



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
Third Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, March 31, 2022

Day 19

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 30th Legislature
Third Session

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Milliken, Nicholas, Calgary-Currie (UC), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Armstrong-Homeniuk, Jackie,
 Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UC)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (Ind)
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Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-West Henday (NDP)
Ceci, Joe, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)
Copping, Hon. Jason C., Calgary-Varsity (UC)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South (Ind)
Deol, Jasvir, Edmonton-Meadows (NDP)
Dreeshen, Devin, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UC)
Eggen, David, Edmonton-North West (NDP),
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Ellis, Hon. Mike, Calgary-West (UC)
Feehan, Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP)
Fir, Hon. Tanya, Calgary-Peigan (UC)
Frey, Michaela L., Brooks-Medicine Hat (UC)
Ganley, Kathleen T., Calgary-Mountain View (NDP)
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Glubish, Hon. Nate, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (UC)
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Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UC)
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Hanson, David B., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UC)
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United Conservative: 60

New Democrat: 23

Independent: 3

Vacant: 1

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Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 31, 2022

[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 or desire to please but, laying aside all private interest and prejudice, keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all.

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

Hon. Members:

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: Please be seated.

Introduction of Visitors

The Speaker: Hon. members, we have a number of very special guests with us today. First of all, it's my pleasure to introduce a visiting Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, seated in the Speaker's gallery, Ms Bernadette Smith, the Member for Point Douglas.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: Members, today is a happy day for some and a sad day for others as I have the pleasure of introducing four of eight retiring Legislative Assembly security service members and their families. Hon. members, each of these LASS members have faithfully served this Assembly for many, many years, most of them over a decade, and we're sad to see them go. We're so grateful for the work that they've done to maintain the safety and security of all members, and we certainly will miss their smiling faces as we enter the Chamber, but of course we wish you the best in your retirement. I would ask each of you to rise as I call your names: Lance Dealy, accompanied by daughters Erin Dealy and Kristin Dealy and granddaughter Olivia Dealy; Ken MacInnis; Terry Briscoe; Larry Ahl, accompanied by his wife, Kathy Ahl, son David Ahl, and Becca Kelly.

Also seated in the Speaker's gallery are family of the minister of seniors that I had the pleasure of meeting this morning. Her sister Joanna Leung and a friend, Marek Kotkowski, are joining us in the Speaker's gallery.

So many special guests today. Perhaps my favourite of the Pancholi family and guests of the hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud, please welcome her husband, Owen Young, son Bodhi Pancholi-Young, and daughter Leela Pancholi-Young. Please rise and receive a welcome.

I'm pleased to welcome a guest of the Minister of Education, Todd Snow.

And, finally, hon. members, it's my great pleasure to introduce to you a group of 14 teachers from Edmonton area who are guests of the Member for Edmonton-Glenora.

I invite you all to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Members' Statements

Teachers

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, take a minute and try to remember grade 1. The first image that comes to my mind is Miss Sproll. She helped us make sense of the symbols we saw on paper and transformed them into words, into stories, and into a love of learning. Thank you to the teachers in the gallery who are here today because they believe in public education. They are here during their spring break to help us remember that no profession impacts all of society's children in the way that teaching does. They make me think of Miss Sproll and the passion for learning that she inspired in me.

Teachers use their expertise and professionalism to support students to become their best selves. Unfortunately, for the last three years this government has chosen to undermine teachers. They attacked their profession when they tore up the agreement to create curriculum together, they cut funding meant to help disabled preschool children prepare for success in grade 1, they attacked their pensions, and now they want to disband their professional association.

I am proud to be the daughter of teachers. I'm proud that I was trained as a math teacher and did a master's in educational policy studies. I'm proud that I served for Edmonton public, and I am proud that that inspiring grade 1 year lives on in the work that I do in this place fighting for every child in Alberta to achieve their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, rather than treating teachers as the enemy, this government should support them in their mission to help kids succeed. The government should show teachers the respect that they so rightfully deserve, and if they won't, the UCP will be held accountable in the next election by teachers and by all Albertans who care about education. Don't believe me? I have a feeling that the Miss Sprolls across Alberta will come together to help create a government that we can all trust and that we can be proud of, one that works with teachers instead of against them and one that gives kids the opportunity to achieve their dreams and that puts Albertans first.

Fuel Prices and Federal Carbon Pricing

Mr. Sigurdson: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is April 1, and while for many Canadians it will be a day for pulling pranks and jokes on your friends, in Alberta it will be a day of tax relief. As people across the country are suffering from the Liberal-NDP affordability crisis, a crisis caused by runaway deficits and money printing, a crisis worsened by more taxes by Ottawa, Alberta's government will be providing a massive tax cut to Alberta families. Starting tomorrow, the 13-cent provincial fuel tax will be eliminated from gas and diesel bills. On an annual basis this means that more than a billion dollars will stay in the pockets of Albertans. This means that life will get a little easier for Alberta parents taking their kids to hockey practice, a little easier for hard-working Albertans commuting to the office or a job site, and life will be a little less expensive for Alberta farmers, who continue to feed our families.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta is the only province that is providing this relief on fuel prices. Unlike the NDP and their coalition partners in

the Trudeau government, we do not believe that people should be punished for living normal lives. We believe that activities like work and recreation, which involve using fuel, are critical and necessary to all Canadians. Unfortunately, the members opposite do not share this view. It's why they are on record in this House supporting the NDP-Trudeau carbon tax, on record in this House also supporting a 25 per cent carbon tax hike next month, and also on record supporting more than a 400 per cent increase in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, Conservatives on this side are working to make life more affordable for Alberta families while the NDP-Trudeau alliance on the other side is trying to stick their hands even deeper into people's pockets at the worst time possible.

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

Ramadan

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April marks the beginning of a very special month for Muslims in my constituency and 1.8 billion more across the globe. The first few days of April mark the beginning of Ramadan, a deeply spiritual and holy time for Muslims everywhere. Ramadan begins when the new moon is sighted in the night sky, after which the holy observance begins. Ramadan also marks the anniversary of when the first verses of the Quran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon Him, over 1,400 years ago.

1:40

During Ramadan individuals will fast from sunrise to sunset, abstaining from food and drink and strengthening their devotion to faith and family. Fasting is meant to enable someone to achieve *taqwa*, or consciousness of God. Every Muslim will break their fast with the *iftar*, where community members gather with food and drink and reflect upon their faith and their beliefs. Fasting is one of the five pillars of the Muslim religion. The four other pillars are Muslim declaration of faith, daily prayers, charity, and performing the pilgrimage to Mecca. At the end of this month-long observance Muslim communities will gather and celebrate Eid al-Fitr. In Arabic this means: festival of breaking of the fast.

While Muslim communities across the world begin to observe Ramadan, I invite other members of this Assembly to learn about this significant event within the Muslim community. Alberta is a province that is rich in culture and religion and continues to be a shining beacon of hope for anyone who wishes to practise their religion freely without persecution or violence. To all Muslim individuals across Alberta, Canada, and the rest of the globe I say: Ramadan Mubarak, and I hope your Ramadan journey brings you joy and closeness to God.

Thank you.

Transgender Day of Visibility

Member Irwin: Today, March 31, is the International Transgender Day of Visibility, and this year it feels more important than ever that we talk about trans issues, that we celebrate trans folks, and that we elevate trans rights at a time when trans people across the world are facing significant barriers and discrimination. In the U.S. there is rising violence against trans women of colour. There are incredibly dangerous bills being forced through state Legislatures by right-wing politicians that would deny trans folks health care and that would prevent schools from being safe spaces for trans kids and more. Today I'm thinking of all the queer and trans people who are experiencing so much right now. We know that queer and trans Ukrainians are being held at borders, and we send our love to them.

We send our love to those in countries around the world who are still not safe to be who they are and love who they love, in countries where being gay is a crime and where being trans is most certainly a death sentence.

Yet here at home we still have work to do, much work to do. I think about trans health care barriers that I hear about often: long wait-lists; lack of physicians, psychiatrists; discrimination in the health care system; transphobia. I think about proposed legislation like Bill 207 from this government, that would have very much threatened trans health care access, a bill from the not-so-distant past that would've allowed for health professionals to deny essential health care. I think about conversion therapy, a horrific practice that many in the trans community have had to endure. While banned federally and in countless Alberta communities, it's still happening.

I also think about hope and about the incredible trans people I know. I can't imagine just how hard their journeys have been for some to have gotten to a place where they're finally free to live their own true lives yet to still face hate. To every trans person: know that you are loved, you are seen. To trans kids: I know it's hard. It might feel harder than it's ever been. You're not alone. You're loved. Don't let your light be dimmed by those who can't see how bright you shine. To all of you: trans rights . . .

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

Teacher Discipline Process

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share the story of Todd Snow, a parent from the constituency of Taber-Warner who is with us today. Since the Minister of Education announced in December that she intends to bring legislation to this House to alter the discipline process for the teaching profession, many Albertans like Todd have expressed concerns about the way teacher discipline is handled in Alberta.

I'm sad to say that Todd has shared the struggle of his family's experience in getting a professional conduct hearing for a case involving his daughter. Mr. Speaker, it took the ATA five years to hold this hearing. Unfortunately, this is not the only instance of its kind. As more cases started coming to the surface, it became clear that more needed to be done. Todd has questioned how a union-slash-professional association could fairly adjudicate professional conduct hearings for their own teachers and remain unbiased, the same teachers that pay union dues to protect their interests.

Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher I understood that Albertans outside of the teaching profession could struggle with this disciplinary structure. There are times when a problem has no clear answer and when the question at hand is riddled with grey areas. A perceived conflict of interest within the disciplinary process should not contribute to a lack of clarity or create questions regarding the legitimacy of any ruling. Alberta needs a process in place that sets aside what could be a conflict of interest and puts student safety first and addresses the needs of those who have been the potential victim of teacher misconduct.

The students first act has been brought forward to address the inconsistencies and gaps in the teacher discipline process, and I'm proud of this government for taking a stand to do what is in the best interest of students. I applaud the Minister of Education for her promise to continue the difficult but necessary work to protect our students, and I look forward to seeing what comes next.

Ramadan

Mr. Sabir: Mr. Speaker, Albertans of Islamic faith will start observing Ramadan this weekend. It's my honour to rise today to

recognize Ramadan and wish everyone observing it a peaceful and blessed Ramadan.

Ramadan is observed by the Muslim umma world-wide, and the act of fasting during this month is one of the five fundamental pillars of Islamic faith. It's a special time for deep prayers and for strengthening bonds with the Creator and His creation. The act of fasting is also an exercise in self-restraint and self-reflection. It involves abstaining from eating or drinking anything from dawn to dusk. It puts a special significance to reflect and act on the plight of those who are less fortunate among us, who are sick and elderly, and those who are struggling to make ends meet. The last two years have been very difficult for everyone and have disrupted many of these activities. I'm pleased that this year the community will be able to come together for prayers, visit friends and neighbours, and be able to observe Ramadan in its true spirit.

Mr. Speaker, Ramadan is also an opportunity for all Albertans to learn about Muslim faith and, broadly, about the diversity of faith, cultures, and traditions in our province. As of late we have witnessed a rise in Islamophobia and attacks on hijab-wearing Muslim women. We have witnessed an increase in incidents of racism and prejudice, and we have witnessed a rise in intolerance and hatred against Albertans with visible articles of faith. It is more important than ever before that we come together as a province to push back against intolerance, hatred, and discrimination in all its forms. It's more important than ever before that we come together as a province to build a society that understands, respects, and embraces its diversity.

To all those observing Ramadan: Ramadan Mubarak.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie is next.

Scarboro Community in Calgary-Currie

Mr. Milliken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to talk about the wonderful constituency of Calgary-Currie and, specifically, the community of Scarboro. To those familiar with Calgary, you may think you already know Scarboro; however, there is much more to it than most people realize. Scarboro is one of only three suburbs in all of Canada that exemplify an Olmsted design. What does that mean, you ask? Good question. It means it is associated with one of the most celebrated landscape architects in North American history, Mr. Frederick Olmsted. Olmsted used his distinct design to challenge the ideas of the mid-1800s, which he considered "a display of novelty, of fashion, of scientific or virtuosic inclinations and of decoration." This quote comments on the trends of the time of developing landscapes without consideration for local environment.

His response was to develop his own style, called pastoral, which emphasizes protecting and enhancing natural scenery while promoting social engagement and community. Key to this is the effective organization of space. Olmsted worked to create the perspective effect, which increases "the sense of space [by] contrasting dark [forms in the foreground] with lighter, less distinct ones further away." The culmination of these concepts first came to fruition in 1857 with Olmsted's first project, which was the design of Central Park in New York City.

Frederick Olmsted's nephew and adopted son John Olmsted would continue to spread the pastoral style. The community of Scarboro was designed by John in 1909, incorporating these bold, new ideas. Anyone who visits Scarboro can see for themselves the unity of these Olmsted principles. In fact, this year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Olmsted, and Scarboro is a unique part of that wonderful legacy and history.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1:50

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora has question 1.

Insurance Company Profits and Premium Costs

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, Albertans are struggling as their car insurance bills keep going up and up and up. This Premier took the cap off their premiums, and now insurance companies are cashing in. The last report from the Alberta superintendent of insurance found that companies brought in \$1 billion more in premiums than they paid out in claims. Now, that was 2019, the last report, because the UCP chose not to release the data for 2020 or 2021. Why won't the UCP at least tell us how much big insurance companies are profiting off regular Alberta families? What are they hiding?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find this pretty rich coming from a member and from a party across the aisle who ultimately refused to oppose the carbon tax increase that will be implemented on all Albertans effective tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, what I can say is that the changes we made in Bill 41 are in fact reducing the systemic costs driving up automobile insurance premiums, and those premiums are beginning to come down.

Ms Hoffman: If the government is really proud of what they've done, why won't they actually release the report and let the data speak for itself? Mr. Speaker, this report has been published every year to ensure full disclosure of transparency for the people of Alberta for 107 years. One year under the UCP and it's in the ditch. They want to hide the fact that auto insurance companies are making out like bandits; massive premium increases after the UCP caved to their lobbyist friends. Why is the UCP hiding the truth about how much car insurance companies are profiting off the people of Alberta? [some applause]

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board is the only one with the call.

Mr. Toews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not hiding a thing. Our department is publishing all of the details of that report online. Here's the fact. There has not been a request for that report for over two years. This is simply a matter of streamlining and ensuring that Albertans continue to have access to all the information.

The member talks about insurance premiums. Mr. Speaker, again, we took real action, action that members opposite were not courageous enough to take. Insurance premiums are not going up; they're coming down.

Ms Hoffman: Nobody believes that, Mr. Speaker. If the minister is so proud of that, why doesn't he actually present the data in this House? What is he hiding? The uncomfortable truth is that the Premier is a shill for his big buddies in the insurance industry. His former staffer Nick Koolsbergen lobbied this government to take the cap off, and now they want to keep Albertans in the dark about how much they're profiteering. Saskatchewan, Manitoba, B.C., and Quebec: they all offered rebates and cut premiums during COVID. Why is the UCP letting large profitable corporations pile more costs onto Alberta families?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, all of the data in the report is available online, and we encourage every Albertan to pursue that and find it. It is all available.

Mr. Speaker, again, the members opposite simply put a rate cap in as insurance prices started to go up. Insurance premiums were going up by 5 per cent plus per year under the members opposite. We dealt with the systemic issues driving up those costs. Not only have rates flattened; they're starting to come down. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

Fuel Prices

Ms Ganley: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow Albertans expect the price at the pump to drop 13 cents and stay down. Not the fuel tax; the price. The problem is that this UCP government failed to put in place any guarantee that the tax reduction would reach drivers. Yesterday the Premier said that he would be, quote, watching like a hawk but refused to commit to an audit. Watching isn't an action. What exactly, if anything, is the Premier actually doing to make sure these savings reach Albertans?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've certainly been in touch with retailers, and they have every intention to drop the price. We have a very competitive environment, a competitive environment that will ultimately result in all of the tax savings being passed to consumers, and we will be watching on the ground to ensure that that happens. When the members implemented a carbon tax in this province, that raised the cost on every Albertan, I know one thing: the retail price went up for every Albertan at every pump.

Ms Ganley: Oh, good, Mr. Speaker. "Trust us."

As usual, that answer was heavy on rhetoric but light on solutions. Albertans can't trust this UCP government. They promised a natural gas rebate, and it turned out to be fake. They promised an electricity rebate, and it turned out to be \$50, an amount even their UCP members call paltry. Now they're promising money back at the pumps, but they can't provide any sort of guarantee. One more time: can the Premier tell us how he will make sure that that money gets to Alberta families?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're providing real relief to Alberta families and businesses with the natural gas rebate should prices go high, with an electricity rebate for every Alberta electricity consumer, and by suspending the fuel tax for every consumer in Alberta, unlike the members opposite, who implemented a carbon tax, jacked up the cost of fuel utilities and the cost of just about everything in this province.

Ms Ganley: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's no wonder no one trusts the UCP to make life more affordable. Yesterday I called on the government to commit to an independent, third-party audit to find out if these savings are actually passed along to Albertans. This is a thoroughly reasonable idea. Did the government's plan work in the way they said it would? Did the money they promised Albertans actually reach Albertans? Albertans deserve an answer. Will the Premier commit to a third-party audit of his gas tax program? Yes or no?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we're going to be watching to ensure that retailers pass on this tax saving to consumers. We're very confident that they will.

But I want to ask the members opposite: why did they vote against the government motion asking the federal government to suspend raising the carbon tax, a tax that pushes up the costs for every Albertan? Why did they not support the motion?

An Hon. Member: Hypocrites.

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order. No one in this Assembly is a hypocrite.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

Health Sciences Association Contract Negotiations

Ms Gray: Mr. Speaker, global energy prices are soaring, and this means a windfall revenue for the provincial government. We've all heard about the massive pay increases executives at AIMCo are getting, and the Minister of Finance has approved pay increases for public servants across the government of Alberta. But at the same time this minister is proposing deep pay cuts to front-line health care workers, as deep as 11 per cent in some cases. If there's money available for raises, why is the minister seeking to cut the pay of critical health care workers?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, there's a bargaining process going on between the Health Sciences Association of Alberta and Alberta Health Services. I'm confident that the two will bargain in good faith and will ultimately realize an agreement that's mutually beneficial, an agreement similar to the agreement with the United Nurses of Alberta, similar to the agreement with the Alberta public service.

Ms Gray: Mr. Speaker, there's a crisis in Alberta health care. On top of the UCP's ongoing war with doctors, this minister is attacking an entire care team that Albertans rely on when they're sick or injured or struggling with a chronic condition. There are 19 Alberta communities with partial hospital closures today because they don't have enough staff to operate safely, and many of the job categories that they are seeking to cut pay in have increasing vacancy rates. Why is the minister chasing health care professionals out of Alberta with these brutal cuts to their pay?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are no cuts to pay. Again, we settled on a very good agreement with the United Nurses of Alberta. We've settled on a very good agreement with the Alberta public service. I have every confidence that both AHS and HSAA will settle on a good agreement for both parties. In terms of picking a fight, we're not picking a fight with anybody. I have great respect and appreciation for health care workers, that have delivered so admirably and professionally and sacrificially to Albertans in the last six months.

Ms Gray: The minister is showing his respect and admiration by seeking rollbacks as high as 11 per cent for respiratory therapists, lab technicians, occupational therapists, pharmacy technicians, speech-language pathologists, social workers, Mr. Speaker. All of these Albertans have spent their career helping their neighbours in our province. Many have worked at the bedside throughout the

pandemic or were deployed to testing facilities. They've put themselves in harm's way. Will the minister commit to abandoning his plan to cut these Albertans' wages, or will they prove yet again that Albertans cannot trust this UCP government?

2:00

The Speaker: The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, it never ceases to amaze me how the members opposite simply generate unfounded fear amongst Albertans and amongst Alberta health care workers. Again, there's a bargaining process in place. AHS, HSAA are working collectively. I have great faith that they will bargain in good faith and ultimately resolve the issue and agree on a collective bargaining agreement that's mutually beneficial.

Workplace Conduct of Ministers and Staff

Member Irwin: On November 3 this Premier announced that Edmonton's Integrity Commissioner, Jamie Pytel, had been retained to conduct a review of HR policies for government staff following serious allegations of misconduct. These allegations led to the resignation of a cabinet minister. It's now been over 140 days since this announcement was made, so a simple question to the Minister of Finance, the person responsible for the public service: has Ms Pytel delivered her report to the government?

The Speaker: The hon. the Associate Minister of Status of Women and chief government whip.

Ms Issik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report by Ms Pytel will be brought to the government when she's completed it. It will be soon, I understand, and when it is brought forward, the recommendations will be made public. We've said this many times.

Member Irwin: Almost five months have passed since these allegations came to light after a former staff member raised serious allegations of harassment. Is the Minister of Finance aware of any preliminary findings or recommendations from Ms Pytel, or has he provided any interim direction to cabinet ministers or to staff about appropriate workplace conduct? Has anything changed in the last five months?

The Speaker: The hon. the Associate Minister of Status of Women.

Ms Issik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've previously said, the report will be, I'm sure, brought to the government soon, to the Premier's office, and the recommendations will be made public at that time. The report is in the hands of Ms Pytel, and it will be brought forward when she's completed it.

Member Irwin: Every Albertan has a right to a safe workplace, including here in this Legislature, and anyone reporting harassment should be confident that their employer takes these matters seriously, holds people accountable for their actions, and holds the organization as a whole accountable for its workplace culture. Will the Minister of Finance commit to releasing the Pytel report in its entirety, redacted only where necessary to protect the privacy of those reporting harassment?

Ms Issik: As I previously mentioned, the report, when completed, will be presented to the Premier's office. As we've said from the beginning, the recommendations will be made public. I can tell you that sexual harassment is not acceptable in any workplace anywhere in Alberta, period, full stop, end of sentence. I can tell you that as the chief government whip I have put a program in place for our

caucus staff called moments matter, that was brought forward by the Alberta sexual assault centres. We're working that program, and I'm pleased with the progress on it.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon has a question to ask.

Federal Climate Plan

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government announced an insane and unrealistic climate plan bent on destroying Alberta's economy. It's ironic, considering that the day before the federal government announced at the International Energy Agency that Canada would be increasing oil production. Albertans are sick of these hypocritical government announcements, especially considering that the Constitution says that natural resources belong to Albertans and in this House, not the Liberal-NDP coalition. To the Minister of Environment and Parks: what is your response to the federal government's insane climate plan and attack on Alberta?

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

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I did meet with the federal minister of environment earlier today, and I made clear to him that the federal plan is insane and impossible and that this province will not be co-operating in any way with the federal government in any attempt to stop us from being able to produce our own resources, and I made very clear that this government will use every tool available to us to fight the federal government's attack on our largest industry and on this province. But, sadly, we still continue to see the Official Opposition, even as early as last night, voting with the federal Liberals to destroy our largest industry. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that some Canadians are already paying over \$2 per litre to fill up and that seniors are struggling to heat their homes and pay their bills and given that the reduction cap that Trudeau's insane climate plan wants to force down Albertans' throats will do nothing but destroy Albertan livelihoods and make life more unaffordable across this country, to the Minister of Environment and Parks: can you tell this House and all Albertans about your meeting with Steven Guilbeault and the message you delivered to him on behalf of Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Environment and Parks and Government House Leader.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I delivered a clear message to the minister today that his plan was impossible, insane, and absolutely unacceptable for this province. Let me be very clear. Alberta will not be working with the federal government on this emissions plan. We will continue with our plan, which is working, which is creating jobs and saving Albertans money while meeting our environmental obligations. It's important not just for Albertans to know but for all Canadians to know that the federal Liberal-NDP climate plan is going to raise the cost of everything inside our society, and this province is never ever going to accept that.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the federal government's plan is out of touch and nonsensical and given that

the Liberal-NDP coalition is grasping at straws to show the world that they are woke and supportive of cancelling out our oil and gas sector, which is outright comical and highly irresponsible, and further given that this Trudeau-Notley plan will make life harder and more unaffordable for Albertans, to the Minister of Energy: can you tell this House and all Albertans what a production cap would actually mean for Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon has been in this Assembly quite a while, and he knows that the use of any proper name in the Assembly is unparliamentary.

The hon. the Minister of Energy.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. They try to call it an emissions cap out of Ottawa, but we know that they intend it to be a production cap to phase out our oil and gas industry. A production cap will mean the loss of billions of dollars of revenue in this province. It'll mean the loss of tens of thousands of jobs. It'll make suffering for every single family, every single Albertan, and every single Canadian. It is insane that the federal government is trying to block the development of our resources when the rest of the world is trying to get more of our resources. We'll fight every step of the way to make sure they . . .

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall.

COVID-19 Information Updates

Mr. Sabir: Yesterday the Health minister announced that signs of increasing transmission had been seen in Calgary and Edmonton. He also stated that the average positivity rate had increased from last week to 24.5 per cent. He also announced the tragic news of 30 Albertans who lost their lives to COVID-19 last week. I know that many Albertans are concerned at the prospect of rising transmission. Does the Minister of Health think that it is time to consider increasing the number of COVID-19 updates to ensure that Albertans have all the information they need?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education is rising.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Minister of Health and the chief medical officer of health and all of her officials are closely monitoring the increases. That being said, we also are seeing that the BA.2 variant, while it is more transmissible, is not actually causing an increase in the hospitalization rates or ICU rates. In fact, those continue to decline.

Mr. Sabir: Given that last summer Albertans were blindsided when this government announced they were shutting down testing and tracing weeks before the fourth wave hammered Alberta, costing hundreds of lives and nearly collapsing our health care system, and given that since then Albertans simply can't trust the UCP, will the minister commit to, at the very least, going back to the twice-a-week update to assure Albertans that the government is not asleep at the wheel, like they were last summer?

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

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will commit to continuing to follow it closely, follow the numbers closely, follow the infection rates closely. The chief medical officer of health and her officials will continue to do the work that they need to do. I am happy that our government is continuing to make a priority the rapid tests available. To date there are 13.8 million tests that have been distributed to pharmacies. That number continues to rise, and please make available use of all of that for anyone who wants to.

Mr. Sabir: Given that providing information to Albertans on a disease that is, tragically, taking four lives a day should not be onerous or partisan and given that, again, with the false promise of the best summer ever, this government should go above and beyond when it comes to transparency and accountability to Albertans, will the minister commit to bringing an official from the office of the chief medical officer of health to each briefing to provide a nonpartisan description of the situation?

2:10

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the members opposite want to continue to live in a COVID world, we're continuing to move forward based on the evidence, with the support of the vast majority of Albertans and other Canadians and in line with the view of the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health of Canada. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

Member LaGrange: As I was saying, the chief medical officer of Canada as well as the chief medical officer of Alberta and her officials continue to provide us valuable input that we will continue to follow.

United Conservative Party Membership Recruitment

Mr. Dach: Recently Albertans heard disturbing allegations that reflect on the conduct of the UCP leadership review and how that ultimately might affect government policy, allegations that campaign teams have been accessing or trying to access the personal identification of Albertans working in trucking companies to attach to membership forms, potentially to be used to create fake memberships or even potentially to cast fake votes in the contest that will determine who is the Premier of Alberta. Will the Minister of Transportation or anybody else on that side who actually ascribes to democracy join with me in clearly condemning this practice and commit to taking action if these allegations are proven?

The Speaker: I provide a very wide swath with respect to questions about government policy or not. It's my hope that in the supplements the member will make an attempt to make the question about government policy. If the Government House Leader chooses to respond, he's welcome to do so. If not, we'll move to question 2.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, I will do so, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, the member has jumped the shark, if you will, wanting to talk about the violation of privacy when his own ethics critic, the Member for Edmonton-South, has violated the Premier's privacy and tried to violate many members of this House's privacy. What did that member know about what that ethics critic was up to?

Mr. Dang: Point of order.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Has there been a search warrant served on his house as well? What other things did the NDP know about the violation of the privacy of members of this Assembly? [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. A point of order is called at 2:12.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, this is about government policy and the use of government identity.

Given that the RCMP is already investigating the last UCP leadership race for identity fraud and even questioned the Premier

last month in regard to this investigation and given that media reports show that there were votes cast in that contest by people who do not even remember voting and given this recent allegation that trucking companies might have been approached by campaigns to get access to personal information using government ID that was scanned, can the Minister of Transportation tell me exactly what protections are in place to protect truck drivers and other Albertans from this type of unethical campaigning and unprofessional use of government documents?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, what is unethical is continuing the tactics, that you see from the NDP, of fear and smear, their party continuing to make things up about people. It is absolutely outrageous. It's all the NDP have, and I expect you'll continue to see it as their poll numbers continue to drop. But the reality is that that member has no business standing in this place asking about privacy violations or RCMP investigations when a member of their own caucus has had a search warrant served on their place, on their house. What did that member know about those privacy breaches, and did he support hacking the Premier? Yes or no?

Mr. Dach: Given, Mr. Speaker, that I've got every right to ask about fraudulent use of government documentation, given that over \$200,000 in fines were issued by the Election Commissioner around this UCP leadership race, given that with the passage of Bill 81 anyone in this room could be a member of the UCP without even knowing it, and given the concern around the possibility that personal ID may have been accessed by trucking companies, will the Minister of Transportation commit to introducing legislation to ensure that there are severe consequences to this type of unethical and immoral campaigning? And I have every right to ask that question.

The Speaker: I think that the Speaker gets to determine what's in order and out of order, not the hon. member.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, again, these issues have been addressed already by Elections Alberta, who found that what the NDP is saying is completely and utterly false. What is more outrageous, though, is for that member, again, to rise in this Assembly and talk about privacy breaches when he is a member of a caucus who has been confirmed by the caucus to be under investigation for violating the privacy of members of this very Chamber, who has admitted in their own documents that they're under investigation for that. Yet, again: did that member know about the hacking? Yes or no?

Federal Equalization Program

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, it has now been 164 days since Albertans voted 61.7 per cent in favour of removing equalization from the Constitution. Nothing has changed. The government has taken no action to press Ottawa. Given that this Premier appointed himself as intergovernmental affairs minister and given that he failed to take any action to respect the democratically expressed wishes of Albertans, my question for Alberta's do-nothing minister of intergovernmental affairs is this: after nearly six months of inaction, why should Albertans believe that you will ever stand up for us?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, this government is standing up for Albertans, unlike that member, who's put himself in a corner, unable to even stand up for his constituents, which is disappointing for the people of Medicine Hat. This government continues to lead the way in economic recovery inside this country, bringing forward

some of the best years that we've seen in all of our industries, restoring the jobs that were lost underneath the NDP, and yet again today standing up to the federal government for their ridiculous climate policies. That's a sharp contrast to that member, who is getting nothing done for the people of Medicine Hat inside this Chamber. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that following the equalization referendum the members of this Assembly approved Motion 101, officially recognizing the results of the referendum and directing the government of Alberta to take action, and given that the government has now failed to comply with this call for action for 149 days and given that the people of Alberta have done their part and given that the members of this Assembly have done their part, my question for Alberta's do-nothing minister of intergovernmental affairs is this: when will you take real action for Alberta families?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're certainly moving forward on the issue of equalization because there's unfairness that needs to be dealt with there, but we're taking action on a number of other items as well, items around positioning this economy for disproportionate investment attraction and growth, balancing the budget. I would ask, through you to the member opposite for Cypress-Medicine Hat: where was he when we approved the first balanced budget in eight years?

Mr. Barnes: Given that when the Premier announced the equalization referendum, in July 2021, he stated that it would, and I quote, elevate Alberta's fight for fairness to the top of the national agenda, that in a sense it takes a page out of Quebec's playbook and given that, whether it is protecting its seats in the House of Commons or bypassing religious freedoms in the Constitution, Quebec never seems to have any problem getting its issues addressed, again to the Premier: are you now willing to admit that your promise – your promise – to push equalization to the top of the national agenda has been another complete failure?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, you want to talk about complete failures? I was just down in Medicine Hat the other day, and every constituent I spoke to expressed their complete disappointment in the inability of their member of the Legislature to represent them. Today, as we speak, down in Medicine Hat significant announcements are taking place around HALO and emergency services, just one example of the success of this government, while that member has a temper tantrum and plays junior high politics and hides himself in the corner. He can't even be bothered to support a balanced budget. Shame on him. [interjections]

An Hon. Member: You are going to lose. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order. I want to caution all members when using personal attacks or insults inside the Assembly.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

Marked Fuel Prices

Ms Sweet: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. For generations Albertans have had marked fuel for agriculture vehicles, which is priced 9 cents lower than regular. This is intended to be a comparative advantage

for the industry. The UCP's plan takes 13 cents off unmarked fuel but only 4 cents off marked fuel . . . [interjections]

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader will come to order.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

Ms Sweet: . . . making the prices equal. There is no longer a comparative advantage. Four cents is a drop in the bucket when compared to the rising costs facing farmers and ranchers. Why is this government not implementing another strategy to help them out with the high cost of fuel during this time of financial stress?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're suspending the fuel tax right now to zero – to zero – and that will provide relief for every Albertan, provide relief for every Alberta rancher and farmer. Again I would ask the members opposite: they're so concerned about affordability all of a sudden, yet they failed to support the motion, that we had in front of the House yesterday, calling on the federal government to pause the increase in the carbon tax, a cost that will affect every Albertan, every Alberta farmer.

2:20

Ms Sweet: Well, given the fact that there's no longer a competitive advantage for farmers and given that there are costs to having marked fuels such as transportation to the farm and the maintenance of dye and given that all these pressures and rising costs farmers are facing are an increase, including the price of feed and fertilizer, and given that a mere 4-cent fuel reduction, especially when everyone else is getting 13 cents, lacked insight and didn't solve the problem, to the minister: with all the pressures farmers are facing, why isn't the government doing more to protect the industry's comparative advantage on fuel?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate the member opposite's concern for agriculture because members on this side of the House believe in a great future for the agriculture industry in this province, a great future for the great farmers and ranchers out there, that provide every day for this province. That's one reason why we are eliminating the fuel tax for farmers and ranchers and every Albertan. Again I ask the members opposite: why do they not support us in calling on the federal government to halt the increase in the carbon tax?

Ms Sweet: Well, given that regular price and dyed fuel is now the same price and given that the UCP is driving up Albertans' electricity, gas bills, school fees, auto insurance, property taxes, tuition, and interest on student loans and given that Albertans in agriculture may already be paying these fees as well as the extra costs specific to the sector and given that the UCP also decided to tack on an extra 10 per cent increase to premiums for livestock and crop insurance, how can the minister seriously justify forcing this increase in premiums while so many other costs are also spiking?

The Speaker: The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we hear so often from the members opposite is the gospel of envy, the gospel of socialism. What I can say is that farmers and ranchers will not begrudge other Albertans who receive 13 cents of relief on every litre of fuel they purchase.

Child and Youth Advocate Recommendation

Ms Pancholi: Mr. Speaker, in this week's mandatory child death review report, which outlines the circumstances that led to the death of 18 children in this government's care in the last six months, the Child and Youth Advocate repeatedly pointed to the lack of collaboration between government ministries. The report is full of stories of overwhelmed family members and caregivers who weren't able to access supports. The advocate recommends that the ministries of Health, Education, and Community and Social Services develop a process to ensure co-ordinated service delivery. Will the UCP listen to the advocate and accept this recommendation?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I said yesterday, the death of any child in care who has received services through the child intervention system is a tragedy. We do work very closely not only to review each and every case but also to work with the office of the Child and Youth Advocate and to discuss things that we're seeing and the recommendations that are being made. I can assure you that we're also not waiting to take action. Much of this is because of the collaboration between ministries like mine, mental health and addictions, Health, Education, and Community and Social Services, and there's more to come.

Ms Pancholi: Given that staffing shortages and turnover were noted specifically in cases of some of the young people in this report, like Joseph, who had a specialized liaison caseworker redeployed, and given that this minister has shown that she doesn't understand the critical importance of consistent support workers in these young people's lives – it can mean life or death for them – as she removed these supports for youth transitioning out of care when she cut SFAA supports two years ago and given that staffing problems start and end with the Minister of Children's Services and there are no new front-line staff for child intervention, how does the minister plan to improve support to children in care with no new staff?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is something that we watch very closely. Staffing concerns are not unique to this ministry. We have been working over the past number of years not only for recruitment and retention strategies specifically in rural, remote, and northern communities, where we do see some greater staff turnover; however, we have also worked to redirect ministry FTEs towards the front lines so that we have those support services in place. Many of our services are also offered by community organizations, who work very hard to keep kids safe and supported.

Ms Pancholi: Given that the Albertans addressed in this report were 12 to 19 years old – five died from drug poisoning, three died by suicide, three were victims of homicide, three young people died from medical causes, and one died in a motor vehicle accident – and given that the advocate said that his call to require ministries to provide regular public updates on how they've addressed past recommendations is more important now than ever, rather than making Albertans wait another 75 days for a response, I'm asking the minister for a straightforward response right now, yes or no: will the minister accept the advocate's recommendation to have ministries report on their work to a committee of the Legislature?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now, the process that we go through to report on our progress was actually set up fairly recently, after the all-party panel on child intervention, which was overseen by the members opposite. It is transparent, there is accountability, and in fact we will not wait 75 days to act. We, in the coming days and weeks, do expect reports from the ministry not based on speculation from the members opposite but based on what we actually saw in each and any one of these cases, and changes will absolutely be made. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.
The hon. Member for Calgary-East.

Inflation

Mr. Singh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The statistics on inflation in Canada and in Alberta show that the cost has gone up for food, shelter, and gas. Although our inflation rate of 5.1 per cent is less than the national average, the last time similar figures were recorded was in October 2007. Albertans continue to grapple with the challenges of inflation caused largely by poor fiscal policy from Ottawa's Liberal government. To the minister: how is the ministry reducing the impacts of inflation on Alberta households and businesses?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We certainly are in a time of inflation, brought on by a number of issues, including, I would suggest, irresponsible fiscal management by the federal government. We are bringing real relief to Albertans. We are offering every electricity consumer a \$150 rebate on this spring's electricity bill. We're also suspending the fuel tax, which will save all Albertans 13 cents a litre at the pumps.

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

Mr. Singh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Given that the cost of energy is often controlled by international demands – increased energy costs are also exacerbated by the federal government's carbon tax – and given that the inflation and supply chain issues are likely to affect gas and commodities in Alberta, the UCP government's balanced budget has put in place measures to address some of these problems. What is the minister doing to ensure that the supply chain, the very system that affects the pricing of goods and services in Alberta, is addressed?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, irresponsible federal fiscal policy is ultimately assisting in driving this high inflation. I believe the best response from government during times of inflation is to spend less, borrow less, and tax less, and that's why we are providing relief at the pumps in suspending the fuel tax for every Albertan. That will save our heavy transport truck drivers \$190 on a tank of fuel. That will provide relief on the supply chain for every Alberta grocery store and for all Albertans.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Singh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Given that the federal government plans to increase the carbon tax and the fact that this will have severe economic consequences for Albertans and given that Alberta's economy is already dealing with high inflation rates, which might be worsened by the hike in federal tax, to the minister: what relief measures are being taken to ensure that the

burden of Ottawa's carbon tax doesn't affect the competitiveness of Alberta's economy?

Mr. Toews: Well, Mr. Speaker, again, I've identified the various consumer relief measures that we're implementing, but on top of that we're calling on the federal government to not increase the carbon tax effective tomorrow, a tax that will increase the costs on all Albertans, all Alberta families, every Alberta business. And we're calling on the opposition to support us in our motion asking the federal government to suspend the increase in the carbon tax because the whole concept of the carbon tax is to increase costs for Albertans and for consumers. I call on the opposition to support us.

Technology Industry Development and Tax Credits

Ms Goehring: The Alberta tech sector has been reaching out to this government in any way possible to highlight the need to bring back Alberta's interactive digital media tax credit, and it was clear that this government turned a blind eye. Budget 2022 was a chance to listen to industry leaders and restore the faith of investors that took advantage of the digital media tax credit before it was cancelled but are now looking at other jurisdictions. Can the minister explain why he's passing up on this surefire job-creation tactic? Is it ideology, or is it that this sector cannot trust this government?

2:30

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The tech sector is going to be an important sector in Alberta; in fact, is an important sector today. We're doing all we can to position it for investment attraction and growth. That's why we introduced the innovation employment grant, a grant that ultimately rewards incremental research and development activity by every Canadian small business. That's why we have, again, recapitalized Alberta Enterprise Corporation. That's why this budget devotes \$600 million for skills, talent, and jobs, ensuring that every Albertan has the opportunity to get the skills and talent needed to participate in the tech sector.

Ms Goehring: Given that the Premier calls the digital media tax credit a boutique program but given that the previous iteration of the digital media tax credit was directly designed with industry feedback to give Alberta a competitive advantage, an advantage that was working, and given that Alberta became more attractive for investment than other provinces like Quebec, Ontario, and B.C., to the Premier: does he not understand that the digital media tax credit was not a boutique tax credit but a successful, targeted program that kept and created jobs in Alberta?

The Speaker: The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the tech sector has a great future in this province, and we're seeing so many companies choose Alberta as their home, as their home for their head office, as their home for expanded capacity. In fact, we can take a look at Amazon Web Services, a \$4.2 billion investment in a web data services business just outside of Calgary. It's going to create over a thousand jobs. We can look at Infosys and Mphasis, both expanding in Alberta, creating thousands of jobs. We're working with the tech sector, we take advice from the tech sector, and the tech sector is booming.

Ms Goehring: Given that Accenture released a study last year that found the gaming industry alone generates \$300 billion in revenue and given that companies like Beamdog have been hiring workers and creating jobs outside of Alberta but won't hire here because of

the elimination of the digital media tax credit, to the minister: will he finally listen to industry experts and investors who are choosing to put their money in other jurisdictions and finally bring back the digital media tax credit?

The Speaker: The minister.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we're seeing in the province: as we position this province to be most competitive in every sector, including the tech and innovation sector, we're seeing venture capital, which is the jet fuel of tech and innovation, increase in this province year over year, doubling many years year over year. In fact, Unity 3-D, one of the largest gaming companies of the world, just recently announced that they're opening an office – where? – in Calgary.

Government Policies and Cost of Living

Mr. Feehan: The UCP has done everything in their power to make life more expensive for my constituents in Edmonton-Rutherford. The UCP, without warning, lifted the cap on insurance prices, causing prices to massively jump by, in some cases, up to 30 per cent. Earlier this week the Finance minister did not know how much insurance rates had gone up, showing that despite his bluster he is completely out of touch with the problems that he created. Can the minister tell me today exactly how much his insurance policies have cost my constituents, and why do you refuse to release the report on insurance profits?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this government took real action to deal with the systemic, the root causes that were creating cost escalation in the automobile insurance industry. The members opposite simply put a rate cap on the issue, didn't deal with one systemic issue. After Bill 41 we're seeing automobile insurance actually flatten and even go down. Intact: their rates are dropping by 2 per cent. Belair: their rates are dropping by 7 per cent. Alberta motor vehicle association are dropping their rates by over 7 per cent.

Mr. Feehan: Given that the families of Edmonton-Rutherford have been hit hard with school fee hikes caused by this government, tuition hikes caused by this government, and even hikes to the interest on student loans caused by this government and given that the families that I represent are telling me that it feels like the UCP government is making it more and more expensive to access education, can either the Education minister or the Advanced Education minister explain to the families that I represent why their mission is to take more from Albertans while doing less for them?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Nicolaides: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another opportunity for me to remind the Assembly that tuition in Alberta remains below the national average. You know, apart from that, I've heard loud and clear from student leaders the need to do more to support . . . [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. I heard the question, and I will hear the answer.

The Minister of Advanced Education.

Mr. Nicolaides: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, I've heard loud and clear from students the need to do more when it comes to student assistance, which is why Budget 2022 includes

\$12 million over three years in new spending to support our existing scholarships. As well, it includes \$15 million over three years to create new bursaries specifically for low-income students to ensure everyone can access . . .

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Feehan: Given that UCP policies have resulted in the hiking of utility bills and their follow-up policy of doing nothing about them is making it harder for the constituents that I represent to make ends meet and given that I've been hearing stories of \$700 utility bills and the UCP is only responding with \$50, which even a UCP MLA described as paltry, and given that our caucus has proposed a sensible solution to protect Albertans from the UCP cost-of-living crisis, all of which have been rejected by the members opposite, Albertans can't trust the UCP. Will the associate minister attempt to change that by offering Albertans anything at all?

Mr. Nally: Mr. Speaker, it's ironic when the caucus that doesn't even know the price of electricity is complaining about the price of electricity. Now, it's true; Albertans have a hangover from the NDP because everything they did on the electricity grid rose prices. I've said it before, and I'll say it again. They broke the electricity grid; we're going to fix it. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Oil and Gas Export

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The world watches with horror the tragic events happening in Ukraine and continues to apply punishing sanctions against the Russian aggressor. Many countries are now banning Russian oil and gas. Others continue to rely heavily on Russia to fulfill their oil and gas needs. As a result, many of the same countries that are standing up against Russian aggression in Ukraine are also funding it by buying Russian oil. Can the Minister of Energy advise the House what role Alberta can play to help foreign countries weed out Russian oil?

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you for that question. Alberta can be the solution. We sit on top of the third-largest reserves of oil on the planet, and we produce it responsibly, reliably. We produce it with the highest environmental standards, and we're addressing climate change. In fact, our oil sands is moving to net zero. But most importantly, we do not use our resources to fund wars against innocent civilians. We intend to do everything we can to increase production of oil and gas here in Alberta to supply markets globally and in the U.S. that want more of our oil and gas.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. Given that the United States was importing an average of 209 barrels a day of crude oil and 500,000 barrels a day of other petroleum products from Russia and given that the U.S. has banned import of oil, gas, oil and petroleum products, and coal from Russia and given that support amongst Americans for the Keystone XL pipeline is now rising, can the Minister of Energy tell this House what efforts are being made to export more Alberta oil and gas to the U.S.?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Energy.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can squeeze out every single drop of Russian oil in North America. We're able to

displace Russian oil, Russian heavy oil, going into the U.S. Gulf coast, with our oil. We're able to replace Russian light oil, going into the west coast of the U.S., with our oil. We can do that now using existing pipeline capacity that is not being fully utilized and using spare private-sector rail capacity. That's why we're advocating in the United States for a continental energy security program and our look north advocacy campaign.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again, Minister. Given that Justin Trudeau has continuously been hostile to Alberta's oil and gas industry and given that he has created rules and regulations which prevent the building of pipelines to increase our oil and gas supply to the world and given that these obstacles have prevented the Energy East and Keystone XL pipelines from moving forward, can the Minister of Energy advise this House what work would need to be done to bring these pipelines to fruition?

The Speaker: The minister.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We need to start by resetting energy policy in this country and in North America. For the last several years energy policy has focused exclusively on climate change. While it's important and while we need to address emissions and lower them, we also need to address energy affordability, energy security, reliability. Those things are just as important, and we need to start treating our energy as an asset to be a proud of, not a liability to be phased out.

2:40 Rural Physicians and Surgery Wait Times

Mr. Long: Mr. Speaker, access to health care in rural Alberta has been an issue for as long as anyone can remember. My constituency is dealing with insufficiencies so extreme that the Whitecourt health care centre currently has a shortage of physicians with surgical skills. This shortage has led to the AHS north zone letting my constituents know that the hospital will temporarily be unable to offer Caesarean sections from March 15 to April 13, almost a month without access to life-saving surgery. To the Minister of Health: with only limited obstetrical services available at Whitecourt health care centre during this time, how can my constituents feel safe during their childbirth journey?

Member LaGrange: Thank you to the member for the question. As a mother myself I know that pregnancy and childbirth are indeed stressful times for expectant mothers. To ensure the safety of all mothers, obstetrical services in Whitecourt will be limited to low-risk maternity services until April 13. AHS is working with all expecting mothers to ensure that they have the support plan in place to safely deliver their babies. I want to assure the member, our colleague here, that we're doing everything we can to ensure patients receive the care they need when they need it.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Given that there is also currently a shortage of general physicians in Grande Cache and given that these shortages have been going on for quite a while now, given that doctors are able to practise in Alberta wherever they choose to live, to the same minister: please tell the members of my community what is being done to augment the efforts of AHS to recruit doctors in Grande Cache.

The Speaker: The Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to my colleague. Given that there is also currently a shortage of general physicians in Grande Cache and given that these shortages – oh, sorry. My apologies. The good news is that Grande Cache will receive new doctors this year under the rural education supplement and integrated doctor experience, or RESIDE, program. Under RESIDE 20 new family physicians will be attracted to the communities in need for each of the next three years. Budget '22 spends a total of \$90 million to help recruit and retain rural doctors.

Mr. Long: Thank you again, Minister. Given that doctor shortages aren't the only health concerns for the residents of West Yellowhead, given that some of my constituents have been waiting for months even for out-patient surgeries like knee surgeries and given that because of extreme pains and medical concerns my constituents have had to seek medical attention in other jurisdictions, where they've had to pay out of pocket, and given that many of those wait times were pushed even further because of the COVID-19 pandemic, once again to the Minister of Health: is there anything being done to address wait times for those in need of surgeries?

The Speaker: The Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government was elected on a platform to lower surgical wait times. COVID-19 has impacted our ability on those timelines; however, we continue to provide more surgeries than ever before via the Alberta surgical initiative. More procedures like hip, knee, and cataract surgeries are being done within the publicly funded system for Albertans. To support the ASI, Budget 2022 provides \$133 million in capital spending to expand or build new operating rooms in many hospitals right across the province over the next three years. We remain committed to ensuring all Albertans receive quality health care no matter where they . . .

The Speaker: Hon. members, that concludes the time allotted for Oral Question Period. As we are heading into a constituency break, I encourage you to take some time with your family, drive safely, and be kind to one another. In 30 seconds or less we will continue to the remainder of the daily Routine.

Members' Statements

(continued)

Premier's Leadership

Mr. Barnes: The late novelist Ken Kesey once wrote, "The secret of being a top-notch con man is being able to know what the mark wants, and how to make him think he's getting it." Albertans have seen their share of flim-flams over the years, but never like the current Premier. When running for leader, the current Premier rejected the idea of subsidies for solar power on a radio show, rebuffing the request by stating: no; we're broke. The statement became a slogan printed on T-shirts proudly worn by Albertans tired of green corporate welfare.

Of course, once in power the new Premier increased public debt, well over \$100 billion, while handing out billions in corporate welfare. Of course, he wasn't done pushing bad merchandise. He went on to promise no vaccine passports or mandates in Alberta and printed up Best Summer Ever hats for all his prospective marks. I think we all know how that ended up.

Well, folks, he's at it again. Last week the flim-flam man posted an antigreen energy meme on social media even as his government complies with Ottawa's just transition policies, scrambling to meet

Paris accord targets, and brags about speeding up the NDP's accelerated coal phase-out. Now, this week, the flim-flam man is attacking the federal government's carbon tax increase even while increasing his own carbon tax on industrial emitters.

He actually thinks he has Albertans fooled once again, but the problem with trying to play both sides of every issue is that eventually people realize that you are never on their side. Just like Justin Trudeau, who calls conservatives extremists, Alberta's Premier has ramped up the disgusting, dehumanizing rhetoric by calling conservatives lunatics and comparing them to insects. It reminds me of the time back in 2017 when the former Deputy Premier called Albertans sewer rats. At least she apologized. Albertans have had enough of this flim-flam man. It's time for him to resign, move back to Ontario, and find some new marks to work on.

Thank you. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order.

My apologies to the hon. Member for Banff-Kananaskis for getting the order incorrect, but now the hon. Member for Banff-Kananaskis.

Tourism

Ms Rosin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tourism is the business of memory making, and millions of people from all over the world hold their fondest memories right where I come from. I've said it a million times in this House, but there are few places to whom a thriving tourism economy comes so naturally. Countless places pride themselves on man-made attractions, but in Banff-Kananaskis our industry is rooted in the God-given beauty all around us.

Prepandemic, tourism represented \$8.4 billion of GDP and 80,000 jobs, but when borders closed and visitations ceased, restaurants shut early and venues closed down, revenues plummeted nearly half and unemployment rates peaked above 85 per cent. Even in the most difficult of times our small businesses did what they could to minimize the layoffs, house their staff, and keep things running, but it came at a cost.

They say that it takes just three weeks to form a habit. After two years of fear and pandemic restrictions the security that many once felt about travel is long gone. Now more than ever Alberta's tourism industry needs a co-ordinated bipartisan effort to spread the word that our province is open and that we are excited to welcome the world back. That is why this government passed a motion last week calling on Ottawa to drop their senseless and unscientific vaccination travel requirement. The first step to welcoming people back to our province, after all, is letting them in. But the NDP voted against it. If you listen to House debates, you'd think the NDP were obsessed with Banff-Kananaskis, but, Mr. Speaker, if you look at their voting record, you consistently find the exact opposite.

In 2019 the NDP left tourism out of their election platform entirely, and, well, I'm a testament to how well that worked out for them. Three years later you'd think they would have perhaps learned their lesson about supporting tourism rather than ignoring it in the best of times, then working actively against it in the worst, but it appears that they have not.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of this government for recognizing and working with Alberta's tourism operators, and I'll always be proud to represent the most beautiful place on Earth.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Bill 15 Education (Reforming Teacher Profession Discipline) Amendment Act, 2022

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to rise today to introduce Bill 15, the Education (Reforming Teacher Profession Discipline) Amendment Act, 2022.

This important legislation will reform the discipline process for all teachers and teacher leaders to make the education system safer for students, their families, and teachers. Bill 15 would create the Alberta teaching commission and appoint a commissioner to oversee teacher and teacher leader conduct and competency complaints for the profession. Mr. Speaker, one teaching profession, one discipline process.

Mr. Speaker, I committed in December to bringing legislation to this House. Promise made, promise kept. I hereby move first reading of Bill 15, the Education (Reforming Teacher Profession Discipline) Amendment Act, 2022.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 15 read a first time]

The Speaker: The Member for Highwood.

2:50

Bill 205 Human Tissue and Organ Donation (Mandatory Referral) Amendment Act, 2022

Mr. Sigurdson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to request leave to introduce Bill 205, Human Tissue and Organ Donation (Mandatory Referral) Amendment Act, 2022.

Organ and tissue donations are medical processes that save and transform lives. One organ donation can save up to eight lives, and a tissue donation can make life better for up to 75 other people. Approval of the proposed amendments will establish a mandatory referral process and increase donor opportunities throughout the province. This bill will also help strengthen education and build a culture around organ and tissue donation within the province of Alberta.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move first reading of Bill 205. Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 205 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: Are there tablings? The hon. Member for Central Peace-Notley has a tabling.

Mr. Loewen: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have several tablings today to support the questions I've been asking and also to rebut some of the outright misinformation I received in my answers.

My first tabling is a news article that quotes the Premier calling people that are against his leadership kooks, bugs, lunatics and having extreme, hateful, intolerant, bigoted, and crazy views.

For those like the minister of parks that don't believe that he could say such things, I'm tabling another news article where the Premier doubles down on his comments.

In sharp contrast, I have a quote from a video from back when the Premier condemned name-calling, where he says to the left: stop blaming the voters for your inability to get support; stop the vicious name-calling, end quote.

I also have another quote from another video of the Premier condemning name-calling, where he says, quote, that kind of bigotry and this kind of intimidation has no place in Alberta; stop the bully tactics.

One more contrasting video quote to table, where the Premier says, quote: so let's have a debate on the issues; let's not have a race to the bottom by name-calling. End quote.

I also brought up recall legislation in my question, so I'm tabling documents to show that recall passed in this House on June 15, 2021, and received royal assent on June 17, 2021.

I'm tabling the Premier's remarks from the November 20, 2021, UCP AGM, where he says, quote: we passed the recall law, which will be brought into force in the next few weeks. End quote.

I'm also tabling the Premier's plan for enacting recall on April 7, 2022. Not a few weeks but actually several months later and 10 months after it was passed, just in time for it to be unusable.

I'm also tabling Monday, March 28 *Alberta Hansard*, page 428. The minister of parks misinformed the House, accusing me of wanting door-to-door vaccinations. Totally untrue.

Next I have a list of people on the so-called COVID cabinet committee, of which I believe the minister of parks is the deputy chair, and that committee, which I am not a part of, did mandate vaccines.

In fact, I spoke out against vaccine mandates right from the start, as witnessed in my September 1, 2021, Facebook post, that I'm tabling here.

On Monday, March 28 *Alberta Hansard*, page 427, the minister of parks again tried to dupe the House by accusing me of wanting the Leader of the Opposition in cabinet, which is absolutely false.

So I'm tabling the 2019 election results showing that I ran as a Conservative against an NDP cabinet minister. In fact . . .

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the guy just called me a fucking liar in the middle of the damn Legislature.

The Speaker: Order. If the Minister of Environment and Parks wants to call a point of order, he's welcome to rise to his feet. Using language that's unparliamentary, including an F-bomb directed at the Speaker, is wildly inappropriate. If you don't like his remarks, call a point of order.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Point of order.

The Speaker: A point of order is called.

Point of Order Tabling Documents Parliamentary Language

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, this is, first of all, tablings. I rise on 23(h), (i), and (j). As well as the long-standing practice of not calling people liars inside this Chamber, that member just rose in this Chamber and said that the Minister of Environment and Parks was duping this House. Just before that, while trying to speed through the Orders of the Day – I ignored it – he accused me of misleading this House as well. You have many rulings on the table in regard to that. That is completely inappropriate and certainly should not be how tablings are used. Frankly, if that's how the member is going to continue to use it, I'll bring a standing order package back here right after the break to make sure you can't use tablings like that no more.

Mr. Loewen: Well, Mr. Speaker, the term I used was "misinformed." I didn't say, "mislead the House," so the hon. minister is actually totally incorrect. I didn't call anybody a liar. I didn't use the word "liar" at all. I am making my tablings here. I find it absolutely incredulous that the minister would threaten to take away this House's opportunity to table documents in an attempt to save his own credibility, I guess, because obviously what I'm bringing forward in these documents is the truth,

and I believe that the hon. minister does not want to hear the truth, is the problem.

Mr. Jason Nixon: What a joke. That's why your career is over, Todd.

The Speaker: Hon. Government House Leader, first of all, you used an F-bomb in the Assembly. Then you used a proper name. I appreciate that you're upset at the process, but he has the right to defend a point of order just like you called one.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Agreed.

The Speaker: Then don't use a proper name. Don't use an F-bomb. It's easy.

Hon. Member for Central Peace-Notley, the minister is correct. I have made several comments with respect to using the word "misled." While I can accept the use of the terminology around misinformation, specifically referring to a member of the Assembly as misleading the Assembly is a point of order. I have provided significant swath for members to say that the government or the opposition has misled, but you cannot say that the member misled the Assembly. For that you will apologize and withdraw.

Mr. Loewen: Thank you very much. I will apologize and withdraw those comments.

The Speaker: The Government House Leader will apologize for using unparliamentary language inside the Assembly as well as the use of proper names.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. I apologize and withdraw.

The Speaker: The member has one tabling remaining.

Tabling Returns and Reports (continued)

Mr. Loewen: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, the last tabling here is the 2019 election results, showing that I ran as a Conservative against an NDP cabinet minister. In fact, I ran as a Conservative against the NDP and the rest of the left-wing parties in the last four general elections.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Now, to be clear, there were many periods of time during your significant length of tablings where you kept the tablings to a sentence or two, which is the practice of the Assembly. The last tabling was too long.

Hon. members, we are at points of order, and at 2:12 the Member for Edmonton-South rose on a point of order.

Point of Order Accepting a Member's Word

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will attempt to keep this brief. At approximately 2:12 – I do not have the benefit of the Blues – the hon. Government House Leader stated something to the effect of: tried to violate the privacy of multiple members of this House. He made a similar claim in his response to the second supplemental question. I think it is very clear in both the documents that have been tabled in this place by the Government House Leader as well as my statements in the media that that is untrue and that I've not attempted to violate the privacy of multiple members of this House.

I believe that's an allegation under 23(h) and also (i), "imputes false or unavowed motives to another Member." Pursuant to your guidance on March 22 in which you said that "remarks which question a Member's integrity, honesty, or character are not in order" and also that, according to *Beauchesne's* 494, "statements by members respecting themselves must be accepted," you said that you would give additional guidance if this was to continue to be a problem. I ask for your additional guidance today.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. the Government House Leader? The deputy whip? The associate minister of mental health.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, I have to say that, if anything, this is just a matter of debate. I mean, the member opposite has written an entire paper outlining his offence. Let me just say this, just for the knowledge of the House and anybody who might be watching. The RCMP do not (a) randomly or (b) without cause enter somebody's home, especially an elected member's home, if they do not have, I would say, more than reasonable belief that they will be laying charges.

Mr. Speaker, if anything, this is just a matter of debate.

3:00

The Speaker: Hon. members, are there others?

I am prepared to rule. I believe that there are a number of issues here before the Assembly which are a matter of debate, particularly around the difference between a member or members. No one knows the facts on that although we do accept members' words respecting themselves as fact. I would say that I did provide caution previously around this issue. I continue to provide caution with respect to making accusations against another member. I don't find this is a point of order, however. Matters that are potentially before the courts: of course, those are sensitive issues in which members have their responsibility as members of the Assembly not to take that responsibility lightly. I consider this matter dealt with and concluded.

Ordres du jour.

Orders of the Day

Government Motions

Morning Sittings

19. Mr. Jason Nixon moved:
Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 4(1) and for the duration of the 2022 spring sitting of the Third Session of the 30th Legislature the Assembly must sit on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings for consideration of government business unless under Notices of Motions or at any time before the Assembly adjourns on a sitting day the Government House Leader advises the Assembly of the morning sittings that are no longer required.

The Speaker: Hon. members, pursuant to Standing Order 4(1) this motion is not debatable.

[Government Motion 19 carried]

Government Bills and Orders

Third Reading

Bill 6

Emblems of Alberta Amendment Act, 2022

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Culture.

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to move third reading of Bill 6, the Emblems of Alberta Amendment Act, 2022.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta has a distinct and unique culture and heritage, one that we should all treasure. It is built into who we are as a people and as a province. It's as deep as our geology and in the very expressions of who we are as people. I'm often in awe of the beauty of the landscapes, the kindness of the people, the history that surrounds us, the vast geological ages, even, included there. It truly is unlike anywhere on Earth.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we do our best to celebrate some of the uniquely Albertan items that are important to our culture and our history and the understanding of who we are as people, and we have an opportunity to do that today.

[Mr. Milliken in the chair]

I am again asking all members of this House for their support of Bill 6, the Emblems of Alberta Amendment Act. This piece of legislation would enshrine ammolite as the official gemstone of our province. Gem-quality ammolite is totally unique to Alberta. Its beauty and iridescence are the result of southern Alberta's unique geography and geology, which cannot be duplicated elsewhere in Canada or in the world. Furthermore, ammolite has been an important part of this landscape for millennia. Long before Alberta was a province, plains First Nations have been collecting this gemstone, and the practice continues today in Blackfoot communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all members of this Assembly for the debate on Bill 6 up to this point. I encourage all members to once again support this legislation so that we are able to officially recognize ammolite as an emblem of this great province of Alberta.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Are there any members wishing to join debate? I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.

Mr. Dach: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to stand this afternoon in recognition of Bill 6 and the important designation of ammolite as the official gemstone of Alberta, that's embodied in the bill. I appreciate the minister's desire to create recognition of ammolite as our official gemstone in an effort to perhaps create another tool that we can use to demonstrate to the world the benefits of coming to Alberta and visiting our wonderful province. I think local Albertans, residents will find their way to various different shops that might now decide to carry ammolite jewellery and gemstones and purchase it as a collection item, either as a tourist or just simply because it's their pride in the province, now that the designation under Bill 6, if the bill is passed, has been made.

It brings to mind, Mr. Speaker, one store in particular that might have been very, very proud to carry the ammolite gemstone, a store that we're all familiar with as members of the Legislature but which no longer exists. Of course, I'm speaking about the Alberta Branded store, that was in the Federal Building and carried items of Alberta-branded artistry, let's say, creations made by Alberta artists that were sold very proudly in that store. It gave a place for Alberta artists to have their wares displayed and sold, and it was a great showcase for those artists. It gave them a great source of income and also managed to create a platform for them to spread their name and gain greater recognition on a wider stage.

Unfortunately, that Alberta Branded store, which would have been a great place to market ammolite, is no longer there. There are a few paltry showcases so that you can buy tie clips and small brooches and trinkets that are in the Legislature Building, which is a far lesser display than what was available for residents and tourists

alike to go to and buy Alberta Branded merchandise. Artists made pieces in the store that was in the Federal Building, and I, for one, really bemoan the loss of that store. It was a great opportunity for Alberta artists, and it would have been a wonderful opportunity for ammolite to have been marketed and sold in our provincial capital here.

I know that as a tourist, while onboard a ship cruising around the world, I used to really start to bemoan the fact that I had to follow my mother, who was a fellow traveller, into far-flung, different types of stores and souvenir shops to buy things such as tea towels and fridge magnets. It also included trips to find certain small gemstones which were local gemstones famous in a particular area. You know what, Mr. Speaker? Those trips actually got me into some of the places that I never would have dreamed of going to before. Now, when I pass her fridge or see the things that she's bought, it brings to mind the places that we visited in a way that I otherwise wouldn't have had memories of.

Gemstones are something that are purchased as a souvenir item by many, many tourists, and they are a higher value item than the tea towels and fridge magnets, which might be produced outside of the country and then brought in to be sold as souvenirs.

So I endorse the adoption of the gemstone ammolite to become our official gemstone in Alberta. It would have been wonderful to know that it was available in gemstone quality in more places throughout Alberta. Unfortunately, it's mostly in southern Alberta where gemstone-quality ammolite is found. However, I certainly am proud to recognize the sacred nature of ammolite in the lands of the Blackfoot people. It's especially found along the St. Mary River in southern Alberta, and we'll herald it for the historical importance that it has for the Blackfoot people and be proud to adopt it as our official gemstone in the province of Alberta and look forward to having every tourist who comes to Alberta know that our gemstone is ammolite.

It should be something that manufacturers in this province – and there are a few of them who make gemstone jewellery already out of ammolite – should be willing to adopt, and I would expect to see many more pieces available throughout their local retail operations if not through the local Assembly office, through the good offices of the Speaker perhaps, to include items made by Alberta artists made out of ammolite. Hopefully, they'll be found in whatever display case is left after the loss of the Alberta Branded store, let's say.

3:10

I'm wondering, though, if indeed the mining of ammolite will be increased as a result of this and if indeed that will put pressure on the local deposits and if indeed there are going to be perhaps more leases that will be applied for and if there are more locations available where this gemstone is possibly able to be found and if there have been inquiries about perhaps further mining of this gemstone and if indeed it's going to be something that the government will allow to be opened up to more than one mining distributor.

I don't want to see the mining of ammolite become sort of the new diamond of the world in that only one or two companies control it. Hopefully, this new opportunity is something that's spread far and wide to more than one major player in the mining industry who might be interested in mining ammolite for use in the gemstone industry.

Obviously, it's found in southern Alberta, primarily, as a gemstone. I know that there are others who may wish to talk about the mining of this gemstone and about the souvenir opportunities in ammolite in Alberta. Once again, we look forward to seeing the provincial government adopt ways of encouraging the marketing of

ammolite and maybe doing something to negate the loss of stores such as Alberta Branded, that we proudly had for many years in this Federal Building and that we used a lot as MLAs to promote Alberta products and artistry made by Albertans. Hopefully, ammolite becomes something that is well known as a gemstone and a souvenir item that every Albertan and every tourist to this province wants to buy some of.

With that, I look forward to supporting this piece of legislation, and I'll allow some of my colleagues and other members across the way to make their own comments.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Next joining debate I see the hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

Mr. Getson: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, for those following along at home, Bill 6, the Emblems of Alberta Amendment Act, 2022, doesn't get much shorter. I think this is, honestly, the shortest law or act that's ever been passed, and I thank the minister for that. It simply reads: "The gemstone known as ammolite is hereby adopted as the official gemstone of Alberta." I'm proudly wearing this on my chest, the ammolite itself, and I have a bit of a story to share with the group.

I'd heard about it before, but I never really saw it in any opportunities. It was my very first debate, Mr. Speaker, so I was pretty nervous. I was going to be going up against a sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly, an Ag and Forestry minister, and a local councillor from Sturgeon whose name was Wayne Bokenfohr. He came up and he kind of saw that I was nervous about this. He said, "Here," and he pinned this on my chest. I'm not using a prop, so you're not getting me that way. He pinned this on my chest and said: "You're going to represent us. This is the gemstone of Alberta. You're going to do Alberta proud and go up and do your best for us." That totally calmed down my nerves, and I haven't taken it off since. I have worn it proudly in this Assembly for the last three years. Some of my colleagues have noticed what I had as well, and we ended up sharing them around. The fact that we brought this around full circle is kind of a neat thing.

Councillor Bokenfohr travelled over to Shanghai, and he had done a bunch of different presentations, and that was always his gift to dignitaries, the Alberta gemstone, especially in the shape of Alberta. So hats off to a local guy that's doing that, and his mine, obviously, is in southern Alberta. It's something that we can share with pride, and many of my colleagues have it on their lapels. I strongly encourage members from the opposition as well now that it's the official gemstone. It's not just pretty in blue; there are some orange shades for one of my colleagues, Edmonton-Rutherford, that he might want to take. He and I have an ongoing joke about what the better colour shades are.

People of the province of Alberta can show something truly patriotic, something that is really from our province that's unique and, again, has been around for a long time and has a lot of value and also can bridge some of those gaps that we might have on the political spectrum.

With that, I'll close my remarks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I strongly encourage everyone to vote in favour.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you.

Are there any members? I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadows.

Mr. Deol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise in the House to speak to Bill 6, emblems of Alberta, and I'm very happy to support this bill, that designates ammolite as the official gemstone of Alberta. We are proud to recognize the sacred nature

of ammolites in the lands of the Blackfoot people and especially along the St. Mary River of southern Alberta. It has a cultural relevance to the people of the Blackfoot. The Blackfoot refer to ammolite as iniskim, the buffalo-calling stone. It connects to a cultural myth about the stone being used to call buffalo and feed a starving community for a winter. It symbolizes wealth, abundance, good health, and stamina and is still collected for ceremonial purposes.

While saying this, I would also like to take the opportunity to remind this House and the Minister of Culture that I appreciate his effort, his initiative on this, but we have a long way to go. The simplest, simplest thing when it comes to dealing in helping Indigenous communities – and we failed those people. It's not long ago. I remember that the government declined to take the call of the TRC to call a national day for truth and reconciliation. That was a simple call to action from the TRC. It has over 90 recommendations, and that was the simplest thing to do. We have a lot more to do when it comes to addressing the issues related to drinking water on-reserve in those areas and protecting our eastern slopes and environment and more of this in this bill.

In the past years the government has removed the human rights education fund. The government has removed the antiracism community group programs and reduced the funding. I appreciate this initiative. I support this, the spirit of this bill and this action, but we have a long way to go when it comes to doing a real service to our Indigenous communities. We see the government has been failing over the last three years on many, many different aspects. I will seek the opportunity going forward, as a representative of my constituents from Edmonton-Meadows, to advocate on behalf of not only my constituents; also of those communities, to advocate on these issues specifically related to multiculturalism and antiracism, to keep raising the voices on behalf of this community.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Next I believe I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Nielsen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity this afternoon just to add a few quick comments here to – actually, I think I'm going to just call it the discussion, because there's really no debate about this whatsoever. Thanks to the Minister of Culture for bringing Bill 6 forward to declare ammolite the official gemstone of Alberta. You know, I think I'll echo some of the comments that my friend from Edmonton-Meadows said. I think the road to reconciliation is still quite long. There's a lot of work to be able to do to rebuild the relationship and the partnership with Indigenous peoples. This is certainly a really, really good opportunity to show something, but like he said, I think there's more we could do.

As we know, many of the provinces, the federal government also declared a statutory holiday around truth and reconciliation. If I could take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to maybe even place more than a bug in the ear of the Minister of Culture, there's another opportunity for him to be able to advocate within the government to really seriously consider revisiting that decision around creating a statutory holiday for truth and reconciliation. I think that is going to be a very, very meaningful offering, that we could do. Again, we've seen all the other provinces, we've seen the federal government do this. Alberta needs to now step up and do the same thing.

3:20

I did notice one comment from my friend from Edmonton-McClung around the mining, possibly, of ammolite. Maybe the

suggestion that I would put out there for the government: should something like this start to increase around that, we should definitely take the step of consulting with Indigenous peoples around any type of expansion of this gem. You know, certainly, maybe there could be some business opportunities there, but I would definitely want to see Indigenous peoples get those first opportunities to be able to do that.

I am definitely thrilled to be able to support this bill. Of course, my friend from Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland, we can certainly have that discussion about, you know, which colour perhaps would be more preferable. I might suggest that it could be more towards a brighter colour, but we can always have that debate for another day. Again, thank you to the minister for bringing this forward. Happy to support the bill, and I look forward to hopefully getting to support other opportunities to really start heading down the road to truth and reconciliation and rebuilding that partnership that needs to be rebuilt with Indigenous peoples.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you very much.

Hon. members, next I believe I see – the hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud has risen.

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise at third reading of Bill 6, the Emblems of Alberta Amendment Act, 2022, and to have the opportunity to speak to the beauty, actually, of ammolite. I'll be quite honest. I was not very familiar with it until recently, and having the opportunity to explore a little bit, learn a little bit about it – it is, honestly, a beautiful gemstone. It's absolutely gorgeous. I can tell you that my daughter, who – I just will comment – I had the pleasure of having here in this Assembly today along with my son and husband, which is a rare joy in this House, to have that kind of close family connection in this House, you know, saw the picture of ammolite as I was doing a little bit of research. She said, "Mama, that is so pretty," and it absolutely is. It is a truly rainbow gemstone. The rainbow is also a lovely symbol of love. It's a truly beautiful gemstone, and I think it is something that we should be proud to have represented as our official gemstone here in Alberta.

Of course, I haven't had the opportunity to hear a lot of the debate on this bill so far, but I'm sure that many of the speakers have spoken to the origins of ammolite and what its meaning is, of course, for the Blackfoot in Alberta and that it holds such great, special meaning for them. Of course, as I understand it, the Blackfoot refer to ammolite as iniskim – I hope I'm pronouncing that correctly – and it's known as the buffalo-calling stone.

There's the legend, of course. The legend of ammolite is essentially that, you know, people were starving, a very, very cold winter, and one woman had a dream about being called to a cave and seeing this beautiful gem, woke up, and was out searching and found this gemstone, and then the buffalo came. That's why it's considered a calling stone for the buffalo, which therefore has a deep connection to Indigenous peoples in our province. It's a wonderful thing to be able to commemorate that by giving ammolite this official gemstone status.

I will acknowledge as well that in preparation for this bill I also took a look at other emblems of Alberta, because I didn't know there were so many. Of course, we're all very familiar with the crest that we see on the flag of Alberta, and we know that it symbolizes the beauty of our province. I am pointing to the flag. The Speaker looks a little confused. I was pointing to the Alberta flag next to the Speaker. It is a beautiful flag that well represents the beauty of this province.

But I wasn't aware of some of the other emblems of Alberta. Honestly, it was a little bit of an education for myself. I have grown

up in Alberta, of course, knowing about the wild rose as the official flower, floral emblem of Alberta. But I'll be honest. I did not know that we had an official grass and that our grass emblem was the rough fescue. I didn't know that, but of course when I saw pictures of it, yes, this is a grass that I've seen frequently in my travels in Alberta.

I did know that our official bird was the great horned owl. Of course, who doesn't know that?

Member Irwin: I didn't know that.

Ms Pancholi: Oh. You didn't know that? The Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood did not know that. I feel like I learned that learning about *Owls in the Family*, Farley Mowat. You learn about the great horned owls, and then you talk about it. Okay. The member didn't know about that.

But in school when I was learning, which was a time earlier than the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, I do recall having a great discussion about the great horned owl and its significance to Alberta.

I did not know – I thought this was very interesting – that the official stone of Alberta is petrified wood. That was new information to me. I would not actually, to be quite honest, have known that petrified wood is considered a stone. My mother used to collect petrified wood when we would go out travelling in the mountains of Alberta. That was something that used to drive my father crazy, that my mother would want to stop and pull over and collect petrified wood, but now I know she was actually collecting stones. Very interesting.

You know, again, this has been an education for me to learn about some of the great emblems of Alberta and to learn about ammolite. Actually, I think I had seen it before but had not recognized exactly what it was. To now have this recognized as our official gemstone is a wonderful thing to do. I stand in support of that.

I appreciate the comments from my colleague the Member for Edmonton-McClung, who spoke about, you know, opportunities to promote ammolite as a symbol of Alberta and the things that we value here. I miss the Capital Gifts, that we used to have right here in the Federal Building, actually, close by, which really highlighted not only Alberta artists but those things that are unique to Alberta and are special to Alberta, and ammolite – I'm certain perhaps they did sell ammolite already. [interjection] Oh. I guess I'll give way.

Member Irwin: Yeah. You know, I just wanted to intervene on the fine member and mention, too – I won't refer to his presence or absence, but perhaps I would be curious to actually hear from the minister as well on that, because what an opportunity we had with Capital Gifts to really highlight Alberta artists. I know I actually stood with our critic for Culture after it was closed. We went and we visited some of the artists there. For many of them that was a really critical source of income. I really appreciate the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud as well as the Member for Edmonton-McClung for raising that because it was really a place that would highlight artists, and people would come to the Federal Building to check out that store. Like I said, I would hope the minister might even comment on that as well.

Thank you for letting me intervene.

Ms Pancholi: Thank you to my colleague the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood for that intervention. You know, at the time that that Capital Gifts store closed, I mean, that was pre-pandemic. Of course, I recall that we did stand and speak out for Alberta artists and the lost opportunity and income – let's be quite honest – for many of these artists. We had no idea what was even to come – right? – in terms of the pandemic. I mean, there are many,

many Albertans who have been hit hard by the pandemic, but artists in particular have lost a lot of opportunities to showcase their work, to perform work, and to sell their work. I was very proud, and I actually recall going down to that Capital Gifts store and really learning about some Alberta artists that I was not aware of before and purchasing some items, actually, as well.

I think it's a loss. I know it's probably not a big thing in the grand scheme of things, certainly, for this government. It was just, I guess, business as usual, but it certainly did – when I think of ammolite, when I look at the jewellery that has been created by ammolite, I can't think of a better place to showcase that than Capital Gifts. I hope those artists are finding other opportunities to showcase their work in a province that has become increasingly hostile towards supporting artists. You know, I know that many of my colleagues have spoken about the history of ammolite, the importance of emblems to unite people and also to showcase who we are as Albertans.

As I mentioned, I think this is a particularly lovely gemstone. I say this as somebody who once had a very unnatural – I don't know – obsession almost with gemstones when I was younger. I always felt a little bit shortchanged by the fact that I was born in August and my official gemstone was the peridot, which was one that always seemed to be far, far lacklustre compared to, like, a diamond or an emerald or a ruby, that so many other months seemed to get as their official gemstone. I got stuck with peridot. No offence to people who love peridot. It's a really pale green stone that is quite disappointing.

3:30

So I have to say that I wish ammolite was an option. It's probably because it's unique to Alberta. It's not, you know, on that official gemstone list for the months of the year, but maybe – I don't know who I could actually advocate to to change the official gemstone for August to be ammolite instead of peridot. Sorry. Sorry to peridot lovers.

Okay. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'll close my comments on Bill 6.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members looking to join debate? I see the hon. Member for St. Albert.

Ms Renaud: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and speak to Bill 6 in third reading, Emblems of Alberta Amendment Act, 2022. You know, my colleagues have covered a lot of ground, and I likely will repeat some of their very interesting facts as this is a really skimpy piece of legislation. That doesn't mean it's not important – it certainly is – that ammolite will become the official gemstone of Alberta. We do know that it's actually a gemstone formed from an ancient marine fossil called ammonite. I think when I spoke to this in second reading, I talked a little bit about the field of paleontology and why it's so important here in Alberta.

Anyway, this fossil, ammonite, is actually found predominantly in southern Alberta. I talked a little bit in second reading about how it's actually found on the eastern slopes and talked about how important it was that we protect the eastern slopes as much as possible. I know that the government hasn't done a great job doing that. It was really unfortunate that they chose not to support, or, you know, not to further the debate around the private member's bill to protect the eastern slopes, Bill 214, which is unfortunate. They claim to do a lot of things, and to protect the eastern slopes was one of those things, but their actions actually don't back that up very often.

Anyway, recognizing ammolite, I think, is a great thing. I do appreciate the fact that there was consultation with Indigenous

communities. I think that's, you know – if I'm going to give the government props, I'll give them props for doing that in this case. I don't give them a lot of props very often. But I think that for far too long – and I don't just mean right now; I mean for far too long – we have imposed legislation and made changes without consulting really important communities, and in this case those would be Indigenous communities. That extends to so much of what we do. I think that very often we pass legislation or we debate legislation and we just, unfortunately, haven't taken the time to consult properly, and then, not surprisingly, we don't get it right, and then we have to go back and correct it. Happily, in this case that doesn't seem to be the case.

So as my colleagues have said, ammolite: it's wonderful. It's very colourful. It's quite lovely. I actually was given a pin made of ammolite. It's in the shape of Alberta, the province, and it's actually quite pretty. It's got lots of different colours. I'm sure we all own a piece of this lovely gemstone. It actually only officially became a gemstone, I think, in the '80s if I'm not – 1981, actually. [interjection] I will let my colleague intervene.

Member Irwin: One of the things I really appreciated from my colleague from St. Albert: when she spoke to this at second, I believe, she actually talked a lot about just her own family, her son, who's in paleontology. You know, again, we've obviously spoken in support of this bill, so I'll be cautious in how I frame this, but I just think it should really compel us as legislators to think about the message we're sending about our larger cultural industries.

She talked about brain drain. She talked about young people in the arts and culture, in sciences – the list goes on – potentially leaving our province. So while this is, you know, an important bill that we are going to support, I hope that the minister responsible for Culture really thinks about what other pieces of legislation he could be bringing forward or what kind of advocating he could be doing as a minister of the Crown to very much support and strengthen arts and culture in this province moving forward so that Albertans, young people are choosing this place to live.

Ms Renaud: Thank you very much. I actually wasn't going to bring up paleontology and my kid again, because I do that all the time and I'm sure I bore the heck out of everyone, but of course I will talk about that. You know, I think that when I hear the Minister of Advanced Education talk about, say, "Well, there's no such thing

as brain drain; it's not happening; we're doing this; we're great," it actually is happening, and I know it's happening because it happened to my family. I know that it happened in one case, and I know it happens in many others.

I can tell you that ever since my son was about five years old, that's when he decided he wanted to – he called it dinosaur hunter at the time, but he decided that that was going to be what he did. Now, of course, like a lot of mothers, you know, I patted him on the head and said, "Sure, honey; that's great," but he ended up doing it and pursuing his passion and is now, I think, a leading researcher and expert in an area that I never thought he would be. It's dinosaur teeth, actually. That's what he does. But he was born and raised in Alberta. He did the majority of his research and studies here in Alberta. He's a proud Albertan, and he's no longer here, and sadly the chances of him ever coming back here and working in his field here are slim, because he's now in Europe.

Paleontology is a big thing in Alberta, and I've said this again and again. We are known the world over for our incredible fossils, not just ammolite but our incredible fossils. I mean, we've got little dinosaurs on our licence plates now. I think that says a lot. We have world-class museums, world-class digs, world-class researchers, but they're not all staying here, because they don't see themselves here in this place.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am going to take my seat and just say that I support this piece of legislation and will proudly wear ammolite in the future.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to join debate? The hon. Minister of Culture to close debate should he so choose.

Mr. Orr: I'll waive. Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 6 read a third time]

The Acting Speaker: I see the deputy government whip.

Mr. Rutherford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everybody is looking forward to a couple weeks back in their constituency, so I move that the Assembly be adjourned until 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:38 p.m. to Tuesday, April 19, 2022]

Bill Status Report for the 30th Legislature - 3rd Session (2022)

Activity to Thursday, March 31, 2022

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 — Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Recognition Act (\$) (Kenney)

First Reading — 4 (*Feb. 22, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 94-97 (*Mar. 7, 2022 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 140-44 (*Mar. 10, 2022 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 230-34 (*Mar. 17, 2022 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 24, 2022 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2022 cQ-0.7]

Bill 2 — Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2022 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 110 (*Mar. 8, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 312-19 (*Mar. 22, 2022 aft.*), 391-95 (*Mar. 23, 2022 eve.*), 484-90 (*Mar. 29, 2022 aft.*), 565-71 (*Mar. 30, 2022 eve., adjourned*)

Bill 3 — Special Days Act (Orr)

First Reading — 124 (*Mar. 9, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 327 (*Mar. 22, 2022 eve., adjourned*), 343-45 (*Mar. 22, 2022 eve., adjourned*), 346 (*Mar. 22, 2022 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 375-78 (*Mar. 23, 2022 aft.*), 379 (*Mar. 23, 2022 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 389-91 (*Mar. 23, 2022 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 24, 2022 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force March 24, 2022; SA 2022 cS-16.3]

Bill 4 — Municipal Government (Face Mask and Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination Bylaws) Amendment Act, 2022 (McIver)

First Reading — 110 (*Mar. 8, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 163-77 (*Mar. 14, 2022 aft.*), 360-66 (*Mar. 23, 2022 aft.*), 396 (*Mar. 23, 2022 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 519-23 (*Mar. 29, 2022 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 571-79 (*Mar. 30, 2022 eve., passed on division*)

Bill 5 — Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2022 (Sawhney)

First Reading — 202 (*Mar. 16, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 319-26 (*Mar. 22, 2022 aft.*), 469-71 (*Mar. 28, 2022 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 523-24 (*Mar. 29, 2022 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 537-43 (*Mar. 30, 2022 aft., passed*)

Bill 6 — Emblems of Alberta Amendment Act, 2022 (Orr)

First Reading — 228 (*Mar. 17, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 502-505 (*Mar. 29, 2022 aft.*), 513-14 (*Mar. 29, 2022 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 562-65 (*Mar. 30, 2022 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 594-98 (*Mar. 31, 2022 aft., passed*)

Bill 7 — Appropriation Act, 2022 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 272-73 (*Mar. 21, 2022 eve., passed*)

Second Reading — 310-11 (*Mar. 22, 2022 aft., adjourned*), 327-36 (*Mar. 22, 2022 eve., adjourned*), 345 (*Mar. 22, 2022 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 366-75 (*Mar. 23, 2022 aft.*), (*Mar. 23, 2022 eve.*), 395 (*Mar. 23, 2022 eve., passed on division*)

Third Reading — 411-14 (*Mar. 24, 2022 aft.*), 419 (*Mar. 24, 2022 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 24, 2022 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force March 24, 2022; c1]

Bill 8 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2022 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 297 (*Mar. 21, 2022 eve., passed*)

Second Reading — 311-12 (*Mar. 22, 2022 aft., adjourned*), 336-43 (*Mar. 22, 2022 eve., adjourned*), 345-46 (*Mar. 22, 2022 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 379-89 (*Mar. 23, 2022 eve.*), 395 (*Mar. 23, 2022 eve., passed on division*)

Third Reading — 414-19 (*Mar. 24, 2022 aft.*), 419 (*Mar. 24, 2022 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 24, 2022 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force March 24, 2022; c2]

Bill 9 — Public's Right to Know Act (Shandro)

First Reading — 309 (*Mar. 22, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 447-54 (*Mar. 28, 2022 aft.*), 455-63 (*Mar. 28, 2022 eve., adjourned*)

Bill 10 — Health Professions (Protecting Women and Girls) Amendment Act, 2022 (Aheer)

First Reading — 408 (*Mar. 24, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 463-69 (*Mar. 28, 2022 eve.*), 543-50 (*Mar. 30, 2022 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 11 — Continuing Care Act (Copping)

First Reading — 432 (*Mar. 28, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 550-56 (*Mar. 30, 2022 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 12 — Trustee Act (Shandro)

First Reading — 483 (*Mar. 29, 2022 aft., passed*)

Bill 13 — Financial Innovation Act (Toews)

First Reading — 535 (*Mar. 30, 2022 aft., passed*)

Bill 14 — Provincial Court (Sexual Awareness Training) Amendment Act, 2022 (Issik)

First Reading — 535-36 (*Mar. 30, 2022 aft., passed*)

Bill 15 — Education (Reforming Teacher Profession Discipline) Amendment Act, 2022 (LaGrange)

First Reading — (*Mar. 31, 2022 aft., passed*)

Bill 201 — Eastern Slopes Protection Act (Notley)

First Reading — 156 (*Mar. 14, 2022 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*), 432 (*Mar. 28, 2022 aft., committee recommendation that Bill not proceed reported to Assembly; motion on concurrence to take place Monday, April 18, 2022*)

Bill 202 — Public Health (Transparency and Accountability) Amendment Act, 2022 (Loewen)

First Reading — 110 (*Mar. 8, 2022 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*), 309 (*Mar. 22, 2022 aft., committee recommendation that Bill proceed reported to Assembly*), 433-40 (*Mar. 28, 2022 aft., debate on concurrence motion; proceeded with*)

Bill 203 — Technology Innovation and Alberta Venture Fund Act (Bilous)

First Reading — 228 (*Mar. 17, 2022 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*)

Bill 204 — Anti-Racism Act (Shepherd)

First Reading — 408 (*Mar. 24, 2022 aft., passed*)

Bill 205 — Human Tissue and Organ Donation (Mandatory Referral) Amendment Act, 2022 (Sigurdson, RJ)

First Reading — (*Mar. 31, 2022 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*)

Bill Pr1 — Calgary Young Men's Christian Association Amendment Act, 2022 (Jones)

First Reading — 309 (*Mar. 22, 2022 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*)

Bill Pr2 — Calgary Heritage Authority Amendment Act, 2022 (Nixon, JP)

First Reading — 309 (*Mar. 22, 2022 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*)

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