



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
Second Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, May 27, 2021

Day 105

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 (Ind)
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 (Ind)
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: 60

New Democrat: 24

Independent: 3

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, May 27, 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.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: Hon. members, I understand that we have a special virtual guest tuning in today. It is a family member of the Member for Calgary-Klein, his daughter Eden and her sixth grade class, with teacher Ms Hayward, from St. Margaret school joining us virtually this afternoon. I also understand that an “hola” is in nature as it is a Spanish class today. Welcome to our Assembly.

Members' Statements

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Mr. Feehan: Recently I spoke with a 22-year-old woman who lives in Treaty 6, Victoria Love. She told me about the stress she feels being a young indigenous woman growing up in the shadow of the legacy of murdered and missing indigenous women. She spoke about the oppressive feelings that arise when, day to day, women from her community and across Canada go missing and the response from authorities is passive and ineffectual. Cases are frequently left unsolved, and families are left to grieve without closure.

Victoria hasn't remained passive, however. She's shown powerful commitment to her stolen sisters. Upon hearing of the death of Caitlin Potts, who disappeared in 2016 without a trace, Victoria put in hours to raise \$7,000 to hire a private investigator to find answers for the family. Victoria says that she is proud of what she is doing as one individual but that she is disheartened that it has come down to this. She writes, quote: the family and survivors need support from the government and police while they seek justice for themselves or their family.

June 3 is just around the corner. It has been two years since the national inquiry put out their final report and the 231 calls for justice, and we've seen little to no action from this government. Where are the measures required to eliminate the social, economic, cultural, and political marginalization of indigenous women and girls, call 1.3? Where are the well-funded indigenous civilian police

oversight bodies, call 5.7? Where are the necessary resources for specialized intervention, healing and treatment programs and services and initiatives offered in indigenous languages, call 7.5?

I could go on, of course. There are 231 calls for justice, but the underlying question is: why is this government failing the thousands of women who have lost their lives? Why is this government failing Victoria Love and Caitlin Potts and all the young women who must grow up in the shadow of death and government inaction?

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

Provincial Reopening Plan

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we announced what so many Albertans have been eagerly anticipating for months, the province's reopening in the wake of COVID-19. Albertans have come together in a remarkable way to crush the latest spike, both by following the public health measures but also by getting vaccinated in record numbers. The province's residents have stepped up to bring about what should be one of the best Alberta summers in recent memory.

I want to give a special thanks to the many parents and teachers like Señora Hayward as well as our kids who have stepped up in a major way recently with online learning but also throughout this pandemic in their efforts to create a safe classroom experience. It wasn't easy, and we are grateful for you. Thanks to their efforts and the efforts of so many Albertans, we will be able to enjoy events like K Days and Stampede. These events and other festivals are about so much more than just music, food trucks, outdoors, and sporting events; they're emblematic of the Alberta spirit and our western heritage. Families and friends will be reunited over campfires and weddings, and we'll be able to enjoy our favourite restaurants in person again.

Chambers of commerce across this province have enthusiastically endorsed our government's plan that will allow for small businesses, the backbone of our provincial economy, to get back to serving customers again. Tourism, another critical sector, will also be revitalized by our reopening plan as Albertans hit the road to explore this province that we all love.

Albertans have shown remarkable enthusiasm about getting the first shot. Nearly 60 per cent have received one, and that's made all the difference in this province's incredible success in bringing down our COVID-19 case numbers. We need 70 per cent of the province to receive a first dose by July in order to move forward. For all of you who have gotten the vaccine, thank you, and cheers to a fantastic Alberta summer.

Coal Development Policy Consultation

Mr. Sigurdson: Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 23, I was thrilled to see the Minister of Energy take the podium to discuss the latest regarding Alberta's coal policy and our government's engagement plan. We are very lucky to be living here in Alberta, a place that has vast mountain ranges accompanied by beautiful prairies. These are two features of the province that everyone can agree are points of pride. This ultimately has led to many Albertans expressing their thoughts about our provincial coal policy. Our government understands that Albertans have passionate views about coal development, both past and present, in our province. Fortunately, our government recognizes the importance of public engagement in terms of policy issues, and the recent coal policy engagement will allow all Albertans to express their thoughts on future coal development.

I also want to thank every Albertan who participated in the survey and, additionally, thank those who shared factual social media posts to inform Albertans about this important issue. The initial concerns of Albertans regarding our province's coal policy have been heard, and your concerns ultimately led to all coal exploration projects on category 2 lands being halted immediately. The minister has directed coal companies who were engaged in coal exploration projects on category 2 lands to stop their projects, and the companies have indicated their willingness to co-operate in this matter.

This example of our government searching for public engagement on policy issues within Alberta goes to show that our government has placed strong emphasis on listening to the public to ensure that our province is built on the interests of the people.

I encourage all Albertans to stay engaged not only on the coal issue but all policy issues within our province. Please continue to stay engaged because regardless of what you hear from the members opposite, we are all listening.

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

Support for Persons and Small Businesses Affected by COVID-19

Mr. Deol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in this House I rise to say thanks and show my gratitude for the courage, resilience, and sacrifices made by thousands of Alberta's front-line workers and small-business owners. I want to actually highlight these hard-working Albertans' ongoing concerns and frustrations, who this UCP government has left behind. While these hard-working Albertans were promised a lot in the form of provincial financial aid by this Premier, his UCP government has repeatedly failed to deliver on its financial aid programs, including the critical worker benefit and the small and medium enterprise relaunch grant.

Mr. Speaker, the selection process for the critical worker benefit program was a complete mess as it picked winners and losers with no rhyme nor reason. It is totally unfair and unjust to Albertans who got nothing while their co-workers received benefits or qualified for doing the same job. Instead of these benefits' payer selection and delivery process to these well-deserving Albertans, this failed program has added to the ongoing stress and risk in their lives. We all in the Alberta NDP strongly believe that they deserve better than this.

1:40

Similarly, while the small and medium enterprise relaunch grant's deadline has been extended until June 30, this grant lacks accessibility. There are hundreds of business owners who are still waiting for a long time to evaluate their eligibility and haven't even received their first payment yet. These well-deserving Albertans, including hundreds in my riding of Edmonton-Meadows, need the financial support to be immediately released into their bank accounts.

Mr. Speaker, this UCP government must fix these programs and ensure that hard-working Albertans are not left on the sidelines from these benefits, the benefits they need right now.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Camrose.

National Nursing Week

Ms Lovely: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this month nurses in Alberta and across Canada celebrated Nursing Week, which ran from May 10 to 16. In 1985 the Canadian government

proclaimed the second week of May as National Nurses Week. A few years later, in 1993, the name was changed to National Nursing Week to emphasize the profession's accomplishments as a discipline. This year the Canadian Nurses Association is using the theme #WeAnswerTheCall to showcase the many roles that nurses play in a patient's health care journey. This is an opportunity to celebrate the long history, hard work, and achievements of nurses from not only Alberta but across Canada and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, nurses hold one of the most important roles in health care. Over 35,000 nurses provide us service here in Alberta, and my daughter is one of them. Nurses provide critical health care supports, spending more time with patients than doctors. They care for the physical, intellectual, and societal needs of their patient. This pandemic has been hard on our nurses. I won't sugar-coat this. Nurses work long shifts, often later and longer than expected. They see individuals take their last breath. They see families grieve. They carry a burden that many of us would not be able to carry. The pandemic brought to light the courage and commitment that nurses work under each and every day and conveyed the important role that nurses play in our communities. From day one nurses were there, and they still are. In each nurse we see a real willingness to help to calm the anxieties and relieve the discomfort of patients they treat.

Nursing isn't simply a career. Nursing is a vocation. Mr. Speaker, I invite all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the selflessness and courage of nurses across Alberta.

Thank you.

Education Policies

Mr. Carson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking our teachers and education workers for everything that they've done for us through this pandemic. While this has been a rough year and a half for all Albertans, our educators have had to bear extra burdens: transitioning from in-person to online learning multiple times because this Premier has done nothing to ensure our schools are safely opened, coping with the mass layoff of over 20,000 education workers because the Premier and the Education minister decided a global pandemic was the time to cut supports from our schools, watching as the government seized control over their pensions without a word of consultation, forcing a curriculum on teachers because the Education minister put the backwards views of Conservative insiders above ensuring our children can get an education that prepares them for the future, and so much more.

When teachers speak out against the shameful treatment and lack of respect from this Education minister, they get dismissed as special-interest groups, Mr. Speaker. This week we learned that Edmonton public schools expects to see over 400 positions lost, including 357 teachers, 85 support staff, and 37 maintenance positions. The people who taught students during the biggest health crisis in Alberta history, the people who supported children, and the people who worked to keep our schools safe and clean are the first on the chopping block. This is not acceptable. The Education minister cannot be allowed to shrug away these job losses caused by her total disinterest in supporting students. Edmonton teachers deserve better, Edmonton students deserve better, and Edmonton parents deserve better.

During a global pandemic and health crisis Albertans sacrificed and worked to keep their friends, family, and neighbours safe and healthy. This Education minister chose to undermine the system that she is supposed to protect. So before the minister claims that she's got teachers' backs or cares about them, I have a simple challenge for her. Prove it, because education workers just don't buy it.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Alberta Rural Health Week

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to rise today to acknowledge Alberta Rural Health Week, which began on the 24th of May and ends tomorrow. Rural Health Week celebrates the contributions of rural health providers and volunteers, who ensure that rural Albertans receive the highest level of health care locally.

Rural health providers are essential in their communities. Not only do they enhance the quality of rural life through their skills and practices, but they also contribute to rural life on a more personal level. These individuals form special relationships in their communities. They do not merely provide health care services, but they are family, friends, neighbours, and volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, Rural Health Week is not only about the health care providers, who do so much for our communities; it is also about the countless number of volunteers who gave their time and energy through volunteering in hospitals, fund raising, and so much more. They are just as essential to rural health as the doctors, nurses, and other health professionals living and working in Alberta's rural communities, including those communities such as my constituency of Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville. These individuals are the definition of what it means to be an Albertan: strong, compassionate, and resilient.

This past year it was hard for all the health care world, especially for those in rural communities, which is why I am so grateful to have the opportunity to stand here today and recognize the significance of Rural Health Week. This rural health professions action plan is running the campaign titled #RuralHealthMatters, which aims to bring awareness to the significance of rural health care.

I want to join all Albertans in recognizing this important week, and I want to thank those who have served and continue to serve rural Albertans in health care. Rural health matters.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Evanston-Creekside Community in Calgary

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am so happy to recognize Evanston-Creekside Community Association in my riding of Calgary-North for its dedication, hard work, and commitment to improving the quality of life for its people. I would also like to congratulate them on being a recipient of an amateur sport grant for \$50,000 through a partnership with the Calgary Flames Hockey Club, the Saddledome Foundation, and the Parks Foundation, Calgary. These funds will be used to enhance the community rink and park. I am so proud of the outstanding support that this association provides to the community.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the community volunteers, including the president, Robbie Morton, and his entire team, for their excellent service to the community. The proposed park in the Evanston-Creekside community will serve a population of almost 14,000 people. This park will play an integral role in enriching the lives of residents and will bring years of enjoyment for families in Evanston, who presently do not have a park in their community.

When I think of a park, I do not just think of a jungle gym and swings but a grassy area where children can play tag, hide-and-go-seek, and ride their bikes. In my view, parks aren't just meant for kids but parents, adults, and seniors. Recreational areas are a great

place to go for a walk and have a picnic. Everyone loves and appreciates recreational areas like parks, and that's why I am so glad that there will be a park in the Evanston community. My family and I are so eagerly looking forward to this community park in Evanston.

Before closing, Mr. Speaker, I also want to let the residents of Evanston know that I will continue to advocate for a much-needed and outstanding middle school for your community.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

United Conservative Party

Mr. Loewen: Today I rise to address a very serious issue, the public's loss of faith in the Premier. Let's wind the clock back to 2017. The creation of the United Conservative Party wasn't an accident. Its creation was made possible by tens of thousands of Albertans overruling the status quo of the day and demanding something better.

More than any other political party in Canada, the UCP was conceived with the idea that the grassroots, not a bunch of political insiders, would be in control. It was created out of a mutual commitment by all involved to get back to the core Conservative values, that served our province well for generations. Some of the UCP's founding principles included protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, grassroots democracy, limited government, and fiscal responsibility, including balanced budgets and debt reduction.

Four years later Albertans both inside and outside the UCP Party have serious questions about the Premier's commitment to those core values. This is why the party is losing members, losing lifelong Conservative volunteers, and losing donors. This is why the Premier's approval is among the worst in Canada, and it is why, if an election were held today, all polls show the UCP would find itself on the opposition side of the House.

It seems that some want to hide their heads in the sand and pretend everything is fine. Some even go as far as to blame me for the government's problems, for daring to give voice to the public's concerns, but the problems started long before I spoke out. The truth is that I want Conservatives in Alberta to be united in their values and united in their goals. I want to continue to work at representing the good people that nominated me and elected me to the Legislature. Ultimately, that's my job.

I still believe this party can be what it was created to be, a vehicle that puts regular people, not political party insiders, in control. I believe it's still within us as Albertans to seize control of our own destiny. We can still be strong, we can still be free, but step one is admitting that there is a problem. We have to be strong enough to remember who we are and where we came from. Most importantly, we have to get back to those core conservative values, that offer our province its best chance for new hope and new opportunity.

Thank you.

1:50

Oral Question Period

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

Provincial Reopening Plan

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have to start by clearing something up. We all want to reopen, and the Premier might be shocked to hear this, but we want his plan to work. We want birthdays, we want weddings, and we want bar mitzvahs, concerts, patios. No one is cheering against this, but here's the

thing: the Premier has been wrong twice now. Alberta families, investors, workers, business owners, and more deserve to know how the Premier is making these critical decisions. Will he release the recommendations to cabinet from Dr. Hinshaw, and if not, why not?

Mr. Kenney: The Leader of the Opposition knows perfectly well about the confidence of confidential cabinet documents, Mr. Speaker. We accepted the recommendation of Dr. Hinshaw, which was to fully reopen the province once we reached 70 per cent population protection, which we are on track to do around the beginning of July. But the NDP leader was very clear earlier today: she wants to keep Alberta locked down until at least September. That means not only no Stampede; it means no Heritage Festival here in Alberta. It means no summer. The same party that wanted the schools locked down in the last year, that wanted to shutter most Alberta businesses: even if we get 70 to 80 per cent population protection, they want an NDP lockdown. They're not going to get it.

Ms Notley: Most of what the Premier just said is not true. What is true is that this virus doesn't play by the Premier's rules. It doesn't care what day the Stampede starts, so this must be based around science and evidence. Premier, two months ago your benchmark for fully reopening was 150 hospitalizations and declining, a move supported by the CMO. Is the Premier telling us today that Dr. Hinshaw recommended a new hospitalization benchmark over three times higher than the one she released three months ago?

Mr. Kenney: Yes, Mr. Speaker, because the context has changed radically. You know, the NDP is starting to sound like the antivax party. They've become the antisience party. They refuse to recognize the enormous protective effect of vaccines. Three months ago, because of the federal shortcomings on vaccine procurement, we were at less than 10 per cent vaccine coverage. By the beginning of July we will be at 70 per cent population protection. What does the leader of the NDP not understand about the science? Why is she joining the antivax crowd, the antisience crowd and calling for lockdowns even after that's been achieved?

Ms Notley: Why does the Premier continue to say things that are not accurate and undermine this very House by refusing to have an honest debate? When asked about the fact that the metrics had changed, the Premier said that they're, quote, under the radar. Well, they should be under the microscope, but the Premier refuses to show his work. We have to take his word, never a good sign, Mr. Speaker. To the Premier. Poll after poll after poll says that Albertans don't trust this Premier. Why won't he throw Albertans a bone and trust them with the very information he used to make these choices?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, the NDP is now trying to walk back their hard lockdown position. I guess they're starting to hear from regular Albertans. Just this morning the NDP leader, when she was pressed several times, finally gave an answer. She was asked: what's the timeline, and how much longer would you be waiting to allow Albertans to do these sorts of things that we're talking about in July? She said: well, in B.C. they're talking about September; everything is back to normal in September. She wants every major summer event cancelled even after we have reached higher population protection than any jurisdiction in the world that's opened up.

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

Ms Notley: Even when he uses quotes, he misrepresents, Mr. Speaker.

Recall Act

Ms Notley: Instead of passing sick leave, this Premier is checking boxes in a desperate attempt to hold on to his ever-shrinking base. One of those boxes is MLA recall, but even there it's not as advertised. His proposed 40 per cent threshold makes recall impossible, and the Premier knows it. Recalling the Health minister, for instance, would require more signatures on a petition than there were people who actually voted for him. Will the Premier admit that his plan for recall is just another political gimmick and not a real tool for grassroots accountability?

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, they've flipped from being the prolockdown party to actually pretending otherwise, and now, after having spent her entire time in politics opposing recall, she pretends to be in favour of it. This is the NDP leader who said that, quote, recall is just trying to redo the election, that they've always opposed it.

Mr. Speaker, we're doing exactly what we committed to do in the last election. We said that we would introduce a law based on the thresholds in the B.C. legislation and following recommendations of a Legislature committee. Promise made, promise kept.

Ms Notley: And the Premier knows and an all-party committee heard that that won't work.

As the Premier's popularity plummets, he keeps putting off his own leadership recall, so that says a lot about what he thinks about this issue. If the UCP won't give his plan some teeth, we will. Instead of this sky-high 40 per cent threshold, one that's never been successful in any province or U.S. state in the last decade, we are proposing 25 per cent, much more attainable, even, say, with the Health minister. Will the Premier lower this threshold, or is he more afraid of Albertans who are wanting to recall his MLAs?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, it's the NDP that's afraid of recall. The Leader of the Opposition said, quote: recall sounds good in theory, but it actually can be very disruptive and often exploitative. That's what she said. She's opposed to it. This is a phony amendment.

Mr. Speaker, we ran on an explicit commitment to adopt the recall thresholds proposed in British Columbia. That's exactly what we are doing. By the way, the B.C. NDP brought that law in, and it was effective in forcing a disgraced MLA to resign, just as this will be important accountability for Alberta voters.

Ms Notley: I bet that when people heard the Premier's promise in the last election, they thought it would happen in his term. As suspected, though, it's just another cheap political stunt from this Premier, so much so that he can't even commit to have his plan in place this term, meaning that nobody in this House will face recall if the Premier gets his way. We're proposing that that not happen, that it be proclaimed the end of July. I know there are a lot of Albertans who would be super happy to be lining up to use this tool, and if the Premier is true to his word, it should make him happy, too. Mr. Speaker, what exactly is the problem for the Premier? What's he afraid of?

Mr. Kenney: This is unbelievable. The NDP, that has always opposed recall, that has been delaying it and voting against it in the House, suddenly asks that it be accelerated. Mr. Speaker, we're ready to vote on it in third reading this afternoon. Let's get 'er done. Let's bring in this accountability that they oppose. Let us implement this campaign commitment that this party gave to Albertans, which is before the Legislature, to allow recalls to begin later this year. [interjection] I know she's angry. Maybe that's because she'll get recalled. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order.

The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall.

Mr. Sabir: Mr. Speaker, the UCP government introduced recall legislation, but it's toothless and fake. I hear from Albertans every day who are fed up with this Premier. The polling suggests he's the least trusted in all of Canada. Premier, is the reason you won't bring real recall legislation to Alberta because you know that many of your MLAs, including yourself, would be at risk of losing their seats in this Legislature?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, let me quote the leader of the NDP on recall, saying in 2016: this means that if you don't like the results, then let's come up with something else just to simply hijack the process. The member who just asked that question voted against the recall law. They have been trying to delay, delay the recall law.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important democratic reform that we committed to. It is exactly the details that we committed to. We said in our platform: a bill that would allow voters to force a by-election if 40 per cent of eligible voters sign a recall petition sooner than 18 months after an election. Exactly what we are doing.

Mr. Sabir: Mr. Speaker, the Premier's recall bill requires two votes to remove an MLA from this House but only one to reject a city councillor or school trustee. It would appear this Premier has built a fail-safe so that none of his MLAs would ever be recalled. I'm bringing an amendment to remove the second vote and to make it so all elected officials are subject to the same consistent rules. Will the Premier support my amendment, or will he continue to hide behind two recall votes?

2:00

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, part of our platform commitment was to invite a legislature committee to study the concept of recall and make recommendations. They recommended exactly this provision. Now, I know that the NDP totally disrespects the views of private members, but we respect the hard and diligent work of the legislature committee. We're keeping exactly the commitment we gave to Albertans. In fact, the NDP doesn't want school trustees and municipal councillors to be subject to this democratic accountability. They're wrong. We're going to bring that into the law.

Mr. Sabir: Speaking of accountability, Mr. Speaker, 99 per cent of teachers voted in support of a no-confidence motion against the UCP's Education minister; 98 per cent of doctors say that they don't trust the Health minister. If the Premier is really wanting Albertans to have their say, if he really wants to show that he is accountable to Albertans, why won't he start with removing both the ministers and then passing real recall legislation that gives Albertans the real tools to hold him and his government accountable?

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, we all know that the NDP is bought and paid for by big government unions. They exist for one reason, which is to be the mouthpiece of big government unions. But I've got news for them. Alberta is not a unionocracy; it is a democracy. The Minister of Education was elected by her Red Deer-North constituents. She has the complete confidence of this government. I will point out that former Education minister Jeff Johnson achieved a 100 per cent nonconfidence vote from the ATA. My question for our minister is: what is she doing wrong?

Provincial Parks

Mr. Schmidt: Last night the government rammed Bill 64 through this House, allowing it to impose a \$90 fee on Alberta families

visiting Kananaskis, a treasured park that had been free for 50 years. The government has claimed that the money that they're draining from household budgets will be put back into the park to help with staffing, operations, and maintenance. Wanting to keep this government honest, Alberta's NDP proposed an amendment that would ensure that all the revenue actually went back into K Country. It was voted down by the government. How can the least trusted Premier in Canada actually expect Albertans to believe that he will put the revenue earned from this ridiculous new fee back into K Country?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, because it's already in the law. It's enshrined in the Treasury Board process. This is a designated, dedicated source of revenue that will go to make critical and historic investments to renew K Country for the future after the NDP neglected it. You know, you have to pay to go into any national park in this country, but we have more traffic, more visits to K Country than Banff or Jasper. We need to provide the services, the infrastructure to guarantee the future, to conserve our natural environment, and a reasonable fee is a reasonable way of doing so.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, I challenge the Premier to show the people of Alberta where in law it says that the fee is dedicated revenue, because it's not there. Albertans were shocked when they uncovered a plan early in this government's mandate to sell off dozens of our treasured parks. Thankfully, Albertans spoke out loud and clear in support of protecting and preserving our beautiful natural areas. I still have Defend Alberta Parks signs all over my neighbourhood. They send a clear message to this minister that Alberta parks aren't for sale, certainly not without proper consultation. Will the Premier concede to Albertans that he has heard them and fully apologize for attempting to sell off our provincial parks out from under them?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The illiteracy of the members across the aisle never ceases to amaze me. In the budget it was very clear – very clear – that additional revenues from this park pass would automatically be calibrated to the expenditures related to that park. It's in the budget. It's very clear in the estimates.

Mr. Schmidt: The Finance minister will regret tying his legacy to the Premier and the minister of the environment on this matter. No humility from this government, and that's no surprise. We cannot have Alberta's parks users living in constant fear that the government will auction them off to the highest bidder, especially not after learning that the government cut deals with international coal billionaires to mine our mountains. Albertans don't trust this Premier. He's the least trusted Premier in all of Canada. I'm bringing a bill to the House later today that would enshrine legislative protections for Alberta parks. Will the government support it?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, talk about a lack of humility. He was part of a government that drove K Country into the ground. While visits increased, while the infrastructure deteriorated, while trash was being left behind, while conservation was being undermined, the NDP didn't invest a single incremental cent. We're turning that around. Then that member went out and led a completely false campaign suggesting that parks were being sold when he knows that was never true. It's not true, and it never will be true. Shame on him for trying to scare Albertans. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Klein is next.

Provincial Reopening Plan

(continued)

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday our government announced our open-for-summer plan. It is a three-stage plan for our province to exit this pandemic and return to normal life. For many Albertans, indeed for all Albertans it was the day that we have been waiting for. I know that I am excited to take my daughter Eden to her favourite restaurant. We're in a good place. Our R-value has fallen dramatically, and active case numbers have dropped sharply. To the Minister of Finance: can you tell this House what reopening means for our economy?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Yesterday indeed was a day that we have been waiting for for some time. What this means for our economy was, I think, best summed up by Ernie Tsu of the Alberta Hospitality Association, and I quote: "I'm ecstatic right now. I'm ecstatic to get my staff back to work. It's a good day. It's a good day to see our industry get back open." Unquote. This means thousands of businesses will now be able to reopen their doors, and thousands of Albertans will be back to work.

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

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, it is a good day.

Given that our government has been in constant contact with businesses and communities throughout this pandemic and given that we know that this dialogue with businesses has led to programs and changes to restrictions as our government has adapted to ensure that safety is being preserved but also that we're taking feedback from people who know their business the best, can the Minister of Finance tell the House what businesses have asked for in this reopening plan?

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 the question. What businesses resoundingly told us is that they wanted certainty. They wanted a clear path out of restrictions. Like the Canadian Federation of Independent Business said yesterday:

[the] reopening plan is a clear path forward to easing restrictions for small businesses. The plan provides hope and certainty to small businesses that have and will continue to face challenges in the months ahead.

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

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker and to the minister for his work. Given that we know that with this announcement of the open-for-summer plan some businesses will still need support until they can reopen and restrictions everywhere are lifted such as the tourism industry and given that our tourism industry was hit the first and the hardest by the pandemic, can the Minister of Finance tell this House what supports will remain in place for the tourism industry?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday it was announced that we're abating the tourism levy until the end of June. This means a total of \$40 million in support for tourism businesses. Accommodation and food services, which includes many tourism businesses, is also a sector receiving more support through the SME relaunch grant, which now has been extended to the end of June.

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

Vaccine Rollout

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to front-line doctors in Calgary the third wave of COVID saw record numbers of hospitalizations of people from areas like northeast Calgary. Many of these essential front-line workers are from racialized communities, have no access to paid sick leave, and work in high-exposure environments, yet they're far less likely to be vaccinated, not from a lack of interest but due to barriers accessing them. Now, last night the Premier floated the idea of pop-up clinics at the stampede as part of his reopening strategy but mentioned nothing for these workers. To the Minister of Health: if there's enough vaccine for pop-up clinics at the stampede, why have there been none for heavily impacted hot spots like northeast Calgary?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, over 2.57 million doses of vaccine have now been administered in Alberta. As of May 25 over 58 per cent of Albertans 12 and over have their first dose. We are also the leading province in the country in terms of the percentage of our population fully vaccinated. We have also done things to address specific needs in specific communities. One great example is expanding the Genesis clinic in northeast Calgary, increasing capacity in those areas by 400 per cent.

2:10

Mr. Shepherd: Now, given, Mr. Speaker, that vaccine uptake is still low in those communities despite that and given that we've heard from primary care doctors who've been asking since February to plan and host pop-up clinics for these hard-hit communities and those who are vaccine hesitant and that these doctors have made specific proposals to government based on their widely successful clinics held in meat-packing plants but have gotten no response and given that this is a clear and practical solution to save and protect lives and to lower case counts and hospitalizations, to the Minister of Health: given that lower hospitalizations and vaccinations are key components of your reopening schedule, shouldn't these badly needed pop-up clinics have been included in it?

Ms Schulz: Mr. Speaker, that's an excellent question. I'm happy to talk about Alberta's vaccine rollout because it is, in fact, the best in the country, with among the highest percentage of doses administered. As I've said, we're actively working to address areas where vaccine uptake is slower or lower than we'd like. This does include, like I said, expanding the Genesis clinic in northeast Calgary, increasing capacity by 400 per cent, and, as the member opposite mentioned, temporary clinics at places like meat-packing plants, shelters, and work camps. We're looking at setting up new temporary clinics in areas of need around the province. We're happy about our record in terms of vaccine rollout.

Mr. Shepherd: Given, Mr. Speaker, that they've had weeks, months to get these places in place and given that jurisdictions across the globe are using targeted approaches to help front-line workers and all people to access vaccines and move past their fears and given that we've seen innovative strategies from governments across Canada like overnight clinics, microtargeted regional approaches, all designed to bring vaccines to where people are, and given that migrant farm workers have been hard hit during this pandemic and don't have the resources and access to get vaccinated like other Albertans, to the Minister of Health: what is the plan for migrant farm workers? Will you work with the doctors' proposal to bring the pop-up clinics to them as part of the reopening plan?

Ms Schulz: Mr. Speaker, you know, I am really proud of the work that health officials and our Minister of Health have done to target our vaccine rollout in a way that works for Albertans, and we are seeing very positive effects. Alberta has vaccinated 86 per cent of those 80 plus, 83 per cent of those between the ages of 70 and 79, 78 per cent of those between the ages of 60 and 69, and 68 per cent of those aged 50 to 59. We are taking a targeted approach, as I said in my last response. Also announced this morning is a drive-through clinic in northeast Calgary. We will continue to step up and meet the needs of Albertans.

Provincial Credit Rating

Ms Phillips: Last week Standard & Poor downgraded Alberta's credit rating yet again. This is the sixth downgrade for the UCP in just two years. In that sixth downgrade S&P said that Alberta's economy was the worst in Canada last year, will be among the worst in Canada this year, and our full recovery won't come even at the end of fiscal '23-24. To the minister: given that there has been no change to the failed no-jobs economic plan in response to these many and frequent failing grades from credit agencies, how many more credit downgrades can we expect?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to correct one item in the question; that is, the member opposite must have been thinking of the NDP downgrades because they had six, and we've only had five. The distinction is that, in fact, we faced a pandemic within our borders, the largest contraction in the global economy since the Great Depression, and the largest collapse in energy prices in modern history.

Ms Phillips: Well, you know, given that that rejoinder is not exactly what I think the minister thinks it is and given that another downgrade said that, quote, the province has neither formally detailed the extent of its fiscal challenges, nor provided details and a path toward recovery – those are their words, Minister. When the minister stands in this place and postures and blusters and plays politics, he's ignoring those credit agencies and thumbing his nose at their advice. When will the UCP take responsibility and reverse this minister's failed no-jobs economic plan?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm quite intrigued by the member opposite's new-found interest in fiscal responsibility. I share that interest, and I know Albertans broadly share that interest. That's why in Budget 2021, dealing with the economic fallout of the global pandemic and all of the economic challenges brought onto this province, we've included fiscal anchors that will inform

our decisions such as keeping our net debt-to-GDP ratio below 30 per cent and delivering efficient government.

Ms Phillips: Well, given, Mr. Speaker, that the credit agencies aren't buying that answer and given that we have the second-highest unemployment rate in Canada and given that 50,000 jobs were lost before the pandemic and investment was fleeing the province, will the minister at least assure Albertans that he won't make our bad economic situation worse and add more risk and uncertainty for investors by pursuing terrible ideas like – oh, I don't know – pulling out of the CPP and gambling with our retirement?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'm pleasantly surprised and amazed at the members' opposite new-found interest in fiscal responsibility. All we hear from them day after day after day is to spend more. Spend more. As we move forward with initiatives to deliver more efficient government, we will look forward to their support in the future.

Rural Physician Recruitment and Retention

Mr. Loewen: On May 21 AHS issued a notice that the emergency department in Fairview would not have a doctor on-site "due to physician vacancies and an inability to secure locum coverage." This has happened multiple times in the past few months in McLennan, too. I've had Albertans reach out from constituencies such as Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre and Taber-Warner and others saying that they had the same problems in their rural communities. This is something people in urban centres would find unacceptable, too. To the minister: what is being done to solve the inability to secure temporary coverage for filling in doctor absences in rural Alberta?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I do want to thank the member opposite for that question. Supply of physicians in smaller and rural communities is a long-standing challenge, not just in Alberta but across Canada. In a smaller community – I know this; I grew up in very small communities – any change can result in temporary service changes. Coverage is especially difficult in the summer, when physicians may be on holidays. We are in fact making progress, including a net gain of physicians in the past year in spite of the extraordinary challenges of the pandemic. We know COVID-19 has certainly had an impact on this, and it makes it harder for AHS to provide locum . . .

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

Mr. Loewen: Given that there is no question that COVID has placed an additional burden on our health system and that this government has repeatedly declared a public health emergency, it simply is not acceptable to leave a sizable rural region with no emergency care. Presently the Rural Health Professions Action Plan receives \$8.7 million, has 24 employees, 12 board members, and has been operating for 30 years. I'm sure they are doing some good work, but can you tell rural Albertans what the success of this organization has been in recruiting health professionals to rural Alberta?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, the challenge in finding locum coverage in rural areas is not

necessarily new. It's part of the larger challenge that we have seen for decades in this province but also across the country. It has been made more difficult because when we look at the COVID-19 pandemic, we see physicians currently self-isolating. We see others unavailable due to having children in online schooling or because they do not feel comfortable travelling outside of their home community due to the risks around COVID-19. All of that reduces the pool of locums who can provide coverage, but we are hopeful that this will obviously be addressed as we reopen.

Mr. Loewen: Given that I am proud to represent one of the largest and most diverse rural constituencies in Alberta, that covers tens of thousands of square kilometres and is home to more than a dozen communities, multiple First Nations, eight rural municipalities, and one of the largest French-speaking populations in Alberta, and all of these folks have a common need for doctors, not promises, and given that the plans should have dates with specific outcomes because, as the saying goes, a failure to plan is a plan for failure, can the minister provide a timeline of when rural Alberta can expect to be served with appropriate numbers of health professionals so that these Albertans can receive the care they deserve?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, obviously, some of this has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yesterday's announcement and our declining case numbers will hopefully have a positive impact there. We'll continue to fund and improve initiatives that support rural Alberta, including the Rural Health Professions Action Plan. A special task force has also been formed to provide advice on issues surrounding the recruitment and retention specifically for rural primary care physicians, which we know is an issue because we heard it from Albertans. Our government has also recently announced a \$6 million investment over three years to help students pay for the costs of medical school, and we are confident that these will make a difference.

Automobile Insurance Premiums

Mr. Carson: According to their most recent quarterly report Alberta's largest insurance provider, Intact, raked in a 380 per cent increase in year-over-year profits. The UCP paved the way for these windfall profits after caving to lobbyists and removing the insurance rate cap. The pandemic has been going on for over a year, and Albertans are driving less but paying more. To the Minister of Finance: isn't it finally time to put a freeze on increases to premiums so Albertans stop getting hit with arbitrary increases? Better yet, why not reimburse some of the cost to drivers, as we've seen in many other provinces?

2:20

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't surprise me anymore. The one piece of advice that we get time after time is to simply regulate revenues and profit from the members opposite. I can't imagine a more regressive policy. What I can say is that Intact Insurance has in fact reduced automobile insurance rates by 3 per cent in early 2021. Our reforms in Bill 41 are beginning to work. Insurance companies in Alberta have provided COVID relief for nearly a year, providing more than \$182 million in refunds.

Mr. Carson: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that drivers in Manitoba are getting an average of \$160 back – in British Columbia it's \$190 – and given that in Saskatchewan the Premier's good buddy Scott Moe is offering motorists up to \$380 back in insurance premiums, what do we get here in Alberta? Rates increasing by up to 30 per cent. Why won't the minister lift a finger when even conservative Premiers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan understand that drivers deserve a break on auto insurance during the COVID-19 pandemic?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the assertions in that question are simply not accurate. The reality is that we brought in Bill 41, which brought in some necessary reforms that will lead and, in fact, are beginning to lead to lower automobile insurance premiums. Saskatchewan, B.C., and other provinces are simply late to the game. Again, in Alberta insurance companies have already offered motorists \$182 million in refunds. That works out to \$151 per automobile policy.

Mr. Carson: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that no one is buying what this minister is offering and given that Hellosafe reported that insurance companies stood to save \$740 million due to COVID-19 restrictions taking cars off the road and given that there was a 28 per cent drop in car accidents in 2020 and given that we know this Premier is in the pocket of insurance lobbyists, including his former chief of staff, and does whatever they ask, will the minister confirm that he would rather cozy up to insurance companies than give a single dollar of the \$750 million that they saved on the backs of Alberta drivers?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very clear from the line of questioning from the members opposite that they would want Alberta to go to a nationalized automobile insurance system such as in B.C. Well, that has been the most disastrous automobile insurance system in the country. In fact, the Auditor General called it a Dumpster fire. We brought in some necessary reforms in Bill 41. Those reforms are starting to work. We've seen a 3 per cent decrease in tax premiums for the current year and \$182 in refunds from insurance companies to Alberta motorists.

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

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Mr. Feehan: Recently I spoke with Victoria, a young woman who lives in Treaty 6. She told me about the stress she feels as a young indigenous woman growing up in the shadow of the legacy of murdered and missing women. Victoria has shown a powerful commitment to her stolen sisters. While proud of what she is doing as an individual, she's disheartened it has come down to this. June 3 is just around the corner, and with it, two years since the national inquiry issued their final report and 231 calls for justice. We have seen little to no action from this government. Can the minister explain to Victoria why so little action has been taken?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Labour and Immigration.

Mr. Copping: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. My colleague the Minister of Indigenous Relations has been working very hard on this particular file. Indigenous women and girls are at a higher risk of violence,

and this matters to our government. That's why we established the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. This group is part of our commitment to address the national inquiry's calls to justice, ending all forms of violence against indigenous women and girls, making Alberta a safer place for all. We continue to work on this file, and I know that my colleague the Minister of Indigenous Relations – this is a key item for him, and he'll continue to work on this.

Mr. Feehan: More vagueness; no action.

Given that Victoria wrote that families and survivors need support from government and police while they seek justice for themselves and their family and given that call to justice 1.3 calls for government to “pursue prioritization and resourcing of the measures required to eliminate the social, economic, cultural, and political marginalization of Indigenous women [and] girls,” can the minister update this House on the status of call 1.3, and if he can't, can he explain to Victoria why this has not been a priority for the UCP?

Mr. Copping: Mr. Speaker, this definitely is a priority for our government and a priority for my colleague the Minister of Indigenous Relations. The joint working group has been meeting regularly to fulfill their mandate, and recall that the mandate is to advise on how to address issues of violence and the calls for justice, to recommend how to work with indigenous communities and governments and the private sector to build on ways to combat violence against indigenous women and girls and how to engage with family members and indigenous organizations to get their advice. This group is continuing to do its work, and I know that my colleague will report on this in the near future.

Mr. Feehan: Minister, that's just all words. There's no action.

Given that Victoria notes that more mental health, addictions, and housing supports are needed for indigenous Albertans and given that call to justice 7.5 calls for “necessary resources for specialized intervention, healing and treatment programs, and services and initiatives offered in Indigenous languages,” which we have seen little action on since this government took office, can the minister explain to Victoria, who is listening: why hasn't this been a priority for the UCP government? What will it take for this government to actually act?

Mr. Copping: Mr. Speaker, this government is acting. We granted the joint working group an extension to deliver their report due to COVID-19 challenges. Our government is taking action, real action. As an example, my colleague the Minister of Indigenous Relations has travelled the province, met with indigenous communities, and we're taking actions so they can be better involved in the economy, for example, through the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation. I am proud of the work our government is doing, and I'm proud of the work my colleague is doing on this file.

COVID-19 and Mental Health Supports

Mr. Long: Mr. Speaker, the pandemic has had a devastating effect on many aspects of our lives. It has impacted our economy, our families, our physical and emotional health. This pandemic has inflicted unimaginable suffering on the lives of far too many. I have many constituents reaching out to share concerns of the impact on the mental health and well-being of them and their loved ones. To the minister: at a time when mental wellness needs to be a key focus as we attempt to put our lives back together, what has and is our government doing to support the mental well-being of Albertans?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that really great question. Early on in the pandemic the provincial government committed more than \$53 million to mental health and addiction supports. When this was announced in April of 2020, it was and, I believe, still is the largest and most comprehensive support for mental health and addictions across the country. This included improving access to existing helplines and online resources such as the addiction helpline, the mental health helpline, Kids Help Phone, Alberta 211, and Togetherall. I encourage the member to let his constituents know to visit alberta.ca/mentalhealth for more information.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Given that our world hasn't experienced a global pandemic in over 100 years and given that we understand the short-term impacts of restrictions on mental health and given that similar traumatic events have been shown to have both short- and long-term consequences to mental well-being, to the minister: how will the government recognize and address the underlying long-term effects to the mental health of Albertans as we move past COVID?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We absolutely know that the COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult. It's been tough on Albertans. Once again, we were proud to invest \$53 million to increase access to addiction and mental health recovery supports that our province needed during and after as we move on from the COVID-19 pandemic. Of this funding, \$25 million was allocated to support the COVID-19 community fund grant program. Some of this funding went to the member's riding in West Yellowhead, including \$80,000 for Hinton Adult Learning Society and \$28,000 for Eagle Tower Victim Services.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Minister. Given that I have heard many concerns raised about the impacts to our youth throughout the pandemic and given that many have seen their families struggle, witnessed the loss of playing sports, attending events, and had to alter their learning environment several times and given that youth are still in the early developmental stages of their lives and parents, friends, and society are concerned about the long-term effects on Alberta's youth, to the minister: what will our government do to help youth that have been impacted by the pandemic as it relates to their mental health?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

2:30

Ms Schulz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today along with my colleague from Calgary-South East we announced a youth mental health panel to study the effects the pandemic has had on kids and young people right across the province. We committed \$21.4 million in April 2020 to improve the mental health helpline, the Kids Help Phone, online resources such as Togetherall, Jack.org's Alberta COVID-19 Youth Mental Health Resource Hub, and Alberta 211. Also, Budget 2021 includes \$34 million for children's health supports to expand addiction, mental health, and rehabilitation services for children and youth. This is a very important question and important work.

Critical Worker Benefit

Ms Gray: Mr. Speaker, Alberta essential workers have gone above and beyond during the pandemic, from our health care workers saving lives to the grocery store workers who've been feeding and supplying Alberta families. Every single worker deserves our thanks. This government, while claiming to respect these workers, took months to roll out the critical worker benefit program, and then many Albertans found out that they weren't eligible for it. Can the minister of labour update the House on this program? How many Albertans applied for the critical worker benefit, how many applications were accepted, and how many were rejected?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Labour and Immigration.

Mr. Copping: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. As the hon. member mentioned, the critical worker benefit was rolled out in February. This program was delivered through five different departments, including my own, which had a portal, and there's also a portal through Health, had their own portal. It closed at the end of April. I can report back to the House that we're still finalizing some of the last of the applications. I can give the numbers associated with my department, the payments that have been done, but we're still continuing to process the applications. I'll get to the numbers in my next answer. [interjection]

The Speaker: Order. Order.

Ms Gray: Given that the UCP was given this federal money during the first wave to support workers but it took them months to use it, which, to be clear, shows a level of respect that the UCP has for working people, and given that workers performing essential work like those driving taxis, working retail, and some health care workers were completely excluded from this benefit and given that I've heard heartbreaking tales from workers and employers who found out too late that they didn't qualify and now I'm hearing from workers who are still waiting for their payment, to the minister: how many workers are still waiting to receive the money from this benefit?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour and Immigration.

Mr. Copping: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government focused on identifying workers who provided critical services during the second wave. I can tell you that through my department 4,500 employers have received and distributed the critical worker benefit. More than 98,400 workers have been approved to receive the critical worker benefit, and more than \$121 million in funding has been approved for payment or already distributed. As previously indicated, the portal closed at the end of April. We allowed time for additional information to be provided, and these funds are still being distributed. We can give the final numbers to the hon. member at a later date.

Ms Gray: Given that this UCP government has failed in every instance to stand up for Alberta workers by refusing to introduce paid sick leave, stalling on the wage top-ups, rolling back workers' rights during a pandemic, and firing tens of thousands of education workers and given that the essential workers denied this benefit deserve to know why the minister of labour did not consider their work to be critical, will the minister table in this House the justification for excluding hard-working Albertans as well as the reasons Albertans were rejected as well as the number of Albertans

rejected and the number of Albertans who are still waiting for their money?

Mr. Copping: Mr. Speaker, I reject the majority of the comments made by the hon. member. That's simply not true. Our government is focused on supporting workers through this pandemic. We delivered the critical worker benefit. As you know, this benefit included social service workers, health care workers, education workers, and critical private-sector workers such as those of grocery cashiers, pharmacy assistants, and gas station attendants. We are continuing to deliver this program. It's not finalized. I'm pleased to actually provide the numbers to the hon. member once the program is finalized.

AISH and Income Support Payment Schedule

Ms Renaud: January 27, 2020: the UCP gave one month notice to disabled Albertans that the AISH payment dates change, meaning they'd have to extend their income for almost another week. This was March of 2020, the month the global pandemic was declared. The UCP did this to book \$152 million into the next fiscal year to make their books look better. The Auditor General made them correct this because this was not in accordance with public-sector accounting standards. Minister, prior to announcing this policy change that would impact 70,000 disabled Albertans and their families, who outside of government was consulted to evaluate and mitigate the risk?

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

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to say for the record that the Minister of Community and Social Services has consulted with everyone, and the member knows that. These things were done in order to align services for all of the folks within all of the sectors. I've never actually seen a minister who's been as engaged as our Minister of Community and Social Services. I'm very, very happy to stand here on her behalf, especially because so much of our work between our ministries collaborate, and the work that she's done and the consultations that she has done have been far and wide. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

Ms Renaud: None of that was correct.

Given that the AG stated that Community and Social Services' process requires that when proposing significant program changes, management prepare a thorough analysis considering the impact and the implication of the proposed changes, including various options for making change and any consultations conducted, and given that the structural payment date change has impacted approximately 130,000 Albertans, Minister: which organizations or individuals outside of the ministry were consulted in order to assess the risk of forcing people already living in poverty to stretch their ...

The Speaker: The hon. the minister of status of women.

Mrs. Aheer: Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy to clarify again for this member that the aligning of the payments for the first month provides a consistency for schedules for Albertans. It also doesn't change the amount of the benefits, which the member keeps continuing to try and misrepresent, the actual dollars that were put in this program, which actually creates more fear for the very people that she believes that she's representing. On top of that, as we

proceed with Alberta's recovery plan, we will find new and appropriate ways to make sure that the services are delivered.

Ms Renaud: Given that the Minister of Finance claimed the decision to move AISH and income support payments was based on the advice of the AG – we know this is incorrect – and given that the government's credibility is at an all-time low with the disability community following two years of cuts to core benefits, exploding wait-lists, demeaning spin, like you saw, ongoing failures to consult this community, is this the minister's position, that she was advised by the AG to change the dates, or will she finally apologize and admit that this change was not made in the best interest of Albertans?

Mrs. Aheer: I'll try answering it again, Mr. Speaker. The alignment was done to more closely bring payments together. The idea that is coming from this member that there is some nefarious scheme in order to take advantage of our vulnerable people in this province: that is what's demeaning, especially for the folks and families who rely on these dollars. What the NDP is doing is absolutely promoting fear, especially at a time of COVID, especially when our vulnerable people are suffering. This kind of behaviour is exactly the reason why the people of this province do not trust the NDP.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Highwood.

Jobs Now Program

Mr. Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After years of economic stagnation Alberta has experienced a pandemic, the worst global economic downturn in nearly a century, a commodity crash, and this has resulted in a significant number of Albertans being underemployed or completely unemployed. On May 19 the Minister of Labour and Immigration introduced Alberta Jobs Now, the largest job program in the history of our province. To the Minister of Labour and Immigration: can you explain how this program will work to create jobs for Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Labour and Immigration.

Mr. Copping: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon. member for the question. The Alberta government is investing \$370 million to help employers hire unemployed Albertans. The Alberta Jobs Now program helps employers offset the costs of creating jobs and training new employees while giving unemployed or underemployed Albertans an opportunity to find a job or receive training that improves their skills. Small, medium, and large businesses in the private and nonprofit sectors can apply to receive a grant that they can use to train employees or subsidize their wages or both. Employers can apply at alberta.ca/jobsnow. The program is now open. This is the first intake, and we're looking forward to many more.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Highwood.

Mr. Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for the answer. Given that we have now heard how the Alberta jobs program will help Albertans get back to work and given that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant challenges and major losses to many Alberta-based businesses, including many in my own constituency of Highwood, to the same minister: how will this program support Alberta's economic recovery and strengthen our economic future?

2:40

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Labour and Immigration.

Mr. Copping: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bold actions are needed to help struggling businesses get unemployed Albertans back to work. The Alberta Jobs Now program is a key part of Alberta's broader economic recovery plan. Reducing costs for employers through funding encourages them to hire and train Albertans, and it gets unemployed Albertans back to work. Employers will get a grant that covers up to 25 per cent of the employee's salary for a 52-week period to a maximum of \$25,000 per employee. An employer can use the funding for up to 20 new employees per intake. We expect the program to support hiring over 20,000 Albertans.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Highwood.

Mr. Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and once again thank you to the minister for that answer. Given that every Albertan deserves the opportunity to fully participate in the workforce and given that Albertans with disabilities are often limited from doing so, to the Minister of Community and Social Services: how will the Alberta Jobs Now program reduce barriers for those Albertans living with disabilities so they can fully participate in the workforce?

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

Mrs. Aheer: Yes. Thank you again so much to our Minister of Labour and Immigration. Mr. Speaker, folks that are living with disabilities make essential contributions to Alberta's economy every day, but the unemployment rate for people with disabilities is much higher than the average Albertan. That's not because of lack of ability; it often comes with the lack of opportunity. Under the Jobs Now employers who hire persons with disabilities will receive a grant 1.5 times higher than the amount that they receive with other new employees. Every Albertan deserves to have meaningful employment to earn a living and be included as a valuable member of their community.

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

Given the Royal Assent ceremony that will take place in just a few minutes, we're going to proceed immediately to the remainder of the Routine. If members have other commitments, I ask them to leave the Chamber quickly, quietly, and expeditiously.

Presenting Petitions

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

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table a petition that contains the signatures of 3,079 Albertans from all over the province that calls for the government to prohibit any new open-pit coal mining in Alberta and to reinstate the 1976 coal development policy.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River.

Bill 217

Polish-Canadian Heritage Day Act

Mr. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to rise today to request leave to introduce a bill being the Polish-Canadian Heritage Day Act.

I think all members of this Assembly will agree that Polish Canadians, particularly in Alberta, which is the second-largest Polish community in the country, are incredibly important to our society today, our heritage, and the fabric of who we are as a community of

Albertans. I will ask, as the day soon approaches – the Polish community and I worked together on this, for the second Sunday in June to be the annual day were this act to pass – for unanimous support in this House and for a nonpartisan approach to what I think is an important recognition of important people in Alberta.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 217 read a first time]

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

**Bill 218
Provincial Parks (Protecting Park Boundaries)
Amendment Act, 2021**

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise and request leave to introduce Bill 218, the Provincial Parks (Protecting Park Boundaries) Amendment Act, 2021.

The act responds to the thousands of Albertans that over the last year have been actively campaigning to protect our parks and asked us to implement stronger protections for our parks and recreation areas. The bill would enshrine in law that if the government were to ever reduce the size of a park or recreation area or wanting to declassify a provincial park, the government would be required to post the plan changes publicly, consult publicly with Albertans, and bring these changes to the Legislature for a vote. Parks are our natural heritage and are deeply valued by Albertans. Many Albertans share fond memories of vacations spent and would like to see them protected.

As such, I move first reading of Bill 218.

[Motion carried; Bill 218 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the requisite number of copies from Standard & Poor's global rating agency, who have just lowered Alberta's long-term rating. Once again, this is the sixth credit downgrade, because one of the ratings houses downgraded the province two notches during the UCP's tenure for a total of six.

The Speaker: Hon. members, we will now proceed to Royal Assent. At this time if you can ensure that all electronic devices are put away, we will prepare the Chamber for Her Honour's presence.

The hon. the Premier.

Royal Assent

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

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

[The Mace was draped]

The Speaker: Just a reminder to members that upon the knocking at the door, all electronic devices should be placed away.

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

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

2:50

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

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Salma Lakhani, AOE, BSc, and the Premier entered the Chamber. Her Honour took her place upon the throne]

Her Honour: Please be seated.

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

The Clerk: Your Honour, the following is the title of the bill to which Your Honour's assent is prayed: Bill 64, Public Lands Amendment Act, 2021.

[The Lieutenant Governor indicated her assent]

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

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

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

[The Mace was uncovered]

The Speaker: Please be seated.
Ordres du jour.

Orders of the Day

**Government Bills and Orders
Committee of the Whole**

[Mr. Milliken in the chair]

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. members. I would like to call the Committee of the Whole to order.

Bill 56

Local Measures Statutes Amendment Act, 2021

The Deputy Chair: Are there any questions, comments, or amendments to be made at this time?

Seeing none, I am prepared to ask the question. Are you ready for the question on Bill 56, Local Measures Statutes Amendment Act, 2021?

[The remaining clauses of Bill 56 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

The Deputy Chair: Shall the bill be reported? Are you agreed? All those in favour, please say aye.

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Deputy Chair: Any opposed, please say no. Carried.

Bill 57
Metis Settlements Amendment Act, 2021

The Deputy Chair: Are there any questions or comments to be made at this time? We are currently on amendment A1. I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood has risen.

Member Irwin: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's an honour to rise, as always, in this Chamber. Today we have before us Bill 57, and to be quite frank, I've not had an opportunity to speak to this bill at length. We have before us an amendment from this government, which is actually quite interesting because we haven't seen a lot of government amendments. Now, I just want to quickly remind folks, all those people watching at home, what this amendment essentially does. It strikes out "3 councillors" and substitutes "the number of councillors that constitute a quorum." Well, I'm sure that the viewers at home are not necessarily needing to know the exact specifics of this bill, but I can tell you, in a nutshell, after consulting with our Indigenous Relations critic, the Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, that we absolutely oppose this government amendment.

To explain a little bit more as to why we oppose it, I would just like to refresh folks' memories about this bill generally. One of the biggest concerns that we have with Bill 57 is the lack of consultation. We've heard – I can talk to you about Herb Lehr, a fantastic fellow, who I've met multiple times, president of the Metis Settlements General Council. He came and he stood with us and he said that he was not consulted. The changes in Bill 57 appear to be imposed unilaterally on the Métis settlements.

What's shocking about this – what's most shocking about this – is that this is a government that continues to claim in this Chamber that they consult with Albertans, and it's another example where they are absolutely misrepresenting that fact. Absolutely. I can point to countless examples, pieces of legislation where this government has failed to consult. We could talk about parks. We could talk about AISH. We could talk about countless education bills. We could talk about countless health care bills where health care workers weren't consulted. The list goes on. I don't want to talk at length here because I know that my colleagues have a lot to say on this bill as well, but the point is that this is a government that continues to fail to consult with Albertans. In this case they absolutely failed to consult with the Métis community. We know that the Metis Settlements General Council has been exceptionally clear that without further consultation, this bill cannot go forward.

So what do we have before us? We have this government's attempt at trying to make a bad bill just a little bit better, yet, sadly, they're failing. What this amendment will do shows exactly what Métis folks have been telling us, that this government is not listening. It's going to limit the voice of Métis peoples. Why is it – why is it – that this government feels that they can speak for Métis folks? Why is it that they feel that they can move forward with substantive legislation without consultation? I wasn't part of the NDP government from 2015 to 2019, but I sure do remember those government members harping on the NDP for not consulting enough. You're doing exactly what you accused us of. What did Herb Lehr say? He said that we are opposed to this for the simple reason that we have a due diligence to our constituents.

3:00

I would argue that this government has a due diligence to its constituents as well. Of course, we're talking about the Métis settlements. Not all of us in this Legislature have Métis settlements in our ridings, but you absolutely have folks who identify as Métis. You absolutely have folks who identify as part of the indigenous community. So why aren't you listening? It's a simple question. I

hope that perhaps somebody in this Chamber from the government side will stand up today and explain the intent behind this amendment, because we've heard from community members that this is not what they want. They don't want to be dictated to by this government. This government has talked multiple times about collaboration and moving forward together. This is exactly what you're not doing with Bill 57 and with this amendment specifically.

We are going to absolutely vote against this amendment. We've presented multiple concerns about this bill. We've urged this government to listen, to take a step back, to listen to the Métis settlements, to set this bill aside, to start again. I'm fearful. I mean, I don't want to presuppose the findings of this Assembly, but we have similar concerns. I'll give a parallel example, not a perfectly parallel example but the example with the curriculum right now. How many stakeholders need to tell this government that this curriculum is wrong before they listen? This Premier talks about widespread support. Widespread support amongst his caucus? That's not widespread support amongst Albertans.

We can point to countless organizations, indigenous-serving organizations as an example, who have fundamentally rejected this curriculum, whether you're talking about the Treaty 6 confederacy, whether you're talking about the Métis Nation of Alberta, whether you're talking about countless elders, including the fantastic elder Betty Letendre, who happens to be a constituent of Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood and happens to be an incredible woman and voice for the community. Wilton Littlechild: what did he say? Well, I haven't even seen the most recent drafts from the one person that this government continued to tokenize as a supporter of this curriculum. I present that example, again, just as a caution to this government, as a caution for you to stop, for you to listen, for you to consult, and for you to stop moving forward with Bill 57.

With that, Mr. Chair, I will take my chair.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member. Just for clarity, amendment A1 has been dealt with by this committee already, so we are on the main bill, Bill 57, the Metis Settlements Amendment Act, 2021. I don't think it affects anything that was stated in your recent comments.

Are there any members wishing to join debate on Bill 57? I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-South has risen.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's a pleasure to rise and speak on the bill today. I think that it's very important that when we talk about these issues and we talk about consultation and we talk about meaningful engagement, it is something we actually understand cannot be done unilaterally and without engagement. It's something that this government seems to not understand over and over and over again. It's something that this government seems to not be able to figure out over and over and over again. They said that they had 19 meetings with the Métis general council. While that may be true, it seems as though every single stakeholder, when spoken to about this bill, continues to think that the consultations were inadequate – right? – that the consultations were insufficient, and that this government did an insufficient job of actually engaging on this bill.

It's something that's very strange, it's something that's very disappointing, and it's something that we see. The Metis Settlements General Council themselves have said that they're opposed to this legislation, right? The due diligence of this government – and I'm going to quote from the president of the Metis Settlements General Council here, Herb Lehr: we're opposed to this for the simple reason that we have a due diligence to our constituents. End quote.

Mr. Chair, it's very clear that the minister did not meet the standard of consultation. It's very clear that the minister did not

actually engage meaningfully. It's very clear that the Métis people and communities do not support this legislation. So why does this government insist on moving forward, right? Why does this government insist on ramming through these significant changes, insist on ramming through these extraordinary changes without having done the proper work?

Mr. Chair, I think it's something that we can look at in a broader context and say: yes, we actually do understand what this government is going for, and what this government is going for is that they don't actually appear to care about that consultation, right? For a government which signed so many grassroots guarantees, large signs during the campaign, where the Premier himself would put his name on the line and say, "I guarantee you we will listen to the people" – that's what the Premier was purporting during the campaign – for a Premier who did that, it seems as though, instead of having done any of the things he swore he would do in those signatures, he has decided he's going to ram through his agenda and spend his time focusing on his own leadership, right?

It's something that is so profoundly disappointing from this government. It's so profoundly disappointing from this government because it simply shows they do not understand the issues that matter to Albertans. They do not understand the issues that matter to the public here, Mr. Chair, and it's something that's very upsetting, right? It's very upsetting because we know that this act, we know that this bill is going to treat Métis settlements more like municipalities and that it's going to maybe degrade the protection of the constitutional rights of Métis people in this country. It's something that does not allow us to properly future-proof our Métis communities against these types of attacks. This government simply wouldn't even consult properly on that process, right? They wouldn't even consult properly on that process.

The changes that are being suggested are very disruptive. The changes that are being suggested are very disappointing. The changes that are being brought forward in this bill are a pattern of behaviour from this government, a government which, instead of doing the work that Albertans expected us to do, instead of coming here and debating bills like this, which is, honestly, one of the things that we are doing that is very important to our democratic process – it's the opposition holding the government to account, right? That's a fundamental part of our democracy in our Westminster parliamentary system here in Canada, in Alberta. What the government did, instead of debating this bill as well as many others such as paid sick leave for Albertans during a global pandemic, is that they ran and hid for three weeks. In the middle of a crisis the government ran away and hid. But you know what they had time for, Mr. Chair? You know what the government had time for? The government had time to spend a full day talking about the leadership of this Premier and why he should remain Premier, right?

Those are the types of priorities we're seeing from this government. It's something that's profoundly disappointing. It's something that is very strange, and it's very strange because they could have spent those three weeks – instead of taking a COVID vacation, instead of deciding to run away and talk about the Premier's leadership and decide how their caucus should be run, instead of looking internally, perhaps the government should have taken those three weeks and actually gone out and consulted with Métis people and actually consulted with the Métis councils and Métis settlements. Perhaps the government could have taken that time and done the real work that was expected of them, that is required of them.

Instead, Mr. Chair, what we see is that we come back after the government ran away and hid for three weeks, after the government did nothing other than look internally and look at whether the Premier has the support of his own caucus members for three weeks. After we saw the profoundly shocking display of arrogance

by the Premier, what we see now is that we come back to a bill where no additional work has been done. We're in Committee of the Whole. We have the opportunity to make these substantive changes, to change and bring forward policy changes that would address many of the concerns that had been raised by myself and my colleagues in this place over the last many weeks here.

Instead of doing any of that, what we see is that the government took three weeks to take the COVID vacation, to run and hide from the spotlight, to run and hide when Albertans were sick across this province in the middle of a global pandemic, and none of the work that would have addressed the concerns brought forward by Métis settlements, the concerns brought forward by the Métis settlements council were dealt with in any meaningful way, right? The government keeps pointing to these consultations they did. The Métis Settlements General Council doesn't consider them adequate consultation. We know that again and again.

3:10

Mr. Chair, simply put, this government doesn't seem to know what they're doing, right? They seem to be fumbling around trying to hold on to – well, the Premier appears to be fumbling around trying to hold on to his caucus, trying to hold on to control instead of spending the time required to develop meaningful policy, instead of spending the time required to go out and say: "How can we make life better for Albertans? How can we make life better for people living on Métis settlements?" Instead of trying to do any of that work, this Premier, in particular, is spending the majority of his time struggling with control of his own caucus. I think that's something that Albertans deserve better than, frankly.

I think, frankly, Albertans deserve a government which is laser focused on making sure that our economy is growing and is meaningful and that our communities are safe, but instead what we see is a government that's focused almost entirely on itself – right? – willing to spend an entire day on a caucus meeting. I think it was an over-seven-hour caucus meeting in one day, where they simply debated whether the Premier should continue to be the Premier. That's the type of priority this government is taking forward instead of focusing on the work that we're doing here in the Legislature, instead of doing the work Albertans elected us and sent us here to do. This government's priorities are on the Premier instead of on Albertans.

Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

I see the hon. Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women has risen to join debate.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Wow. I'm not quite sure where to start. Let's start with "laser focused." The opposition is laser focused on division and fear. I would like to say thank you to our Minister of Indigenous Relations for the consultations that he did for over a year on this.

I'd asked a question to the members across the way when I last debated this regarding the hundreds of millions of dollars that went missing from the funds that actually belong to the Métis settlements. For those folks who are listening today, the government is actually in control of the distribution of those funds to the Métis settlements. Did you know that they don't have control over that? This is actually what this bill does. It gives them actual control over their dollars, the ability to do their elections, to be able to run independently, to be significantly involved with their own people. I would think that for folks who care about what the Métis settlements want, they're going to want to make sure that there's an accountability and a sustainability there for the people.

The Métis settlements in this province are spectacularly special and unique to the country, and the hundreds of millions of dollars that have gone missing from those funds up until now – the NDP can actually take credit for the actual dissemination of those funds within the Métis settlements because they just gave out dollars willy-nilly, not realizing that those dollars weren't actually making it to the people in those very settlements. This bill adds accountability to the folks that live in these settlements, to whom the dollars belong, actually, not to the government of Alberta and certainly not to the minister, who has taken upon himself to remove himself from that distribution and give it back to the Métis settlements so that they are actually independent and are able to function and able to do what people should do when they are governing for themselves.

Isn't that what we're all here about? Pieces of reconciliation and independence and autonomy. The NDP is fighting against Métis autonomy. Is it a perfect solution? I'm sure tweaks and things will need to happen, but guess what? Those will be decisions that happen between the Métis settlements and the government, whoever happens to be in the government. In fact, the member, the last time that we had this debate, stood up and said – and I asked her. I said: so how do the Métis settlements feel about the fact that all of those hundreds of millions of dollars had disappeared from the fund? There should be over \$120 million in that fund right now. I think it's under \$30 million, maybe even \$18 million. I can't remember exactly, so please forgive me if I'm not quoting that exactly. You know what she said? "Well, they haven't sued us." Well, it's a good thing, because if you were still in government, chances are that that could have happened, especially if they had the ability to do that, being able to self-govern at this point.

The entire point of this is for them to be able to collect taxes for water and roads and everything, all of the things the rest of us take for granted, that governments do on behalf of the taxpayers. Why shouldn't the Métis settlements have that opportunity? Why shouldn't they be able to do that with their money instead of asking government for permission to have dollars to go to their settlements to be able to use in their settlements on their behalf because government said they could? It kind of seems counterintuitive compared to what the NDP would lead you to believe that this legislation is actually about.

You know, the other thing is, too, that when dollars are coming into any organization – I mean, the NDP has stood in here for the last 14 months demanding transparency, just like we did when we were in opposition, over dollars spent. All that is completely fair. It's their job. Well, don't the Métis people in Métis settlements also have the right to demand transparency from their leaders as to where their dollars are going and how they're being spent? I would think so. I would think so. Their elections are coming up here soon. Their elections, just like the rest of us have – they're responsible to the people who elect them.

When you think about good governance and planning and what it takes to be able to make sure that these incredible and beautiful and spectacularly special and unique settlements can be as prosperous as possible, to be able to facilitate on behalf of their people independent of government and how it is that we would like to distribute their dollars – but that's the problem. If you look at the opposition, they think they know better. Of course, they're going to tell the Métis people how to spend their money and who it should go to.

That's the most hysterical part about this argument. It's one thing to debate. It's a whole other thing then to have one of the MLAs stand up and criticize how our Premier looks or his pockets or where he puts his hands. Where are we? Is this elementary school? In fact, I wouldn't even say that, because most elementary kids I know are

kinder and more loving to each other than that that I just heard here, where they criticize a man for what he looks like, how he puts his hands in his pockets, what he's wearing. It's all in *Hansard*. You can go and read it. It was just said.

Honestly, I'm not quite sure what that has to do with this piece of legislation or the Committee of the Whole that we're in. I'm curious about what they'll say about my outfit next. It's interesting if that's part of the decision-making process about why we trust or we don't trust, very interesting. I'm certainly glad it was said in here because it's in *Hansard*. It's okay for the NDP to sit here and character assassinate and talk about what a person looks like or what they're wearing in order to determine whether or not a piece of legislation is good or not. Interesting. Very, very interesting. I'm really glad that the people of Alberta are able to hear that. Truly impressive, I have to say.

You know, when you're modernizing legislation, it's difficult. It's tricky. It's not going to be easy. There are going to be, you know, quirks and things that need to be fixed, but I have complete faith in the Métis settlements and the folks that run the Métis settlements to be able to work independently and be involved with government in order to fix, change, or do whatever it is they need to do over the next little while. Quite frankly, the Métis settlements have every right to have a difference of opinion for how things look. The truth is that they haven't been able to use the money the way they wanted to or collect taxes in the manner that they wanted to before now. Of course, there are going to be differences of opinion. That's normal. It doesn't mean that it's all wrong or that – I use this word again – there's something nefarious behind it.

Our Minister of Indigenous Relations did do those consultations. It wasn't just 19. He spent a year consulting with the various Métis nations or the various Métis organizations across the province. You know, this is all about hard-working, strong, beautiful human beings who deserve the opportunity to have the conversations, who are passionate about preserving their way of life. When you realize that the sustainability of those Métis settlements is dependent around how those dollars are spent, I would assume that the NDP, like us, would prefer that the Métis settlements had control over those dollars. I'm quite certain that they're going to know how to spend their money better than we do. I'm absolutely, positively certain about that. I can't wait, once we are through the dark side of COVID, to be able to go out and visit with all of these folks and to chat with them and to have conversations in their spaces on their terms, to talk about how things are going, to get really, really entrenched back into the culture and spend time. These are truly amazing individuals.

3:20

You know, when you have the privilege of being in here, you learn a lot. One of those things is a tremendous amount of humility. When you're going out and you're doing these consultations, it's always led with humility. If anybody knows our Indigenous Relations minister, humility is at the top of the list of who this person is.

Like I said, is it going to be perfect? No. I would imagine that any piece of legislation that comes, there are going to be people for and against that piece of legislation. That is a difficult part of governing. It's a difficult part of coming up with legislation. For anybody who was in government before, they know that, right? I'm not suggesting that it's perfect. That would be nice, but we all know that's not even possible. But having said that, the idea that the kinds of things that have been said that have absolutely nothing to do with this legislation, that are being twisted and manipulated in order to – I'm not quite sure what point they're trying to prove.

But, you know, I have to say that the transparency and the requirement to publish annual reports in plain language, in financial disclosures: I know that when we were in opposition, that's what the Métis settlements were asking the NDP to do. I also know – I'm trying to think of the other thing because I remember that when we were talking to them, I know that they wanted to have government removed from the future fund. I know that for a fact. I know that because we talked to the people in the settlements. It's frustrating for anybody to not know where their dollars are going – right? – yet the NDP had four years, Mr. Chair, to actually make that change. If there was a better way of doing it, why didn't they do it? Why? It's interesting that these were actually things that were asked for by the Métis people.

Again, I'm not suggesting that it's perfect or that there are not tweaks or things that need to be made, and I'm quite certain that our Minister of Indigenous Relations will be having many, many, many conversations to be able to look at this and see what needs to happen. But I can tell you one thing for sure that's not going to happen. We're not going to spend a hundred million dollars of their money because we have access to it and we just decide that, you know, that's our role, and we're going to tell them how to spend their money. That's not going to happen with this government. The NDP, though? You can honestly look at them and ask them: where did \$110 million go? How was it spent? Who did it go to? How was it distributed? I would highly recommend that those folks who are reaching out about this ask the NDP, when they were in government, where that money went.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. minister.

I see the hon. Member for Lethbridge-West has risen to join debate.

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm pleased to provide my reflections on the main part of this bill. I believe I've only spoken to an amendment so far. Indeed, I will . . .

Mrs. Aheer: We're not on the amendment.

The Deputy Chair: I hesitate to interrupt the member.

Ms Phillips: I know. I said that I have only spoken to an amendment.

The Deputy Chair: Oh, okay. Perfect. I thought that you said that we were on the amendment. Sorry. Sometimes the mask blurs it out. Please continue. Yes.

Ms Phillips: Yes. Thank you to the hon. member opposite for her interventions.

Anyway, we are here because, essentially, you know, I think it's fair to say that if the Metis Settlements General Council and the president had expressed support for this piece of legislation, then we would all be on our merry way and we would pass it and everyone would be very happy. But as it turns out, not everyone is happy, so here we are. Certainly, we have some on-the-record comments from leadership at the MSGC indicating that they will be seeking an injunction on this particular piece of legislation. One of the pieces that the indigenous leadership at the MSGC, one of the phrases that kept surfacing in his public comments and his interventions was: the honour of the Crown. Now, the honour of the Crown is a specific promise intended to create an obligation of the Crown. It's when the Crown exercises its authority in more of a discretionary way. It is not the usual understanding of fiduciary responsibility though it can take up fiduciary responsibility.

Now, of course, this area of law has been a different kind of journey than what we see on the First Nations side because for some it is a land-based conversation, but for most of Canada's Métis it's a rights-based conversation.

Now, in the case of the MSGC we have a land-based conversation because indeed the honour of the Crown has been exercised and demonstrated over and over again since 1895 in Alberta. In 1885 the Northwest Rebellion resulted in many Métis people coming to north and central-east Alberta, with a land base identified by the provincial government at St. Paul in 1895. In 1931 the Métis made a formal petition to this provincial Legislature for land and a few other services like health care, and in 1935 this House set aside those lands. In 1938 the Metis Betterment Act was passed through the very Chamber that we are standing in, and in fact historians have observed that that Metis Betterment Act evinced a unique co-operation between the Crown and Métis people in the development of the act and its attendant regulations.

Now, time marches on. From 1968 to 1988 there's a long, protracted process of litigation around oil and gas revenues, which, in fact, resulted in this future fund that the hon. member across the way is referring to. In 1988 another bill passes this Chamber, the Metis Settlements Act, which gives the minister broad powers, but again those broad powers, as they're enumerated in the regulation, are exercised in conjunction with the MSGC.

What we have here is a framework for governance on a specific land base based on a more-than-a-century specific promise to Métis people in the settlements, quote, intended to create obligation of the Crown. We have the honour of the Crown, that piece that has been triggered by Alberta's historic approach to the Métis settlements. Now, you know, that is a very interesting development. The fact of the matter is that it then requires certain levels of consultation and ways of making changes for how these areas are governed. Why? Because Métis people are not just living in any old municipality, Mr. Chair, which is what this bill, essentially, is designed to do.

It's designed to allow the Crown to run away from those specific promises, treat Métis people who've been living on that land base and were promised that land base by this Legislature more than a century ago – what it allows it to do is to sort of wash their hands of the inherent requirements, constitutional requirements based on an approach that essentially denies the indigeneity of folks who are living on or affected by Métis settlements. That's why the leadership has indicated that they are going to be pursuing an injunction. Now, I don't believe that we should in this House do things that we know – that we just know – are going to result in just making a whole bunch of money for lawyers. I just don't think it's in the public interest at all.

If, in fact, there is merit to what the member across the way was just talking about in terms of the restructuring of the future fund – and there were some other things in there that were said – (a) if, in fact, there is some public policy merit to that, (b) if there is some response to changing conditions from how things have changed on Métis settlements since the 1988 Metis Settlements Act, then it appears, from what has happened over time here, that that process needs to be in conjunction with the MSGC because that is how it has proceeded for many, many years, indeed since the 1938 passage of the Metis Betterment Act in this House.

This idea that, you know, they're just going to be municipalities like any other, that they're going – the minister across the way talked about, "Oh, it's about the water system and roads" and "They have to be able to charge taxes like anyone else." That is erasing the history of Métis identity in these areas, and the courts will, I think, look askance at it. For that reason, it is not in the public interest to barrel ahead with this piece of legislation. In fact, the government has not responded to any of those questions. If they had responses

to them, if they had the MSGC saying, “Yep; this is actually the way that we need to proceed” or, you know, “We’re going to work on this piece in regulation with you” or whatever the case may be, then we would be happy to support this piece of legislation. But as it stands, this is extremely problematic and, I believe, reflects a need for an attitude adjustment on the part of the Crown because you can’t just go around saying “You’re indigenous, and you’re not” by act of provincial Legislature. The Constitution doesn’t work that way.

3:30

That is why this piece of legislation needs more deliberation and ultimately, at this committee stage, more answers that are, you know, actually factual and not just impudence masquerading as debate but actual answers as to how these questions will be grappled with.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members looking to join debate? I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore has risen.

Mr. Nielsen: Well, thank you, Mr. Chair. Happy to rise here this afternoon to provide some brief comments here, because I know some of my other colleagues are very anxious to add their comments this afternoon to Bill 57 as well. You know, I listened intently to the minister of culture characterizing the opposition’s stance on this and how we weren’t talking about the bill. Okay. Let’s talk about the bill, then.

Here we have changes to the Metis Settlements Act that clearly are not being accepted by the number one stakeholder for the government – I’ll say that again just in case I wasn’t quite clear: the number one stakeholder – the Metis Settlements General Council. Their president, Herb Lehr, said: we’re opposed to this for the simple reason that we have a due diligence to our constituents. There’s been significant concern that the bill itself, Bill 57, the legislation that’s being proposed, does not deliver on some amendments that council has voted on and asked for but implements others that they did not ask for and did not want. So you can talk about all the meetings that you’ve had – your number one stakeholder is saying that you dropped the ball. Not only did you drop the ball, I think you then kicked it down the street as well. You should have taken the time to look at this. You know, I thought it was rather ironic, Mr. Chair. The minister of culture was saying: looking forward to having discussions once we get out of the dark side of COVID. Maybe you should have had those discussions before you even tabled this legislation.

I was also rather interested – and I never got the opportunity earlier in debate to touch on this. One of the things the Minister of Indigenous Relations had touched on was that this bill was about – he characterized parts of it as red tape reduction. That premise has very clearly not been accepted by the Metis Settlements General Council, and it shouldn’t have been characterized that way. So I can’t help but wonder: what were the discussions that took place between the Minister of Indigenous Relations and the Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction? What was his input? Somewhere in all those meetings there must have been a discussion about that and some feedback about how they felt, the bill being characterized like that.

We’ve seen, you know, these hand-me-downs from other ministries around red tape. I’m curious, then: if there’s some red tape reduction within this bill, why wasn’t that passed off to the red tape reduction minister like we’ve seen before? Or is this actually a case of red tape reduction actually being able to be administered through each individual ministry, thus not even needing the red tape

reduction ministry? We could save Albertans 10 and a half million dollars.

Rather than waiting, you should have paused the discussions on this bill as soon as you heard President Lehr say: hang on; we have a problem. If you want to talk about being respectful, start listening to what your number one stakeholder is telling you. They’re not in favour of the bill. It brings in changes they don’t want. It brings in changes they didn’t ask for, and the ones that they did ask for are not reflected in this bill. You need to go back and try a little bit harder. I’ve always talked about how there seem to be two different things here: you’re either consulted, or you’re consul-told. This seems a little bit like consul-told, Mr. Chair. Start listening, start incorporating what it is they are asking for, and you’ll have a piece of legislation that will probably be supported by all members of this House, including your number one stakeholder, the Metis Settlements General Council.

Hopefully, throughout the Committee of the Whole here we’ll have maybe some opportunities to take advantage, get proper input, and make a piece of legislation that we can probably support, because as Bill 57 is proposed right now, especially with this amendment – and I know that my friend from Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood mentioned this – around changing the number of members, that in itself is concerning. But, you know, I guess it’s not much of a surprise. We’ve seen this kind of behaviour right here within the Legislature and in committees around limiting the ability of opposition to do its job and messing with quorums and things like that. I’m telling you: don’t mess with this; do it properly. You have an opportunity here, while we’re in Committee of the Whole, to straighten this out. I hope you’ll take advantage of it.

But I do look forward to others’ thoughts. Perhaps I will rise again at some point in time in Committee of the Whole to add even further comments, Mr. Chair.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there members – I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud has risen.

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It’s a pleasure to rise in Committee of the Whole on Bill 57, amendments to the Metis Settlements Act. I want to thank my colleagues for their comments today, especially the Member for Lethbridge-West, who clearly has done a great deal of research and studying and has a deep understanding and appreciation of the history of Métis people not just in Alberta but across Canada, and she really brought that knowledge to this discussion today. I’d like to pick up on that a little bit, not to the same depth that my colleague from Lethbridge-West was able to do. Simply, I want to respond in some ways to the comments that we have heard today from ministers on the government side with respect to the concerns that are being raised on Bill 57.

Now, I think most Albertans have become quite used to the fact that this government proceeds without much concern or care for key stakeholders on many, many issues, whether that be with doctors and nurses in health care reform. Certainly, I have first-hand knowledge of that in my role as critic for Children’s Services, how the interests and needs of child care educators and child care providers have been ignored by this government when it comes to the changes that have been made and the cuts that have been implemented on the early learning and child care system and the implications for that.

3:40

Certainly, within the realm of education we see that, you know, I think it’s close to 40,000 teachers can be dismissed with a wave of

a hand by this government, teachers who have been standing up, working day in and day out, who live in our communities, educate our children, are part of our communities, and have done heroic work over this past year. How easily this government dismisses what they say and calls them names and does their typical government thing. Certainly, we are well used to, in this province, the dismissal by this government of key stakeholders on various issues.

However, what is distinct about what we're talking about here with Bill 57 is that the Metis Settlements General Council has raised significant issues about the consultative process that led to this bill being introduced in the House. And where this is different than even the other egregious examples – coal, parks: I mean, there are too many to list, Mr. Chair – is that the Métis settlements and the Métis people of Alberta are not just stakeholders that this government can ignore. There are actually unique responsibilities that hold the government to account to actually engage with the Métis people of Alberta in a very different way than just an ordinary stakeholder, and that is because of their unique status within our country as part of the indigenous peoples of Canada and Alberta. In fact, there are legal obligations to consult that are triggered by the type of legislation that we're seeing here that are different.

You know, certainly, as much as it might outrage thousands of Albertans and as much as we know that the way the government has proceeded with a number of pieces of legislation, with earplugs in and ignoring the concerns of thousands of Albertans – that is actually their right to do as government. They can certainly and will be held accountable, and we see that reflected in the confidence that Albertans have in this Premier and this government right now. They will be held accountable. But, certainly, they can proceed with legislation, as we've seen them do many, many times, without caring about the implications on key stakeholders and on Albertans.

They cannot do the same when it comes to legislation that affects First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in this country. They actually, simply cannot. They have legal obligations to consult in a meaningful way. The Member for Lethbridge-West rightfully raised that this is an issue of the honour of the Crown, which triggers that obligation to consult. So when we stand in this House and we raise concerns about Bill 57, I understand the instinct from the government to get up and think it's just the NDP complaining. Of course, we know what they think of that and what they think of us. But on this matter I'm a little bit confounded that they don't understand that what we're talking about here – the concerns we're raising are not coming from our position as a party or our ideological positions or whatever they think drives what we do, as what appears to drive them.

But this is actually – we are reflecting what we're hearing from the Metis Settlements General Council, and they are saying: we were not properly consulted. Unfortunately, this government cannot dismiss that the same way they dismiss other stakeholders on other pieces of legislation. They actually have a legal obligation to engage and to enter into meaningful consultation. Unfortunately, it's not solely up to the discretion and determination of the Minister of Indigenous Relations or any other minister of the Crown to say that that consultation was enough. The courts have said that that is not a fulfillment of the duty to consult.

I appreciate there's been some grey area for some time, certainly not for all perspectives but certainly there's been some grey area around the duty to consult for Métis people. In 2016 there was the landmark decision, the Daniels decision from the Supreme Court of Canada, which really seemed to answer, maybe not definitively – there are certainly a lot of questions still raised from that decision. But it certainly recognized that the Métis people are recognized within section 91(24) of the Constitution, which gives and triggers

that honour of the Crown, a fiduciary obligation that goes along with that relationship between the federal and provincial governments and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people. It triggered that duty to consult. Again, that is a unique duty. That is unique and different than the responsibility that I believe all governments should have to properly consult when stakeholders are engaged or affected by possible policy or legislative change. We expect consultation to be part of that for anybody. But this is a unique responsibility. It is a legal obligation to do so.

When we stand up in this House and we say that Bill 57 is of concern, it's not of concern because, you know, I'm standing here as the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud saying that it is. I'm saying that we have heard, the government has heard, and it has been publicly stated that the Metis Settlements General Council has indicated that they do not believe they are properly consulted. The MSGC is the representative organization for the eight settlements in Alberta. I understand that 7 out of 8 of those settlements publicly stated that they agree with nonconfidence in this Bill 57, one of which refrained from publicly saying that because they're worried about push-back from this government on specific other measures they have before the government, asks they have before this government.

It is not simply the opposition saying that this is a bad bill. I expect the government to ignore that, but they should not and cannot legally ignore that it is the Metis Settlements General Council who are saying that they have not been properly consulted, and that is really the end of the story at least for right now. What I mean by that is that that means that the government needs to go back and consult to a point and enter into a fair consultation process. I briefly practised in this area, not necessarily with respect to the Métis people of Alberta, but I did engage a little bit in this work, and I know that the consultation process is challenging and can be long. It doesn't necessarily mean that both parties are going to come out feeling like they got exactly what they wanted out of that process, but it's a duty to meaningfully consult.

It doesn't mean that a minister can table on his calendar specific meeting dates and say: "Look, I've had this many meetings, and therefore I've consulted." No, that's not meaningful consultation under the law. It just simply isn't, and it is not for the determination of this Assembly to say whether or not that consultation was sufficient and was adequate. It's a legal standard to be met. Simply, what we're saying is that the representative organization for Métis settlements in Alberta has said that they do not believe they have been adequately consulted. That really is the issue.

The government can choose to barrel ahead, as I'm sure they will, and go forward anyways, and that is the risk that they're taking, but it is our job in this House to stand up, identify those risks, to speak in this House what we have heard from the Metis Settlements General Council, that they do not believe that Bill 57 appropriately reflects adequate consultation. That is our job to raise that, and we are raising that. Certainly, the government has a prerogative, by virtue of their numbers, to go forward without taking that caution, and Albertans will pay the price for that. What I mean by that, of course, is that, yes, it's likely going to lead to legal action.

The government, I guess, is going to have to weigh those risks. Is it so important that they go forward with this, knowing that those people who they have a legal obligation to consult do not believe they have been meaningfully consulted and risk legal action and protracted, adversarial perspectives on this, or do they want to sit down and meaningfully consult? It's really that easy of a decision. I suspect we'll get our answer when this moves forward to a vote, but I just simply have to put that on the record. We hear a lot of response from members from the government side yelling about the NDP's time in government and all of that, you know, and it seems

to be that that is their main talking point, Mr. Chair. They seem to forget that they're government now and have been for two years, and it's time to be held accountable for their actions.

We're talking about legislation that they've brought forward. We're talking about legislation that the Metis Settlements General Council has said that they do not believe they've been adequately consulted on. That's what's up for discussion today. I appreciate there are only kind of one or two talking points in their tool belt for the government. But regardless, it's our job, I believe. I get up many times. My colleagues do as well. We know that we say things that fall on deaf ears or earplugged ears. That's what we do. We reflect what we hear from Albertans. In this case we're reflecting what we hear from the Metis Settlements General Council. The government can choose to proceed as they see fit, but it will have an impact on Albertans. It will have an impact on Métis people in this province. I do believe they would be wise to take that caution, sit down, meaningfully consult, get the Metis Settlements General Council on its side.

It's not always necessary to do things with a big hammer. Sometimes it's okay to actually sit down and listen to people's concerns, engage, make changes, have everybody onboard, and move forward. That is a way that we can be making decisions in this province. It is possible. I invite the government to consider that.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3:50

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

I see the hon. Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women has risen.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I'm just curious about meaningful consultation. I'm wondering how meaningful the consultation was when the NDP drained hundreds of millions of dollars out of the fund. I'm curious about that. I'd love to know how meaningful that was to the folks of the Métis settlements, hundreds of millions of dollars drained away from the Métis people. I'd like to know about meaningful consultation on carbon tax. That would be really great. I'd love to hear about that.

More than that, what I'd like to do is that I'd like to know – you know, in terms of what the NDP is talking about, this is about sustainability. This is about Métis settlements being able to collect monthly fees for water and sewer. This is about essential services. It's also about accountability. Just like any government, governance requires some form of accountability. This is about making sure to have bylaws for them to elect their chairs. These are all really, really important things for the settlements to be able to have, the independence and the autonomy in order to be able to run their governance. But the unfortunate thing that the NDP keeps forgetting is that they were in control of that. They liked having control over that. They bled hundreds of millions of dollars out of the fund, away from the Métis people.

You know, the members keep talking about the council. That's great. That's one portion, but what about the people who actually live there? Those consultations are just as important. Just remember that for every council member there are also people that live in those settlements that have a voice, that also deserve to be represented by the governments that represent them.

I would like to make sure that the people in this province don't ever forget that the NDP government is responsible for bleeding that fund almost down to nothing, with absolutely zero accountability – they were in charge of those dollars – to the very people that are represented in those Métis settlements.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. minister.

Are there any members wishing to join debate?

Seeing none, are you ready for the question on Bill 57, Metis Settlements Amendment Act . . .

Ms Renaud: Mr. Chair, I know you can't see me.

The Deputy Chair: I see the hon. Member for St. Albert has risen to debate.

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of comments. I'm not going to respond to that because it's the same as what the minister said earlier. I'm just going to focus on reiterating some of the comments that my colleagues have made. You know, it's a theme. I think that my colleagues have been very clear – it's been repeated a number of times – that the people who will be impacted by this legislation are not okay with the way it is. They have expressed it a number of different ways, their dissatisfaction with consultation, and this government just is unwilling to listen. They know better.

They think a tour, 19 stops to have a little visit with people, qualifies as consultation. It does not. That's not coming from me; that is coming from the people whose lives will be impacted, as the minister suggested. But this is a theme. We have seen this over and over and over again. Government claims to consult – I don't know if they have some sort of checklist. Meeting done? Sure. Reached out to one person? Sure. Tweeted about it? Sure. The fact of the matter is that true consultation requires a relationship, a shared goal. It requires listening. Sometimes it requires you meeting in the middle. It requires listening to what people are saying. Clearly, this government is incapable of doing that.

I was glad that my colleague brought up what happened earlier today when the Premier just dismissed the voices of thousands and thousands of educators in this province who voted, who said: we do not have confidence in the Education minister. Then he boasted, saying that, well, the Education minister must be doing something right and then sort of giggled about it. That just is so dismissive and so disrespectful. So I am not surprised, with the tone set at the top the way it is, that we're getting a piece of legislation like this and that we're having a minister of the Crown stand up and say the ridiculous things that she just said.

Mr. Chair, I will again just reiterate my profound disappointment with this government and their inability to actually listen to Albertans in order to get it right.

With that, I will take my seat. Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members looking to join debate?

Are you ready for the question on Bill 57, Metis Settlements Amendment Act, 2021?

[The remaining clauses of Bill 57 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

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

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: Any opposed? That also is carried.

I see the hon. government deputy whip has risen.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the committee rise and report Bill 56 and Bill 57.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Milliken in the chair]

The Acting Speaker: I see the hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler has risen.

Mr. Horner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Committee of the Whole has had under consideration certain bills. The committee reports the following bill: Bill 56. The committee reports the following bill with some amendments: Bill 57.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Does the Assembly concur in this report? All those in favour, please say aye.

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Acting Speaker: Any opposed, please say no. That is carried and so ordered.

I see the hon. Member for Cardston-Siksika has risen.

Mr. Schow: Why, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate you recognizing me. I think we've done some tremendous work this week in this Legislature, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members here. I do move that we adjourn the Assembly until 1:30 p.m., Monday, May 31, 2021. With that, I also ask that all members drive safely home to their own constituencies.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:58 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, May 27, 2021

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

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

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

Bill 1 — Critical Infrastructure Defence Act (Kenney)

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

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

Committee of the Whole — 859-91 (*May 28, 2020 morn., passed*)

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

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

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

First Reading — 30 (*Feb. 26, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 857-58 (*May 28, 2020 morn.*), 1004-09 (*Jun. 2, 2020 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1238-44 (*Jun. 9, 2020 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1364-70 (*Jun. 15, 2020 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 17, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 17, 2020; SA 2020 c9]

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

First Reading — 30 (*Feb. 26, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 431-46 (*Apr. 7, 2020 morn.*), 458-65 (*Apr. 7, 2020 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 465-76 (*Apr. 7, 2020 aft.*), 477-507 (*Apr. 7, 2020 eve.*), 572-83 (*Apr. 8, 2020 eve.*), 659-66 (*May 6, 2020 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 703-09 (*May 7, 2020 morn., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 12, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2020 c8]

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

First Reading — 62 (*Feb. 27, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 858 (*May 28, 2020 morn.*), 869-75 (*May 28, 2020 morn.*), 933-35 (*Jun. 1, 2020 aft.*), 970-72 (*Jun. 1, 2020 eve.*), 1040-43 (*Jun. 2, 2020 eve.*), 1077 (*Jun. 3, 2020 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1257-66 (*Jun. 10, 2020 aft.*), 1311-16 (*Jun. 11, 2020 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1442 (*Jun. 17, 2020 aft.*), 1452-55 (*Jun. 17, 2020 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 26, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 26, 2020; SA 2020 c14]

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

First Reading — 110 (*Mar. 3, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 224-32 (*Mar. 17, 2020 aft., passed on division*), 222-23 (*Mar. 17, 2020 aft.*)

Committee of the Whole — 232-33 (*Mar. 17, 2020 aft.*), 234-41 (*Mar. 17, 2020 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 241 (*Mar. 17, 2020 aft.*), 242-48 (*Mar. 17, 2020 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 20, 2020 outside of House Sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2020 c3]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bill 14 — Utility Payment Deferral Program Act (Nally)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bill 21* — Provincial Administrative Penalties Act (Schweitzer)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bill 23* — Commercial Tenancies Protection Act (Fir)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft.*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2020 c24]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Reading — 1695 (*Jul. 6, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 1783-84 (*Jul. 7, 2020 eve.*), 2032-37 (*Jul. 14, 2020 eve.*), 2086-2103 (*Jul. 15, 2020 eve.*), 2189-97 (*Jul. 20, 2020 eve.*), 2210-27 (*Jul. 21, 2020 aft.*), 2289-96 (*Jul. 22, 2020 aft.*), 2313-28 (*Jul. 22, 2020 eve.*), 2360-61 (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft., passed on division*)
Committee of the Whole — 2432-475 (*Jul. 27, 2020 eve.*), 2512-20 (*Jul. 28, 2020 aft.*), 2523-31 (*Jul. 28, 2020 eve., passed with amendments*)
Third Reading — 2539-61 (*Jul. 28, 2020 eve.*), 2562-69 (*Jul. 28, 2020 eve., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Jul. 29, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force July 29, 2020, with exceptions; SA 2020 c27]

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

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

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

First Reading — 1760 (*Jul. 7, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 1861-63 (*Jul. 8, 2020 eve.*), 2003-23 (*Jul. 14, 2020 eve.*), 2051-53 (*Jul. 15, 2020 aft.*), 2059-69 (*Jul. 15, 2020 aft.*), 2147-62 (*Jul. 20, 2020 aft.*), 2268-73 (*Jul. 21, 2020 eve.*), 2296-307 (*Jul. 22, 2020 aft.*), 2328-40 (*Jul. 22, 2020 eve.*), 2361-63 (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft., passed on division*)
Committee of the Whole — 2404-32 (*Jul. 27, 2020 eve.*), 2475-85 (*Jul. 27, 2020 eve.*), 2502-12 (*Jul. 28, 2020 aft.*), 2531-39 (*Jul. 28, 2020 eve., passed*)
Third Reading — 2569-78 (*Jul. 28, 2020 eve.*), 2579-86 (*Jul. 28, 2020 eve., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Jul. 29, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2020 c28]

Bill 33* — Alberta Investment Attraction Act (Fir)

First Reading — 1760-61 (*Jul. 7, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 1807-19 (*Jul. 8, 2020 morn.*), 1927-37 (*Jul. 13, 2020 aft.*), 2117-27 (*Jul. 16, 2020 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 2227-31 (*Jul. 21, 2020 aft.*), 2233 (*Jul. 21, 2020 eve.*), 2340-44 (*Jul. 22, 2020 eve.*), 2312-13 (*Jul. 22, 2020 eve.*), 2363-65 (*Jul. 23, 2020 aft., passed with amendments*)
Third Reading — 2401-04 (*Jul. 27, 2020 eve.*), 2485-88 (*Jul. 27, 2020 eve., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Jul. 29, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2020 cA-26.4]

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

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

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

First Reading — 2616 (*Oct. 20, 2020 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 2666-81 (*Oct. 21, 2020 aft.*), 2741-55 (*Oct. 26, 2020 eve.*), 2803-15 (*Oct. 27, 2020 eve.*), 2841-47 (*Oct. 28, 2020 aft.*), 2860-69 (*Oct. 28, 2020 eve.*), 2940-43 (*Nov. 2, 2020 eve.*), 2986-94 (*Nov. 3, 2020 eve.*), 3072-83 (*Nov. 5, 2020 aft.*), 3126-36 (*Nov. 16, 2020 eve.*), 3208-12 (*Nov. 17, 2020 eve.*), 3265-72 (*Nov. 18, 2020 eve.*), 3361-65 (*Nov. 23, 2020 eve., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 3834 (*Dec. 7, 2020 eve.*), 3886-92 (*Dec. 8, 2020 eve., passed on division*)
Third Reading — 3900 (*Dec. 8, 2020 eve.*), 3903-09 (*Dec. 8, 2020 eve., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Dec. 9, 2020 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 9, 2020, with certain sections having effect on various dates; SA 2020 c40]

Bill 36 — Geothermal Resource Development Act (Savage)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bill 51 — Citizen Initiative Act (Madu)

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

Second Reading — 4340-41 (Apr. 7, 2021 aft.), 4567-73 (Apr. 14, 2021 eve.), 4690-97 (Apr. 20, 2021 aft., passed on division)

Bill 52 — Recall Act (Madu)

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

Second Reading — 4633-42 (Apr. 19, 2021 eve.), 4846-58 (May 25, 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 c3]

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

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

Second Reading — 4212-14 (Mar. 24, 2021 aft.), 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)

Royal Assent — (Apr. 22, 2021 aft.) [Comes into force April 22, 2021; SA 2021 c5]

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)

Third Reading — 4788-93 (Apr. 21, 2021 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Apr. 22, 2021 aft.) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2021 cC-18.8]

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 eve.), 4342-60 (Apr. 7, 2021 aft.), 4367-82 (Apr. 7, 2021 eve.), 4400-04 (Apr. 8, 2021 aft.), 4435-53 (Apr. 12, 2021 eve.), 4657-63 (Apr. 19, 2021 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 4877-83 (May 25, 2021 eve.), 4953-58 (May 26, 2021 eve.), 4970 (May 27, 2021 aft., passed)

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)

Committee of the Whole — 4743-52 (Apr. 21, 2021 aft.), 4883-88 (May 25, 2021 eve.), 4971-77 (May 27, 2021 aft., passed; amendments agreed to)

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.), 4682-90 (Apr. 20, 2021 aft.), 4726-27 (Apr. 20, 2021 eve., passed)

Bill 59 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2021 (S) (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*)
Committee of the Whole — 4752-59 (*Apr. 21, 2021 aft., passed*)
Third Reading — 4793-94 (*Apr. 21, 2021 eve., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*Apr. 22, 2021 aft.*) [Comes into force April 22, 2021, with sections 2(a), 5, 9 and 10 coming into force on proclamation; SA 2021 c7]

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

First Reading — 4393-94 (*Apr. 8, 2021 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 4675-82 (*Apr. 20, 2021 aft.*), 4760-61 (*Apr. 21, 2021 aft.*), 4759 (*Apr. 21, 2021 aft., adjourned*)

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

First Reading — 4340 (*Apr. 7, 2021 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 4699-704 (*Apr. 20, 2021 eve., 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.*), 4642-57 (*Apr. 19, 2021 eve.*), 4821-32 (*May 25, 2021 morn.*), 4858-62 (*May 25, 2021 aft.*), 4864-71 (*May 25, 2021 eve., passed on division*)
Committee of the Whole — 4871-77 (*May 25, 2021 eve.*), 4890-4900 (*May 26, 2021 morn.*), 4931-34 (*May 26, 2021 aft.*), 4935-37 (*May 26, 2021 eve., passed*)
Third Reading — 4938-44 (*May 26, 2021 eve.*), 4946-53 (*May 26, 2021 eve., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*May 27, 2021 aft.*) [Comes into force May 27, 2021; SA 2021 c8]

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

First Reading — 4394 (*Apr. 8, 2021 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 4526-35 (*Apr. 14, 2021 aft.*), 4759-60 (*Apr. 21, 2021 aft.*), 4766-79 (*Apr. 21, 2021 eve.*), 4809-17 (*Apr. 22, 2021 aft., passed*)

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.*), 4704-19 (*Apr. 20, 2021 eve.*), 4779-88 (*Apr. 21, 2021 eve.*), 4900-4904 (*May 26, 2021 morn., passed*)

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.*), 4719-26 (*Apr. 20, 2021 eve., adjourned*)

Bill 68 — Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2021 (Madu)

First Reading — 4614 (*Apr. 19, 2021 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 4808 (*Apr. 22, 2021 aft., adjourned*)

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

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

Bill 70 — COVID-19 Related Measures Act (Gotfried)

First Reading — 4806 (*Apr. 22, 2021 aft., passed*)

Bill 71 — Employment Standards (COVID-19 Vaccination Leave) Amendment Act, 2021 (Copping)

First Reading — 4763 (*Apr. 21, 2021 eve., passed*)
Second Reading — 4763-64 (*Apr. 21, 2021 eve., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 4764-65 (*Apr. 21, 2021 eve., passed*)
Third Reading — 4766 (*Apr. 21, 2021 eve., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*Apr. 22, 2021 aft.*) [Comes into force April 21, 2021; SA 2021 c4]

Bill 72 — Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act (Savage)

First Reading — 4844 (*May 25, 2021 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 4916-29 (*May 26, 2021 aft., adjourned*)

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; proceeded with*)
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; proceeded with*)
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; proceeded with*)
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; proceeded with*)
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; proceeded with*)
Second Reading — 4419-29 (*Apr. 12, 2021 aft.*), 4616-20 (*Apr. 19, 2021 aft., passed on division*)

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; proceeded with)
Second Reading — 4620 (Apr. 19, 2021 aft., adjourned)

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 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading — 4399-4400 (Apr. 8, 2021 aft., passed on division)
Royal Assent — (Apr. 22, 2021 aft.) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2021 c6]

Bill 212 — Official Sport of Alberta Act (Yaseen)

First Reading — 3849 (Dec. 8, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), 4088 (Mar. 17, 2021 aft., reported to Assembly; debate on concurrence motion to take place Monday, March 22, 2021), 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; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills), 4179 (Mar. 23, 2021 aft., reported to Assembly; proceeded with)

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), (Apr. 20, 2021 aft., reported to Assembly; debate on concurrence motion to take place Monday, May 3, 2021)

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), (Apr. 22, 2021 aft., reported to Assembly; debate on concurrence motion to take place Monday, May 3, 2021)

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), (May 25, 2021 aft., reported to Assembly; proceeded with)

Bill 217 — Polish-Canadian Heritage Day Act (Williams)

First Reading — 4969-70 (May 27, 2021 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills)

Bill 218 — Provincial Parks (Protecting Park Boundaries) Amendment Act, 2021 (Schmidt)

First Reading — 4970 (May 27, 2021 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public 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; proceeded with)
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), (May 25, 2021 aft., reported to Assembly; proceeded with)

Table of Contents

Prayers	4959
Introduction of Guests	4959
Members' Statements	
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls	4959
Provincial Reopening Plan	4959
Coal Development Policy Consultation.....	4959
Support for Persons and Small Businesses Affected by COVID-19.....	4960
National Nursing Week	4960
Education Policies	4960
Alberta Rural Health Week	4961
Evanston-Creepside Community in Calgary	4961
United Conservative Party.....	4961
Oral Question Period	
Provincial Reopening Plan	4961, 4964
Recall Act.....	4962
Provincial Parks.....	4963
Vaccine Rollout.....	4964
Provincial Credit Rating	4965
Rural Physician Recruitment and Retention	4965
Automobile Insurance Premiums	4966
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls	4966
COVID-19 and Mental Health Supports.....	4967
Critical Worker Benefit	4968
AISH and Income Support Payment Schedule	4968
Jobs Now Program	4969
Presenting Petitions	4969
Introduction of Bills	
Bill 217 Polish-Canadian Heritage Day Act.....	4969
Bill 218 Provincial Parks (Protecting Park Boundaries) Amendment Act, 2021	4970
Tabling Returns and Reports	4970
Royal Assent.....	4970
Orders of the Day	4970
Government Bills and Orders	
Committee of the Whole	
Bill 56 Local Measures Statutes Amendment Act, 2021	4970
Bill 57 Metis Settlements Amendment Act, 2021	4971

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