



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, March 23, 2023

Day 24

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 30th Legislature

Fourth Session

Cooper, Hon. Nathan M., Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UC), Speaker
Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie-East (UC), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees
Reid, Roger W., Livingstone-Macleod (UC), Deputy Chair of Committees

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

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

Party standings:

United Conservative: 60

New Democrat: 23

Independent: 2

Vacant: 2

Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

Shannon Dean, KC, Clerk
Teri Cherkewich, Law Clerk
Trafton Koenig, Senior Parliamentary
Counsel
Philip Massolin, Clerk Assistant and
Director of House Services

Nancy Robert, Clerk of *Journals* and
Committees
Janet Schwegel, Director of Parliamentary
Programs
Amanda LeBlanc, Deputy Editor of
Alberta Hansard

Terry Langley, Sergeant-at-Arms
Gareth Scott, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms
Lang Bawn, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

Executive Council

Danielle Smith	Premier, President of Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Relations
Kaycee Madu	Deputy Premier, Minister of Skilled Trades and Professions
Nathan Neudorf	Deputy Premier, Minister of Infrastructure
Mickey Amery	Minister of Children's Services
Jason Copping	Minister of Health
Devin Dreesen	Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors
Mike Ellis	Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services
Nate Glubish	Minister of Technology and Innovation
Pete Guthrie	Minister of Energy
Nate Horner	Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Brian Jean	Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development
Matt Jones	Minister of Affordability and Utilities
Adriana LaGrange	Minister of Education
Todd Loewen	Minister of Forestry, Parks and Tourism
Jason Luan	Minister of Culture
Nicholas Milliken	Minister of Mental Health and Addiction
Dale Nally	Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction
Demetrios Nicolaides	Minister of Advanced Education
Jeremy Nixon	Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services
Brad Rutherford	Minister without Portfolio
Sonya Savage	Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
Rajan Sawhney	Minister of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism
Joseph Schow	Minister without Portfolio
Rebecca Schulz	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Tyler Shandro	Minister of Justice
Travis Toews	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
Rick Wilson	Minister of Indigenous Relations

Parliamentary Secretaries

Tracy Allard	Parliamentary Secretary for Civil Liberties
Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk	Parliamentary Secretary for Ukrainian Refugee Settlement
Tanya Fir	Parliamentary Secretary for Status of Women
Shane Getson	Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Corridors
David Hanson	Parliamentary Secretary for Procurement Transformation
Martin Long	Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business
Miranda Rosin	Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism
R.J. Sigurdson	Parliamentary Secretary for EMS Reform
Devinder Toor	Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism
Glenn van Dijken	Parliamentary Secretary for Agrifood Development
Tany Yao	Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health
Muhammad Yaseen	Parliamentary Secretary for Community Outreach

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Orr

Deputy Chair: Mrs. Allard

Eggen
Gottfried
Gray
Hunter
Issik
Phillips
Pon

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Chair: Mr. van Dijken

Deputy Chair: Ms Goehring

Allard
Armstrong-Homeniuk
Barnes
Bilous
Carson
Feehan
McIver
Rowswell
Stephan
Walker

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Ms Lovely

Deputy Chair: Ms Sigurdson

Armstrong-Homeniuk
Carson
Dang
Fir
Gottfried
Long
Sabir
Smith, Mark
Yao
Yaseen

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Smith

Deputy Chair: Mr. van Dijken

Ceci
Dach
Hunter
Loyola
Orr
Panda
Rehn
Shepherd
Toor

Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

Chair: Mr. Cooper

Deputy Chair: Mr. Williams

Deol
Fir
Goehring
Gray
McIver
Pon
Rowswell
Sabir
van Dijken

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Chair: Mr. Williams

Deputy Chair: Ms Rosin

Irwin
Lovely
Nielsen
Nixon, Jason
Panda
Rehn
Sigurdson, L.
Singh
Sweet

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Mr. Reid

Deputy Chair: Mr. Gottfried

Aheer
Allard
Armstrong-Homeniuk
Deol
Ganley
Loyola
Nixon, Jason
Rehn
Renaud
Yao

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Ms Phillips

Deputy Chair: Mr. Turton

Hunter
Lovely
Pancholi
Panda
Renaud
Schmidt
Singh
Stephan
Toor
Yaseen

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Chair: Mr. Hanson

Deputy Chair: Mr. Feehan

Aheer
Dach
Ganley
Getson
Issik
Nielsen
Orr
Sigurdson, R.J.
Singh
Turton

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 23, 2023

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

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

Hon. members, we will now be led in the singing of *God Save the King* by the hon. the Member for Chestermere-Strathmore.

Hon. Members:

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

The Speaker: Please be seated.

Statement by the Speaker Legislative Assembly Office Staff

The Speaker: Hon. members, following the 2019 election I don't think anyone could have predicted the challenges that would arise in the coming four years. Through it all the Legislative Assembly Office staff helped to ensure parliamentary continuity as we faced so much uncertainty. We were just mere months into the 30th Legislature, and the Legislative Assembly staff leapt to action and stood the test of time. The LAO staff remained agile and resilient to ensure the Assembly and its committees could continue to operate safely and the business of parliament could continue.

During this time the LAO also launched multiyear enterprise resource systems to enhance and modernize human resource, payroll, finance, and IT systems throughout the organization. Staff worked hard to improve access to a new mobile-friendly website, virtual tours, online education programming, video, social media, and broadcasting. Last year the LAO expanded upon a 2021 pilot project to incorporate American sign language, or ASL, into the broadcast of our daily Routine.

Members, it's my absolute pleasure to serve as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and as the head of the Legislative Assembly Office, and it is the work and the dedication of these knowledgeable professionals that make the LAO an absolutely outstanding and incredible organization, and this year we did that as we marked its 40th anniversary.

Today joining us in the gallery are close to 30 members of the Legislative Assembly Office team that so rarely join us here in the Assembly because they are busy about the work of the people. I invite them to rise and receive the thank you from the members.
[Standing ovation]

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: Hon. members, we have a number of guests joining us in the Speaker's gallery today that I would like to introduce. The family of one of our pages, Joy Yang: I'm pleased to introduce Joy's mother, Ms Wu; her aunt Ms Xiang; her uncle Mr. Lin; and her cousin Andrea Lin. I invite them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Also joining us today are three members of the Speaker's office team. They are a critical support to the Speaker, and certainly the work of your Speaker could not be undertaken without them. I'd like to personally express a sincere and a lifelong debt of gratitude and thank you to each of them for making it happen: Ms Erin Camponi, Mr. Santiago Jimenez Loza, and Ms Katja – they didn't put the phonetics in – Oosthuis. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont has an introduction.

Mr. Rutherford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this will be my last introduction in this Assembly, I thought I would make it for the most important person to me. My wife, Lora, is joining us up in the gallery. For the last 15 years I've worked a lot of shift work with the Edmonton Police Service and in this term a lot of hours away, a lot of late nights, and she's been incredibly strong and supportive of me throughout my career. I'll be spending a lot more time at home in the next few weeks, which I'm sure she will grow tired of shortly. But for now please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am so happy to introduce to you and through you to the House my first grandchild, my beautiful granddaughter, Amal Yaseen. Amal is accompanied by her parents, Aamar and Javeria, and my loving wife, Parveen. It is an honour to have my family members here today. I am so blessed to have their full support and love. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services and the Member for Calgary-Klein.

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you. I'm honoured today to be able to introduce to you and through you my daughters Alexis and Elizabeth Nixon. They are the apple of their father's eye and, I think, a bright, shining example of the hope for our future. I also want to introduce their class, who are watching live right now, and their teacher Mrs. Barone. Through you and to you, Mr. Speaker, please rise and receive the warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-Stony Plain has a school group.

Mr. Turton: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy to rise today and introduce to you and through you the fantastic grade 6 class from High Park school in Stony Plain along with their incredible teachers. I had the pleasure of meeting with them and this group earlier, and they asked some great questions, and I know that they're fantastic representatives of the town of Stony Plain. Students, please rise and accept the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you 19 students from John A. McDougall school in the heart of Edmonton-City Centre, a school I very much enjoy visiting

during the year at Read In Week and at other times. They're accompanied today by their teacher Victoria Land. I invite them to rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. the Deputy Chair of Committees.

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you it's my privilege and my pleasure today to introduce students and families from Rockyview Christian School in Pincher Creek. We talk about rural people doing lots of driving; this is a day trip for them to be in the Legislature. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Chamber.

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

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly two very important people in my life. It is a high calling to be a pastor, and I am so grateful that these gentlemen have faithfully ministered to me and my family. My two pastors, Pastor Kenton Penner and Pastor Joshua Holt, please stand and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Scott Crichton, Artem Litvyak, Olga Lytviak, and Natalie Lytviak. These guests organized a petition, that I'm going to present on behalf of the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods today, calling on the Legislative Assembly to express support for the people of Ukraine and oppose the Russian occupation. I ask them now to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

1:40

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Chestermere-Strathmore.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise and introduce the Moore family: LeAnne and her husband, David, as well as their children Olivia, Emmalee, and Samantha. I'd like to recognize Olivia specifically and commend her for her bravery and resilience that she shows every day.

I'd also like to welcome Anu Srivastava, a Canadian, Albertan, and for the last 18 years a passionate singer, an exceptional community leader, philanthropist, and entrepreneur, and a constant champion for women.

Lastly, I'd like to introduce Nandini Debnath, an amazing vocal artist, current mechanical engineering PhD student. Please rise and receive the warm welcome.

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

Mr. Rehn: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through I'd like to introduce my cousin Dave Morton, who's been involved in the forestry and trucking industries for many years; David Bensmiller, who comes from a great line of rodeo stock; and Marty McSorely, who does lots of charity and fundraising work, who's around here so much in the area he seems like a hometown boy. Thank you very much. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly Terry Gibson and Phil Rosenzweig. Terry is the founder of the Condo Owners Forum and Phil the treasurer, and they join us today to witness the tabling of their petition, containing signatures of over

1,000 condo owners. I ask them now to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Shandro: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly Mr. Patrick M. Haney. I ask that he rise – he's in the member's gallery right now – as he receives the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Forestry, Parks and Tourism.

Mr. Loewen: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the following individuals from the Ministry of Forestry, Parks and Tourism. Please rise as I say your name: Samantha Steinke, press secretary; Claire Toews, arch co-ordinator; Pam Davidson, ministerial assistant and Senator-elect; and Shannon Fowler, scheduler. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Members' Statements

Canada Pension Plan

Member Ceci: The Canada pension plan is a pension my parents relied on in part to make up their income into the retirement years. Albertans trust their Canada pension plan. It's been around since the 1960s. Albertans are telling us loud and clear that they do not want their CPP touched, Albertans like the tens of thousands who have signed online petitions. Mr. Speaker, these Albertans are motivated and want the members of the UCP government to hear loud and clear: keep your hands off our CPP.

Later today I'll table a petition. This petition was started by members of the public who wanted more than an online petition. They wanted to put their name to a paper to give directly to this House. These Albertans took this matter into their own hands and took pen to paper to prove to this Premier and the UCP that they don't support an Alberta pension plan.

Mr. Speaker, as I wrap up my final member's statement of the 30th Legislature, I'll leave with this: Albertans trust the Canada pension plan; Albertans want it left alone. The good news is that soon Albertans can do more than sign petitions that for years have fallen on the deaf ears of the UCP government. In 67 days Albertans can vote to protect their futures and their pensions, vote to show this Premier and the UCP the door, and vote to elect an Alberta NDP government.

Affordable Housing

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, Alberta's UCP government has focused on making life more affordable, especially for those most in need. A major part of our focus has been to expand access to affordable housing, which provides families and individuals a safe and secure place to call home. Whether they be a senior who has spent their life working hard on contributing to the Alberta we have today, an individual who has gone through Alberta's world-class addiction recovery system, a woman with her children who has fled domestic violence, someone living with a disability on a monthly fixed income, a veteran who has fought for our freedoms as Canadians, or even a low-income family that is struggling to make ends meet, affordable housing serves thousands of Albertans facing a wide range of challenges.

Mr. Speaker, that's why our government recently announced a huge \$120 million to directly support 28 affordable housing projects, creating nearly 1,100 new units for families and individuals in need.

Now, you may probably remember that under an NDP government Alberta lost more than 180,000 jobs, and the wait-list for affordable housing grew by 76 per cent, meaning fewer families were able to afford a place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we believe in compassionate conservatism. Whether it is my annual veterans food drive for Calgary veterans or raising \$83,000 for the Calgary cancer foundation or \$62,000 for prematurely born babies, it's all about compassionate conservatism, helping people that need help. As Albertans prepare to vote in the upcoming election, I ask you all to think about the track records of both parties and their impact on your community in making life . . .

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

Adoption Supports

Mr. Turton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many Albertans desperately want to start or grow their families but simply cannot afford it. Between the expenses, long waits, and the complex process, these Albertans are losing hope of becoming parents through adopting a child. I've listened to their stories, and I've seen the sad look in their eyes when they talk about how long, expensive, and complicated it could be to adopt a child, which forces some of them to walk away from providing a child with a forever home, and it breaks my heart.

That is why I'm so pleased to see that our government is taking decisive action to remove these barriers and provide new funding supports for these families. Yesterday the UCP government announced a \$4 million investment over the next three years to make adoption more affordable to Albertans and help more children find a stable and loving home. We are boosting the adoption tax credit by almost \$4,000 to match the federal credit, which means we are putting more money in parents' pockets.

In addition, the funding package would cover the cost of supplemental health benefits for children adopted here in Alberta through licensed adoption agencies as well as government care. This will help remove medical cost barriers to adoption, especially for children with specialized medical needs. These new supports will benefit up to 5,000 children in the public system and help them find their forever homes.

There are many unknowns when parenting children, Mr. Speaker. Having assurances that there is extra support to manage a child's medical needs, whatever they might be, is going to lift a huge weight from the shoulders of families in our communities. It will allow parents to focus on taking care of their child instead of wondering how they're going to cover costs. By providing these benefits as well as subsidies and higher tax breaks for families looking to adopt, we are securing a strong future for children and families in Alberta.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

UCP Government Record

Ms Pancholi: Mr. Speaker, there are 67 days until the next election, 67 days until Alberta casts its final verdict on this UCP government. I know that concerns the members opposite, who will have to run on their record, their record of hiking utility prices, insurance rates, school fees, income taxes, property taxes, tuition, student loan interest, all the while handing out money to their friends and insiders.

Those members will have to explain why they stood and cheered while the Health minister started a war with doctors and created a generational health care crisis, explain why they whooped it up while the Education minister fired 20,000 education workers via

tweet while the government plotted to tear down the Rocky Mountains to mine for coal. They'll have to answer for the entitlement of Alohagate and the liquor cabinet sky palace patio parties.

They'll have to explain why they remained silent while a record number of children and youth died in their government's care. They will have to explain why they stood behind the current Premier as she justified the Russian invasion into Ukraine, insulted Indigenous communities, meddled in the justice system, blamed cancer patients for their own health conditions, and plotted to give away \$20 billion to pay bad companies to clean up their own messes.

But on this side of the House we have a leader we are proud of, a team that's truly united, and a vision for Alberta that is positive and forward looking. Mr. Speaker, Alberta's future is at stake in this election. That's why I know that on May 29 Albertans are going to elect an Alberta NDP government. We have stood up for all Albertans for four years as the Official Opposition. We are ready, eager, and honoured to have the privilege of serving you as your government.

See you at the polls, Alberta. Let's build a better future together. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order.

Forestry Families and Workers

Mr. Rehn: Mr. Speaker, it has been a privilege to serve with fellow Albertans who have worked hard and struggled to see a better tomorrow for our amazing province. It's not the naysayers who count or the people who point out how the strong stumble or who do the deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the people who are actually in the arena, whose faces are marred by dust, sweat, and blood, who at best know the triumph of high achievement and, at worst, if they fail, at least fail while daring greatly so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

1:50

Being from the north, I would like to pay tribute to all the past and present forestry workers and some great Alberta forestry families like the Buchanans, Bissells, and Vanderwells. In 1939 Julian Benson married my aunt Margaret Rehn, and they had three children: Marg, Joan, and Gerry. They started a thriving sawmill and a logging business and had over 100 men and women working for them near MacKay, Alberta. Unfortunately, in 1949 Julian, who was 39, got killed in a sawmilling accident. The people who worked for him had great admiration and respect and wrote this.

There's a pretty spot in Canada
It's a place they call MacKay,
A lovely patch to spend the night
When you're thumbin' on your way.

There's a vibrant, bustling, lumber camp
Just 13 miles below
Calling all who think they're a work champ
To come out and put on an awesome show.

Oh, the boss is Julian Benson,
And you often heard him mention
Of another great invention
George Cooling was his name.

He's brash, and he is lazy
Good natured, but he's crazy
In the gummy Jack pine timber,
That's where he won his fame.

They can talk about their north camps
And all their pretty lakes
But just take a trip to Julian's camp
And I'm sure it'll take the cake!

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: Are there no rules in this place? Pure anarchy when song breaks out.

Unfortunately, if the hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora will just take a seat for a brief moment, prior to moving to Oral Question Period, I would just like to take another brief opportunity and invite all retiring pages to join me here at the dais.

Statement by the Speaker

Page Recognition

The Speaker: As hon. members will be aware, at the end of every session – not that I would ever presuppose a decision of the Assembly, and who knows what the future holds? But I do know that the session will come to an end here in the next little while, and I would hate to miss the opportunity to thank the retiring pages. They've prepared a letter for all members of the Assembly, through me, and it goes as follows:

Dear Mr. Speaker,

As the end of this session approaches, many of us [pages] will be moving on from the Page Program. We, the retiring Pages, would like to express our gratitude for the incredible opportunity to serve the Legislative Assembly and participate in Alberta's democratic process.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Kaitlynn Church and all the staff in the Sergeant-at-Arms' office for their support and the excellent work they do overseeing the Program; to the Bills and Journals Clerks in 315 whose procedural knowledge is [critical] to our duties; to the members of the Legislative Assembly Security Service whose humour and stories make the time pass quickly; to the Members for their dedication in serving their constituents, and finally to the Table Officers and the Speaker for their dedication in facilitating democracy in our province and for their Leadership within this Chamber.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude for the opportunity to work alongside our fellow Pages. The friendships we have made in the Program will last a lifetime, and we are forever grateful for the opportunity to work on such a dynamic and outstanding team. We will all miss working as Pages.

Yours sincerely,

The retiring Pages

Ayla, Sophie, Alison, Amelia, Angelina, George, Joy,
Laura, William

On behalf of all members of the Assembly let me say a very special thank you to each and every one of you for everything that you do. There's a more than likely chance that in a few years you'll have most of our jobs. Thank you so very much. Hon. members, the retiring pages. [Standing ovation]

Oral Question Period

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

Pension Plans

Ms Hoffman: Your pension is yours: that's the name of our Alberta NDP proposal to protect Albertans' retirement savings which the Leader of the Opposition presented in Calgary earlier today. From the pipeline tech who hits the road in minus 40 to the teacher up all night working on tomorrow's lesson plan, Albertans have a right to

know that their retirement is secure and free from political meddling. With an Alberta NDP government your CPP will be secure and protected in legislation. Why is the UCP so obsessed with gambling away Albertans' pensions?

Mr. Toews: Well, Mr. Speaker, what I can say is that members on this side of the House believe Albertans' pensions are secure. What we are doing and we've been tasked to do is taking a look at the opportunity of an Alberta pension plan. The NDP would not give Albertans that opportunity, but this government will. We have done the work. We're completing the work. We will ensure Albertans ultimately can make the choice. It's their pension. It's their choice.

Ms Hoffman: Nice words, Mr. Speaker, but one of the first things the UCP government did was seize control of many Albertans' pensions. Teachers, firefighters, county clerks all used to have a voice in the management of their retirement savings until the UCP took it away. An Alberta NDP government will restore joint governance for public-sector pensions, giving employees representation on the AIMCo board, and if those employees decide that they want to leave AIMCo's management, they'll be free to do so. With the Alberta NDP your pension is yours. Why did the UCP seize control of these pensions in the first place and take away Albertans' control of their own retirement?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, something that hasn't changed in four years is the ability and propensity of the members opposite to fearmonger unnecessarily. We have worked to secure the pensions of all Albertans and Alberta public-sector workers. We have worked with AIMCo. We have worked with the pension service administrators to position those pensions for maximum growth, for maximum efficiency for the benefit of Alberta workers.

Ms Hoffman: Well, with our plan we actually want to go further. An Alberta NDP government will work with the private and nonprofit sectors to help establish a voluntary workplace pension plan, with the province covering the administrative costs. This unlocks the potential for so many small businesses and nonprofits to offer their employees a secure, defined contribution pension. That would be transformative. It will help attract global talent to Alberta. I'm proud to have a leader who is fighting for working people and who wants them to have a stable future and a secure retirement. I wish the soon to be opposition could say the same.

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, when we take a look at the track record of the NDP when they were in office, what they did was this. They raised taxes. They raised fees. They added regulatory burden. They stood in the way of large projects necessary for our economy. They chased out tens of billions of dollars of capital and, with it, over a hundred thousand jobs. That's their legacy. Our legacy is job creation and a balanced budget.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora for her second set of questions.

Physician Recruitment and Retention

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, there's a profound crisis in Alberta health care driven by the UCP's war on health care workers and the Premier's love of conspiracy theories and junk science. Alberta medical students are voting with their feet. New data from the Canadian residency matching system shows that Alberta has 42 residency spaces left open this year but in B.C. only two. Medical students don't see a future launching their careers in Alberta under

the UCP. Does the Premier take any responsibility for chasing these young doctors away from their own province?

Mr. Copping: Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud of the work our government is doing in investing and improving our health care system. We are investing \$24.5 billion, the highest amount ever, into our health care system. We are expanding our medical programs at the U of C and the U of A. What you hear on the other side when they're making comments is, quite frankly, fearmongering. Yes, in the first round of matching 42 are unmatched, but let's put that into perspective. That's 42 out of 351 positions unmatched across the entire country. We are investing in health care, we're investing in our doctors, and we're going to keep investing . . .

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

Ms Hoffman: For the past three years we've heard from family doctors who were retiring early, leaving their profession, or leaving the province due to the hostility faced by the UCP. This government tore up their contract and piled a mountain of new paperwork on them just as the pandemic hit Alberta. The former Health minister even visited a doctor at his home, yelling at him in front of his children. Now we know that the med students who should be taking their place in Alberta are looking elsewhere. Those 42 doctors could make a big difference in many Alberta communities. Does the Premier understand that she's causing permanent harm to Alberta families needing doctors?

2:00

Mr. Copping: Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out and make sure that the opposition understands that this is the first round. This is typically done. You have one round in terms of matching. Then there's a second round to be able to fill. Now, historically, even under the previous government, they didn't fill all those spaces, but we're going to actually change the process. I've already asked the department to work with the deans to make sure that if there are any unfilled spaces, and typically they are – just so you know, we've had over the last eight years more than 95 per cent filled, but if there are any unfilled spaces, we'll provide them to IMGs because we need more doctors . . .

The Speaker: The hon. the Member for Edmonton-Glenora.

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, there are entire cities or regions in our province where you can't find a family doctor who's accepting new patients. Families in Red Deer, Lethbridge, and the entire Bow Valley are left with nowhere to go but an overwhelmed hospital. Alberta's NDP will fix this with family health teams which connect a million Albertans with a family doctor and primary care. We will build buildings that are great places to work and great places for families to get their health care needs met. Will the Premier admit that her chaos is chasing a generation of young doctors out of Alberta? Everyone knows it's true.

Mr. Copping: Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of the work that our government is doing and will continue to do in bringing more doctors into this province. We have more doctors than there have ever been in this province, and actually, if we compare 2022, as of December 31, to 2021: 254 more doctors into the province to be able to expand services for Albertans. Now, we appreciate there are challenges; we still need more doctors. That's why I'm very pleased in places like Lethbridge, where we're leveraging our international medical graduates, 17 more doctors have signed on over the next 10 months. They're going to continue to do the work, and we're not going to stop until everyone here gets access. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning and opposition deputy House leader.

Energy Company Liability

Ms Sweet: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. During question period yesterday I asked the Energy minister why he's still trying to force onto Alberta the Premier's R-star program. The current Energy minister said that the program doesn't exist, yet the former Energy minister has said that the program will violate the polluter-pay principle, and the current Premier, the former lobbyist, advocated for the program in this very building. I'm also hearing from landowners who say that this is kind of like the henhouse a fox would build. So who should Albertans believe: the former Energy minister, the current minister, the current Premier, or the landowners that the government is clearly ignoring?

Mr. Guthrie: Mr. Speaker, what a woeful group of provocateurs. Let's talk a little bit about the motion that they put forward this week. Our province saw negative oil prices. People's livelihoods were at stake, and the SRP program was created to help stimulate jobs by incentivizing well site closure. SRP closed up to 38,000 sites and employed thousands of Albertans, putting food on the table. The NDP? They say: no; let them eat cake. Say hello to Alberta's anti oil and gas, antibusiness, anti-Alberta . . .

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

Ms Sweet: Well, Mr. Speaker, our record is one pipeline; UCP, zero pipelines.

In Alberta Albertans have benefited from oil and gas revenue for generations, in large part due to royalties that oil companies have had to pay. The Premier's scheme would give these royalties away to bad companies who don't feel they need to clean up after themselves without getting paid. This would reward the bad companies and the lobbyists, who are putting in for this handout while Albertans are losing. It's no wonder the Premier is keeping her plan secret. Will she just admit this was never about cleaning up wells and actually about giving Albertans' money to her friends and . . .

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Guthrie: Mr. Speaker, the activist mentality of the NDP has a target, to end fossil fuel production. They want to do it by driving up the cost of doing business, raising the carbon tax to \$170 and beyond, introducing windfall taxes, introducing corporate taxes, higher electricity costs, red tape, and confiscating land to curtail development. By doing so, the NDP want to make life more expensive for everyone. On this side of the House we are focused on prosperity and making life more affordable for Alberta families.

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

Ms Sweet: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's clear to me and to most Albertans that this government is trying really hard to hide the details about this \$20 billion handout from Albertans, right on the eve of the election. We heard it from the municipal leaders this week, we've heard it from landowners all over the province, and it's clear that the government has no intention of sharing their plans with Albertans or collaborating with them. So I have an offer to the minister: how about you come and join me tonight on my consultation at albertasfuture.ca? I'll even give you a shout-out. You want to join me?

Mr. Guthrie: Mr. Speaker, it's amazing to me to see how easy it is for the NDP to run fast and loose with the truth. They were not forthright with Albertans on their secret carbon tax or their ideological imposition against farmers and ranchers with Bill 6, not to mention their social licence alliance with Justin Trudeau. It reminds me of a saying: I'm not upset that you lied to me; I'm upset that from now on I can no longer believe you. That is exactly how Albertans feel about this NDP.

Calgary's Economy

Member Ceci: In the last election the UCP promised to fill the offices in downtown Calgary, but today Calgary has the highest downtown office vacancy rate in the country, and there are fewer head offices in the city than there were when the UCP government formed. Members of the UCP said that it wasn't their job to support downtown Calgary, and in this year's budget there wasn't a single dollar for downtown revitalization, which the Calgary Chamber of commerce CEO said was an insult. Why is the UCP ignoring Calgary as the city continues to struggle under this government?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're doing anything but ignoring Calgary. Calgary is a critical city in this province. I find it very interesting that the members opposite, who were in government at the time that billions of dollars of wealth left this province, at a time when those towers began emptying out, would have the gall to raise the issue. This government, our government, has positioned Alberta's economy . . . [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Whoa, whoa, whoa.

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, our government has positioned this economy for competitiveness, investment attraction, and growth, and it's growth that we're seeing.

Member Ceci: The UCP also promised to create jobs for Calgarians in the last election, but today Calgary has the highest unemployment rate in the country among major cities. This comes after the UCP declared economic diversification a luxury and cut several tax credits that were attracting investment and creating jobs. They also delayed vital projects like the green line, that would have created 20,000 jobs, supported economic growth, and reduced CO₂ emissions. Why has the UCP spent the last four years holding Calgary back?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the NDP chased out investment and jobs, this government is investing in Calgary, which is resulting in job creation. We've invested hundreds of millions of dollars in critical . . . [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

You could run again if you wanted the job.

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, we've invested hundreds of millions of dollars in critical infrastructure in Calgary, but moreover we've created an investment climate where we're seeing real true sustainable economic diversification. The tech sector is leading the nation in growth. Financial services are exploding. Film and television, manufacturing – I could go on.

Member Ceci: The UCP claims there is no business case to convert empty spaces in downtown Calgary, but their own report says that investment and office conversion is required to revitalize the city's core. Meanwhile the business community is asking for tax credits to be restored in order to attract investment and jobs. The Premier actually promised to do this and then broke her promise. An Alberta NDP government would go a step further and bring a bustling postsecondary campus downtown. When the UCP break their promises and don't even take their own advice, how can Calgarians possibly trust anything this Premier says?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, every time the member opposite rises, I'm afraid of another credit downgrade.

This government is positioning this province for competitiveness and growth. We're seeing economic diversification at rates I've not seen in my lifetime. Financial services, tech, manufacturing, De Havilland announcing their manufacturing plant just outside of Calgary: Mr. Speaker, Alberta is winning.

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

2:10

Affordable Housing

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta's UCP government has been hard at work cleaning up the mess of the NDP following their misdirected term of office. This has required improved fiscal management, investment attraction versus divestment, and enhanced support of the broader interests of Albertans. Affordable housing is just one of the countless matters the NDP has failed on as they increased the wait-list by 76 per cent through their four years in office. Can the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services tell the House how our government's collaborative approach is different from the failings of the NDP with respect to affordable housing?

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

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Member for Calgary-Fish Creek for his hard work over the last eight years. Congratulations on a great career. Part of our success has been because of that member's strong advocacy for affordable housing over the last eight years and his amazing work in the sector before his public life, so thank you to that member.

The biggest difference, I'd say, between what we saw under the NDP and what we see under this government is a focus on collaboration. We're working with municipal governments, we're working with federal governments, but we're also working with the not-for-profit and private community to find innovative solutions for how we can increase the supply.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. Given that affordable housing and housing affordability broadly serves thousands and millions of Albertans, including seniors, low-income families, those living with disabilities, women and children who have fled domestic violence, and given that there is significant need for more access to affordable housing, especially in our two major cities of Calgary and Edmonton, can the hon. minister tell the House what investments are being made specifically to support innovative new projects in affordable housing?

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

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the member for the question. Through the innovative, collaborative programs we're taking initiatives to work alongside not-for-profits that work in these sectors, that understand the clients. By working alongside not-for-profits, we're able to build innovative programs, and that's led to success. Just in the last month we've announced almost 1,100 new units of affordable housing, and over the period of this government we have built over 2,500 new units of affordable housing. That's because of those strong, collaborative initiatives. That means more women who are fleeing domestic violence are going to have a place to stay. More people exiting homelessness are going to have a place to stay. More people . . .

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the minister for his answer. Given that Alberta's UCP government is committed to making life more affordable in Alberta, ensuring that those most in need, as mentioned, are able to access the supports they need but given that the previous NDP government is actually the one that made life more expensive as they conspired with their Liberal friends in Ottawa to implement a damaging carbon tax, meaning more and more people are now in need of affordable housing and housing supports, to the hon. minister: how is Budget 2023 securing a bright future for the many vulnerable and hard-working Albertans that rely on affordable housing?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unlike the previous government, we're actually building housing. In Budget 2023 we've invested a billion dollars towards improving existing buildings, to funding operations as well as building new housing, again, 1,100 units announced just in the last month. Our stronger foundations plan, which the good member had a great role in developing, is going to be investing in and building out 25,000 additional units of housing over the next 10 years so that more Albertans have a place to call home.

Again, thank you to that member for his long advocacy. I look forward to working with him long into the future.

Utility Rebate Programs and Multifamily Buildings

Ms Sigurdson: Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to be joined today by condo owners who represent a large portion of the population that has been overlooked by this government's supposed affordability measures. The Minister of Affordability and Utilities has said that his department is working on changes that will allow more people in submetered and single-metered multifamily homes to apply for electricity rebates available to other Albertans. Minister, when will rebates for condo owners be available, and will it be prior to the election?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Affordability and Utilities.

Mr. Jones: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we want as many Albertans to benefit from our affordability program as possible. That includes our electricity rebates, which are providing up to \$500 to 1.9 million farms, small businesses, and homes across Alberta. When it comes to Albertans living in units behind a sub- or single meter, there are technical challenges that my department is working to overcome, and we also want to ensure that these payments are nontaxable and that they wouldn't jeopardize the nonprofit status of these condo associations.

Thank you very much.

Ms Sigurdson: Given that natural gas rebates have been made a permanent part of the affordability action plan, they are potentially even more of an issue for multi-unit buildings because the vast majority share a single meter for natural gas. Given that currently the same Albertans are not eligible for the natural gas rebates because the caps put on the program only allow individual homes, small businesses, and small apartments to qualify, why hasn't the UCP government removed this cap so that residents and all residential multifamily buildings qualify for the natural gas rebates?

Mr. Jones: I'd like to thank the COF and the members opposite for their advocacy on this issue. The member opposite did a good job outlining some of the challenges of getting these rebates to those Albertans as we transition the program from what was a temporary price protection program to a permanent feature of Alberta where Albertans will benefit from an owned resource and be protected from natural gas spikes, as seen around the world. As we make that transition, we're looking at this situation, trying to find options, ways to get those rebates to all Albertans.

Thank you.

Ms Sigurdson: Given that this government failed these Albertans with their so-called affordability supports and given that we are approaching an election, with the UCP having failed to address their concerns, why should the hard-working people in Alberta, who have been consistently overlooked and ignored by this UCP government for four years, expect anything new from the UCP? Will the minister apologize for failing these Albertans for so long?

The Speaker: The hon. the minister.

Mr. Jones: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for her question. We are of course looking at options to expand these rebates to more Albertans. But we also have a number of other supports: our affordability payments, which are going to virtually all seniors in this province 65 and up, the vast majority of households with families with dependent children under 18, and to Albertans on core support programs, \$600 over six months. We've removed the fuel tax, saving everybody on every litre at the pump. Perhaps our greatest affordability measure is that every day we keep the socialists out of government.

Racism and Hate Crime Prevention

Mr. Sabir: Yesterday Stats Canada reported that hate-motivated crimes are on the rise in Canada and Alberta. Police-reported stats showed that nationally there was a 27 per cent increase in 2021, following a 35 per cent increase in 2020. In Alberta the number of hate-motivated crimes against religious groups tripled to 91 incidents in 2021. No Albertan should ever have to feel unsafe in their communities. These numbers show that action must be taken. Why has the UCP failed to step up?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism.

Mrs. Sawhney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for that question. I have read this report, and I share the concern across the country in the rise of hate-based crimes. That's what's important to point out, the historical, groundbreaking work that the government of Alberta has done in terms of engagement with the community and actually putting steps in place to make sure that we are drafting antiracism legislation and putting more protections in place for cultural communities.

Mr. Sabir: Given that the work the government did is not working and given that, sadly, 2021 saw the total number of reported hate crimes in Alberta increase to over 300 and given that one step that could have helped address incidents of racism is the collection of race-based data – something our caucus proposed, but the UCP refused to debate it – does the minister regret the UCP's refusal to support the collection of race-based data, that would help in fighting racism across this province?

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say again that we have undertaken historical and groundbreaking work on the antiracism file. We've done tremendous work in terms of multicultural engagement all across the province, and that includes the collection of data. It's important to do this engagement before you put any legislation in place. The Anti-Racism Advisory Council has also been instrumental in advising us. We have done tremendous engagement, and that engagement will continue.

Mr. Sabir: Given that on her first day in office the Premier dismissed the discrimination experienced by so many different racialized Albertans and has refused to apologize yet and given that our caucus conducted extensive consultations with racialized Albertans to create recommendations on how to end racism and given that with information showing that incidents of hate crimes are on the rise in Alberta, we need to work together to ensure that we finally end racism in Alberta, will the Premier take this last chance to formally apologize for her deeply insulting comments and inaction?

2:20

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, this is not a partisan issue. Everybody in Alberta, whether they're a temporary resident, a refugee, a newcomer, or have been living here for generations, every resident deserves to feel safe, included, and celebrated. This government is committed to making sure that happens. Through the multiculturalism portfolio I'm proud to say that we have actually announced historical funding for ethnocultural communities, \$4 million in next year's budget, to help with antiracism initiatives and social cohesion.

Federal and Provincial Carbon Pricing

Mr. Barnes: This April Fool's Day Ottawa will continue to play us all for suckers with a hike in the inflationary carbon tax of 14 cents per litre on gasoline and 12 cents per cubic metre of natural gas. Given that this tax unfairly burdens rural residents who need to drive for work, for health care, for education, and for recreation and given that this tax directly hammers families and those on fixed incomes and given that this tax unfairly targets Alberta and western Canadian primary sector industries, to the Premier: please tell us when you're going to start fighting for a fair deal, a fair deal for Alberta families.

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member opposite in his propensity to stand up for Albertans and stand against Ottawa. Number one, we need regime change in Ottawa, and every Canadian should be working to that end over the next two years. I call on the members opposite to stand with the government on this side of the House against the Trudeau-Singh alliance, which is pushing our nation's economy backwards. We're doing everything we can to position Alberta for competitiveness, investment attraction, and growth.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, that's interesting, considering that this government will also be increasing its provincial carbon tax by \$15 per tonne on April 1. Given that on December 15 this government approved an order in council to tie the provincial industrial carbon tax to the federal carbon tax pricing schedule and given that the federal government plans to triple its carbon tax by 2030 and given that the Minister of Energy has publicly stated – and I quote – that this is good news for the province, can the Premier please explain: why are federal carbon taxes devastating but provincial carbon tax is wonderful?

Mr. Toews: Well, Mr. Speaker, we've had a carbon levy on heavy industrial emitters for years, for a long, long time. We've worked with the industry on that levy. The funds raised in that levy largely go towards technology improvements. But I want to be clear. We stand against the federal government's carbon tax. We took the federal government to court over that carbon tax, we've opposed the members opposite when they brought in that carbon tax, and we will stand up for Albertans' interests.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying: there's only one taxpayer. Given that provincial carbon taxes on industrial emitters are passed on to consumers, just like all other forms of corporate taxation, and given that the bottom lines of family budgets do not differentiate between provincial or federal taxes and given that rapid inflation means every dollar taken from Albertans' wallets hurts now more than ever, will the Premier please explain to us why she believes this is a good time to hike the provincial carbon tax?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, low taxes are important. In Budget '23, through financial discipline and fiscal discipline, we've been able to keep Alberta's taxes the lowest in the country. In fact, the next lowest tax jurisdiction, which is Ontario: if we applied their structure over Alberta, we would be collecting \$20 billion more. Albertans have a \$20 billion tax advantage compared to any province in the country. We're going to keep it that way.

Rural Hospital Service Disruptions

Member Loyola: Mr. Speaker, AHS has just announced the closure of Ponoka's emergency department. Albertans need access to health care, and every day the UCP pushes Alberta's health care system further and further into crisis. It is unacceptable, and I'm tired of waiting to see which community in our province will be harmed next by the UCP's health care crisis. These UCP hospital closures put Albertans' lives at risk, so will the minister stand here today and explain to the people of Ponoka how long they should expect to go without emergency health care services?

Mr. Copping: Well, thank you to the hon. member for the question. Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, you know, there are challenges that we're seeing here in Alberta and, quite frankly, across the entire country with staff to be able to make sure that we maintain the services, particularly in rural areas. I had the opportunity to tour the province, rural areas, and speak with municipalities and speak with AHS employees, and we are making change. Part of our change is investing in a health workforce strategy so we get more people – and we're doing that across the entire province – additional seats for doctors, for nurses, and other allied health professionals, and we'll . . .

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

Member Loyola: Given that the people of Ponoka deserve access to health care, just as expectant mothers in Sundre and Barrhead

deserve access to health care and the people of south Edmonton and of Red Deer and so on and so on and given that across the province AHS is reporting dozens of partial hospital closures and given that AHS reporting alone shows that our health care is in crisis under this UCP government, does the Health minister take any responsibility for the dozens of hospital closures on his watch and for the danger he has exposed all these Alberta families to?

Mr. Copping: Mr. Speaker, we know this is an issue, and we are working to address it. Part of our health human workforce strategy is to train people in rural areas. A great example is in Wainwright, with the U of C setting up a program where nurses apply to the program, do the initial part of it online, and then work at the Wainwright hospital for on-the-job training. We are going to be expanding that program out. In addition, we are working very hard to attract and retain internationally trained nurses, internationally trained doctors. We know this is a problem, and we're working . . .

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Member Loyola: Given that Albertans should never have had to deal with these closures and disruptions in the first place and given that the people of Ponoka, just like all Albertans, have a right to health care close to home and given that right now across our province Albertans are suffering because they cannot get the care that they need – let me say it again, Mr. Speaker: they are suffering because of this government – will the minister stand here today and apologize to all the people and their families who have faced hardship and anxiety as a direct result of this government's damage to Alberta's health care?

Mr. Copping: Mr. Speaker, we are fully aware of the challenges that are being faced in rural Alberta. We hear that every day. I'm very pleased that I was able to speak with members of the RMA earlier this week and talk about all of the things that we're doing as a government to ensure that we can rebuild the services in rural Alberta. This is not a new problem. This problem existed pre-COVID, actually even prior to this government, but we are taking action to fix it. We have a health care workforce strategy to get more people into rural Alberta, and we'll keep getting till it's done.

Appeals Secretariat

Ms Renaud: Mr. Speaker, it was three years ago when the Appeals Secretariat received a complaint from Bill Day, who was mistreated during his wife's appeal. Bill has a hearing loss, and AISH, an agency that works with disabled people, failed to provide him with the necessary accommodation for the appeal hearing. It's been nearly a year since the Ombudsman report, and the report listed five recommendations to address the lack of accommodation. A year has passed, and not one of these recommendations has been met. To the minister: will you please tell Bill and his wife and all of us here why this government has failed to fix the problem in one year?

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

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Obviously, having a good appeal process to make sure that there are checks and balances in the system is very important, something that I am taking very seriously, and I hope to have a better update for you soon.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ms Renaud: Given that that is not good enough and given that the previous minister said that the recommendations were reasonable and that they would get to work on them right away but the UCP has failed to act and given that the government has treated AISH recipients so poorly over the last four years – I can't say that I'm shocked that this happened at an appeal – will the minister stand here today and apologize to AISH recipients and their families who advocate alongside them for the mistreatment they have been forced to endure during appeal hearings? That's just unfathomable.

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

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All of the recommendations have been accepted and been actioned, so we are moving forward to make sure that we have a good appeal process. This is something we are taking very seriously. We're also taking very seriously making sure that there's care for people with disabilities in our community. It's why we indexed AISH. It's why we've added our affordability payments. It's why we've focused on building inclusive housing for individuals across this province. We care about individuals with disabilities, and we're taking real action to improve lives for Albertans.

Thank you.

2:30

Ms Renaud: Given that during budget estimates I asked this minister how the government was addressing the problem and all he could say was – this was from the ADM – and I quote: making sure that staff are aware of the problem. Awareness means nothing without action, and given that this government has a responsibility to ensure that AISH recipients have access to fair and equitable treatment during every step of a quasi-judicial process, will the minister please explain to the people like Bill why making sure that people with disabilities are treated with dignity and respect is not a priority for this UCP? Why is basic access and accommodation not happening under your watch?

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

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are taking this very seriously. It's why we have actioned every recommendation, and we are moving forward to make sure that there is better accountability in the system, that individuals accessing the system are getting appropriate care. I'm going to continue to keep my thumb on this and make sure that Albertans with disabilities that are going through the appeal process are getting adequate access to supports through that system. We're taking this very seriously. This is very important to me, and I thank the member for the question.

Bail System

Mr. Long: Mr. Speaker, Premiers across Canada are calling on Ottawa to reform the bail system, a call that Ottawa has been refusing to take any action on. The leniency of the current federal catch-and-release protocols are making Alberta's communities unsafe. I'm personally appalled that our NDP opposition has refused to speak up to their bosses, Trudeau and Singh, in Ottawa on behalf of Albertans about this issue. Can the minister tell the House how we plan to make our rural communities safer and what programs we will implement to help off-set the dangers of the federal bail system?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Shandro: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, our government takes the safety and well-being of Albertans seriously. Albertans deserve to feel safe and secure in their communities no matter where they choose to call home. We will continue to invest significantly in policing and in the justice system. Budget '23 has significant increases in both the Justice and the public safety budgets, increases in a budget that the NDP chose to vote against. But while we take that safety of Albertans seriously, we'll continue to invest in policing and the justice system, and we will continue to look for innovative ways to make sure people stay safe.

Mr. Long: Mr. Speaker, given that reports from my communities typically involve the same offenders and given that a woman with 19 arrest warrants recently was released back into a West Yellowhead community and only given an order to appear in court, to the minister: what can our government do to encourage our police officers in their daily duties to know their efforts are not in vain?

Mr. Shandro: Well, the difficulty, Mr. Speaker, is that the federal government has the purview in whether you committed a crime, how long your sentence is going to be, and whether you get bail. The difficulty is that in 2019 the Trudeau government chose, through Bill C-75, to make massive reforms to the bail regime here in Canada, which has led to our communities being less safe. And it's not just Alberta saying that; it is every province and every territory bringing that to the table and demanding that the federal government take this seriously and have serious and significant bail reforms that are going to be focused on keeping our communities safe. That's what we're advocating for as a province and what we hope to continue to advocate for.

Mr. Long: Mr. Speaker, given that my communities are still facing crime issues, particularly by prolific offenders, and given that an offender with 41 previous criminal convictions was recently arrested for stabbing a man and then released just hours later, can the minister share how we will reduce the risk to my community members from repeat offenders?

The Speaker: The minister.

Mr. Shandro: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the question. As we continue to invest in the justice system, making it more efficient, investing in policing, we can't spend our way out of a problem that Justin Trudeau created with C-75. That's why, when we went to an emergency meeting in Ottawa, the minister of public safety and I, just a couple of weeks ago, we did thankfully hear from the federal government that they are proposing soon some changes, and hopefully it will include a reverse onus for those who are a repeat offender as someone accused of a serious crime. Bail is appropriate for many situations, but we do need pretrial custody for repeat offenders.

Edmonton Downtown Revitalization

Mr. Shepherd: Mr. Speaker, Edmonton's downtown needs help. Like my fellow residents here in the heart of our city, I've seen the deep impacts of the pandemic on our neighbours, local businesses, and economy. One thing that could help are the recommendations in the report from this government's Edmonton Metro Region Economic Recovery Working Group. Five months ago they delivered their report, but it's yet to be released. Perhaps it's because it recommended a tax credit for AI, matching grants for improvements and beautification, support for new housing: all things absent from Budget 2023. For the Minister of Jobs, Economy

and Northern Development: when will they finally release this report?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question by the member. It's been a hard couple of years for small businesses as a result of the pandemic. So many businesses, particularly in the hospitality and accommodation sectors, were really hard hit. That's why our government supported our businesses at degrees higher than any other province. We recognize it didn't off-set all the losses, but we knew that this government needed to underpin small businesses that were struggling. That's what we did.

Mr. Shepherd: Given, Mr. Speaker, that we also need help to ensure everyone who lives in and visits downtown feels safe and welcome and to support our friends, neighbours, and family in need and given that after years of inaction this government's eventual response was to form a task force to address addiction, homelessness, and public safety with a mandate until March 2023 and given that that's one week away and their only action so far has been to deploy 12 sheriffs to help patrol downtown but there's much, much more that needs to be done and given that we're five weeks away from the writ, why haven't we seen specific plans for further concrete steps, investments in increasing capacity in day shelters, housing, harm reduction? Why is this not a priority for this government?

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

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, first of all, I want to address one of the questions from the first, around housing. We are investing in housing. We've made a number of significant announcements just in the recent past about significant investments in increasing affordable housing in Edmonton and the Edmonton area as well, and there are more announcements to come. We are building housing, so we are listening. In addition to that, we are working very closely with our not-for-profit partners to address the challenges that we're seeing around homelessness in our downtown core. We've increased funding for Homeward Trust. We've also increased funding for day shelters and our service hub model to provide people with more access into services.

Mr. Shepherd: Mr. Speaker, given that it's clear this government is clueless about Edmonton's downtown – their Budget 2023, in fact, failed to put forward any plan for revitalization of downtown in Edmonton or Calgary; indeed, they can't even release the plan from their working group – and given that this is after years of advocacy from businesses, community, and city governments and given that our caucus has released a full plan to renew vibrancy in downtown Calgary, and I'm proud to say we'll soon be releasing our plan for downtown Edmonton, will the minister just admit it's going to take an Alberta NDP government to actually collaborate with communities, businesses, and municipal partners to invest in downtown vibrancy in Edmonton?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that COVID was hard on our downtown cores of all our cities. One thing I hear from business owners is the importance of additional public safety. That's one reason why we've increased public safety's budget by over 13 per cent, an additional 235 sheriffs right across the

province, including many in downtown Edmonton, to ensure that there is an acceptable level of public safety. Moreover, we continue to position the province for investment attraction, economic diversification, and growth.

Kearl Oil Sands Project Tailings Leak

Mr. Feehan: The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation released details gathered from their time at the site of the spill of the Kearl tailings pond. They are concerned about the impact that this leak has had on drinking water and wildlife in the area. Their investigation found uncontained toxic water and animal tracks leading out of the spill, directly contradicting the Premier, who earlier called such concerns, quote, misreporting. Does the Premier stand by her claim that the concerns of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nations are misreporting, or will she apologize for dismissing their very real concerns about food and water?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Safety and environmental protection are our number one concerns, and I'm pleased to report that we've been doing continuous water monitoring and water testing downstream of the site. Just yesterday we had some results back from 12 water samples over six locations testing over 575 different metrics. They've been sent to six different labs, and there have been no concerns raised whatsoever about the water quality.

2:40

Mr. Feehan: Given that the Premier and this minister have chosen to ignore the concerns of First Nations who are rightfully concerned about the impact of a long-running leak that they were not informed of for many months and given that trust is essential between the government and the communities they serve to ensure that crises like these are appropriately addressed but given that only yesterday ACFN cited the comments of the Premier as examples of the government not being accurate in their statements, does the Premier know that her words and actions are destroying trust with the people of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We continue to deploy continuous monitoring downstream of Imperial's Kearl site. That includes water samples taken from the Fort Chip drinking water intake. Nothing has shown that there's been any harm to the drinking water. We continue to do daily testing. That's on top of seasonal monitoring that continues. There are rush results from the daily testing being done, and if we find something, we do have the potential to adapt monitoring to include more.

Mr. Feehan: Given that the office of the Privacy Commissioner has opened an investigation into this incident and given that we owe it to the people of Alberta that this never happens again and given that this Premier has lost the trust of the people, which will make the work of reconciliation more difficult, will the Premier stand and admit that the Kearl incident is more than a communications mistake but one that is impacting both the treaty rights and the safety of First Nations and Métis people? Minister, stand up and look directly at the people from the ACFN and tell them that they're wrong again, and they will respond with the anger that they've been showing throughout the last three weeks.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Savage: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We actually welcome the report and the investigation from the commissioner. We see this as something we've asked for. We've said right from the beginning that we would like to take a step back, look at what the processes are around communications, understand if they were followed, and commit to improve them if there are changes that need to be made. We see that this will be an important insight into whether there should be some improvement in processes.

Flood and Drought Mitigation on the Bow River

Mr. McIver: Mr. Speaker, it has now been 10 years since the floods of 2013. There's a flood mitigation project under construction on the Elbow River but not yet on the Bow. Currently, according to government's timeline, the potential start of flood and drought mitigation on the Bow could be 10 more years away. Let's remember: this project will provide economic development for our First Nations neighbours. Since it's the job of the minister of environment to decide where the dam will be built, what's being done to speed up your work so that a site can be selected for flood and drought mitigation on the Bow?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for this question. We've been looking at three different on-stream reservoir options for new flood and drought storage to protect downtown Calgary and other communities along the Bow. Those three sites include a new reservoir located near Morley, an expansion of the Ghost reservoir, and a new reservoir located between the Ghost reservoir and the Bearsaw dam. Also, in the spring of 2021 we extended our modified operations agreement with TransAlta for another five-year term. This will allow the government to modify operations at several facilities to help protect communities along the Bow River.

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

Mr. McIver: Okay. Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to hear that the minister talked about the flood mitigation agreements with the dams further upstream. That is a good thing. But what if 2013 happens again between now and when the dam gets built? What other measures can be put in place to protect southern Alberta and Calgary from further damage? [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors.

Mr. Dreeschen: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for this very important question. Flood mitigation for Calgary and communities in Alberta is very important, and that's why Budget '23 actually has \$282 million over three years for the Springbank dam. Just an update on the construction work that's there this week: there's about 20,000 cubic metres of concrete that's been placed at this dam. That's about 2,500 truckloads. Also, about 420,000 cubic metres of dirt work. That's about 32,000 truckloads. We're also working with the city of Calgary for the Glenmore reservoir to expand about another 4,000 Olympic-sized . . .

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

Mr. McIver: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Stoney Nakoda Nation has already passed a band council resolution . . . [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

Mr. McIver: A band council resolution has already been passed by the Stoney Nakoda allowing Alberta Environment to do the work, and given the fact that the elders and chiefs have even blessed the site of the future dam, which means our First Nations partners are doing their part, I would ask the Environment minister: please tell the House how your ministry will shorten the time until we can get an agreement with the Stoney people on where the dam will go. It matters to the Stoney people. It matters to everyone in southern Alberta.

An Hon. Member: Preamble.

The Speaker: If the member had never used a preamble before, perhaps the intervention would be more warranted.

The hon. the minister.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's advocacy and passion about this issue. As you know, projects of this size, with the added complexity of an on-stream reservoir, require time for careful analysis and engagement to make sure that we get this right and it's safe. We need to get this right. In the meantime the city of Calgary, with \$69 million in funding from the Alberta community resilience program, has initiated 13 mitigation projects, 11 of which are along the Bow River. This includes the west Eau Claire and downtown flood protection barriers as well as the upper plateau stormwater separation project in Sunnyside.

The Speaker: Hon. members, this concludes the time allotted for Oral Question Period. In 30 seconds or less we will continue to the remainder of the daily Routine.

Members' Statements

(continued)

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

Ramadan

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Remarks in Arabic] I am honoured as a member of this House and as a member of the Islamic faith to rise today and acknowledge the holy month of Ramadan, which began last evening, on March 22. As Muslims fast from dawn to sunset, we enrich our faith through spiritual reflection and introspection. Fasting is one of the five key pillars of Islam. It teaches us patience, generosity, discipline, and unity. During this most holiest and solemn month we focus on personal growth and renewal and reflect upon ourselves, our values, and our actions.

Although participating in family and communal gatherings is important in my culture, it is especially valuable during Ramadan. I'm happy that we can resume traditions post-COVID and that we can further promote strong communities through participation, giving, sharing, caring, and praying.

Mr. Speaker, regardless of one's faith or religious background all Albertans can join those marking Ramadan this year. We can all take time this month to be thankful for our family, for our friends, and the many things that make this province a great province. We can remember and raise empathy for the less fortunate and celebrate with acts of kindness and charity.

Alberta has a profound history with Muslim faith. Canada's first and oldest mosque, the Al Rashid mosque, is located here in Edmonton, and it was built in 1938 with the support of Christian and Jewish communities.

For everyone here in Alberta, across Canada, and around the world I wish a blessed and peaceful Ramadan. May you experience renewal during this time of reflection and prayer. Ramadan Mubarak.

NDP Retiring Members and Election Candidates

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and thank four members of our caucus who won't be returning to the next Legislature. Each of them has served their community and changed Alberta for the better, each in their own way.

The Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview sat in this Chamber when our caucus only had four members. After the 2015 election he served as our minister of Municipal Affairs, service Alberta, and economic development and trade. He drove innovation and diversification in our economy and continues to be an advocate for advancing technology in Alberta and the opportunities that it unlocks.

The Member for Edmonton-Rutherford was our Indigenous Relations minister, and during that time he visited every single First Nations community and Métis settlement in Alberta in person. His commitment to truth and reconciliation is absolute. We wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

2:50

The Member for Edmonton-Decore is a fearless advocate for working people and for the labour movement. He's been a loyal and hard-working member of our movement to lift up working families and make sure that everyone gets home safely and everyone takes home an honest day's pay for an honest day's work.

The Member for Edmonton-West Henday, one of our youngest ever MLAs, is a great example of how young people can succeed in public life and make our communities stronger. Even today he's standing up for schools in west Edmonton to make sure that kids get what they need to be successful close to home. I know that he has many more adventures ahead of him with his growing family.

We're going to miss our friends, but we're also very excited by the many new Alberta NDP MLAs who we hope to see elected in just 67 days. Alberta's NDP candidates, volunteers, and staff are working hard to fill this Chamber with NDP MLAs who will end the chaos, cruelty, and conflict filled by the UCP government and replace it with a stable, competent, and caring Alberta NDP government, with the Member for Edmonton-Strathcona as our Premier.

If you'll forgive me, Mr. Speaker, I want to say a heartfelt thank you on behalf of our entire movement to Deron, Richard, Chris, and Jon. We love you guys, and we wish you all the best. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: Complete lawlessness; between the hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake and now you with the use of names. How can we ever proceed?

Presenting Petitions

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods to present a petition calling on the Legislative Assembly to express its support for the people of Ukraine and to express its opposition to the Russian occupation of Ukraine and the unprovoked Russian attack on the Ukrainian people.

Introduction of Bills

Bill 208

Municipal Government (Tourism Community Designation) Amendment Act, 2023

Ms Rosin: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill 208, the Municipal Government (Tourism Community Designation) Amendment Act, 2023.

Recognizing that communities with tourism-based economies face unique challenges with regard to supporting visitation beyond the resident populations and market demands to be unique as a destination, this bill sets the framework to give communities committed to tourism-based economies tools to increase capacity, enhance their unique character, facilitate destination marketing, and support other related initiatives to remain globally competitive.

[Motion carried; Bill 208 read a first time]

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-Stony Plain on behalf of the hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Bill 209

Animal Protection (Prevention of Animal Neglect) Amendment Act, 2023

Mr. Turton: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to rise today on behalf of the MLA for Sherwood Park to request leave to introduce Bill 209, the Animal Protection (Prevention of Animal Neglect) Amendment Act, 2023.

Animals should not be subject to unnecessary harm or cruelty, and it is our responsibility to ensure that they are properly cared for and protected. This private member's bill will ensure that animals are treated with compassion and care by raising penalties for animal abuse, especially for repeat offenders.

[Motion carried; Bill 209 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In accordance with section 20 of the Auditor General Act it is my pleasure as chair of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices to table the report of the Auditor General, March 2023. A copy of the report will also be provided to members.

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

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two tablings today. I have the five requisite copies of petitions organized by the Condo Owners Forum Society of Alberta containing 378 signatures of condo owners from all over Alberta, including Calgary and Medicine Hat, calling on the government to include condo owners in the affordability action plan, specifically the rebates on electricity and caps on natural gas.

The second one is also from the Condo Owners Forum Society of Alberta, containing 639 signatories from condo owners from all over Alberta, again calling on the Alberta government to include condo owners in the affordability action plan, specifically the rebates on electricity and caps on natural gas.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall has a tabling.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the requisite number of copies of yet another petition calling on the government to keep Alberta in the Canadian pension plan, this one containing approximately 900 signatures of motivated Albertans who want their government to leave their pension alone.

Tablings to the Clerk

The Clerk: I wish to advise the Assembly that the following document was deposited with the office of the Clerk: on behalf of hon. Mr. Jeremy Nixon, Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services, pursuant to the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities Act the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities annual report 2021-22.

The Speaker: Hon. members, there were no points of order today during Oral Question Period. [interjections] Perhaps there should have been.

Prior to calling the hon. the Minister of Finance and the President of Treasury Board, I believe there may be a unanimous consent request coming from the hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat to briefly revert to introductions.

Mr. Barnes: Yes, there is. Please, Speaker, with the House's consent.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Introduction of Guests

(continued)

The Speaker: The Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, all. It's my pleasure to rise today and introduce to you and through you to the entire House someone that a lot of us know very, very well. For over six years she has worked effectively and diligently. For the last six months she's worked effectively and diligently for me, and for a year and a half before that she worked effectively and diligently for myself and the MLA for Central Peace-Notley. Could I please ask Rebecca Lees to rise and accept the traditional warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: For the benefit of members, I also understand that there may be an additional request for unanimous consent following the remarks of the hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board, but we will take that as it comes.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders

Third Reading

Bill 11

Appropriation Act, 2023

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great privilege to rise and move third reading of Bill 11, the Appropriation Act, 2023.

The funding amounts in Bill 11 will ensure the province has the resources to address Albertans' needs, deliver programs critical to Albertans as well as pave the way for prosperity. Mr. Speaker, Budget '23 is securing Alberta's future, securing the future for our children, grandchildren, and communities across the province.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members in this House support this bill.

[Mr. Reid in the chair]

The Acting Speaker: You don't give me much time, hon. member.

The hon. President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance has moved third reading of Bill 11. Are there any others looking to speak? The hon. Member for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall has the floor.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government claims that the funding amount in Bill 11 will address Albertans' needs and their priorities. Let me tell you, from the standpoint of my constituents that I hear from every single day, that it will not address their needs; rather, it will again ignore their needs.

Just talk about health care. They are struggling to find family doctors. They have been made to wait in emergency waiting rooms for 10 to 15 hours. There's complete chaos in health care, and this bill will not address that. In fact, this bill, if we talk about inflation and population growth, is cutting funding to our health care system.

3:00

The second thing I would say is that, like, parents across this province, in my riding also care about schools. For the last four years people in the northeast have been asking for a new school in the northeast communities, in particular Redstone, and this bill will only fund one school for the entire city of Calgary, not a new school in northeast Calgary. It's not in Redstone. Again, it's not addressing the needs of my constituents and many Albertans across this province.

The third thing. The UCP created a cost-of-living crisis. When they came into power, they removed the cap from insurance premiums, and insurance premiums went through the roof. They have not done anything about that. People are forced to pay a 30 per cent, 40 per cent, in some cases 100 per cent increase in their premiums. They removed the cap from the utilities, and people are forced to pay double the utilities that they were paying a couple of years ago. It's not addressing the high grocery prices, which are rising way above the rate of inflation, and instead of investigating, the government still stands with those who are using this crisis to line their pockets. Clearly, this bill is not addressing the crisis facing my constituents and facing communities across this province.

I urge all members of this House and my colleagues to vote against this piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Others wishing to add to debate?

Seeing none, I'm prepared to call the question.

Does the hon. minister want to close debate?

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do. I would like to close debate. I think the last word here is important because the last word, in fact, will bear truth to Bill 11, the Appropriation Act, 2023. Bill 11, this Appropriation Act, 2023, will strengthen health care in this province. It supports enrolment growth in our K to 12 education system. It improves public safety. It will support a fair and efficient justice system. It supports Albertans directly who are struggling with inflation, and it continues to ensure that Albertans have a massive tax advantage over every other province. Moreover, it will ensure future prosperity for Albertans. This will ensure that we are on a sustainable fiscal trajectory, that we have an economy that's growing and diversifying, generating opportunities for Albertans, and generating wealth for future governments.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 11 secures the future for this province, and I encourage every member to support it today in the House.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you to the hon. minister. And my apologies; last day on the job for me.

I am now prepared to ask the question.

[Motion carried; Bill 11 read a third time]

Bill 12

Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2023

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Again it's a privilege to rise and move third reading of Bill 12, the Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2023.

Bill 12 will provide authority for government to pay from the general fund for additional costs that are not already covered or otherwise provided for during the current fiscal year. It includes \$2.7 billion in expense, \$500,000 in capital investment, and \$292 million in financial transactions. The funding in Bill 12 will cover costs reflecting the government's commitment to save for the future, strengthen our health care system, and adapt to the changing global economy.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to point out that included in Bill 12, the Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2023, is an investment of \$753 million, which will make a total investment of \$2 billion in the heritage savings trust fund. This is an investment in future generations of Albertans, and it's a privilege to serve with colleagues in the government that have the foresight to make this kind of investment.

[The Speaker in the chair]

Mr. Speaker, again I ask the hon. members to support this bill to help government move forward with funding Albertans' priorities. Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. members, the hon. the President of Treasury Board and the Minister of Finance has moved third reading of Bill 12, the Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2023. Is there anyone else wishing to join in the debate? I see the hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.

Mr. Dach: Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Speaker, to speak to Bill 12 at third reading. I'd like to say that the West Edmonton Mall roller coaster is now retired, the Mindbender roller coaster, and the Conservative Party's boom-bust roller coaster, that is the hallmark of Tories' rule, under the UCP is still operational.

All we're getting offered by the UCP is more of the same, as reflected in the appropriation bill and all of the budget items that were brought forward before this House. More of the same is all they offer: more reliance on oil windfalls to bail them out of their economic mismanagement. Mr. Speaker, we've been pumping oil out of the ground in this province for over 70 years, and what have we got for it? The Minister of Finance and Treasury Board has admitted in estimates that even he regrets that we failed to have a sovereign wealth fund in this province that rivals that of Norway so that we would actually have the benefit of the resource revenue that we've been pulling out of the ground for decades and decades, yet more of the same is all we get from this government, more of the same, the mind-bending roller coaster that Conservative governments are intent on offering once again to Albertans.

This NDP opposition is going to shift into drive, Mr. Speaker, shift into overdrive, guiding Alberta, as the new government, confidently into the future, a better future, a future under a new majority NDP government that will definitely end that roller coaster and smooth things out for the benefit of all.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Are there others?

Mr. Getson: Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely proud and privileged to rise probably on what may be our last day to be in full support of this budget. I heard the member opposite talking about roller coaster rides. Well, I think the only thing that Albertans can remember is that when they ran the bus, when they were in charge of the budget, the only ride the Albertans went on was the Drop of Doom, and we sure as heck aren't going back there. So I strongly encourage everybody to support this budget, because this is the thing that sets the path for the future, not the scary, freaky-deaky Friday rides that they gave us four years ago.

The Speaker: Are there others?

I am prepared to call on the hon. the Minister of Finance to close debate should he wish to do so.

[Motion carried; Bill 12 read a third time]

The Speaker: Just prior to calling the hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board, I believe that there may be a request for unanimous consent coming from the chief government whip.

Mr. Rutherford: Mr. Speaker, it is just that request, exactly, I guess; I really got that sentence out quite well. I would like to move for unanimous consent that we revert back to introductions.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Introduction of Guests (reversion)

The Speaker: The chief government whip is rising.

Mr. Rutherford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to introduce caucus staff who are joining us here in the gallery from the United Conservative Party and just extend to them on behalf of all of caucus a huge thank you for all the work that you have done over the last four years, if you have been with us for that long, or if it's been a bit shorter. Thank you for being here and everything that you have done. Our MLAs are very much appreciative of the work that you do, enhancing the work that we do here in the Chamber. I can tell you with a great deal of certainty that we can't do it without you, so thank you so much.

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance and the President of Treasury Board to move third reading of Bill 10, the Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2023.

3:10 Bill 10 Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2023

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do rise to move third reading of Bill 10, the Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, this act introduces a fiscal framework to this province. We've heard a bit about the roller coaster ride, heard a bit about the Drop of Doom here in this short afternoon. We know that we have a resource-based economy. We do have a volatile revenue structure in this province, and when we take a look historically, during times of great prosperity there has been a propensity, a tendency, to increase spending during those times of great prosperity, spending levels that simply aren't sustainable. This fiscal framework will ensure that governments have guardrails in the future to ensure that spending remains sustainable so that we can continue to deliver necessary government programs such as health care and education into the future and ensure that the next generation has the ability to receive those deliverables.

Bill 10, the Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2023, also will require that all income earned by the heritage savings trust fund stays in the heritage savings trust fund. Mr. Speaker, it's worth noting again – and the member across noted it earlier – that had we as a province from day one reinvested all of the earnings from the heritage savings trust fund into the fund, instead of an \$18 billion fund today we would have a \$300 billion fund, a fund generating \$20 billion of investment income for Albertans every year. While we all wish we had started earlier, the best day to start is today. Bill 10 creates that start.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 10 also includes the agriculture processing tax credit. This is a nonrefundable corporate tax credit that will ensure our agriculture industry and the value-added industry is incredibly competitive. We've already seen the results of that with McCain announcing a record-setting investment in southern Alberta. This is only the first announcement of many to come.

Bill 10 includes a number of other amendments that directly support Albertans and their families. Mr. Speaker, Bill 10 reflects this government's commitment to secure Alberta's future, and I encourage all members on both sides of the House to support Bill 10.

The Speaker: Are there others? The hon. the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

Member Irwin: Thank you. [interjections] Oh, it's so kind of you to clap for me. I hope you're all comfortable because I do have a long speech that I've prepared. No. I kid. I will keep it short.

I do want to just get on the record for third reading of Bill 10. I said this in second reading, in fact, that this government had such an opportunity. It is a little bit of a broken record, I think, me saying that they had such an opportunity with their session to offer some sort of, you know, tangible hope for Albertans through their legislation. And, again, what did we get? We got not a whole lot with their bills, and Bill 10 is just one example of a government really squandering their opportunity to do some transformational work.

You know, I reflected the other day. A number of my colleagues talked about the work that this government could be doing; strengthening health care, investing in housing, to name a few. The list certainly goes on. This is, of course, probably the least robust legislative agenda we've seen from this government. No surprise, of course, from a Premier with no mandate, so I do understand why we end up with bills like this one.

I do need to highlight the most troubling part of Bill 10 once more to get this on the record for all those watching. This creates the Alberta fund, which is a \$1.4 billion campaign slush fund to essentially buy votes, right? What's so interesting about this is that this government's own Premier has spoken against this sort of thing in the past. It's quite interesting to all of us on this side of the House that this Premier and this Finance minister are seemingly going against their own past values and principles.

Ms Hoffman: If they had any.

Member Irwin: That could be true.

And I want Albertans watching – I'm sure there are at least two or three – to understand that the fine print in this bill, Bill 10, the fine print on the fund in particular, allows this UCP government to spend their projected surplus for the re-election before the bills come due at the end of the fiscal year. This is bad, bad fiscal management, and it's exactly how you end up squandering a resource boom.

Now – no surprise – we shouldn't be shocked from a government that's been an absolute train wreck when it comes to fiscal management. They speak a big game about fiscal management,

about being fiscal conservatives, but their record shows absolutely otherwise. [interjections] In addition, as my colleague from Edmonton-Glenora points out, huge deficits.

In addition to that, this is the same UCP government – let's just maybe share a few of their highlights as we close the session. They gambled away \$1.3 billion on Trump's re-election. They couldn't account for \$4 billion in COVID spending, \$1.6 billion in accounting errors in their first year in office. Oh, but wait, it doesn't stop there. Let's add a couple more highlights or lowlights, I perhaps should say. This is that same government, fiscal conservatives, who planned to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a provincial police force, a provincial police force that, in fact, no one's asking for. They planned to gamble away Albertans' retirement security again, pulling out of the Canada pension plan, something that a whole lot of Albertans certainly aren't asking for. Our leader, in fact, is down in Calgary right now with a whole bunch of seniors who would argue that . . .

Mr. Schow: Point of order.

Member Irwin: Oh, that's right. Good point.

The Speaker: A point of order is called.

Point of Order

Referring to the Absence of Members

Mr. Schow: What kind of a last day would it be without a point of order? Mentioning a member's presence or absence: we know that that's a no-no in this Chamber. It's not novice hour. The member should apologize and retract.

The Speaker: Such lawlessness, as I mentioned earlier.

Member Irwin: I retract. I apologize.

The Speaker: I consider the matter dealt with and concluded.
The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

Debate Continued

Member Irwin: Thank you so much.

I'm just so grateful that those members opposite are listening to my every word today because that is a change. That is a change. But I really do appreciate it.

Okay. I'll just end with one more lowlight, and that is the incredibly troubling development from this government in that they plan to spend \$20 billion to give to already profitable oil and gas corporations, friends of the Premier. In fact, for those watching, please do join our consultation at 6 p.m. tonight, albertasfuture.ca, for all the details.

With that, you know, I just want to remind Albertans that you absolutely have a choice. In just – what, 67 days? – 67 days you can vote for a government that is going to continually squander away your hard-earned tax dollars, or you can vote for competent, stable leadership in the Alberta NDP.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Are there others? I am prepared to call on the hon. Member for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall.

Mr. Sabir: Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek unanimous consent to make the bells one minute for the remainder of the afternoon.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: Are there others?

I am prepared to call on the hon. Minister of Finance to close debate. The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise again and close debate on Bill 10 because I just simply have to respond to the member's false assertions, the assertion that the NDP somehow brought responsible fiscal management. Nothing could be further from the truth. We inherited, back in 2019, a government that was spending \$10 billion more than comparator provinces, but what was really tragic is that we were not getting better results.

This government worked over four years, compassionately, thoughtfully, and surgically, to bring our spending in line with other provinces, to ensure our spending was sustainable. Mr. Speaker, promise made, promise kept. This fiscal year we've arrived at that level. We've eliminated the \$10 billion deficit. My department provided some analysis. Had we continued on the spending trajectory of the members opposite when they were in office, we would not be projecting a \$2.4 billion deficit in this upcoming fiscal year. It would be a \$4 billion deficit instead of a \$2.4 billion surplus. The members opposite simply did not bring responsible fiscal management.

3:20

But, Mr. Speaker, in this bill is a series of fiscal rules that will provide guardrails for future governments. With respect to surplus management the fiscal rules will prioritize debt repayment. The fiscal rules will prioritize further investment in the heritage savings trust fund. The fiscal rules will strengthen – strengthen – any further use of surplus funds.

Mr. Speaker, it's a great privilege – it is a great privilege – to rise in this House and close debate on Bill 10, the Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2023, and I call on every member of this House to support this bill.

[The voice vote indicated that motion for third reading carried]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:21 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Hunter	Rosin
Allard	Issik	Rowswell
Amery	LaGrange	Rutherford
Armstrong-Homeniuk	Loewen	Savage
Dreeshen	Long	Schow
Fir	Lovely	Smith, Mark
Getson	Madu	Stephan
Glubish	McIver	Toews
Gotfried	Nally	Turton
Guthrie	Nixon, Jason	Wilson
Hanson	Rehn	Yao
Horner	Reid	Yaseen

Against the motion:

Dach	Irwin	Pancholi
Hoffman	Nielsen	Sabir

Totals: For – 36 Against – 6

[Motion carried; Bill 10 read a third time]

Statement by the Speaker

30th Legislature

The Speaker: Hon. members, prior to calling on the hon. the Government House Leader, let me provide some brief closing

remarks. There have been significant changes around the legislative precinct in the 30th Legislature. The Annex building was torn down after 71 years, and the scaffolding was finally removed off the Legislature thanks to the hon. the Minister of Infrastructure. The Federal Building was renamed the Queen Elizabeth II Building to honour Her late Majesty. Violet King Henry Plaza was named to celebrate the legacy of this pioneer of the Alberta Black community.

On a more sombre note, the constituency of Calgary-Bhullar-McCall was changed from just Calgary-McCall in honour of the former member, Mr. Manmeet Singh Bhullar, after his tragic death. [some applause] Sure. Let's give the former Government House Leader. . . [applause] This is the only occurrence in Alberta's history of an electoral division name being changed mid-Legislature.

In the 30th Legislature there were 252 sessional days, 471 individual sittings, and 47 evening sittings that went past midnight. The Assembly sat for a total of 1,748 hours and counting, and the number of words that have been spilled on the Legislature floor is over 14,200,000. For someone reading along, the average reader, it would have taken them 40 full days to read what we had been up to. Two hundred and fifty-two sessional days have been the third most of any Legislature in Alberta's history, and there have been 5,676 sessional days in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta since its first day on March 15, 1906.

Over the span of the 30th Legislature a total of nearly 3,525 questions were asked during Oral Question Period. I understand that there were approximately a dozen answers. There were no less than 1,854 sessional papers tabled, and there were 198 bills introduced.

Hon. members, serving as the 14th Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is one of the greatest privileges of my life, and I say thank you to each and every one of you for your hard work, for your dedication to our community. If there's one thing I know about members of this Assembly, it's that each and every day every one of you, whether you're a member of the opposition or you're a member of the government: you wake up and come to work to try to do your best to make Alberta a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Now, there's one big difference between all of us, and that's that some members believe there's one path to accomplish that, and other members believe in an entirely different path. But we all share so much in common, and that's that we have an intrinsic desire to make Alberta the best place in the entire world. I couldn't be more grateful to have served with 89 individuals who share that passion, that goal, and that desire.

From the very bottom of my heart, let me say thank you. May God bless you. May God bless Alberta. [Standing ovation]

The Government House Leader.

3:30

Mr. Schow: Thank you for those very kind words, Mr. Speaker. It's been an honour to serve in this Chamber with you as Speaker. Thank you for your service.

There is something to be said about having the last word, and I have that distinct pleasure. As we conclude the 2023 spring sitting today, I want to thank all of you, all of you members, for your time and your service to your communities, to the constituents of Alberta, and for your hard work. I also want to thank your families. I know as a husband and a father I could not do this job without the support of my family, and I know many members in this Chamber are in the exact same position. I'm grateful for them. Please pass along my gratitude.

I know that there is a campaign that will be taking our attention over the next couple of months, and it will no doubt be a very tired summer. But I want to wish everyone here the best. For those of you who are retiring, I want to thank you for your service from the bottom of my heart and for the hard work and dedication you provided to this House and to your constituents. It's not every day you get to spend your time here at the Alberta Legislature, though it may seem like we are here every day, making things for Alberta better.

I also want to thank the Official Opposition, in particular the Opposition House Leader, the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods – it has been an honour to work with her and continue the service of Albertans – for their work and all your work in this session. We may not agree on a lot, but we can all agree that when we come here, we're here in the best interest of Albertans and our constituents.

Another group that needs to be thanked is the tireless LAO staff who work around the clock, literally in some cases, to support MLAs both in and out of the House. I want to thank the security staff, the sheriffs, Parliamentary Counsel, broadcast services, *Hansard* staff, and there are many, many others. I wouldn't be able to mention all in this statement. I am very grateful for you, and on behalf of the government we express our gratitude for helping us in this part of democracy.

Finally, I want to end by saying that it has been an honour to serve as the House leader in my capacity on the government side. With that, I wish to advise the Assembly that pursuant to Government Motion 25 the business of the 2023 spring sitting is now concluded.

The Speaker: Hon. members, the House stands adjourned until October 2023.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:32 p.m. pursuant to Government Motion 25]

Bill Status Report for the 30th Legislature - 4th Session (2022-2023)

Activity to Thursday, March 23, 2023

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* — Alberta Sovereignty Within a United Canada Act (Danielle Smith)

First Reading — 4-5 (Nov. 29, 2022 aft., passed on division)

Second Reading — 22-31 (Nov. 30, 2022 aft.), 43-52 (Nov. 30, 2022 eve.), 65-73 (Dec. 1, 2022 aft.), 105-36 (Dec. 5, 2022 eve.), 172-77 (Dec. 6, 2022 eve., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 177-96 (Dec. 6, 2022 eve.), 231-38 (Dec. 7, 2022 eve.), 238-45 (Dec. 7, 2022 eve., passed with amendments on division)

Third Reading — 245-50 (Dec. 7, 2022 eve.), 251-57 (Dec. 7, 2022 eve., passed on division)

Royal Assent — 452 (Dec. 15, 2022 aft.) [Comes into force on December 15, 2022; SA 2022 cA-33.8]

Bill 2 — Inflation Relief Statutes Amendment Act, 2022 (\$) (Jones)

First Reading — 208 (Dec. 7, 2022 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 270-75 (Dec. 8, 2022 aft.), 342-49 (Dec. 13, 2022 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 361-72 (Dec. 13, 2022 eve.), 421-25 (Dec. 14, 2022 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 430-31 (Dec. 14, 2022 eve.), 446-50 (Dec. 15, 2022 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — 452 (Dec. 15, 2022 aft.) [Comes into force on December 15, 2022, with exceptions; SA 2022 c19]

Bill 3 — Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2022 (Shandro)

First Reading — 86 (Dec. 5, 2022 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 148-55 (Dec. 6, 2022 aft.), 224-30 (Dec. 7, 2022 aft.), 276 (Dec. 8, 2022 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 325-29 (Dec. 12, 2022 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 375-78 (Dec. 13, 2022 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — 452 (Dec. 15, 2022 aft.) [Comes into force on December 15, 2022; SA 2022 c23]

Bill 4 — Alberta Health Care Insurance Amendment Act, 2022 (Copping)

First Reading — 86 (Dec. 5, 2022 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 155-70 (Dec. 6, 2022 aft.), 220-24 (Dec. 7, 2022 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 321-25 (Dec. 12, 2022 eve.), 372-75 (Dec. 13, 2022 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 392 (Dec. 14, 2022 aft.), 426-29 (Dec. 14, 2022 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — 452 (Dec. 15, 2022 aft.) [Comes into force on December 15, 2022; SA 2022 c17]

Bill 5 — Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2022 (No. 2) (Shandro)

First Reading — 147 (Dec. 6, 2022 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 211-20 (Dec. 7, 2022 aft.), 314-21 (Dec. 12, 2022 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 392-99 (Dec. 14, 2022 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 429-30 (Dec. 14, 2022 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — 452 (Dec. 15, 2022 aft.) [Comes into force on December 15, 2022, with exceptions; SA 2022 c20]

Bill 6 — Police Amendment Act, 2022 (Ellis)

First Reading — 270 (*Dec. 8, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 309-14 (*Dec. 12, 2022 eve.*), 349-54 (*Dec. 13, 2022 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 399-408 (*Dec. 14, 2022 aft.*), 409-21 (*Dec. 14, 2022 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 431 (*Dec. 14, 2022 eve.*), 450-51 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — 452 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft.*) [Comes into force on Proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2022 c22]

Bill 7 — Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2022 (No.2) (Schow)

First Reading — 329 (*Dec. 12, 2022 eve., passed*)

Second Reading — 378-79 (*Dec. 13, 2022 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 398-99 (*Dec. 14, 2022 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 425-26 (*Dec. 14, 2022 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — 452 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft.*) [Comes into force on December 15, 2022; SA 2022 c21]

Bill 8 — Alberta Firearms Act (Shandro)

First Reading — 503 (*Mar. 7, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 536-43 (*Mar. 9, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 708 (*Mar. 21, 2023 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 747 (*Mar. 22, 2023 eve., passed on division*)

Bill 9 — Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 (Nally)

First Reading — 523 (*Mar. 8, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 676-86 (*Mar. 21, 2023 aft.*), 695-701 (*Mar. 21, 2023 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 720-33 (*Mar. 22, 2023 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 747-754 (*Mar. 22, 2023 eve., passed*)

Bill 10 — Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 536 (*Mar. 9, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 686-94 (*Mar. 21, 2023 aft.*), 701-8 (*Mar. 21, 2023 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 733-39 (*Mar. 22, 2023 aft.*), 741-47 (*Mar. 22, 2023 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 771-72 (*Mar. 23, 2023 aft., passed on division*)

Bill 11 — Appropriation Act, 2023 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 617 (*Mar. 16, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 674-75 (*Mar. 21, 2023 aft.*), 708 (*Mar. 21, 2023 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 720 (*Mar. 22, 2023 eve.*), 755 (*Mar. 22, 2023 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 769-70 (*Mar. 23, 2023 aft., passed*)

Bill 12 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2023 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 661 (*Mar. 20, 2023 eve., passed*)

Second Reading — 675-76 (*Mar. 21, 2023 aft.*), 708 (*Mar. 21, 2023 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 720 (*Mar. 22, 2023 eve.*), 755-56 (*Mar. 22, 2023 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 770-71 (*Mar. 23, 2023 aft., passed*)

Bill 201 — Public Health Care Delivery Standards Act (Notley)

First Reading — 64 (*Dec. 1, 2022 aft., passed on division*)

Second Reading — 88-91 (*Dec. 5, 2022 aft.*), 354-60 (*Dec. 13, 2022 aft., defeated on division*)

Bill 202 — Alberta Personal Income Tax (Charitable and Other Gifts) Amendment Act, 2022 (Williams)

First Reading — 64 (*Dec. 1, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 91-98 (*Dec. 5, 2022 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 289-97 (*Dec. 12, 2022 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 445-46 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — 452 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft.*) [Comes into force on Proclamation; SA 2022 c18]

Bill 203* — Traffic Safety (Excessive Speeding Penalties) Amendment Act, 2022 (Toor)

First Reading — 270 *(Dec. 8, 2022 aft., passed)*

Second Reading — 298-303 *(Dec. 12, 2022 aft., adjourned)*, 480-87 *(Mar. 6, 2023 aft., passed on division)*

Committee of the Whole — 630-35 *(Mar. 20, 2023 aft., passed with amendments)*

Bill 204 — Missing Persons (Silver Alert) Amendment Act, 2022 (Mark Smith)

First Reading — 270 *(Dec. 8, 2022 aft., passed)*

Second Reading — 487-92 *(Mar. 6, 2023 aft.)*, 557-64 *(Mar. 13, 2023 aft., passed)*

Committee of the Whole — 635-43 *(Mar. 20, 2023 aft., passed)*

Third Reading — 754-55 *(Mar. 22, 2023 eve., passed)*

Bill 205 — Official Sport of Alberta Act (Lovely)

First Reading — 444 *(Dec. 15, 2022 aft., passed)*

Second Reading — 564-71 *(Mar. 13, 2023 aft., adjourned)*

Bill 206 — Insurance (Private Passenger Vehicle Premium) Amendment Act, 2022 (Sabir)

First Reading — 444 *(Dec. 15, 2022 aft., passed)*

Bill 207 — Jobs and Investment Incentives Proposal Act (Eggen)

First Reading — 601 *(Mar. 15, 2023 aft., passed)*

Bill 208 — Municipal Government (Tourism Community Designation) Amendment Act, 2023 (Rosin)

First Reading — 769 *(Mar. 23, 2023 aft., passed)*

Bill 209 — Animal Protection (Prevention of Animal Neglect) Amendment Act, 2023 (Walker)

First Reading — 769 *(Mar. 23, 2023 aft., passed)*

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For inquiries contact:

Editor

Alberta Hansard

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875

E-mail: AlbertaHansard@assembly.ab.ca