it's going to take – and let's see what happens to the number." What happened? Cases and hospitalizations have gone up, so the question is for the Health minister. Why hasn't he stated to his own constituents in Calgary, at the very least, who have very little patience for the UCP COVID caucus, that these MLAs are wrong and they shouldn't abuse their office in this dangerous way?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, I think I've said many times that I encourage all Albertans – you know, we're all frustrated by the health restrictions – regardless of their occupation, whether in this House or outside this House, to follow the restrictions, understand the reasons for the restrictions, that our goal is to reduce the number of cases, to reduce, then, the pressure on our health care system. We hope that all Albertans will. As the Premier said as well, when Dr. Hinshaw and he and I announced those tightening restrictions, we hope that the debate will be focused on the evidence at hand.

Ms Phillips: Given that a week ago Alberta's former chief medical officer Dr. Talbot had this direct message for the UCP COVID 18, quote: if you're right and if it was overkill, we'll see the numbers drop precipitously, and everyone who criticized you can apologize, but if the numbers continue to go up, they were not strict enough. Given that the number of cases yesterday topped 1,400, will the Minister of Health be clear with the people of Calgary at least and state his position that the COVID 18 UCP MLAs don't speak for him, or will he just continue to carry this public health and political albatross for the Premier?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, the NDP continue to politicize COVID. They continue to undermine public confidence. I made it very clear that, of course, I – we announced, the Premier and I, with Dr. Hinshaw, the tightening of restrictions. Of course, I'm encouraging all Albertans to follow the health restrictions that are in place. We're going to continue to look at the evidence as we finish the remainder part of the response to the pandemic. We don't see just the light at the end of the tunnel; we now see the end of the tunnel with vaccinations. I encourage all Albertans in the meantime to continue to follow the public health guidelines.

Ms Phillips: Well, given that the UCP COVID 18 continue to push misinformation that only leads to more confusion and more coronavirus, will the Minister of Health send a clear message to the COVID 18? The past week has shown that they are wrong. Their views undermine health care workers and will do lasting damage to the economy. Or will the minister side with the fringe of the UCP, allow them to continue to influence government policy, and have to justify this to the people of Calgary? Which path will the Health minister choose?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, the only ones undermining the public health response to the pandemic has been the politicization of the NDP throughout the response to the pandemic for 14 months, trying to undermine public confidence in the response to the pandemic, trying to create false narratives of oxygen being run out of in the province, that doctors were fleeing the province, or everything else that they've said to try to undermine public confidence and undermine, quite frankly, the folks on the front line, who are putting everything that they have to be able to respond to the pandemic and protect the lives of Albertans.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake has a question.

High Prairie Health Complex Services

Mr. Rehn: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. For many in the town of High Prairie their new hospital has been a point of pride and a substantial upgrade to their capabilities to provide comprehensive medical care for the region. However, it has been brought to my attention by constituents that the health complex is presently full and residents are being redirected to the community of McLennan for care, spending critical additional time in transit before receiving medical care. To the Minister of Health: what measures are being explored to expand the bed capacity of the High Prairie health complex?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. All existing emergency services remain open in High Prairie, and any needed patient transfers are done in a safe way, managed once a patient is stable and able to be moved. AHS's decision to reduce the number of acute-care beds temporarily at a health care facility when staffing levels may become low is a common practice. It does not compromise the care that patients receive. The complex at High Prairie is an important facility. I just visited it just a couple of weeks ago. There are no plans to reduce the health care services in High Prairie, and I want to reiterate that this is a temporary measure and not taken lightly by AHS.

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

Mr. Rehn: Thank you, Minister, if you do visit my constituency again, if you'd let me know, I'd really appreciate it.

Given that we know that High Prairie is a designated STARS landing zone for the region and given that High Prairie has since 2010 received the life-saving services of STARS 143 times, as evidenced by STARS's own data, which is the same amount of visits of the city of Grande Prairie, without High Prairie having a helipad to support STARS in doing so, to the Health minister: would you agree with me that it is time that High Prairie does get a landing pad?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. AHS, Alberta Health Services, and I are aware of the desire to build a helipad at the High Prairie health complex. I've been approached by members of the community, including members of the urban municipality, and I know that AHS is committed to working with the community to explore those options. AHS is responsible for determining the priority of health projects, and we look to them to make sure that people in every community have access to all the services that they need, including EMS. There is an airport that's less than seven

kilometres away, where helicopters can land safely, and transporting patients short distances by ground is safe.

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

Mr. Rehn: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Given that physiotherapy is critical to recovery from long-term injuries and given that at the present time the High Prairie health complex is only capable of providing these vital services to attending patients and not outpatients, to the minister: what actions does he intend to undertake to ensure that these services, critical to the well-being of my constituents, will be more accessible in their own region?

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The pandemic has created some challenges for AHS's ability to see some outpatients in person. Outpatient physiotherapy in High Prairie is gradually returning to in-person services, with up to 30 clients per day currently being served. AHS-allied health teams in the community have worked hard to continue to offer virtual care options when it's appropriate. AHS has since resumed in-person physiotherapy services in High Prairie although virtual services are still available if clients would prefer.

Member for Banff-Kananaskis' Remarks on COVID-19

Ms Hoffman: Yesterday the Mayor of Canmore stated that he'd be happy to discuss COVID planning with his local MLA, the UCP Member for Banff-Kananaskis, but it has been over a year since he's had contact with her. The mayor even stated that it feels like Canmore is not represented in the Legislature. How does the Premier justify his MLA abandoning Canmore and refusing to talk to the mayor for a full year?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, I think the Premier has spoken on this topic many times. This is going to be the NDP continuing to try to play games. We are going to continue to focus on our response to the pandemic. We're going to be focused on lives. We're going to be focused on livelihoods while the NDP continue to politicize COVID and undermine confidence in the public in response to the pandemic.

Ms Hoffman: Given that a group of six Bow Valley doctors wrote a letter to the MLA for Banff-Kananaskis stating that the anti public health stance that she herself and 17 of her UCP MLA colleagues took was dangerous and given that the doctors said, "Your actions essentially undermine the work that we are doing" and added that the MLA's actions "are a backhanded slap to our efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19," to the Premier: who exactly is the MLA representing when she advocates to put her constituents at greater risk? It's certainly not local doctors or the municipal councils of Canmore or Banff.

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, is this a question about government business? This seems like it's a question for the Member for Banff-Kananaskis. I'm looking forward to encouraging the member to perhaps ask that member outside of question period. I look forward to perhaps getting in the second supplemental a question about government business.

Ms Hoffman: Given that the most important job of an MLA is to represent their constituents and given that the Premier three months ago explained why he removed the Member for Lesser Slave Lake from his caucus, stating that the MLA had made no effort to represent his constituents, and given that we have seen the same situation here in Banff-Kananaskis, where local leaders are fed up

with their MLA's dangerous stance on COVID-19 and her unwillingness to fight to save Albertans' lives as well as their parks, will the Premier kick this MLA out of the government caucus today just like he did to the Member for Lesser Slave Lake?

2:20

Mr. Shandro: The answer is no, Mr. Speaker. We are not going to get questions about government business. We are not going to get questions that are thoughtful or reasonable. We are not getting questions that are truly about the response to the pandemic, which is, quite frankly, what we've often seen throughout the last 14 months. We've seen, really, just the NDP trying to politicize, one of the few jurisdictions in North America where we've seen a political party truly try to politicize, the response to the pandemic. It's unfortunate behaviour. I will not hold my breath waiting for the NDP to behave any differently.

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

Seniors Advocate

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2019 the UCP abolished the office of the Seniors Advocate. They claimed that the Health Advocate could fulfill this role. Sadly, nothing has been done under her watch. Over 1,200 residents in continuing care have, tragically, died from COVID-19 while this government did little to support seniors. I received numerous letters and e-mails asking for this office to be re-established. I know that the Minister of Seniors and Housing has received these as well. Will the minister work with me to establish this office so the needs of seniors across the province are met?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, what a perfect example of the priorities of the NDP. Government is focused on protecting seniors in the pandemic, vaccinating them as fast as possible, supporting home care and continuing care providers who care for many of them, and reviewing the continuing care system to make it better and safer. In the middle of the pandemic the NDP's priority is to grandstand about a former public servant, whether we have an office called Seniors Advocate or Health Advocate, and which department the advocate works in.

Ms Sigurdson: Given that COVID-19 has exposed many problems with continuing care and given that the UCP's talking points on addressing this only amount to referencing a biased review on long-term care with the intention of further privatization and given that the B.C. Seniors Advocate is independent and has made meaningful recommendations during the pandemic, does the minister acknowledge that the government's response to COVID could have been vastly improved if it had the expertise of an independent Seniors Advocate in this province?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, we continue to have a Health Advocate who is devoted to addressing the concerns of all Albertans, including seniors, and connecting them to the staff in either Alberta Health or Seniors and Housing. All the former staff of the Seniors Advocate's office, other than the former advocate herself, continue to work in the two departments. We continue to have an entire Department of Seniors and Housing, and we're spending more than ever before on health care, including \$260 million to help continuing care providers care for seniors. But the issue for the NDP: why does the sign on the door say a single public health servant's name is Health Advocate rather than Seniors Advocate?

Ms Sigurdson: Given that the UCP stopped the process of selecting a qualified expert for the Health Advocate and instead appointed a

partisan loyalist and former executive director of the United Conservative Party and given that this pandemic has taken thousands of lives, most of them seniors, and Albertans have heard nothing of substance from this advocate and given that I intend to bring legislation later today to establish an independent Seniors Advocate, to the minister: Representation for seniors in Alberta is a disaster. I'm offering legislation to fix it. Will the UCP government commit to debating Bill 215 on the floor of this Legislature?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, we merged the advocates' offices in January of 2020 to increase co-ordination and create a single source of information and to ensure that efficient use of taxpayer dollars is being used, and experienced staff at the office of the Seniors Advocate were transferred to the Alberta Health Advocate's office. The legislative authority of the office didn't change. The Health Advocate has the same authority that the Seniors Advocate did. The other thing that has not changed is the total lack of perspective of the NDP and grandstanding about the location of a single position on an org chart in the middle of a pandemic.

Economic Recovery Plan and Tax Policies

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, our economy has been devastated by the storm of an oil war, COVID, and the inability to build pipelines. As Conservatives we know that the more money people and businesses have in their pockets, the more money is spent in the economy to support growth and create jobs. It is vital that government places minimal burden on taxpayers to ensure that we can emerge as quickly as possible. To the Minister of Finance, please: are there any additional supports and savings we could offer to businesses, particularly small businesses, to help accomplish this?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. We're positioning the province to be one of the most competitive tax jurisdictions in North America, and that's supported by our job-creation tax cut. Budget 2021 paves the way for growth in Alberta's postpandemic economy by ensuring we have the most competitive business environment and supports core sectors and economic recovery initiatives. Lastly, I'll highlight that earlier this week the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation introduced another round of the small-business relaunch grant. We're continuing to respond to the needs of businesses.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Barnes: Thank you. Given that businesses rely on spending, largely from household consumers, to support their business enterprises and given that many workers will need as much money as possible to pay off accumulated debt from this time once they find employment again, to the minister: can you assure this House and our fellow Albertans that we will continue to maintain low personal income tax rates to assist them, their families, and our businesses in getting ahead of this difficult time?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The economic impacts of the pandemic have had a serious impact on individuals' lives and have had a really detrimental effect on business outcomes. As I've said before, during times of great uncertainty it would be irresponsible for government to impose new taxes or increase taxes. Instead, we remain firm on maintaining our fiscal anchors. We owe

it to taxpayers and all Albertans to deliver government services most efficiently.

The Speaker: Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that taxes on goods and services drive a wedge into not only what consumers and families can afford but also what businesses make and given that not having a sales tax makes Alberta a more attractive place to work and do business by helping to keep the cost of goods and services lower and given that this province has a long history of having no sales tax, to the minister: can you assure this House and Albertans that we have no plans for the government to discuss a sales tax here in Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the member for the question. The last thing Albertans need right now at a time of great uncertainty is additional tax burden. Instead, our government is laser focused on the fiscal anchors we identified in Budget 2021. We're diligently working to align our spending with that of comparative provinces and to keep our net debt-to-GDP ratio below 30 per cent. We're doing everything in our power to position the province for economic recovery, which is key to fiscal recovery.

The Speaker: Edmonton-City Centre.

Health Care Workforce and Budget 2021

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I helped deliver 30,000 letters to the Premier's office calling on his UCP government to stop their attack on public health care, letters from concerned citizens of Alberta from all walks of life who can't comprehend why this government wants to attack front-line health care workers amongst the worst global health pandemic in a century. To the Premier or the Minister of Health, a direct question: will their government listen to these Albertans and call off their punitive and vindictive plan to fire 11,000 front-line health care workers once this pandemic is over?

Mr. Shandro: Well, Mr. Speaker, again, to be able to point out that what the member is asking about is the implementation of recommendations which he himself called common sense – he was correct when he called them common sense; they are common-sense recommendations. We are going to continue to proceed with a balanced portion of those recommendations, considering we're in the middle of a pandemic, and that's the reason why we directed AHS to proceed with just a balanced, thoughtful portion of those recommendations, since we're in the middle of a pandemic.

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

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, given that with this minister we do see history repeat itself, from his disastrous fight with doctors that earned him a 98 per cent vote of nonconfidence to a new fight with nurses, where he's imposing a COVID-19 vaccine penalty, and given that it's clear this minister's biggest problem is that he just won't listen to doctors, nurses, or any medical professionals and given that his lack of leadership has left our front-line health care heroes deeply demoralized even as they step up to battle the third wave of this deadly pandemic, hasn't he done enough? Will he end the chaos and actually support health care workers, and if not, will he step up and let somebody else . . .

Mr. Shandro: None of that is true, Mr. Speaker, but I don't – I'm not surprised at all. It's going to continue to be the behaviour I see from that member and I see from that caucus. We've seen it for 14 months, the NDP behaving this way, trying to misrepresent what's happening throughout the pandemic, trying to misrepresent what's happening with government, but we are going to continue to see that from them. I'll be surprised if, for example, they decided to stop this behaviour going forward.

2:30

Mr. Shepherd: Given, Mr. Speaker, that we will not stop standing up for Albertans, because nowhere in this government's election platform did they tell them that they would declare a war on doctors, pick fights with nurses, or lay off 11,000 front-line health care workers, and given that all Albertans have nothing but respect and admiration for our health care heroes, who've worked night and day to keep them safe during this deadly pandemic, but given that 30,000 regular Albertans took the time to write to this government and plead with them to do the right thing, will the minister listen to his conscience? Will he recognize the damage that he's done? Will he commit that not a single health care worker on the front lines of COVID-19 will be given a pink slip when the pandemic is over?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, if any of that was true – if any of that was true – and if this wasn't grandstanding by the NDP, why did they deliver it to an office they knew was empty? They knew that the Premier's office is not in that location right now because they're grandstanding. He's asking questions about implementation of plans that he himself called common sense. He continues to try to maybe, perhaps take back those words because it probably got him in a lot of trouble from his caucus colleagues, but he called it common sense. He's correct, and we'll continue with those plans.

Indigenous Content in Educational Curriculum

Mr. Feehan: The failing grades for this government's flawed curriculum are coming in hourly now. School boards, indigenous communities, teachers, parents, and more are rejecting and refusing to pilot or endorse this disastrous curriculum. The Northwest Territories says that Alberta's current curriculum, when compared to B.C., Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, ranks dead last when it comes to inclusive schools and incorporation of indigenous perspectives. The Territories were working with the NDP government on a much-needed update, and now that relationship is being ruined. To the minister: why did you abandon the important educational partnership with the Northwest Territories?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do believe the Minister of Education has responded to this question before in this House. The minister has met with Minister Simpson, the minister of education for the Northwest Territories, regarding this inaccurate speculation. The minister assured her that the Northwest Territories is simply going through their normal curriculum review process as the previous five-year agreement they have with Alberta is coming to an end in September. During this routine review they're looking at a number of provinces, including Alberta.

Mr. Feehan: Given that the Territories' director of curriculum development said that they were working actively with the NDP government on new content until 2018 and given that she said explicitly that it was the election of this Premier that stopped that relationship in its tracks and given that we have seen the outcry and rejection of the curriculum from Treaty Six, Tsuut'ina, Chiniki,

Wesley nations, Cree elders, and so many others, will the minister finally – finally – admit that there's a problem with this flawed curriculum and go back to the drawing board? Do we really need to be the last on incorporating indigenous perspectives in our classrooms?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'll just repeat what I said for the member opposite as I'm not sure that he heard the response. The minister of the Northwest Territories has been in contact with our Minister of Education and did assure the minister that their territory is simply going through their normal curriculum review process. This curriculum, that has been rolled out for feedback from all Albertans, does include First Nations, Métis, and Inuit content in every grade. There are certainly a number of proponents who have also supported that curriculum.

Mr. Feehan: Given that the Northwest Territories supported our development of new curriculum until this UCP minister and the Premier got their hands on it and given that Alberta's teachers have said today that they won't even implement this curriculum and given that this government continues to bury its head in the sand, to the minister: is this really the message we want to be sending to our kids, that when you make a big mistake and upset so many people, you shouldn't own up to it? We expect better from them, and Albertans expect better from this government.

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now, as I've said a number of times in this House this week, this is a draft curriculum. It has been released to gather feedback from all Albertans, which Albertans are able to do at www.alberta.ca/curriculum. We want to hear from all Albertans. You know, I have quoted former Grand Chief Littlechild a number of times in the House this week, so I would like to quote somebody else. I would like to quote the other co-chair from the ARAC council, that has also been discussed a number of times in this House, who said, "I am glad to see the involvement of the K-6 draft curriculum includes more Indigenous, African and Caribbean history."

School COVID-19 Response

Mr. Amery: Mr. Speaker, Alberta's K to 12 schools play an essential role in ensuring the success of our future generations. Not only are these schools essential for our children's well-being and socialization, but they give parents stability as well. Over the course of the pandemic there has been uncertainty about our children's safety in the classroom, and just this week several boards have announced at-home schooling for students in grades 7 to 12. Given that these steps only extend to students in grades 7 to 12, however, what is the Minister of Education doing to ensure that our younger children will remain safe for the remainder of this pandemic?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for that great question. I know we both have young kids, and this issue is top of mind for many Alberta parents and families. The safety of students and staff remains our top priority, and that's why we worked with education partners to develop this back-to-school plan for this school year. School divisions were also provided an additional \$262 million to fund COVID-19-related expenses, everything from staffing to modified learning spaces, PPE, supports

for students with special needs, online learning, and teacher training. We have and will continue to work with school divisions and support them through this.

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-Cross.

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that there is an introduction of the rapid test program for students in high schools and given that this will allow for testing of students more frequently and given that these tests will be separated from the general population tests, can the Minister of Education explain how these rapid test programs in our school system will work to ensure our students' safety? [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

The hon. Minister of Children's Services.

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now, rapid test screening is just one additional tool that we can use to limit the spread of the virus in schools and make sure that students can keep learning safely in the classroom. The successful rapid testing pilot provided us with important information that we needed to expand this program in more schools across the province. The program may potentially detect the virus quickly in people who don't have symptoms, allowing them to immediately isolate and limit the spread of COVID-19. We're committed to ensuring students and staff have the supports they need to keep students learning in the classroom.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Albertans are still concerned about COVID-19 in schools and given that there is still ongoing uncertainty regarding the pandemic and given that Albertans are searching for a structured approach to creating certainty in the last stages of this pandemic, can the Minister of Education please tell Albertans how the COVID-19 health measures in schools will ensure stability in the education system through these uncertain times?

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much for the question. As the minister has said since the beginning of the pandemic, the safety and security of students and staff are our top priority. The COVID-19 health measures that are in place in our schools will make sure that students continue to learn and, most importantly, will continue to learn from the classroom when they safely can. I do again want to thank students, teachers, parents, administrators, staff for their hard work this school year to make sure everyone is safe and that learning continues. As the Minister of Health said today, we not only see the light at the end of the tunnel; we can see the end of the tunnel.

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

Lethbridge Business and Industry

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lethbridge and area plays an important role in Alberta as a gateway to the northwestern United States. As the largest municipality within driving distance of the U.S. border, Lethbridge is a central hub for international imports and exports in Alberta. We have benefited immensely from carefully planned strategic investments like the \$815 million of capital investment in our irrigation system and \$150 million for highway 3 twinning and so much more. To the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation: what specifically is your ministry doing to encourage prosperity and innovation for Lethbridge businesses?

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 that really important question. Lethbridge and area is indeed a critical region to Alberta's economy and will play a key role in our future economic growth, particularly in the area of agriculture and agriculture innovation. We've seen huge expansions in value-add manufacturing and other areas, and through our support of the new exhibition centre and our investment in growth strategy, we're going to continue to ensure that we're supporting investment attraction into areas across the province, including Lethbridge.

The Speaker: Lethbridge-East.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Lethbridge is a top producer of agrifood products like sugar beets, grain, beef, and chicken as well as value-added food products like french fries, potato chips, and sugar and given that Lethbridge's manufacturing plants have an international and global presence with products from aircraft engines to cargo trailers and also given that many of these products as well as imports have to cross the southern border, to the same minister: will you work towards preinspection for commercial shipping units crossing the border to expedite that process?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the member for that question. Jurisdiction of our borders and border inspections fall, of course, under the federal government. However, it's critical that all levels of government work to ensure that our vital trade relationship with the United States is preserved and, in fact, grows. We export more than \$100 billion to the United States every year, ensuring that Lethbridge and those who are building the region into a global powerhouse of manufacturing and agriculture innovation are able to export their products as quickly and effectively as possible.

2:40

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister. Given that much of our commodities in Lethbridge is grown and manufactured by local farmers, workers, and business owners and given that 2020 and 2021 have been tough years for national and international trade as well as for our local economies and also given that many local businesses rely on locally sourced products as well as on imports, once again to the minister: what supports are in place to keep Lethbridge's vital industries and businesses open and operating during the current pandemic?

The Speaker: The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for his advocacy for his region. We have implemented a number of programs. The fed cattle set-aside program was critical to that region. There's also been a similar set-aside inventory program for the hog industry. We've expanded again our small-business relaunch grant for a third payment, bringing total supports for that program to close to \$1 billion. We've provided supports to nearly 100,000 businesses through the relaunch grant, and we expect that as many as 50,000 additional businesses will qualify for the funding again.

The Speaker: Hon. members, in 30 seconds or less we will return to the remainder of the Routine. If members have other business, I ask that they exit the Chamber quickly today.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy on behalf of the Minister of Environment and Parks.

Bill 69

Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2021

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise on behalf of the Government House Leader today for leave to introduce Bill 69, the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2021.

This bill will make minor amendments to a number of acts, which include the Income and Employment Supports Act, the Family Support for Children with Disabilities Act, the Oil and Gas Conservation Act, the Companies Act, the Alberta Investment Attraction Act, the Commercial Tenancies Protection Act, the Public Trustee Act, the Employment Standards Code, the Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act, 2020, the Public Service Employee Relations Act, 2018, the Municipal Government Act, the Special Areas Act, the Traffic Safety Act, the Societies Act, the Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Act.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments are housekeeping in nature and are intended to provide clarity and consistency.

[Motion carried; Bill 69 read a first time]

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

Bill 215

Seniors Advocate Act

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise and request leave to introduce Bill 215, the Seniors Advocate Act.

If passed, this act would establish an independent Seniors Advocate who would be an officer of this Legislature. The advocate would help seniors navigate services and the health care system, make recommendations to government on how to improve services for seniors, and have the ability to conduct research and review service providers to ensure the needs of seniors are being met. COVID-19 has hit seniors the hardest and has shone a light on the need for reform and meaningful change. I hope all members of the Assembly will support this bill.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of Bill 215.

[Motion carried; Bill 215 read a first time]

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Camrose.

Bill 216

Fire Prevention and Fire Services Recognition Act

Ms Lovely: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to beg leave to introduce Bill 216, the Fire Prevention and Fire Services Recognition Act.

If passed, this bill would establish the week commencing on the first or second Sunday of October as fire prevention week and the Saturday of fire prevention week as fire services recognition day. This is to raise awareness around fire safety and prevention as well as to recognize the many individuals who work in fire services to keep Albertans safe.

I encourage all of my hon. colleagues to support this bill, and with that, I move first reading of Bill 216.

[Motion carried; Bill 216 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Infrastructure, followed by the Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, I have three tablings. The first one: I rise to table the written response to the Member for Edmonton-South that I had committed to at the March 8, 2021, Committee of Supply. Enclosed I have a number of copies.

Then, Mr. Speaker, I have good information here. I rise to table the requisite number of copies of a notice from the city of Edmonton that construction starts soon on the valley line west LRT. The government of Alberta is providing over \$1 billion to this project in addition to almost a billion from the federal government's ICIP program.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important tabling. I have the requisite copies. This is about the government of Alberta's unsolicited proposal framework and guidelines. The government of Alberta encourages private entities to present only unsolicited proposals that either identify infrastructure needs that the GOA has not identified but which conform with the GOA's stated infrastructure policy plans or . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister. The purpose of tablings is so that members can read it on their own.

The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

Mr. Rehn: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the documents for the county of Big Lakes' data from a meeting on April 11, 2021, illustrating that High Prairie uses the services of STARS as much as the city of Grande Prairie.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Are there others? The Member for Edmonton-Glenora, followed by Edmonton-Manning.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first tabling is the letter from the doctors from Bear Street Family Physicians in Banff, that I referred to in one of my questions earlier today.

The next. I've received thousands of letters, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to table them all, but these are a handful of letters from folks who specifically have written about the curriculum with grave concern. Some of them have had follow-up phone calls with me to discuss their frustration in not hearing back from their local MLAs about this matter of deep interest. The letters today that I have include folks from Buck Lake, Calgary, and Cochrane.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning, followed by Edmonton-City Centre, I believe.

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise and table the requisite copies of letters from concerned citizens across Alberta in regard to the curriculum review.

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

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to table a number of e-mails from a wide range of Albertans expressing their absolute disappointment in and opposition to this government's failed and flawed draft curriculum.

The Speaker: Hon. members, Ordres du jour.

Orders of the Day
Government Bills and Orders
Second Reading

Bill 67
Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act

The Speaker: The Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Nicolaides: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today to move second reading of Bill 67, the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Madam Speaker, as members of the Assembly know, Alberta's government is committed to strengthening trades and promoting apprenticeship education. We're doing this because we believe that a trade certificate has every bit as much value and merit as an academic degree.

During the 2019 campaign we committed to expanding apprenticeship learning and promoting a parity of esteem between trades and academic learning. We're investing \$6 million annually to Careers: the Next Generation to quadruple the number of high school students participating in trades programming and \$10 million to Women Building Futures to help more women find careers in the trades. We've established a trades hall of fame and created a new scholarship to recognize excellence in trades education.

2:50

As well, in the summer of 2019 I commissioned the Skills for Jobs Task Force, co-chaired by the then president of NAIT, Dr. Glenn Feltham, and the SAIT president, Dr. David Ross. The committee completed their work and released their final report in the fall of 2020. In their report the panel made a series of recommendations to create a parity of esteem and expand apprenticeship education in Alberta. As part of their final report, the panel recommended drafting new legislation to provide a new and modern framework for apprenticeship learning in Alberta. They suggested that new legislation "be principles-based, nimble, and flexible." They also noted that "system roles need to be clarified and strengthened and governance models updated." With this expert advice, it was clear that new legislation was needed.

This proposed legislation will modernize apprenticeship education and skilled trades in Alberta and make sure that Alberta's workforce is skilled, competitive, and equipped to deal with challenges today and into the future. Madam Speaker, if passed, it will repeal and replace the existing Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act, which has been in place since 1991. I was honoured to introduce Bill 67 to the Assembly on Tuesday, and I'm pleased to move second reading. I firmly believe that this bill will make Alberta a national and international leader in apprenticeship and trades education.

Here's how it will do that, Madam Speaker. Firstly, it will open the door to giving trades certification formal academic recognition. Currently a completed apprenticeship certificate does not, in the vast majority of instances, ladder into other academic programs. A journeyman often receives little to no academic recognition. The task force identified this and noted that

for those who achieve certification, the current Journeyman Certificate is not recognized as a post-secondary credential and has limited and unstandardized . . . recognition. This ultimately limits the ability of trades professionals to pursue further education and training or shift into other careers and professions.

The changes in the act will help address this issue and make Alberta a leader amongst other provinces in creating more opportunities for trades professionals.

Secondly, Bill 67 provides the foundations needed to create new apprenticeships. Currently the AIT Act specifies that apprenticeship programs are only provided to occupations designated as trades. This limits how we can expand apprenticeship offerings. However, as we prepare for the postpandemic economic recovery, we must take every possible step to help Albertans reskill and upskill for the new economy. Should the legislation be passed, Alberta's government will begin a comprehensive, multiyear effort to expand apprenticeships into new careers. There is no reason, Madam Speaker, why occupations such as coding, graphic design, cybersecurity, and many others cannot be taught through an apprenticeship model. Again, in this regard I am confident that Alberta will lead Canada in creating new and modern apprenticeships.

Once again, the task force, under recommendation 4.1, suggested that we do exactly this. Specifically, they noted that we should "significantly expand apprenticeship education to professions where it best meets the needs of learners and industry." The task force further recommended that the government explore apprenticeship programs in industrial trades, information technology, engineering, services including social care, restaurant services, and business, recognizing that many business disciplines are learned through apprenticeship models, including, for example, banking, insurance, marketing, and finance.

Thirdly, Bill 67 will modernize and improve governance of our trades. A new board of skilled trades will be established, replacing the current AIT Board. The new board will have more autonomy to operate how it wants and to govern its industry network such as establishing committees. The current AIT Act, unfortunately, is overly prescriptive and prescribes how the board will operate, prescribes things like membership composition, appointment terms, and furthermore it prescribes committee structures. Even if there's no longer a need for a particular committee or if the members of the committee want to explore a different model, the current act does not allow them to do that.

Furthermore, currently there's actually no representation from postsecondary institutions in the system governance. Under the new act the board will have more flexibility to determine how it wants to engage with industry and the rest of the postsecondary system. The task force recommended that Alberta look at examples from other jurisdictions around the world, where they are elevating the participation of industry and postsecondary institutions into a more integrated and purposeful system. In New Zealand, for example, workforce development councils have been created to have forward strategic views of the future skills needs of an industry. They've also created regional skills groups and centres of vocational excellence. Through a fresh start we can learn from some of these examples and create a stronger system.

Fourthly, the bill will remove unnecessary red tape. The current AIT Act contributes 12,000 pieces of regulation and other items. Red tape impacts employers, industry, postsecondary institutions, and apprentices. The new act will eliminate much of this and allow for a more flexible system.

In summary and in closing, Madam Speaker, I'm confident that this new bill will make Alberta a national and international leader in apprenticeship and trades education. I'd like to just provide a quick summary of next steps. Should the legislation be passed, the ministry will lead extensive consultation to develop the needed regulations. We'll spend the course of the spring and summer engaging with our colleges and polytechnics, employers, unions, apprentices, and others to build the new system. It's my intention to bring forward these new regulations in the fall.

I'd like to close by thanking staff in the Ministry of Advanced Education for their incredible and diligent work in developing this

new legislation as well as all the members of the Skills for Jobs Task Force and the members of the skilled trades caucus.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I move to adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Mrs. Pitt in the chair]

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

Bill 55

College of Alberta School Superintendents Act

The Chair: Are there any members wishing to join debate? The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Madam Chair. It is my honour to rise and speak to Bill 55, the College of Alberta School Superintendents Act. As I've said previously, superintendents play an important role in making sure every student in our province receives a high-quality education. They have a significant impact on our students and our teachers. Accordingly, they need to be held to a high level of oversight and integrity. This is at the heart of this bill. Establishing the College of Alberta School Superintendents as a legislated organization will build upon an already excellent education system. Alberta parents and teachers deserve nothing less.

Madam Chair, I was pleased to see that second reading generated debate as well as questions regarding this bill. I'd like to take my time this afternoon to address these concerns as well as to provide clarity to the House. I'll be addressing these concerns in four broad categories: membership, discipline, professional standards, and cost.

First, there were concerns that the bill would take away from the membership of groups like the Alberta Teachers' Association, or the ATA. I can assure members that this bill does not affect the rules for the ATA membership. The Teaching Profession Act sets out rules for who must hold active membership in the ATA and who is eligible to elect out of the ATA. These rules are not changing. In fact, the ATA was consulted as part of the development of the proposed bill, and we value the input we received from them.

3:00

Under the current set-up superintendents, deputy superintendents, and many teacher leaders currently employed in senior leadership positions in public, separate, and francophone schools and regional authorities do not hold active membership in the ATA. What this bill proposes to do is take superintendents and chief deputy superintendents of public, separate, francophone, and charter school boards or regional authorities and make them mandatory or regulated CASS members. Other potential CASS members will be those eligible central office teacher leaders who do not hold active membership in the ATA. We've reached out to about 1,300 individuals in central office locations to let them know of this option.

Regulated members of CASS cannot hold active membership in the ATA, meaning they cannot be part of the teachers' union in the ATA. Under this bill CASS will be able to set membership categories for nonregulated members that allow teacher leaders who are active members in the ATA to hold nonregulated member status in CASS. These nonregulated members can include system leaders in First Nation school authorities and independent schools.

Other examples of individuals who may opt to join CASS as nonregulated members include retired superintendents or university professors. This approach would not be different from teacher leaders who currently hold associate membership status in the ATA and are non-union members. With respect to independent schools, Madam Chair, teacher leaders in these schools would not be regulated members of CASS but could be nonregulated members. Under this bill CASS will develop the bylaws with respect to the type of nonregulated membership and who can be a nonregulated member, which could include independent school teacher leaders.

There were also some concerns expressed with how disciplinary matters will be handled with CASS becoming a legislated organization. I do take matters of discipline in our education system very, very seriously. This is one thing that I'm most firm on. Superintendents have a significant impact on student and teacher success; therefore, it is vital they are held to a high level of oversight and integrity. The bill will make CASS responsible for overseeing the disciplinary process for its regulated members. This is similar to other professional organizations like the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta or the Alberta College of Physicians & Surgeons or the ATA.

The disciplinary process for teachers with active membership in the ATA is governed by the Teaching Profession Act and the ATA bylaws. This is not changing. Under this bill CASS would still have to report information to me as the Minister of Education and also to the registrar. CASS would also be required to provide recommendations to me whether to suspend or cancel a certificate of practice for its regulated members based on the outcome of the disciplinary process.

Also, governance of the CASS discipline process will parallel existing processes under the practice review of teachers and teacher leaders regulation. These establish how complaints will be addressed in situations where the teacher or teacher leader is not subject to the Teaching Profession Act. The bill will apply to superintendents, deputy superintendents, and eligible teacher leaders who elect out of active ATA membership. This represents a holistic approach to professional oversight and discipline in terms of roles and processes for teachers, teacher leaders, and superintendents. And, as I said, this will also make the governance structure of CASS's professional discipline matters resemble that of other legislated structures in Alberta. To summarize, the shift in responsibility for oversight of professional discipline matters is simply moving from the registrar at Alberta Education, who currently oversees professional discipline for these individuals, to CASS.

Third, with respect to professional development, CASS will be responsible for offering professional development to its regulated members. This includes setting learning requirements to ensure that they meet government's superintendent leadership quality standard and the leadership quality standard. In particular, the superintendent leadership quality standard defines the professional expectations that superintendents must demonstrate to create the conditions under which school leaders and teachers can do their best work. This includes a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment based on common values and beliefs. Likewise, the leadership quality standard outlines the professional expectations that school jurisdiction leaders must demonstrate to create the same conditions.

CASS would also be responsible for ensuring its regulated members are skilled and competent in professional practice and build upon government's professional practice standards for superintendent and other system leaders. The professional practice standards provide the basis for career-long learning and ensure alignment between the teaching quality standard, the leadership quality standard, and the superintendent leadership quality standard.

Finally, with respect to costs I can advise members that CASS is expected to be self-sustaining through membership fees. While my department will continue to work with CASS as it transitions to a legislated professional organization, there will be no additional funding. CASS, through its bylaws, will determine membership fees for regulated and nonregulated members. As a result government does not have a breakdown of the costs or fee schedule as yet.

As I've said previously, mandatory regulated members are superintendents and chief deputy superintendents of public, separate, francophone, and charter school boards or regional authorities. Other mandatory regulated members will be those central office teacher leaders who do not hold active membership in the ATA. My department does not have a detailed breakdown of this number. Under this bill individual members, not school boards, are responsible for paying CASS membership fees.

Lastly, I'd like to address the proposed amendment to enshrine in legislation the notion that the teachers will be part of one association in CASS and its members will be part of another association. As I've said previously, the rules around who must hold active membership in the ATA are not changing. Under this bill regulated members of CASS cannot be part of the teachers' union in the ATA.

Madam Speaker, turning CASS into a legislated professional organization will strengthen the leadership and governance of school authorities at the highest level. This will ensure that students in school systems continue to be supported through improving governance, accountability, and leadership excellence. This legislation shows how Alberta's government is committed to strengthening our education system to make sure every one of our students receives the very best education possible. This is ultimately about better outcomes for all Alberta students and their futures. This bill will make it clear, very clear, with respect to who can be an ATA member and who can be a member of CASS. That is why I do not see the need to amend Bill 55.

Madam Chair, I look forward to hearing from my colleagues further on the bill.

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

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Madam Chair and to the minister for kicking us off on debate today. I also want to thank the minister, her political staff, the department staff for the technical briefing we did have on this bill the day it was first tabled. I think it always gets us on a better path when we can start in that way, so I appreciate it. Some of the questions that I raised at that time and in second reading the minister has touched on today in her remarks.

I know that the minister commented on proposed amendments, and I haven't tabled them yet, but I absolutely do want to table them. I have three amendments, and I'm hopeful that we can have a good discussion and that we can see them supported and that we can therefore all support this bill. I think that while this isn't the number one issue that I'm being contacted about in education – it isn't even close to the number one issue right now. I'd say that most families are contacting me about curriculum or about COVID in schools and about safety and closures. I think most families would rather we were discussing those topics and legislative changes to improve the processes, the outcomes, the safety, and the content in schools.

But we do have this piece of legislation in front of us, and this is what the government has chosen to prioritize, and I think that, showing respect to the priorities that the government has identified for today, I am here to rise in debate of the College of Alberta School Superintendents Act, or the CASS Act, and to consider it. I

do want to be brief in introducing my amendments, but I am absolutely happy to answer questions if people do have them.

I'll start by presenting the first one, Madam Chair.

3:10

The Chair: Hon. members, this will be known as amendment A1. Hon. member, please proceed.

Ms Hoffman: Thanks. With that same spirit of technical briefings and transparency in leading up to the debate of today, we did provide copies of these to the minister's office in advance, and I'm hopeful that we can see some support for them. The first one is – I'll read out the content. I move that Bill 55, College of School Superintendents Act, be amended by striking out section 1(1)(dd) and substituting the following:

(dd) "teacher leader" means a teacher who holds a leadership certificate or a superintendent leadership certificate or whose leadership certificate or superintendent leadership certificate has expired or been suspended or cancelled.

This amendment is quite simple in that it requests teachers – if they take the current definition of teacher leader that's in regulation, it actually puts it into the act. I know that in the complementary press package that was presented with this bill as well as in presentations, including the one the minister gave, she has made it very clear that her intent is not to change the definition of teacher leader, so by putting it in the actual bill, I think it says to all Albertans that if the definition of teacher leader ever changes – of course, while we all have these current positions today, we won't in perpetuity – it will come back to this place rather than make a change that's done in a less public forum. It really is just about enshrining in law what the minister says the intent of this bill is.

I'm really hopeful that we can see support from all members of this Assembly with regard to this definition. I think that it's a way that we can work together to strengthen the existing legislation and to actually enshrine, through the work that we do in this place, that the intent, which was stated multiple times, is actually the action of this bill. While it is in regulation today, we know that regulations can be changed very easily and that there isn't a requirement for public engagement or consultation or the three-stage reading process, so I think that this is pretty straightforward, and I hope that the minister and other members of the Assembly concur.

Thank you.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to join debate? The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Madam Chair. I thank the hon. member for the amendment. I do feel that in 1(1)(dd) it is very well defined already that "teacher leader" means a teacher leader as defined in the Certification of Teachers and Teacher Leaders Regulation," and in that regulation it lays out the definitions. I do feel that sticking to the words that have already been very thoughtfully put into this act really does restore and continue with the intention of the act, so therefore I really do not support the change that this amendment proposes because we do have a very strong definition already placed in the act.

So at this point in time I would not support this.

Ms Hoffman: I just restate – and perhaps I need to clarify – that the definition actually isn't in the act; the definition is in regulation. And even what was just spoken to around (dd) refers to the definition that's in the regulation. What I'm trying to do is take back the definition that the minister speaks of that's in the regulation and actually put it in the act because regulations do change in a far less transparent way than what's happening here in the legislation.

I'm, you know, trying to meet the minister in the middle and not try to change the definition in any way but trying to put it actually in legislation so that it can't be changed without it coming forward to this Assembly. Even if the minister's intention is not to ever change the definition that is currently in regulation, that might not be a subsequent minister's intention. So it's really about making sure that if there are ever any changes to "teacher leader" that the act needs to be amended; therefore, it needs to be a public conversation.

I'm not criticizing the definition in any way; I'm saying that the definition belongs in legislation, not in regulation, and that's what this amendment proposes.

Member LaGrange: Thank you for that, and I would just draw the hon. member's attention to the fact that all of the other definitions that precede this one that she has outlined also mean – and I'll just read them out.

- (aa) "superintendent leadership certificate" means a superintendent leadership certificate as defined in the Certification of Teachers and Teacher Leaders Regulation . . .
- (cc) "teacher" means a teacher as defined in the Certification of Teachers and Teacher Leaders Regulation.

All of the definitions are "as defined in the Certification of Teachers and Teacher Leaders Regulation," and we want to keep that consistent.

Thank you.

Ms Hoffman: I certainly welcome the minister, through you, Madam Chair, to propose amendments to make the language consistent with this. The reason why I didn't propose all of those amendments is because this is the contentious piece. I want to help the minister find a way to meet that contention with an amendment that actually says in law: this is the definition, and if it ever changes, we will bring it back here. If the minister chooses to enshrine all the definitions that are currently in regulation in the legislation, I certainly welcome her to do that.

This is the one that is being seen as the most contentious among the many stakeholders that I've engaged with. I think this is a way to address the concern that they have around whether or not the definition will be the definition in six weeks or six months or six years or 60 years. They want to ensure that with this piece around teacher leader, there's a clarity given through the legislation so that there aren't those concerns that the minister, I'm sure, has heard as well. This really is my proposed slightest touch, smallest touch to try to find a way for the minister to have the intention that she refers to in her remarks and in the media documents reflected in the actual legislation.

I still propose that the minister consider this as an amendment, because I think it will actually help her relationship with teachers, teacher leaders, and professionals who are part of the association that represents them. I think it's a way to say that no change will be made to the definition of teacher leader unless it comes back to this place and gets three full readings, that this is an open process, and that we are not going to do anything in a way that is currently done through regulation, which is much less transparent.

I know I've spoken to this specific piece a few times. I'm working really hard to not be repetitious, but the reason why I care so much about this is because I actually think we can find a way to find a solution here so that teachers have greater confidence in what it is they're being asked to consider through this legislation. Just put the definition in the legislation. Keep it out of the regulation. It will give people a greater sense of security and confidence, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to join the debate on amendment A1? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate the chance to stand up and offer my support for this amendment, introduced by the Member for Edmonton-Glenora. I think the conversation we've heard back and forth over the last 10 minutes or so in this House is very healthy and enlightening, and I really appreciate the fact that both government and opposition are willing to stand up and have a very thoughtful conversation on these topics.

I guess I want to offer my support for this particular amendment partly because of listening to the minister as she spoke to the bill earlier. I certainly listen – I often do – very carefully as the ministers speak and, of course, take notes as to what they're saying, because I think it is very relevant to understanding how they understand the bills themselves.

As I was taking notes, I noticed that the minister addressed this particular bill in four different sections. The first section was about membership. I think that this amendment speaks to the question of membership. Now, I noted that when the minister was speaking to the House, she indicated that the membership question here does not in any way affect ATA memberships. I think that was the beginning line. I don't always take verbatim notes, but that's certainly what my notes indicate that she did say. She tried to assure the House that this wouldn't affect ATA membership. Yet when I continued to listen to the minister's comments, she went on to indicate that no one person can be a member of both the CASS and the ATA. I think that there's some clarity there that you cannot be in both places at the same time, which I understand. But she also went on to indicate that some people would then have to elect out of the ATA membership in order to join CASS.

3:20

It brings me back to a very serious question. While you are not suggesting that people are forced to leave the ATA to join CASS, you are suggesting here that people will be leaving the ATA to join CASS. That leaves me somewhat concerned about what will in fact be the outcome here of the changes that are made.

I think that since there is a clear intent – and I don't think it's being disputed between the opposition and the minister in this case – with regard to who is a teacher leader, it seems important. Because we are all concerned about this particular factor and because we would really like to have clarity and not have the act have an unintended consequence, it should be that we take this amendment and include it. What it does is that it takes an undisputed idea, that is shared across the floor in this House and, of course, shared with the really important members of the community – you know, the ATA and the public – about how a teacher leader is defined and puts it into the act so that we can be assured that there isn't a loophole that's going to be created or a problem that's going to be created in terms of having people moving away from the ATA to join the CASS even though the minister indicated that's not actually intentioned here.

I would just really like to see this, I think, very clear definition, that a teacher leader means a teacher who holds a leadership certificate or a superintendent leadership certificate or whose leadership certificate or superintendent leadership certificate has expired or has been suspended or cancelled, all agreed upon – it's not contentious between us – and a recognition of that fact and placement into the act, where everyone can be assured that we have good clarity about the aspects of the bill that are being changed and that we have something to come back on if indeed there is some concern as to what actually happens with the ATA membership and with membership in the CASS.

I just would like the House to take this time to deeply consider this amendment. I shall be voting in favour of it.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to join debate?

Seeing none, I will call the question.

[Motion on amendment A1 lost]

The Chair: We're back on the main bill, Bill 55, in Committee of the Whole. Any members wishing to join debate?

Ms Hoffman: Well, that's unfortunate, Madam Chair. But I do have other amendments, so now I'll table my second.

The Chair: Hon. members, this will be known as amendment A2. Hon. member, please proceed.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much. I move that Bill 55, the College of Alberta School Superintendents Act, be amended by adding the following immediately after section 4(2):

- (3) The Minister may provide public monies in the form of grant to the College
 - (a) only for the purpose of defraying the College's operational costs associated with transitioning to a corporation under this act, and
 - (b) only within the 12 months immediately following the coming into force of this Act.

Madam Chair, this comes from a place of – I think the minister also was responding to this amendment in her opening remarks. I believe there is a grant currently in place between Alberta Education and the College of Alberta School Superintendents. I believe that CASS also does currently have membership fees for their members to support their operations. I believe that some boards have negotiated in their contracts that the CASS membership fees of their employees be paid by their board as opposed to directly by the members themselves, and I know that the minister said that that will not be the intent moving forward.

One of the things that I want to be, like, crystal clear about in this proposed amendment is that, rightfully so, colleges typically operate in a self-functioning way: their members pay fees; those fees fund their operations. This organization would be quite a bit smaller than most of the colleges I had the opportunity to work with when I was the Minister of Health, given 61 boards, a chief superintendent, perhaps associate superintendents, CFOs, executive directors. If the intent truly is to keep the membership to the most executive membership folks within the organization and to cut the grant that currently is given by Alberta Education, it is the natural progression that their fees would go up significantly. So one of the questions that folks have asked is: well, then, won't they need more members so that their fees don't go up so significantly?

The minister has just sort of closed the door on reining in the definition of teacher leader to ensure that they are indeed in perpetuity aligned with teachers as opposed to being absorbed into other organizations, including potentially CASS. That was the minister's choice. But here we are in a position where I think such a small membership could potentially either lead to significant fee increases for the members or a desire to add significantly more members or a desire to continue to receive funding from Alberta Education to support operational pressures.

I want to say that I respect what the minister has said around the intention of the organization to be self-operating, self-funded, that there won't be fees paid by boards or by Alberta Education, by the people of Alberta. I'm simply trying to put that, actually, into this legislation, to make sure that if there is a desire to have – and I respect scaffolding. I know that, the same with when you're learning, you need to have that foundation there, that you need to support organizations in building. That's why I'm trying to be reasonable here with 12 months of, potentially, some support from government

but that within a year, if the intention is to be a true independent college that self-governs, I think that the organization should be able to do that on their own.

So a shout-out to some of my friends who identify as being fiscally responsible, on both parts of this House. I think that all of us want to ensure that public monies are used in a thoughtful, sustained way, and that's why I am pushing this. This is really an amendment to ensure that public monies meet the intention that the minister spoke to when she began her remarks at the beginning of Committee of the Whole on this bill. Again, I want to thank the minister and all the staff who were available during the technical briefing to make sure that we had an opportunity to engage in some of this discussion in a less formal way.

I hope that the minister appreciates that we provided these amendments in advance and that we can find some concurrence on this amendment. If the minister thinks that it doesn't go far enough and wants to shorten the timeline from 12 months to something shorter, I'm certainly happy to consider that amendment, but I think we do need to put some parameters on this to ensure that there is a time limitation in which CASS can ask for any money. By putting it in the legislation, we ensure that it will definitely not happen beyond one year. I would rather it not be at all, but I understand that you need to have some scaffolding there, especially given my understanding that there currently is a granting relationship. Happy for the minister to respond and elaborate on that and, hopefully, accept the amendment.

Thank you.

The Chair: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you. Unfortunately, I cannot accept the amendment for a number of reasons, the first being that the language that is in section 4 does mirror the Teaching Profession Act. Very much what the ATA adheres to is the same that we've put in this act as well because we, of course, want consistency.

3:30

The other reason why I would not support this amendment is the fact that we do interact with our education partners and we do provide, at times, grants in particular to the ATA or Alberta School Boards Association when we have work that needs to be advanced that they have specialties in to do that work. This would negate any of that happening, so for that very reason I want to go back to the original wording that's in the act and stick with that because it does give us the maximum flexibility to ensure that we can work with our education partners in the way that we need to work with them.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to join in debate?

Ms Hoffman: I just want to start by saying that the intention, though, is to put some parameters around the amount of time in which an organization – that the minister is setting up a structure for independence, to be financially independent. I think by failing to commit to this, it doesn't send a great message to stakeholders.

If the minister wants to elaborate on what the grant is currently and when that's set to expire, that might be useful information for the members of this place. I think also the fact that we have raised questions around what fees are going to be and if the intention is that the membership stays relatively flat, aligned with its current membership around chief superintendents, associate, assistant superintendents, executive directors, CFOs, the sort of highest ranking of leadership organization rather than reaching into other areas within central offices for administration. It will have a significant cost if there is a grant that will no longer be available on

membership fees. Where is that money going to come from, and how is this going to be sustainable, Minister?

Member LaGrange: Let me be perfectly clear. There is no grant on membership fees for CASS. There are grants that are provided to do work in particular for professional development, to develop resources, et cetera. Those are similar to grants that we have with the ATA and with other education partners, including ASCA as well as ASBA.

At this point in time I would really encourage everyone to defeat this amendment as it is not consistent with the practice that we currently have in place.

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

Member Loyola: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I just want to get up and support the amendment on behalf of the Member for Edmonton-Glenora. I think it's a small ask considering the piece of legislation that we have before us. I mean, I think that with many institutions going through transitions, essentially what the Member for Edmonton-Glenora is asking is just around parameters and time as these institutions transition and move forward.

I mean, I don't have direct experience with this particular institution, but I can tell you that with many institutions out there, for example nonprofit organizations, one of the things that they constantly talk about is secure funding. In this sense, it's around the parameters of time. I'm just making the link, right? I think that it's providing a sense of security for those involved in the institution as they continue forward in the transition. Like I said, it's a small ask that, I think, would go a long way to actually help the institutions that are going through this.

Thank you.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to join debate on amendment A2?

Seeing none, I will call the question.

[Motion on amendment A2 lost]

The Chair: We are back on the main bill. The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Without delay, I will present my third amendment.

The Chair: Hon. members, this will be known as amendment A3. Just a note: it is two pages.

Please proceed.

Ms Hoffman: Don't worry. The time will fly by, Madam Chair.

I move that Bill 55, College of Alberta School Superintendents Act, be amended as follows: (a) by striking out section 1(1)(q); (b) by numbering section 14 as section 14(1) and (i) in subsection (1) by striking out "If an individual meets" and substituting

Subject to subsection (2), if an individual meets

and (ii) by adding the following immediately after subsection (1):

(2) An individual who is an active member of the Alberta Teachers' Association is not eligible to be a non-regulated member of the College.

(c) in subsection (15) by striking out subsection (2) and substituting the following:

(2) A membership granted to an individual employed in a position referred to in section 17(1) is effective on the date of commencement of the individual's employment in that position.

(d) in section 16 (i) in subsection (1) by striking out "section 17(1)(a) or (b)" and substituting

section 17(1)

(ii) by striking out subsection (2), (iii) by renumbering subsection (3) as subsection (2) and striking out "or (2), as the case may be" in that subsection, (iv) by renumbering subsection (4) as subsection (3) and in that subsection striking out "subsection (3)" and substituting

subsection (2)

– we're almost there – (v) by renumbering subsection (5) as subsection (4) and in that subsection striking out "section 17(1)(a) or (b)" and substituting

section 17(1)

and (vi) by striking out subsection (6); (e) in section 17 (i) in subsection (1) (A) by striking out "the employment of" and substituting

the employment or appointment of

and (B) by striking out clause (c) and substituting the following

(c) as secretary or treasurer of a school board.

(ii) in subsection (2) and (3) by striking out "employed in" and substituting

employed in or appointed to

(f) in sections 25(3) and 29(b) by striking out "with a regulated or non-regulated membership."

I know that was a mouthful, but the concept is actually pretty clear. It's only long because of the way the legislation was structured.

As I stated before, we consulted with stakeholders in the education system, and this is the third amendment that I wanted to bring forward. Again, I would like to thank the minister for the technical briefing as well as the staff from her office and the department staff, including the deputy minister and drafters and content experts. I believe that we've given some commentary on why we think this is important, and given the minister's opening remarks, I'm hopeful that the minister will be in a position to support this amendment.

Again, I'd like to share with the Assembly that these amendments were provided in advance to the government because we don't want them to be political. We want them to be effective, and we want them to meet the intention with which the minister spoke. The amendment simply reflects back reasonable feedback that we've heard from stakeholders. The amendment makes it clear, crystal clear, who will become a member of the college of superintendents and who will not, so just getting rid of some of that ambiguity around folks who have appointments. To be specific, it ensures that teachers who are not eligible to become members of the college of superintendents would remain in the current association, the Alberta Teachers' Association, and this amendment would ensure that it's really superintendents that are members of the college of superintendents, as the minister has stated is the intention.

To be very clear with members of this Assembly, when we think of the college and of the course of memberships that should come within the umbrella, we want to keep it true to the intention with which the minister speaks. In addition to superintendents and deputy superintendents or associate superintendents we've included senior-level positions in a school district in the central office. For example, in the technical language of this act the amendment refers to treasurers, but in commonspeak the amendment would ensure that a chief financial officer or the senior financial officer of a school district is included in the new college.

3:40

Simply put, Madam Chair, I asked the minister if she had any intention of having teachers join the college, and she said no. This is a way to enshrine that in the legislation. However, the legislation isn't currently explicit, so when we worked with Parliamentary Counsel to tighten that language, this is where we landed. With this

amendment we would have two professional bodies in Alberta, one for teachers, the ATA, and one for superintendents and related senior staff who would be part of CASS. Moreover, this amendment would ensure that there was no fight around future membership because we set the ground rules straight out from the beginning. I know that the Legislature has been concerned around the forthrightness of information when it comes to a number of topics, including most recently the pandemic, so I think being forthright with the legislation and with the Legislature through legislation we can get there in a way that's collaborative.

During the technical briefing I also said that if the minister had other language she wanted to propose rather than mine to reach the same intent, we would certainly be open to that. If the minister is in a position to accept this amendment, that would be scenario A. I hope that that's where we move forward to. If she isn't, I hope she comes back with a scenario B, with an alternate proposal to actually clarify and tighten the language in the legislation because there are a number of folks who have concerns around its current wording.

I take the minister at her word when she talks about what her intentions are with regard to these two organizations, but again we can't anticipate what future Education ministers or cabinets or members of this Assembly will want. That's why I think putting these amendments in this bill today shows what this Legislature wanted, the current Legislature, and then others can make their decisions. But if they choose to deviate from where we are today, they need to do that in a public way that respects this place, respects the three readings and the partners that have given feedback asking for this to be enshrined in legislation.

That's my rationale for this third amendment, and I'm happy to hear from the minister or any government members about their thoughts around protecting the relationship between teachers and their association, superintendents and other senior leaders and their association, where those two come together but making very clear what the ground rules are around membership before this bill moves forward.

Thank you.

The Chair: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you. I'm happy to respond. Again, I'm afraid I cannot support this amendment as it substantively alters the bill that was put before this House. It does not really provide the flexibility and the ability for those with aspirations for leadership who could become nonregulated members of CASS to be able to have that opportunity for mentorship and for professional development and really to begin to hone their skill sets in those areas. For that, and the fact that it does alter it substantively, I do not support this amendment.

Ms Hoffman: I just have to highlight the contradiction between what was just said and what was said in earlier exchanges in this place, Madam Chair. It was stated earlier that the legislation would not allow membership in multiple associations at the same time, whether it was full memberships or associate memberships. This is to close that loophole, that there is one association for teachers and another association for other educational leaders, being CASS.

When we talk about meaningful leadership opportunities, it's been made clear that you can't be in both at the same time through this amendment; who is actually part of the ATA and who's part of CASS through this amendment. It doesn't alter the intention based on what the minister said was the intention at press conferences or in earlier readings of this bill.

If it actually does alter the intention of the bill, the remarks that were shared in public and even in this place – this is a reflection of

what we've been told. The speaking notes were written in a way to address some of the concerns, but the legislation wasn't addressing those concerns, so we're trying to do that through this amendment to make it very clear that what the minister said is what this bill actually does. If the minister isn't open to this wording, I again call on the minister to bring forward other wording that actually gives that clarity in legislation. It is not clear that it will stay the way it is through regulation. It is not clear what the minister's intent is down the road.

There has been a lot of frustration, mistrust, and concern expressed by teachers, and rightfully so. Their association is focused on primarily making sure that they are not in unsafe work environments right now as they are going into schools that have COVID cases on the rise. Even though Edmonton public certainly isn't a hot spot right now, in schools, if you look at the trends just over this week, which days they've been short substitute teachers, at the beginning of the week I think it was about nine classrooms didn't have a teacher. The next day of the week it was about 18. The next day it was in the mid-to-high 20s. I don't know what it is yet for today, but this is not a trend that is sustainable or safe for teachers.

In Calgary it's already been far worse than that. In other school districts, like Elk Island, they've sent out notifications about having over 1,000 students that are impacted by the pandemic already, and we hear that about 8 per cent of teachers in this province are currently in isolation. I think they would love for us to be dealing with the realities that they're facing being on the front lines of COVID in their classrooms today.

They're also deeply concerned about the curriculum, and earlier today teachers gathered to overwhelmingly reject the curriculum, to say that it should not and cannot go forward in its current form. They want to be at the table. They were at the table under previous iterations of governments. The first time I went to Inspiring Ed – and I imagine probably the minister was there, too – when now Judge Hancock, then Minister of Education, was running these Inspiring Education sessions, I remember sitting at a table that had an assistant superintendent. It also had an assistant deputy minister. It also had members of the ATA, and I was also there as an elected trustee. There was a partnership around curriculum, and this was the way that it was first presented. Also, at other tables I remember there were members of the opposition and government caucuses. They were part of the discussion, and they worked in collaboration. This was many years ago now, but this is absolutely the way it should be.

Other issues that teachers are deeply concerned about include their own health and safety, of course, as I've mentioned, what content they're teaching in classrooms as well as preparing for their futures and their families' futures in terms of their pensionable earnings and what's happening to their retirement savings. There are many things right now being thrown at teachers, and they are doing their absolute best to respond with grace and focus and diligence, and now to undermine their association by failing to act on these amendments, I think, is a disservice. I don't think that they should have to worry about their collective voice and their association's future, and that's what I'm trying to present here through this amendment.

Again, if the minister is not willing to accept this amendment, I hope she stands in this place and tells us what she will do to actually resolve those fears and concerns, because those fears and concerns are real. Maybe this isn't the number one issue you're getting correspondence about today. I certainly don't expect it is. It's certainly not the number one issue I'm getting correspondence about, but the minister chose to make this a priority, to spend some political capital bringing forward this bill, the College of Alberta

School Superintendents Act, and there is an opportunity for her to earn a little bit of that back by putting some parameters around who's in and who's out, giving that clarity in legislation around who's in and who's out.

That's simply why we've proposed this. If members feel that this is how they want to spend their political capital, on creating open opportunities for an association that specifically has a job title in it around superintendents to folks who aren't superintendents, then I guess members can do that. But I would say that political capital is shrinking, and we are at the halfway point, I think, tomorrow in this government's mandate. Is this the government's highest priority, or do they want to get a little bit of that political capital back by putting in some parameters that teacher leaders are asking for? I think that they have a lot of work to do on many other educational issues that we already mentioned here today.

That, Madam Chair, is my consistent rationale for putting forward these amendments, to put some parameters around this. I have respect for the folks at the College of Alberta School Superintendents, and I want to protect and enshrine the organization in a thoughtful way. But I am concerned about the minister's persistent failure to put some parameters around membership – that's what we've tried to create an opportunity to create space for today – as well as: what's going to happen to the fees? It seems very likely that fees are going to go up considerably in the next few years, and who's going to in turn pay for those is probably, whether it's one way or the other, through funds that could be spent in the classroom.

Let's have some clarity on at least the membership piece. That's why we've proposed this amendment. It isn't intended to change the intention of the bill in any way. It's intended to honour the language that the minister gave when speaking to the bill and who was going to be members and who was not. It seems from this last response that that intention has changed, and that's concerning.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

3:50

The Chair: Any other members wishing to join debate? The hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo.

Ms Ganley: Mountain View.

The Chair: Should have been here yesterday. It was way worse.

Ms Ganley: I am pleased to rise and speak to this amendment. I mean, one of the things I did when we were in government was chair the legislative review committee of the government. It was possibly, actually, my favourite part of my duties, which I suppose tells you a lot about me. [interjections] There you go. One of the big things you talk about there is what belongs in legislation versus what belongs in regulation.

That can be a distinction with a lot of nuance – right? – depending on how you want to set things up, but generally speaking you put in legislation those things that you want to make really clear to the public. Anything you would be promising in a press release around it is probably sort of high on the list. The substance of the legislation, the sort of biggest pieces of whatever it is you're trying to create, belongs in the legislation. In the regulation you tend to put, more so, the details. Things that you expect will change frequently, like fees or that sort of thing, go in there. You know, often if you're setting up a commission or a tribunal or something, the kind of, like, regulations around that would go in there, anything that you think might need to change to sort of adapt to circumstances.

That's why I think that this amendment is so important, because the ability to hold membership in both associations simultaneously potentially creates conflicts for the individuals involved in sort of

multiple ways. Now, I'm not saying that the two associations would necessarily be in conflict, but it's possible. Certainly, the minister in her public statements has stated that that will not be what happens. You know, if there's concern about it and if the minister has stated publicly that that's not what's going to happen, then it seems to me like putting it in legislation is the right place for it, because it makes it clear, everyone knows, and it makes it sort of not immutable – we can always come back to this place and change it – but difficult to change, something which cannot be changed on a whim, which is kind of the point of legislation, right? It has to go through this place.

I mean, to me, the sort of, "Trust us; we'll put it in regulation" is insufficient. It's not a sufficient justification, and I think that in light of what teachers and staff and the entire school system have been through in the last year, you know, there's not a lot of trust there. I think that that's legitimate. Schools were moved very suddenly to online learning last spring, and it was promised that there would be a plan: there will be a plan for you to come back; there will be a plan to make you safe. There was no plan. For five months the government did nothing. They said, "Don't worry; there will be a plan," and then suddenly in September they said: oh, well, we certainly don't have time to make a plan now, do we? I think that's pretty problematic, and it explains why these particular professionals might not have a lot of trust in the government.

In light of that lack of trust, I think that if there are legitimate questions about this, then just put it in legislation. After several public statements the minister has now stood up and said, "Oh, well, no; it's our intention that you can be members in both associations," which is the opposite of what she had said previously. I feel like that, if anything, validates the lack of trust that people have in this minister, because she seems to take one position one day and take another position the next day and feel absolutely no compunction to explain why that position has changed.

I mean, I have a whole set of feelings about that and one's public duty as a minister to speak rationally to the public and to disclose to them, especially in a democracy, what it is you're doing and what you plan to do and why you're doing it. Well, I think they are relevant here, but I've gone down that tangent several times recently. I think my point is that, you know, if it really is the intention to make it the case that you can't be in both associations at once, then just put it in the legislation, and if it isn't the intention, which the recent comments suggest, I think that that has its own set of concerns surrounding it. I think that the professionals affected by this feel that it has their own set of concerns, which is probably a bigger deal still.

I think this is a very good amendment. I would urge members to vote in favour of this amendment, and with that, I will take my seat.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to join debate on amendment A3? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate the opportunity because while I was speaking earlier I was suggesting that I had been following carefully the question of membership in CASS and the ATA and did record the minister's notes at the time and suggested that I certainly heard that her intent was that it was not an attempt to shift members from the ATA to CASS. Then I expressed my concern at the time that I thought that there was some lack of clarity and that we should be working to fix that, particularly when she said that some people will have to elect to move out of CASS.

Then all of a sudden in her response to the third amendment, she specifically suggested to people who have an interest in leadership that they should leave the ATA and move to CASS so that they can

get mentorship. She actually specifically encouraged people to do what she said initially, when she came into this House, was something that they would not be able to do. So I'm very concerned. Her words in this House just a few moments ago are extremely contradictory to what we felt was the intent of the act. We were trying to work very closely with this minister to ensure that that which had been intended, which we understood to be intended, was being followed through on in an appropriate way.

Now all of a sudden this minister has blown that wide open and has told us that there is a process being allowed in this act and, in fact, apparently being encouraged by this minister to actually have people leave the ATA on the basis that they have aspirations toward leadership. It means that anyone who might subsequently want to go on to be a vice-principal, then principal, and move on into the various levels of the superintendent's office will actually be encouraged to no longer view themselves as teachers, to no longer view themselves primarily as teachers but, rather, aspiring leaders in this act and to leave the association which supports their work as teachers, that encourages training and work on getting to be a better teacher, for an association which does not focus on teaching but, rather, focuses on leadership.

I'm very concerned to hear the minister make this kind of statement at this particular time with regard to this act, and it seems to me that it betrays an underlying intent which we were trying to clarify and trying to ensure was not there, but it turns out indeed it was there. You know, I guess I am very concerned. My initial desire to be supportive of this act, because I'm quite happy to have a college of Alberta superintendents exist in this province – I have, of course, myself been a member of similar kinds of organizations such as the Alberta College of Social Workers, so I understand their purpose, and I certainly support them. But now what was initially being seen as supporting a group of people to have an appropriate college to provide appropriate support and disciplinary action when necessary to a defined group of people has suddenly been opened up to have a very different purpose.

4:00

I think that the ATA should be concerned with the words of the minister recently in this House, that there is, in fact, an intention to encourage people to, as she previously said, elect out of ATA membership on the basis of their aspirations. I think that that is very problematic, and it's now brought me to the point where I'm very concerned about the direction of this act. I would hope that the minister will take some time to address her previous comments and to assure this House that this is not a backhanded way of trying to attack ATA membership and trying to decrease the number of people that would see themselves as teachers and that participate in the teaching profession and, rather, move them into a different group of people who will have a different agenda than the one that presently exists with the ATA in encouraging excellence in education and excellence in the teaching profession.

Thank you.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to join debate on amendment A3?

Seeing none, I will call the question.

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

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 4:02 p.m.]

[Fifteen minutes having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Mrs. Pitt in the chair]

For the motion:

Ceci	Feehan	Hoffman
Dach	Ganley	Loyola

Against the motion:

Aheer	Issik	Panda
Allard	Jones	Savage
Amery	Loewen	Sigurdson, R.J.
Copping	Lovely	Smith
Dreeshen	Nally	Toor
Fir	Neudorf	van Dijken
Hanson	Nicolaides	Yaseen
Horner	Nixon, Jeremy	

Totals:	For – 6	Against – 23
---------	---------	--------------

[Motion on amendment A3 lost]

The Chair: We are back on the main bill, Bill 55, in Committee of the Whole. Are there any members wishing to join debate?

Seeing none, I will call the question on Bill 55, College of Alberta School Superintendents Act.

[The remaining clauses of Bill 55 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? Carried.

Mr. Nally: I would like to move that the committee rise and report Bill 55.

[Motion carried]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Ms Lovely: Madam Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has had under consideration certain bills. The committee reports the following bill: Bill 55. 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.

4:20

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. Carried.

The hon. Associate Minister of Natural Gas and Electricity.

Mr. Nally: Madam Speaker, thank you for clarifying that. I move that the Assembly adjourn until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021. I think we all need to go home and have a break.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:20 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, April 15, 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 Sitings.

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)

Second Reading — 4340-41 (Apr. 7, 2021 aft.), 4567-73 (Apr. 14, 2021 eve., adjourned)

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)

Committee of the Whole — 4245-49 (Mar. 24, 2021 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 4252-53 (Mar. 24, 2021 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Mar. 26, 2021 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force August 15, 2020, except for section 5, which comes into force March 26, 2021; SA 2021 c4]

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

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

Second Reading — 4212-14 (Mar. 24, 2021 aft., adjourned), 4291-4302 (Apr. 6, 2021 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 4361-66 (Apr. 7, 2021 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 4396-99 (Apr. 8, 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.), 4302-08 (Apr. 6, 2021 aft.), 4453-56 (Apr. 12, 2021 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 4594-601 (Apr. 15, 2021 aft., passed)

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

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

Second Reading — 4045 (Mar. 15, 2021 aft.), 4309-17 (Apr. 6, 2021 aft.), 4342-60 (Apr. 7, 2021 aft.), 4367-82 (Apr. 7, 2021 eve.), 4400-04 (Apr. 8, 2021 aft.), 4435-53 (Apr. 12, 2021 eve., 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.), 4501-12 (Apr. 13, 2021 eve.), 4573-80 (Apr. 14, 2021 eve., passed on division)

Bill 58 — Freedom to Care Act (Aheer)

First Reading — 4180 (Mar. 23, 2021 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 4214-15 (Mar. 24, 2021 aft.), 4456 (Apr. 12, 2021 eve.), 4560-67 (Apr. 14, 2021 eve., 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.), 4110-15 (Mar. 17, 2021 aft., passed)

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

Third Reading — 4215-20 (Mar. 24, 2021 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — (Mar. 26, 2021 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 26, 2021; SA 2021 c2]

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

First Reading — 4099 (Mar. 17, 2021 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 4180-99 (Mar. 23, 2021 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 4220-33 (Mar. 24, 2021 aft.), 4249-52 (Mar. 24, 2021 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 4268-76 (Mar. 25, 2021 aft., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Mar. 26, 2021 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 26, 2021; SA 2021 c1]

Bill 61 — Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2021 (Glubish)

First Reading — 4150 (*Mar. 22, 2021 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 4341-42 (*Apr. 7, 2021 aft.*), 4512-13 (*Apr. 13, 2021 eve., passed*)

Bill 62 — Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act, 2021 (Hunter)

First Reading — 4393-94 (*Apr. 8, 2021 aft., passed*)

Bill 63 — Police (Street Checks and Carding) Amendment Act, 2021 (Madu)

First Reading — 4340 (*Apr. 7, 2021 aft., passed*)

Bill 64 — Public Lands Amendment Act, 2021 (Nixon, JJ)

First Reading — 4416 (*Apr. 12, 2021 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 4475-87 (*Apr. 13, 2021 aft.*), 4547-60 (*Apr. 14, 2021 eve., adjourned*)

Bill 65 — Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2021 (Shandro)

First Reading — 4394 (*Apr. 8, 2021 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 4526-35 (*Apr. 14, 2021 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 66 — Public Health Amendment Act, 2021 (Shandro)

First Reading — 4416 (*Apr. 12, 2021 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 4487-88 (*Apr. 13, 2021 aft.*), 4489-501 (*Apr. 13, 2021 eve.*), 4535-46 (*Apr. 14, 2021 aft., adjourned on amendment*)

Bill 67 — Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act (Nicolaidis)

First Reading — 4468 (*Apr. 13, 2021 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 4593-94 (*Apr. 15, 2021 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 69 — Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2021 (Nixon, JJ)

First Reading — 4592 (*Apr. 15, 2021 aft., passed*)

Bill 201 — Strategic Aviation Advisory Council Act (Gottfried)

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)

Third Reading — 4158-64 (Mar. 22, 2021 aft., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Mar. 26, 2021 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force January 1, 2021; SA 2021 cG-5.4]

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.), 4417-19 (Apr. 12, 2021 aft., passed on division), 4419 (Apr. 12, 2021 aft., referred to Select Special Committee on Real Property Rights)

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)

Second Reading — 4419-29 (Apr. 12, 2021 aft., adjourned)

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)

Committee of the Whole — 4326-28 (Apr. 6, 2021 aft., passed with amendments)

Third Reading — 4399-4400 (Apr. 8, 2021 aft., passed on division)

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;), 4151-58 (Mar. 22, 2021 aft., proceeded with on division)

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

First Reading — 3992 (Mar. 10, 2021 aft., passed), 4179 (Mar. 23, 2021 aft., reported to Assembly)

Bill 214 — Eastern Slopes Protection Act (Notley)

First Reading — 4340 (Apr. 7, 2021 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Public Members' Private Bills)

Bill 215 — Seniors Advocate Act (Sigurdson, L)

First Reading — 4592 (Apr. 15, 2021 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Public Members' Private Bills)

Bill 216 — Fire Prevention and Fire Services Recognition Act (Lovely)

First Reading — 4592 (Apr. 15, 2021 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Public Members' Private Bills)

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]

Bill Pr2 — The United Church of Canada Amendment Act, 2021 (Phillips)

First Reading — 4416-17 (*Apr. 12, 2021 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*)

Table of Contents

Prayers	4581
Members' Statements	
Home Education and School Re-entry Plan.....	4581
Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act	4581
Mental Health.....	4581
Premier's Remarks on COVID-19.....	4582
COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout	4582
Jessie's House Shelter in Morinville	4582
Local Businesses in Rural Alberta.....	4582
Pet Adoption from Shelters	4583
Rumble Alberta Touring Challenge.....	4583
Oral Question Period	
COVID-19 in Schools	4583, 4586
Kindergarten to Grade 6 Draft Curriculum.....	4585
Provincial Elections.....	4585
Municipal Funding	4586
Government Members' Remarks on COVID-19	4587
High Prairie Health Complex Services.....	4587
Member for Banff-Kananaskis' Remarks on COVID-19	4588
Seniors Advocate.....	4588
Economic Recovery Plan and Tax Policies	4589
Health Care Workforce and Budget 2021.....	4589
Indigenous Content in Educational Curriculum.....	4590
School COVID-19 Response.....	4590
Lethbridge Business and Industry.....	4591
Introduction of Bills	
Bill 69 Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2021	4592
Bill 215 Seniors Advocate Act.....	4592
Bill 216 Fire Prevention and Fire Services Recognition Act.....	4592
Tabling Returns and Reports	4592
Orders of the Day	4593
Government Bills and Orders	
Second Reading	
Bill 67 Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act	4593
Committee of the Whole	
Bill 55 College of Alberta School Superintendents Act	4594
Division	4601

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

For inquiries contact:

Editor

Alberta Hansard

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875

E-mail: AlbertaHansard@assembly.ab.ca