



Province of Alberta

The 31st Legislature  
First Session

# Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, November 9, 2023

Day 8

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

# Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 31st Legislature

First Session

Cooper, Hon. Nathan M., Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UC), Speaker  
Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie-East (UC), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees  
van Dijken, Glenn, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (UC), Deputy Chair of Committees

Al-Guneid, Nagwan, Calgary-Glenmore (NDP)  
Amery, Hon. Mickey K., ECA, KC, Calgary-Cross (UC),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
Arcand-Paul, Brooks, Edmonton-West Henday (NDP)  
Armstrong-Homeniuk, Hon. Jackie, ECA,  
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UC)  
Batten, Diana M.B., Calgary-Acadia (NDP)  
Boitchenko, Andrew, Drayton Valley-Devon (UC)  
Boparai, Parmeet Singh, Calgary-Falconridge (NDP)  
Bouchard, Eric, Calgary-Lougheed (UC)  
Brar, Gurinder, Calgary-North East (NDP)  
Calahoo Stonehouse, Jodi, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP)  
Ceci, Hon. Joe, ECA, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)  
Chapman, Amanda, Calgary-Beddington (NDP)  
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UC)  
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)  
de Jonge, Chantelle, Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)  
Deol, Jasvir, Edmonton-Meadows (NDP)  
Dreeshen, Hon. Devin, ECA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UC)  
Dyck, Nolan B., Grande Prairie (UC)  
Eggen, Hon. David, ECA, Edmonton-North West (NDP),  
Official Opposition Whip  
Ellingson, Court, Calgary-Foothills (NDP)  
Ellis, Hon. Mike, ECA, Calgary-West (UC),  
Deputy Premier  
Elmeligi, Sarah, Banff-Kananaskis (NDP)  
Eremenko, Janet, Calgary-Currie (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),  
Government Whip  
Glubish, Hon. Nate, ECA, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (UC)  
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)  
Gray, Hon. Christina, ECA, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP),  
Official Opposition House Leader  
Guthrie, Hon. Peter F., ECA, Airdrie-Cochrane (UC)  
Haji, Sharif, Edmonton-Decore (NDP)  
Hayter, Julia K.U., Calgary-Edgemont (NDP)  
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, ECA, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP),  
Official Opposition Assistant Whip  
Horner, Hon. Nate S., ECA, Drumheller-Stettler (UC)  
Hoyle, Rhiannon, Edmonton-South (NDP)  
Hunter, Hon. Grant R., ECA, Taber-Warner (UC)  
Ip, Nathan, Edmonton-South West (NDP)  
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP)  
Jean, Hon. Brian Michael, ECA, KC, Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche  
(UC)  
Johnson, Jennifer, Lacombe-Ponoka (Ind)  
Jones, Hon. Matt, ECA, Calgary-South East (UC)  
Kasawski, Kyle, Sherwood Park (NDP)  
Kayande, Samir, Calgary-Elbow (NDP),  
Official Opposition Deputy Assistant Whip  
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)  
Lunty, Brandon G., Leduc-Beaumont (UC)  
McDougall, Myles, Calgary-Fish Creek (UC)  
McIver, Hon. Ric, ECA, Calgary-Hays (UC)  
Metz, Luanne, Calgary-Varsity (NDP)  
Nally, Hon. Dale, ECA, Morinville-St. Albert (UC)  
Neudorf, Hon. Nathan T., ECA, Lethbridge-East (UC)  
Nicolaidis, Hon. Demetrios, ECA, Calgary-Bow (UC)  
Nixon, Hon. Jason, ECA, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre  
(UC)  
Notley, Hon. Rachel, ECA, Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP),  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
Pancholi, Rakhi, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)  
Petrovic, Chelsae, Livingstone-Macleod (UC)  
Phillips, Hon. Shannon, ECA, Lethbridge-West (NDP)  
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)  
Rowswell, Garth, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright (UC)  
Sabir, Hon. Irfan, ECA, Calgary-Bhullar-McCall (NDP),  
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader  
Sawhney, Hon. Rajan, ECA, Calgary-North West (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)  
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-City Centre (NDP)  
Sigurdson, Hon. Lori, ECA, Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)  
Sigurdson, Hon. R.J., ECA, Highwood (UC)  
Sinclair, Scott, Lesser Slave Lake (UC)  
Singh, Peter, Calgary-East (UC)  
Smith, Hon. Danielle, ECA, Brooks-Medicine Hat (UC),  
Premier  
Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UC)  
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP),  
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader  
Tejada, Lizette, Calgary-Klein (NDP)  
Turton, Hon. Searle, ECA, Spruce Grove-Stony Plain (UC)  
Wiebe, Ron, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UC)  
Williams, Hon. Dan D.A., ECA, Peace River (UC),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
Wilson, Hon. Rick D., ECA, Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin (UC)  
Wright, Justin, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UC)  
Wright, Peggy K., Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)  
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC),  
Deputy Government Whip  
Yaseen, Hon. Muhammad, ECA, Calgary-North (UC)

## Party standings:

United Conservative: 48

New Democrat: 38

Independent: 1

## Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

Shannon Dean, KC, Clerk	Nancy Robert, Clerk of <i>Journals</i> and Committees	Terry Langley, Sergeant-at-Arms
Teri Cherkewich, Law Clerk		Paul Link, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms
Trafton Koenig, Senior Parliamentary Counsel	Janet Schwegel, Director of Parliamentary Programs	Gareth Scott, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms
Philip Massolin, Clerk Assistant and Director of House Services	Amanda LeBlanc, Deputy Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>	Lang Bawn, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms

### **Executive Council**

Danielle Smith	Premier, President of Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Relations
Mike Ellis	Deputy Premier, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services
Mickey Amery	Minister of Justice
Devin Dreeshen	Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors
Tanya Fir	Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women
Nate Glubish	Minister of Technology and Innovation
Pete Guthrie	Minister of Infrastructure
Nate Horner	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
Brian Jean	Minister of Energy and Minerals
Matt Jones	Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade
Adriana LaGrange	Minister of Health
Todd Loewen	Minister of Forestry and Parks
Ric McIver	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Dale Nally	Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction
Nathan Neudorf	Minister of Affordability and Utilities
Demetrios Nicolaides	Minister of Education
Jason Nixon	Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services
Rajan Sawhney	Minister of Advanced Education
Joseph Schow	Minister of Tourism and Sport
Rebecca Schulz	Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
R.J. Sigurdson	Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Searle Turton	Minister of Children and Family Services
Dan Williams	Minister of Mental Health and Addiction
Rick Wilson	Minister of Indigenous Relations
Muhammad Yaseen	Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism

### **Parliamentary Secretaries**

Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk	Parliamentary Secretary for Settlement Services and Ukrainian Evacuees
Andrew Boitchenko	Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Relations
Chantelle de Jonge	Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities
Shane Getson	Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Corridor Development
Grant Hunter	Parliamentary Secretary for Agrifood Development
Martin Long	Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health
Scott Sinclair	Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Policing
Tany Yao	Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Northern Development

## STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

### **Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund**

Chair: Mr. Yao

Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Boitchenko  
Bouchard  
Brar  
Hunter  
Kasawski  
Kayande  
Wiebe

### **Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future**

Chair: Mr. Getson

Deputy Chair: Mr. Loyola

Boparai  
Cyr  
de Jonge  
Elmeligi  
Hoyle  
Stephan  
Wright, J.  
Yao

### **Standing Committee on Families and Communities**

Chair: Ms Lovely

Deputy Chair: Ms Goehring

Batten  
Boitchenko  
Long  
Lunty  
Metz  
Petrovic  
Singh  
Tejada

### **Standing Committee on Legislative Offices**

Chair: Mr. Getson

Deputy Chair: Mr. van Dijken

Chapman  
Dyck  
Eremenko  
Hunter  
Long  
Renaud  
Shepherd  
Sinclair

### **Special Standing Committee on Members' Services**

Chair: Mr. Cooper

Deputy Chair: Mr. Getson

Eggen  
Gray  
Long  
Phillips  
Rowswell  
Sabir  
Singh  
Yao

### **Standing Committee on Private Bills**

Chair: Ms Pitt

Deputy Chair: Mr. Stephan

Bouchard  
Ceci  
Deol  
Dyck  
Hayter  
Petrovic  
Sigurdson, L.  
Wright, J.

### **Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing**

Chair: Mr. Yao

Deputy Chair: Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk

Arcand-Paul  
Ceci  
Cyr  
Dach  
Gray  
Johnson  
Stephan  
Wiebe

### **Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

Chair: Ms Pancholi

Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Armstrong-Homeniuk  
de Jonge  
Ganley  
Haji  
Lovely  
Lunty  
McDougall  
Schmidt

### **Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship**

Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Deputy Chair: Mr. Schmidt

Al-Guneid  
Armstrong-Homeniuk  
Calahoo Stonehouse  
Dyck  
Hunter  
McDougall  
Sinclair  
Sweet

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 9, 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. Amen.

Hon. members, we will now be led in the singing of *God Save the King* by Mr. Matthew Bissett. I invite you to participate in the language of your choice.

#### 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.

### Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

**Mr. Getson:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you three board members of the Purnima Chaudhuri Thumri Foundation who successfully organized Alberta Days: Saveeta Patel, who has significantly contributed to the Indo Canada's Women Association; Rajeev Mittal, an oil and gas project management professional; and Manoj Chadha, an author who has published a series on real estate value creation. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood has a school group to introduce.

**Member Irwin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar I'd like to welcome students from STEM Collegiate, a school located in Edmonton-Gold Bar. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for St. Albert.

**Ms Renaud:** Merci, M. le Président. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you a constituent of the beautiful botanical arts city of St. Albert. Randy Wolstenholm is active in provincial politics, but this is his first visit to this place. I thank him for his support and ask him to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

**Mr. Wiebe:** Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I'm honoured to introduce my wife, Mary. She's been my rock in marriage and in business. As I step into my new role as MLA, Mary is my greatest ally in every endeavour. Mary, please receive the warm welcome of this House.

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

**Mr. Wright:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great honour to introduce to you and through you two members of the Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce: Alexandra Zabel and Lisa Dressler. Please rise and receive the welcome of this House.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday.

**Member Arcand-Paul:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly my amazing family: my mother, Karen Arcand; my cousin Angie Walker; my nephews Phoenix Walker and Cullen Arcand-Paul. If you would please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education is next.

**Mr. Nicolaidis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to introduce members of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton and representatives of B'nai Brith. Alberta's government stands with Alberta's Jewish community in the face of rising anti-Semitism. I ask that they rise and be recognized.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora has an introduction.

**Ms Hoffman:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Ishita Singla. She is an award-winning founder and director of Madhuban Performing Arts in Calgary. She's tirelessly promoting and advocating for South Asian arts, culture, and voices. She's also a constituent of my friend the MLA for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall. I ask that Ishita rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly. Oh, and she's also a top 40 under 40.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce both to you and through you some special people from my riding: first of all, Norm Scatter from the MD of Lesser Slave River – he is an amazing ambassador to the town of Slave Lake – and from the MD of Opportunity Cheri Courtorielle, Brendan Powell, and Darlene Jackson, who was nice enough to give us all jerky today.

Thank you.

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

**Ms Wright:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my great pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you two great friends and constituents: Marianne Martin, a veteran having served 30 years in the Canadian Armed Forces, and Andrew Robertson, an incredible activist and supporter. If you will both please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**Mrs. Johnson:** I rise to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly several hard-working Lacombe county members here for the RMA convention: Dana Kreil, Ken Weenink, Allan Wilson, Tim Timmons, Dwayne West, Michael Minchin, and Bill Cade. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, are there others? The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod has risen.

**Mrs. Petrovic:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I would like to introduce Rob Siewert from Foothills county. I would like you to rise and receive the warm and traditional welcome of the Assembly.

## Members' Statements

### Remembrance Day

**Ms Goehring:** This year Remembrance Day marks the 105th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The conflict, with its immense loss of life, was supposed to be the war to end all wars. The Second World War, which began just 21 years later, was the bloodiest military conflict in human history. A century later we are still striving to bring stability to a fractured world. We gather on November 11 to show that the loss of our Canadians was not in vain. The sacrifice was to attain a level of freedom and peace they would never get to experience.

During this week of remembrance it's important that we recognize that our safety and security are made possible by countless women and men who defend our borders at home and abroad. Our veterans fought in support of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and human rights. As our global community experiences extreme violence, let this day be a reminder to centre these values. These women and men take their honoured place in our country's military history beside their fellow veterans and fallen comrades of Canada's earlier war efforts.

While it is vital that we take time to honour these sacrifices made by those who have bravely fought for our freedoms, our remembrance should not be limited to a single day. We reap the benefits of our soldiers' sacrifices every day and should not take them for granted. As Canadians let us honour those who fought for and continue to fight for the values we hold dear. Let us pay tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for us, those who have served, those currently serving, both at home and abroad, and to the families and friends that support our military community to do the selfless work that they do every day for all of us. We honour them as we strive for respect, tolerance, and dignity for all.

Lest we forget.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat has a statement to make.

### Remembrance Day

**Mr. Wright:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the government's military liaison I rise in the House today with reverence to acknowledge Remembrance Day, a day that serves as tribute to the millions of Canadians who have served in our Armed Forces. Canadian troops have displayed remarkable courage in various conflicts such as the first and second world wars, the Korean War, Afghanistan, numerous international military missions and peacekeeping operations. They've earned a distinguished reputation for their bravery, unwavering defence of our freedoms.

Remembrance Day unites Albertans and Canadians in paying tribute to the dedication and sacrifice of our Armed Forces. Annually Canadians pause to reflect in remembrance of those who have served and gave their all in defence of this nation's freedoms and sovereignty. With over 2.3 million Canadians having served in the military and more than 118,000 making the ultimate sacrifice, their contributions are honoured and remembered.

Canadian soldiers played pivotal roles in historical battles like Normandy, Vimy Ridge, and Juno Beach while also playing very key roles in peacekeeping efforts across the globe due to their excellence and professionalism. The Canada we know and love today is a result of their dedicated efforts and sacrifices.

1:40

This is also a moment to ensure that the current members of our Armed Forces and their families receive the recognition they deserve, knowing that their ongoing efforts and sacrifices are

appreciated and remembered. This is the responsibility of future generations, to preserve the memory of these sacrifices. Lest we forget the horrors of war, we must continue to defend the democratic values previous generations fought so hard for. We must strive for a just and peaceful world where future generations need not make the same sacrifices.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in honouring those who served for our freedoms that we enjoy today. We will always remember them.

Lest we forget.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View has a statement to make.

### Government and Opposition Policies

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking around this House today, things look pretty different than they did the last time we were here. I'm joined by 19 new colleagues. Talking to so many excited new MLAs has given me occasion to reflect on this job, on how you absolutely must be grounded in who you are and why you are here.

The UCP will try to tell us daily who we are. They will talk about our woke agenda to defend human rights. They will talk about our communist plan to ensure that Albertans have access to medical care. They will even talk about our, quote, reign of terror that cut child poverty in half. They put us on graphics. They put words in our mouth. They accuse us of all manner of crimes. So allow me to set the record straight.

I grew up in northwest Calgary, where I now raise my daughter. My parents worked very hard to give me this future. My mom's parents came to Canada when she was four. They didn't have much education, but they worked hard. They built a house, and they sent my mom to university. That's part of why I'm here, because I think people should have that, university degree or not. They should have a house, food, and an education for their kid, access to doctors when they need it, hockey or soccer lessons, and the occasional vacation. It's not a big dream, but it's one that I think most Albertans share. But that dream seems to be getting further and further away for so many, especially in the last two or three years. The cost of living is certainly a part of it, but the slow erosion of average wages, the result of years of Conservative trickle-down policies, is the biggest problem.

There are many reasons that I'm here, but the biggest is that an ordinary family should be allowed to have an ordinary life. I think that the world is better and that we all benefit when everyone has the basics.

I know who I am and what I stand for, and I know my colleagues stand with me. So the UCP can call me whatever they want. I won't be fooled, and neither will Albertans.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Getson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those who don't know their history are bound to repeat it: this is one of the greatest downsides of our human condition but one we must address head-on. Right now in cities around the world they are witnessing significant events and the rise of anti-Jewish hatred. In Ottawa protesters hold up signs likening the Star of David to a swastika. In Los Angeles a 69-year-old Jewish man was beaten to death in the street. In Russia an anti-Semitic mob storms an airport to stop a plane arriving from Israel. In Paris pro-Hamas protesters walk down the streets, openly saying: kill the Jews.

All of these events were predicated by the Hamas terrorist attacks that took place on October 7 of this year, which saw more than 1,000 civilians murdered, which saw 40 babies beheaded, 200 men and women and children from around the world taken hostage, including Canadians, by the terrorist group Hamas.

Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to commemorate another Remembrance Day, we once again are being called to action right in the face of what is evil taking place in our world. Our government cannot and will not let anti-Jewish hatred take hold here in Alberta, and it starts with education, particularly education around the Holocaust, the greatest singular act of terror and evil that this world has ever known.

I recently returned from a trip in Germany, where I visited the Topography of Terror and a Holocaust memorial, and I can tell you: it was profound to be in the place where those events took place and to see the world events taking place and to see how that can take root and overwhelm an entire society with little acts of hatred. This is why I believe Alberta should strongly consider having Holocaust education as mandatory in the social studies curriculum. Alberta is not immune to the scourge of anti-Semitism. To the Jewish community in Alberta we say this: our government stands with you; we always will.

God bless.

### Health Care System

**Ms Hoffman:** Mr. Speaker, I'm proud that I was the Health minister of Alberta's first NDP government. The then Premier told me that she wanted somebody who shared mainstream Alberta values, somebody who would protect our public health care, someone who would ensure that the chaos and blame stopped and who'd get to work with the experts and front-line health care providers to ensure that all Albertans could get the right care in the right place at the right time. Albertans deserve a government that cares and is forward thinking.

Later that summer we announced that Calgary would finally be getting their top-notch cancer hospital, set to open in 2024. While we were in government, oil prices were low, but we committed to keeping hospitals open and expanding patient care. We worked to improve cancer treatment, cutting wait times for breast cancer surgeries by approximately 50 per cent in Calgary and Edmonton, and for anyone waiting for a mastectomy or lumpectomy or waiting for somebody they love to get one, that was life changing and often life saving. Instead of blaming cancer patients for their diagnosis, which, of course, isn't their fault, Premier, we put patients first.

We invested in the first new public long-term care centres in Alberta in decades. Fort McMurray downtown, Calgary Bridgeland, and Edmonton Norwood centres would mean that patients would be able to have a quality life in a great home instead of dying in a hospital. We opened an additional 2,000 long-term care and dementia care spaces in other areas as well.

Albertans could get a family doctor in all major centres, and as a result doctors actually returned their retention bonuses, allowing us to reinvest that money in programs that would support their patients. Without layoffs we saved the entire system over \$220 million through streamlining services while expanding care.

Under the current government costs have exploded and patient care has been sacrificed, and now, after constant attacks over the last four years, the UCP has decided to throw more chaos into the health care system. Mr. Speaker, Albertans deserve better. They deserve a government that cares.

### Diwali Bandi Chhor Divas

**Member Brar:** Hon. Speaker, I rise today to address this Assembly and extend my warmest wishes to the Hindu and Sikh communities in Alberta as they prepare to celebrate two important festivals, Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas.

Diwali, also known as the festival of lights, is one of the most widely celebrated festivals in the Hindu tradition. It brings the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. It is a time when we can learn from the message of Diwali the importance of unity, joy, and the victory of knowledge over ignorance.

On the same day our Sikh brothers and sisters celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas, which celebrates the release of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji and 52 other prisoners from the Gwalior Fort in 1619. This day symbolizes freedom and justice and highlights the values of Sikh faith.

Both Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas are celebrations of hope, unity, joy, love, compassion, and freedom that are integral to Alberta. The Hindu and Sikh communities have contributed to the cultural, social, and economic fabric of our province. It is a testament to the welcoming and inclusive nature of Alberta that these two communities, with their distinct cultural backgrounds, can flourish side by side, united by the common principles.

As we celebrate Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas, let us all take a moment to appreciate the cultural richness and diversity that these communities bring to our province. Let us also reflect on the values of light, freedom, and unity that these festivals symbolize and strive to incorporate them in the policies we create in this Assembly. I and my colleagues will be visiting these celebrations, and I encourage others to do so. I wish everyone a joyous and prosperous Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1:50

### Oral Question Period

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

### Health System Reform

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, the Premier's so-called health care plan creates health care silos and adds multiple layers of bureaucracy. In a 36-page cabinet brief, however, there's not even one page that details a plan to hire any more front-line health care professionals to the bedside of Albertans. If the Premier had consulted, she'd know that the single biggest ask from people working on the front lines is to hire more of them. Why did this Premier forget to consult with those front-line health care professionals?

**Ms Smith:** Mr. Speaker, we've known for some time that the problem at Alberta Health Services is a management problem. Quite frankly, they were doing too many things. They were setting policy. They were essentially spending the lion's share of the dollars. They were contracting out. They were also responsible for service delivery, and they were also responsible for evaluation. We're not going to be able to get a truly accountable system where we have multiple service providers providing great jobs for front-line workers in a number of different settings unless we start bringing some of those functions back into the ministry, and that's what we're going to do.

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, Heather Smith of the United Nurses of Alberta says that she was not consulted, but she was unequivocal: the government's rush to restructure is reckless; it's risking the very stability of our health care. She said loud and clear that we need to recruit, not destabilize. Instead, this Premier has plowed ahead, ignoring those who know health care best, our nurses. To the Premier: why did she dismiss the voices of front-line health care workers? Was their expertise just too darn inconvenient for her plans to gut our public health care system?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was actually a story from that same individual that got me thinking about how we need local decision-making. She was the one who told me they couldn't even get ginger ale in the staff fridge at one of the hospitals because some bureaucrat decided it was too expensive. That's the kind of outrageous thing that we see when you don't have local control and local decision-making, and it's the kind of thing that we're going to address.

I also spoke with the Canadian Nurses Association at an event recently and found out that Alberta has the lowest number of nurses working full-time, 38 per cent. That says to me that we have not created working conditions where people want to work full-time, and we've got to fix that.

**Ms Notley:** One of the most important working conditions that nurses seek is the respect to be consulted before radical overhauls are dropped on top of their heads.

Now, we can all agree that public health care in Alberta needs help. Unfortunately, the Premier doesn't seem to understand that rotating emergency room closures, skyrocketing wait times, and family doctor shortages will not be fixed by adding 13 new agencies, boards, and councils. A registered nurse, Anahi Johnson, said: no health care worker I know would recommend millions of dollars be spent on additional layers of bureaucracy while eliminating public service. Why not listen to the nurses?

**Ms Smith:** Well, Mr. Speaker, of course, the member opposite is mischaracterizing what we have done. We are making incremental change. We've changed the structure, yes, but the day-to-day life of nurses on the front line, doctors on the front line, and paramedics on the front line is going to change slowly over time. The minister is having regular consultations, and we are going to take advice every step of the way. This is why we have said that it is not an event; it is a process. We have now put a new structure in place, and we'll be able to consult with all of the front-line workers to make those incremental improvements with the help of the advisory boards. We're looking forward to it.

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

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the Premier needs to go to the dictionary and look up the meaning of the words "integrated" and "incremental."

### Provincial Pension Plan Proposal

**Ms Notley:** Nonetheless, meanwhile both the Premier and the Finance minister have admitted that the Telus report's pension estimates are unconfirmed and not yet final. Nonetheless, this UCP government continues spending millions and millions of public dollars on ads full of misinformation. Why won't the Premier pull these misleading ads off the airways? Stop wasting Albertans'

money and apologize to them for this abuse of their taxpayers' dollars.

**Ms Smith:** Mr. Speaker, we've shown our work, and the member opposite can feel free to read the LifeWorks report. In the back, in the appendix, it goes right from 1966 showing the amount of premiums that Albertans paid in and the amount of benefits paid out. In one year it was \$8.5 billion that Albertans paid in and only \$4.5 billion paid out. Every year, year after year, Albertans are overpaying. Those dollars are going into compounding, and that's why LifeWorks came up with the result that Albertans are entitled to 53 per cent of the assets. We're looking forward to seeing an alternative number.

**Ms Notley:** Albertans are entitled to facts, not fake news.

Now, meanwhile the UCP government continues playing hide-and-seek, holding yet another one of their one-way telephone calls on pensions. Now, once again, though, we'll do what this government won't, and we'll hear from people directly. We're meeting with Albertans face to face in Edmonton next Tuesday and again in Calgary on November 29, and there'll be more meetings to come. I'll invite the entire UCP caucus to join us. To the Premier in particular: what does she say? Would she like us to save a spot at our in-person town hall?

**Ms Smith:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I hope the Leader of the Opposition at least reads the report before she goes into that consultation because it is pretty clear when you do the assessment, when you look at what the act says, when you look at the calculation. That's what we hired LifeWorks to do. I was pleased that the Finance minister, when he had his meeting last week with the other finance ministers, got a statement from the federal Finance minister that she would look into doing the work, get the actuary, and give us her assessment. We'll be looking forward to having that conversation after.

**Ms Notley:** Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, the Premier is claiming that her so-called referendum will let Albertans decide on whether the government should gamble away their retirement security. But here's the problem: no one believes this UCP can be trusted to manage this process with integrity. So far they've got surveys without questions, one-way information sessions masquerading as town halls, and taxpayer-funded misinformation ads. To the Premier: if she wants Albertans to trust her at all on this, why won't she start by apologizing for wasting millions of dollars by spreading fake news?

**Ms Smith:** Well, Mr. Speaker, it's because the members opposite spread fake news that we've had to correct the record with an advertising campaign. You forget that they were telling poor seniors, vulnerable people, that their pension would be stolen. Shame on them. In fact, as we now know with the pension legislation we're putting forward, the only way you can have an Alberta pension is if 100 per cent of the assets are transferred for that purpose, if the contributions are lower or the benefits are higher, and if it's put to a vote of the people. That's going to be enshrined in law. People will have their say. If they choose, then they'll tell us if they want to have a referendum.

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

### Premier's Appearance on *Tucker Carlson Live*

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, this Premier is going to appear with Tucker Carlson, a right-wing, radical American personality who has repeatedly promoted hate, racism, and misogyny. Now, this isn't just the Premier having a private conversation with one of her favourite random



crackpot friends; this is the Premier of our province, who should be held to a much higher standard when representing Albertans and engaging on their behalf. To the Premier: why is she using the power, the dignity, and the privilege of her office to lend credibility to someone like Tucker Carlson?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Premier.

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, I do not subscribe to every view of every person who interviews me, whether that is the CBC, the *Toronto Star*, or Tucker Carlson. My goal is to share Alberta's message with as many people, regardless of where they're from, because Alberta has a wonderful story and we need to make sure people know it far and wide. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

**Ms Notley:** Carlson describes Ukrainian President Zelenskyy as, quote, ratlike and a, quote, persecutor of Christians among many other anti-Semitic tropes. Not too long ago he also went after a duly-elected rep of the U.S. Congress using pointed Islamophobic language, stating that she was, quote, living proof that the way we practise immigration has become dangerous to our country. To the Premier: with the recent rise in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia why would she lend the credibility and respect of her office to this person? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. The only one with the call is the Premier.

**Ms Smith:** Mr. Speaker, Albertans are so proud to have offered settlement to 40,000 Ukrainian evacuees and of the amazing work that more than 200 front-line organizations have done to be able to ensure the seamless integration into Alberta so that people can get on with their lives, learn a language, start a business, and be able to contribute. We're very proud of the support that we have given to the Ukrainian people.

**Ms Notley:** Yesterday our Member for Edmonton-Decore read out some additional comments that Tucker Carlson has made in public. He called immigrants, quote, dirty, and he described Iraqi people as, quote, semiliterate, primitive monkeys. Let us be clear. This is hate speech. The minister responded yesterday, stating that the government condemns racism and hate, but it looks to me like the Premier is welcoming this rhetoric with open arms. To the Premier: will she cancel her appearance with Tucker Carlson and stand up for the integrity of . . .

2:00

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Premier.

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is calling, and people are listening. They know that this is a province that wants to . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Premier has the call.

**Ms Smith:** Alberta is calling, and the world is listening. We have seen more people come into this province in the last year than we have since 1981. We're charting a pathway to continue that growth so that we can be double the population by 2050. We have an antiracism council, a multiculturalism council. We've increased the number of provincial nominees. We're going to continue to welcome people from around the world.

## Indigenous Consultations on Health Care

**Member Arcand-Paul:** Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier, this Legislature has notice of the existence of treaty in the province. Within Treaty 6 the medicine chest clause carries a deep obligation by all governments to fulfill the treaty right to health, and this Premier's first act in her role was to implement the sovereignty act without consulting any Indigenous nations despite there being a legal duty to consult. Indigenous nations spoke loud and clear then that they did not get consulted on the sovereignty act. Can the Premier tell me which nations she consulted before announcing the health care changes?

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker, we have been actively engaging with First Nations across the province. There was a very extensive engagement that occurred through the modernizing Alberta's primary care system panel. There was an Indigenous panel, and in fact there were many recommendations that came forward. A few weeks ago I was able to share that we are initiating an Indigenous navigator. We are having an elders roster. We've added \$20 million to an innovation fund.

**Member Arcand-Paul:** First Nations continue to be an afterthought of this government. Mr. Speaker, Indigenous nations in this province found out about this government health care plan just two days ago. It's difficult to argue that adequate consultation was conducted when it came to dealing with the treaty right to health. Why didn't the Premier meaningfully consult with Indigenous leaders before making any radical changes to the health care system?

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker, we have been meeting, I have been meeting continuously with Indigenous groups right across the whole province, and we also did inform them of the changes prior to – we had an embargoed meeting with all of them. What I hear from Indigenous communities is that they want . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Health.

**Member LaGrange:** . . . to be included, and they don't want government creating programs for them. They want to be part of the solution. As I've indicated through the modernizing Alberta's primary care system, we are investing heavily in Indigenous communities.

**Member Arcand-Paul:** Whether it is a sovereignty act or the dismantling of our public health care, it's clear that this government failed to consult with Indigenous nations with respect to the treaty right to health. As a lawyer I often had to teach folks on the legal obligations of the duty to consult. I would be pleased to give the Premier a lesson. She has demonstrated in the short time that she's been in this role that she does not understand her legal obligations. Will the Premier commit to meaningful consultation on any decisions that will affect Indigenous rights from this day forward, or does she need another lesson on the law? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker, the truth of the matter is that we are consulting, we have been consulting, and we will continue to consult. In fact, we're going to be working together on improvements. As I indicated, we are investing heavily: \$20 million to fund the Indigenous communities to design and deliver innovative primary health care services and projects; an Indigenous patients' complaints investigator; an elders roster to actually help Indigenous people

through the delivery of health care. We want to counteract racism. Our health division . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Beddington has a question.

### Education Funding

**Ms Chapman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Students in Alberta are funded at the lowest level in the country, and this comes after years of UCP cuts. They don't build schools. They fire support staff without warning, and they spend time ruining the curriculum rather than helping students get the education they deserve. This is about the future. These kids are Alberta's future leaders. Can the minister tell the House why kids in Alberta should get less for education than those learning elsewhere in the country?

**Mr. Nicolaides:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the students in Alberta should get a world-class education system, and they're getting precisely that. Just a couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to welcome a delegation of German ministers of education who have come to learn about Alberta's success. We're continuing to provide supports to our school division. In Budget . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Education.

**Mr. Nicolaides:** They don't like hearing about Alberta's success, Mr. Speaker, but I'll continue.

In Budget '23 we increased funding to education by over 5 per cent. That includes \$820 million over three years to fund enrolment pressures, to help hire over 3,000 additional educational support staff, including teachers. As well, we are continuing with an aggressive school development project, including 98 projects through the past four years.

**Ms Chapman:** Given that the list of devastating stories I hear from parents, students, and teachers goes on and on and on – classrooms with 40 kids or more, bus rides an hour or more because there's no school close to home, not enough teachers, educational assistants, critical support staff – and given that later today I intend to table a bill that will take steps to improve public education in the province and give this House an opportunity to come together to address urgent needs in our classroom, my question is: will the minister support it? Will my colleagues on that side of the House take a stand for public education?

**Mr. Nicolaides:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not in the habit of supporting something I haven't even seen. Maybe that's how the NDP makes decisions, but on this side of the House we make very thorough and evidence-based decisions, and we're going to continue to do that. That's why, as I mentioned, in Budget '23 . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** The minister.

**Mr. Nicolaides:** You can clearly see as well the behaviour from the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, and the way they conduct themselves, and all Albertans can of course see that on display.

We're committed to making sure that our education system remains world-class. We're continuing to provide funding to support enrolment pressures as well as continuing to build schools across the province.

**Ms Chapman:** Given that the legislation I intend to introduce would require establishment of critical standards for education, class size, student supports, school capital construction, and more

and given that these standards would be created by experts who know what they're doing when it comes to public education, will this minister tell the House who he's listening to? It certainly isn't the experts, and it certainly isn't the parents.

**Mr. Nicolaides:** Sure. I'd be happy to talk about who our government is listening to, Mr. Speaker. We're listening to parents. Just the other day in Grande Prairie I had the opportunity to talk with over a hundred parents and individuals from the community. We're listening to our school divisions, who understand the needs of their community better than anybody in this room. We're listening to teachers about the resources that they need in the classroom to help deliver a world-class education. We're listening to students. Just a couple of weekends ago I had the opportunity of convening the Minister's Youth Council. As well, we're listening to experts who have world-renowned authority in literature and English.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Camrose has a question to ask.

### Health System Reform (continued)

**Ms Lovely:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans know our health care system is not working as well as it should. Despite the excellent care that they receive from hard-working front-line staff, they're experiencing difficulties in finding a family doctor, struggling with long wait times in emergency rooms and for surgery. Albertans need to be able to access the world-class health care that they deserve where and when they need it. To the Minister of Health: can you explain what the government is doing to restore Alberta's health care system?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health.

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is committed to improving Alberta's health care system so all Albertans can access the services they need. That is why we are refocusing Alberta's public health care system on patient-centred care. Refocusing will enable Alberta to move to a more modern and responsive health care model, and this initiative will improve health care outcomes for every Albertan while also empowering health care workers to continue delivering high-quality care right across the province. I'm very proud of this.

2:10

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Camrose.

**Ms Lovely:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the minister for the answer. Given that Alberta is actively working on pathways to recruit, retain, and train more physicians and nurses in the province and given that these measures are well under way, can the same minister explain what refocusing measures will address workforce pressures in our health care system?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health.

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member. Our refocusing efforts are structured to strengthen our four priority sectors: primary care, acute care, continuing care, and mental health and addiction. But this goes hand in hand with our ongoing workforce strategies. As I shared last week, it's working; 255 physicians have registered to practise in the last four months alone, and we have a net increase of 3,896 nurses since last year. Great news for Albertans. I can't wait to share even more as things progress.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Ms Lovely:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the minister for the answer. Given that Alberta Health Services was shouldering a burden it was not intended to carry and given that Albertans are facing long wait times and delays to get an ambulance, which haven't been improving in recent months, can the minister explain how this refocusing will help address the strain and improve functionality of our acute system?

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Health.

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member. I've been around the province and heard very clearly that our system hasn't been working as it should. My focus as minister is to build a system that works for Albertans, and this is exactly what we're doing. In regard to acute care the new organization will be laser focused on delivering solutions that will include shorter wait times, lower EMS response times, provide higher quality of care across all four corners of our province. The front line is excited about this. I heard from paramedics and EMS providers that they are really looking forward to our changes.

### Health System Reform Consultations

**Dr. Metz:** Mr. Speaker, it is quite a spectacle to witness the UCP's fondness for consultation disasters. Apparently, their motto is: if it's a Dumpster fire, just stoke the flames further. Now here we go, barrelling down the tracks to dismantle our health care system without holding face-to-face consultations with the health care professionals who know how the system works. Is this government avoiding in-person consultations because they're terrified of being proven wrong, or is it simply because they've already made up their minds and couldn't care less?

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker, I just want to inform the member opposite that today I had a telephone town hall with over 2,000 people that attended, 2,000 health care workers that actually wanted to consult and chat on this very issue. It was wonderful to hear the questions from those individuals, that we were able to answer. We are going to continue to have town halls. We're going to have face-to-face meetings. I hear from front-line care workers every day. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order.

**Dr. Metz:** Given that one might assume that a competent government would consult Albertans and health care professionals before making drastic changes to the health care system and given that the current approach seems to involve breaking the system first and then informing health care professionals under the guise of consultations afterwards and given that I have heard from so many frustrated front-line health care workers who just want their voices heard after years of unimaginable stress, why does the government insist on operating on break it first . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Health.

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker, the truth of the matter is that we have been engaging for years. We did the MAPS engagement, the modernizing Alberta's primary care system engagement. We engaged with front-line EMS and paramedics and first responders. We engaged on the continuing care review. We engaged on finding out what AHS – the AHS review. The engagements could go on forever, but at some point in time we need to take action, and we are doing it.

**Dr. Metz:** Given that health care professionals are understandably anxious about their job security and given that during the morning's underwhelming telephone consultation the minister couldn't even provide a clear example of what she deems a successful health care model, my question is this: if the minister doesn't even know what she's trying to achieve with dismantling our health care, how can she possibly stand there and assure health care workers that their jobs will be protected and assure everyday Albertans that they will get the care they need and deserve?

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker, again, the members opposite continue to spew fear, and that is just not acceptable. Our front-line workers are doing incredible work. They have been overtaxed, they have not been listened to, and we're going to change that. One of our guiding principles on the health care refocus is to prioritize health care workers' well-being and listen to their expertise. [interjections] We are hiring more. I keep hearing them yell that. We've got a workforce strategy. It's working. But we need to hear from our front lines, and we're going to.

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

### Health System Reform

*(continued)*

**Ms Wright:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government is projecting a surplus this year that can be measured in the billions, yet after years and years of cuts and attacks on our health care system, our emergency medical services are struggling to keep up with the demand. Wait times at ERs this year have surpassed 14 hours, and just last week my dad – my 87-year-old dad – waited over seven hours at the U of A hospital. Does this Minister of Health think that seven to 14 hours is an acceptable wait time for an emergency?

**Member LaGrange:** No, I don't, and that's why we're going to fix it. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

**Ms Wright:** Given that the UCP has continuously made empty promises on health care and given that this government didn't hesitate to spend millions of dollars on an ad campaign to push their pet project, an Alberta pension plan, and given that actions speak louder than words and Albertans are tired of seeing the UCP waste time and money on ridiculous projects when real work needs to be done fixing our health care system, when will this government stop pushing bad ideas like the APP and focus on improving the lives of Albertans?

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that Einstein said that to do the same things over and over again and expect different results is the epitome of insanity. We have been doing the same things over and over again, and it has not been working. We need to do something different. We are going to do something different. I am looking forward to showing the results.

**Ms Wright:** Given that this government has openly talked about making Albertans pay to see a family doctor and given that the Premier's preference for private health care is at odds with the majority of Albertans and given that this government's recent track record on health care such as the ongoing lab services debacle hardly inspires confidence, to the Minister of Health: this government has screwed up primary care and screwed up lab services, so which part of health care is going to get screwed up next?

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

The Minister of Health has the call.

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker, the truth of the matter is people are looking for change. They know that what is currently happening is not working. Those that I've spoken to in primary care are excited about the changes. I have got pages and pages of individuals, of doctors, of nurses, of health care providers, of continuing care individuals that are providers also, that are so excited about the changes because they know there is an opportunity to actually be listened to and to improve the system.

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

### Homeless Supports

**Mr. Singh:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The constituents of Calgary-East have been experiencing a few challenges in their beautiful neighbourhood, and homelessness seems to be an issue that has been affecting many in Calgary-East. The safety of individuals experiencing homelessness, especially during the cold winter months, requires immediate action. Can the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services provide an update on the programs implemented by this government to address homelessness both across Alberta and in my constituency of Calgary-East?

2:20

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

**Mr. Nixon:** Thank you, first of all, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. member, who's been a tireless advocate on this issue for the city of Calgary. He started to bring the issue of the increased numbers that we're seeing in Calgary of the homeless population to me early in the spring. It's part of the reason why we've taken immediate efforts to be able to increase emergency capacity in Calgary. We've been able to surge our emergency shelter capacity to 1,700 beds within the city of Calgary, more than has ever taken place in history. We've also increased funding to our emergency shelters and our community-based organizations, who help us work with the homeless population in Calgary, by 71 per cent.

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

**Mr. Singh:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that many of my constituents in Calgary-East have expressed concerns over the rising levels of homelessness and further given that as the weather grows colder, my constituents are watching as Albertans camp outside in tents and huddle around electrical green boxes for heat, to the same minister: how will this government ensure safety not only for everyday Albertans but for those experiencing homelessness within my constituency as winter approaches?

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we know that encampments are dangerous for everybody involved. They're dangerous for the people within encampments. They're also dangerous for the general public that are around those areas, which is why we've invested in spaces for people to go be warm and be safe.

One of the things that we've also done in Calgary is we've added on Indigenous-only spaces or culturally appropriate spaces where Indigenous peoples feel comfortable as well as women-only spaces to our emergency program to make sure that women also feel safe being able to access help when they need to in emergency situations, so a lot is taking place in the city of Calgary.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Singh:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that homelessness is a complex issue and there is no easy solution and given that recently the Calgary Mustard Seed reported that they are struggling to meet demand and have been over capacity since June, to the same minister: what measures is this government taking to ensure that safe and warm shelter spaces are readily available to those experiencing homelessness?

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we've worked with places like the Mustard Seed, a place I know well – I had the privilege of being the executive director for the Mustard Seed – to be able to increase space to deal with emergency programs.

Further to that, we know those are temporary measures to deal with emergency situations, Mr. Speaker, which is why we are focused on creating more homes for everybody to live in in our province. That's why we're happy that this government has invested significantly in creating affordable housing all across the province. We are increasing that capacity, unlike the NDP. Interestingly, wait-lists increased by 76 per cent for affordable homes under their watch. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

### Minimum Wage Rate

**Member Eremenko:** Thank you. The ability to own a house, a car, pay for your kids' soccer and maybe a family night out used to be manageable without a second thought for a family making \$100,000 per year. But that's no longer the case after five years of the UCP. In 2018 our province had the most attractive minimum wage in the country, and now we're the third-lowest. As a result of all this, 1 in 4 Calgarians can't afford their basic needs. Mr. Speaker, I'll pose my question to any of the UCP members for Calgary. Do they think this is acceptable?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the minister of jobs and the economy.

**Mr. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government recognizes the significant pressure Albertans are facing after record inflation and interest rate increases. We also recognize the significant impacts of potential changes to the minimum wage, including on workers, employers, and costs, which are ultimately flowed through to all Albertans. While Alberta's minimum wage is similar to other provinces and has historically been higher, our government continues to evaluate to ensure that it's appropriate.

Thank you.

**Member Eremenko:** Well, given that increasing wage growth has not caught up to the problem of housing affordability and given that this government invested heavily in their Alberta Is Calling campaign but are failing to ensure housing is available and electricity remains affordable when people actually get here and given that in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, and in the Premier's own riding of Brooks-Medicine Hat minimum wage falls way short of meeting basic needs, to the Premier: will this government stop the blame game and work to prevent more Albertans from falling into poverty?

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

**Mr. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government reduced taxes, reduced regulatory burden, and opened the province for

business. Then we launched the Alberta Is Calling campaign, and we had 200,000 new Albertans come over the last 12 months. [interjections]

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

**Mr. Jones:** Contrast that to the NDP when they were in government. They increased taxes, increased regulatory burden, were antienergy and antibusiness. And they launched their own campaign: Alberta is embarrassing; it's closed for business; go to B.C. and get a job. Unfortunately, their campaign also worked, costing Albertans 180,000 jobs and resulting in record unemployment. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

**Member Eremenko:** Given that the members opposite happily boast about a budget surplus while one-quarter of Alberta's young adults regularly use food banks and over one-third of Alberta's parents skip a meal so their children can eat and given that the members opposite love to claim that they're fixing the economy while 300 families in Calgary are at risk of sleeping rough this winter and they won't even have access to a shelter, Mr. Speaker, I'll ask the Finance minister: is he proud that this government is letting families suffer so that this government can claim a surplus?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade.

**Mr. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to assure Albertans that we recognize the pressures you are under. It's why we've extended the suspension of the fuel tax. It's why we're reducing income taxes. It's why we've indexed core government supports. It's why we're supporting affordable child care, affordable housing, food banks, and low-income transit, and we will continue to support Albertans every step of the way. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order.

### Agricultural Support Programs

**Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk:** Mr. Speaker, this year has been an extraordinary dry one for western Canada. Livestock producers have been particularly hard hit by these conditions, which is why \$165 million of assistance has been made available through the Canada-Alberta drought livestock assistance program. Can the minister of agriculture please share with this Chamber and with Albertans how this assistance will benefit livestock producers and how they can apply to receive this assistance?

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for this important question. Now, AgriRecovery is intended to help with extraordinary costs caused by a disaster event that are not covered by our other business risk management programs. Now, the 2023 drought assistance program is focused on areas experiencing a one in 10 year or more severe drought. This will help our livestock producers cover costs due to lost grazing days up to \$150 per head. Eligible producers can now apply online at [afsc.ca/agrirecovery](https://afsc.ca/agrirecovery) or by visiting their local AFSC branch.

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

**Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this assistance program will bring many benefits to Alberta livestock producers who provide us all with food we need but given that some of my constituents in three municipal districts are not

included in this assistance despite areas directly to the north, east, and south being eligible, can the same minister please explain to the Assembly what considerations are taken into account and how are these eligible areas decided?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister of agriculture.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is absolutely a great question, and to put it as clearly as possible, area-specific eligibility was a requirement set by the federal government. Now, while Alberta fought against this condition since we first began advocating for the program in early July, we knew the urgency of this program and couldn't risk Albertan producers being shorted on critical funding as they entered the winter months. Simply put, the federal government would not have provided their portion of this program's funding without the . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Alberta's agriculture sector, including livestock producers, is the backbone not only of our economy but our society and given that our hard-working farmers and ranchers provide Alberta and the world with food security in a time of global unrest, can the same minister please share with us how this government is living up to its commitment to stand up for Alberta farmers and ranchers? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

The hon. the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again to the member. Our agricultural producers are vital to Alberta. That is something this side of the government understands, representing most of rural Alberta and having farmers and ranchers sitting in these chairs over here. Throughout this year's dry growing season we spoke with producers and rolled out numerous supports: a water pumping program, doubling the low-yield allowance, reopening AgriStability, and the temporary livestock water assistance program. Our government has fiercely advocated to the federal government for this drought assistance program since July 5. We will stand up for our farmers. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

### Provincial Pension Plan Proposal

*(continued)*

**Mr. Eggen:** Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of Albertans want this government to keep their hands off of their pensions, and this feeling actually extends to many Albertans sitting on the government side of this very Legislature. Throughout the election UCP MLAs promised that there was no plan to take Alberta out of the CPP. The minister of agriculture promised that he would absolutely protect Albertan pensions and the Canada pension plan. Does this minister have a message for his constituents who believed him when he said, I quote: absolutely protect the CPP?

2:30

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we've always committed to is having an honest conversation with Albertans about this proposed idea. The report is out in the public. It's been validated both in its interpretations and methodology. We've got assurances from the federal government that they're going to

involve the chief actuary and their department to dig into this. If that information changes, so will our engagement with Albertans. Of course, this has always been meant to be an honest conversation, and I surely hope that if the opposition is engaging, they do it in the fairest way possible.

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, Mr. Speaker, given that the pension survey this UCP government is flogging out there, at a cost of more than a million dollars a week, doesn't even give Albertans the option to state if they do not want the UCP to pull the pension out of the Canada pension and given that the UCP has refused to consult with Albertans in person, preferring to take fake consultation and multimillion-dollar propaganda campaigns, does the Minister of Finance not trust Albertans? Is that why his fake survey and consultation won't let them say no to this ridiculous and dangerous gamble to gamble away their pensions?

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Nearly Democratic Party does not understand how a referendum works.

**Ms Gray:** Point of order.

**Mr. Horner:** All we have said the entire way along is that we would have this conversation, we would gauge the interest of Albertans, we would ask them what it means to them, what's important to them, whether it's on the benefits side or the contribution side, to get a good understanding of what this could mean. We're talking about a potential of \$5 billion left in the Alberta economy for Albertans and their families, for Alberta businesses. It's worth consideration.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, a point of order is noted at 2:32.

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, given that many MLAs on that side of the House campaigned hard against pulling Alberta out of the Canada pension plan during the election – members for Livingstone-Macleod, Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul, and the minister of agriculture are all on tape promising their constituents that they would protect the Canada pension plan. On this side of the aisle we believe that Albertans deserve a government that does what it says, so will this Minister of Finance listen to his colleagues and commit to keeping his hands off Albertans' pensions?

**Mr. Horner:** I'm glad the member opposite brought up the Canada pension plan because something I was able to make very clear to the other Finance ministers across the country and the federal minister is that Albertans are, of course, concerned about CPP, and whether we started our own plan or not, they would like to ensure that CPP is left as a stable tool for the retirement of all Canadians. That's what the LifeWorks report showed, that at that asset withdrawal it would return to a sustainability ratio like it had in 2013, when no one was concerned.

**Premier's Appearance on Tucker Carlson Live**  
(continued)

**Ms Hayter:** Quote: I love women, but they're extremely primitive, they're basic, and they're hard to understand. These are the words of the Premier's newest friend Tucker Carlson, who she'll be lending the credibility of her office to on January 24. My message to the women of this province is a simple one. You are not primitive. You are not basic. You are leaders in Alberta's economy, health care, schools, and so much more, and Alberta is stronger because of you. Does the minister of status of women agree with my message or, like the Premier, does she prefer Tucker Carlson?

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

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do agree with the member opposite that Alberta's women are leaders within our communities and our economy, and when they fully participate in our economy, our civil society and our province thrive. Ensuring women in Alberta have access to good, quality jobs and can succeed in fulfilling careers is crucial to the success of our province. We have so many examples of how we support women, from our Women in STEM and Persons Case scholarships to Women Building Futures, to investing to help women find jobs in transportation, to our women's hub. I could go on and on.

**Ms Hayter:** Given that Tucker Carlson said about women, "You just need to be quiet and kind and do what you're told" and given that he once told a woman writer, "You should stick to your thigh-high boots" and given that he's publicly referred to women as ugly and pigs and whores and given that the minister of status of women's mandate letter says that she must support the participation of women in Alberta's economy, will the minister follow her mandate letter and tell the Premier to skip the conversation with Tucker Carlson?

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

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier has been clear that she participates in a variety of public and private events and does interviews with dozens of reporters, broadcasters . . . [interjections]

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

**Ms Fir:** . . . and podcasters from across the political spectrum. Obviously, as politicians we do not subscribe to every view of every interviewer or reporter we speak to. Our goal – and it's unfortunate that the members opposite don't want the world to see how amazing Alberta is doing. Speaking to all venues spreads our good news. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order. The hon. minister has the right to answer the question. I should have the ability to hear it.

I rose to call the House to order with seven seconds remaining. The minister has that time if she wants to use it. If not, I can proceed. The hon. the minister.

**Ms Fir:** As I said, our goal is to share Alberta's message with as many people across the world. The members opposite may not want to share our amazing economic news, but we do. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Ms Hayter:** Given that the Premier is excited to share a stage with Tucker Carlson, who once stated that he felt sorry for a U.S. Supreme Court judge because he found her unattractive, and given that he stated, quote, that what gets women going is to argue with them and given that he has a long and documented history of misogyny, will the minister of status of women be joining the Premier for this conversation, or will she be standing with Alberta women and tell the Premier that her endorsement of Tucker Carlson is wrong? [interjections]

**Mr. Schow:** Point of order.

**The Speaker:** A point of order is noted at 2:37.  
The hon. the minister of status of women.

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll repeat it again in case the members opposite didn't hear. From our Women in STEM and

Persons Case scholarships to Women Building Futures, to providing \$3 million to help women find jobs in transportation, to our women's hub, to our skyrocketing job employment numbers, Alberta is thriving. Alberta is succeeding.

Again, I know the members opposite don't want that message shared with the world, but we do, and we will.

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

### **Business Council of Alberta Report**

**Mrs. Petrovic:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta has a tangible economic optimism right now. Our economy is strong. Many key indicators are trending upwards, and last month Alberta added 38,000 jobs. This morning the Business Council of Alberta released their inaugural prosperity scorecard. The report highlights that we have much to be excited about here in Alberta, including positive trends for Indigenous economic prosperity and women in the workforce. To the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade: can you discuss the findings of this report and how it supports the work you are doing?

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

**Mr. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for her question. I'm very encouraged by the findings of this report. This scorecard further demonstrates why Alberta is and remains the economic and job-creation engine of Canada. Per capita GDP rose 4 per cent between 2020 and 2021, and the report also found that 90 per cent of people surveyed said that they have the opportunity to live a good life in Alberta. That is exactly what we want to see and exactly what we want to hear, and we're working to continue Alberta's leadership and momentum.

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

**Mrs. Petrovic:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that answer. Given that this report highlights some promising improvements for Indigenous people here in Alberta and given that the income gap and the unemployment gap for Indigenous Albertans has closed by 3 percentage points, can the Minister of Indigenous Relations please share some of the important work that's being done to generate this positive change?

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

**Mr. Wilson:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for such a great question. Indigenous participation in the economy is such a vital part in moving Alberta forward, and I'm pleased to see the transformational change that's happening across the province. This is seen through the programs we've started like the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, which backstops loans for Indigenous communities – this is creating jobs, promoting economic development – as well as our Aboriginal business investment fund. It's a grant program to help kick-start smaller Indigenous-owned businesses, again, creating jobs and opportunities to spark economic growth. The economic future for Indigenous peoples is bright, and I look forward to the work to continue.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

2:40

**Mrs. Petrovic:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that response. Given that the Business Council of Alberta's report finds that the income gap of women in Alberta

improved 3 percentage points and given that this government has been steadfast in their commitments to supporting women and increasing their economic participation and given that there is still work to be done to ensure that women can fully participate in Alberta's economy and close the wage gap, to the Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women: can you please tell Albertans what you are doing to ensure that we continue to close the wage gap and support the economic participation of women here in Alberta? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

The hon. the minister of status of women.

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is dedicated to supporting women's economic participation. As I just detailed, we're providing postsecondary scholarships like the Persons Case scholarship, the Women in STEM scholarship, that we introduced in 2020, to help women break economic barriers. We're supporting women to enter the skilled trades and transportation industries through partnerships with Women Building Futures and the Alberta Motor Transport Association. The report from the Business Council of Alberta shows that our work is paying off. In addition, Stats Canada shows that Alberta women are leading Canada in employment.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, this concludes the time allotted for Oral Question Period. For the purposes of clarity there was a point of order called at 2:37 by the hon. the Government House Leader, if I failed to note that.

Also, if any member has lost a set of keys during the rotunda ceremony today, it is in my office. You're welcome to answer the skill-testing question, and I'll get it back to you. It was found by the members' area during the rotunda ceremony earlier today.

Have a safe drive home if you're headed out this afternoon. In 30 seconds or less we will continue with the remainder of the daily Routine.

### **Introduction of Bills**

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Justice.

#### **Bill 8**

#### **Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2023**

**Mr. Amery:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to request leave to introduce a bill being Bill 8, the Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2023.

[Motion carried; Bill 8 read a first time]

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Member for Calgary-Beddington.

#### **Bill 202**

#### **Education (Class Size and Composition) Amendment Act, 2023**

**Ms Chapman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise and request leave to introduce Bill 202, the Education (Class Size and Composition) Amendment Act, 2023.

If passed, this evidence-based bill will address the concerns about rising class size and complexity by requiring school boards to report to the Ministry of Education on class size and composition, including the number of students with specialized learning needs and language learning needs and staffing. The bill would also require the minister to make this information public so that Albertans have transparency around the state of education in our classrooms. Additionally, the legislation would establish a commission on learning excellence

every 10 years to provide informed recommendations to the Education minister based on the reported data. Finally, the bill would require the Minister of Education to use these recommendations to establish class size and class composition standards to guide funding and school capital decisions.

I do hope that all members in the Assembly will support it and allow for a full debate in the House as a priority for Albertans. Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 202 read a first time]

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I'm sure that everyone will be happy to know that the owner of the keys has been located. I wouldn't want to embarrass them, but their riding initials might be L.M.

### Tabling Returns and Reports

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Health.

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table the following annual reports. All requisite copies have been provided to the office of the Clerk. First, the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta, 2022; Alberta College of Pharmacy, '22-23; Alberta Dental Association and College and the College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta, 2022; Alberta College of Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technologists, 2022; College of Dietitians of Alberta, 2022; Physiotherapy Alberta College Association, College of Physiotherapists of Alberta, 2022;; Alberta College of Occupational Therapists, '22-23; Alberta College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, 2022; Alberta College of Optometrists, 2022; College of Acupuncturists of Alberta, 2022-2023; Alberta Health Services 2022-2023 annual report; Hospital Privileges Appeal Board, 2021 and 2022; Alberta College of Social Workers, 2022; College of Alberta Denturists, 2022; College of Podiatric Physicians of Alberta, 2022; College of Naturopathic Doctors of Alberta, 2022; College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta, 2022; College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Alberta, 2022; Alberta College of Medical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Technologists, 2022; College of Midwives of Alberta, 2022; College of Dental Technologists of Alberta, 2022; and Health Quality Council of Alberta, 2022-2023.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Beddington has a tabling.

**Ms Chapman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just tabling five copies of two articles that I referenced in the bill debate yesterday. From CBC November 1, 2023: New Bill Could Change Compensation for Alberta Public Sector Executives, Non-union Staff.

From the *Edmonton Journal*, May 19, 2016: Province Introduces Legislation to Regulate Compensation of Alberta Government CEOs.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table the requisite five copies of an excerpt from the Edmonton Social Planning Council's 2023 report on Edmonton's living wage, which documents that the living wage in Edmonton today is \$22.25 while currently the minimum wage in the province sits at \$15 an hour and \$13 an hour for workers under the age of 18.

**The Speaker:** Are there others? The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

**Member Eremenko:** I rise to submit three pieces of correspondence in regard to private member's Bill 201, the Alberta Health Care Insurance (Access Fees) Amendment Act, 2023. These are each from different constituents within Calgary-Currie who are seeking family doctors, each discovering unique clinics that are in fact charging private membership fees. One of them is from Meghan, who reports that a clinic in the riding is asking for private membership that will include expedited access to insured appointments.

Another is from Robin, who reports that she simply cannot afford \$4,000 per year in membership fees for herself, her husband, and their elderly mother.

Then I have another one, from a different Robyn, for a different clinic, who also reports that she has been looking for a family doctor and came upon a clinic that is claiming \$3,000 to be able to access a family doctor.

I table five copies of each for the public record.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, that brings us to points of order.

At 2:32 the hon. the House leader for the Official Opposition rose on a point of order.

### Point of Order Language Creating Disorder

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. At 2:32 it was, I believe, the Minister of Finance that in his response referred to the Official Opposition by a false name, the Nearly Democratic Party. I rose to call this point of order because I find this is language likely to create disorder but more so is against the tradition of respect and honour that we tend to operate with in this place. Now, I have opened up *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, section 619, that carries on to 620, 621, areas that have been referenced often in this place because it deals specifically with the rules around how we reference each other in this place. These rules are here to guard against the tendency to personalize, but I think it's also a matter of respect.

2:50

Referring to the New Democratic Party by a different acronym I believe is likely to cause disorder in this place. From page 619 I would note:

A Minister is referred to by the portfolio he . . . holds. The two main party leaders may be referred to as the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and other party leaders are identified as the leaders of their respective parties.

I believe the intention behind these rules of decorum in chapter 13 are that we should not be making up language that might insult and inflame debate. I ask that you rule it a point of order, Mr. Speaker, so that we discontinue this practice in this place. I think that as a sign of respect we can use each other's correct party names.

**The Speaker:** The Deputy Government House Leader and Minister of Justice.

**Mr. Amery:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is clearly a matter of debate. The hon. minister was referring to an opinion expressed on the democratic principles of the members opposite, which, of course, is the crux of all types of debate that happens in this Legislature. The Opposition House Leader referenced titles that are conferred to individuals; the hon. minister was referring to a caucus. One might argue that the values of the opposition are less than nearly democratic, and others would argue that the opposition members engage in principles that are not undemocratic at all. Similarly, some may argue that the principles of the opposition are more democratic than nearly.



The point I'm trying to make here is that these are all matters of debate and that nothing would be more problematic than imposing restrictions on matters of debate in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I would implore you to not impute the intentions of the minister, as the hon. Opposition House Leader intended, but to rule that this is a matter of debate. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Are there others?

I am prepared to rule. I do have the benefit of the Blues. The hon. Minister of Finance at 2:31 stated the following: "Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Nearly Democratic Party does not understand how a referendum works." A point of order was called by the Official Opposition House Leader. The Minister of Finance went on to make the remainder of his point, but I don't think that's relevant for today's discussion.

Here's what I would say. I don't agree with the Opposition House Leader that the Minister of Finance was referring to any title inside the Assembly. If he had said, "The leader of the Nearly Democratic Party," perhaps that would have been different. That wasn't what he said. He was speaking more broadly to his opinion on the Nearly Democratic Party. While it did create disorder as a result of a point of order, I'm not going to find this a point of order in today's occasion.

But I will provide a caution. As some members will know, I've been around the legislative precinct for quite some time. If anyone is curious on the constituency break, they might look to *Alberta Hansard* from November 1, 2012, where the then hon. Speaker Zwodzesky made a significant and lengthy ruling, which I will spare the House from, with respect to the use of the words "the wild alliance" when referring to a former political party that had some standing.

This is not a point of order. I consider the matter dealt with and concluded.

At 2:39 the Deputy Government House Leader rose on a point of order.

### Point of Order Insulting Language

**Mr. Amery:** Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. I rise under Standing Order 23(h), (i), and (j) pursuant to a matter that happened at 2:37 p.m., whereby the hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud shouted out, directed towards the hon. Member for Morinville-St. Albert: speaking of misogynists. That was the wording used. I believe that this is, in fact, a point of order and in contravention of sections 23(h), (i), and (j): "makes allegations against another Member," "imputes false or unavowed motives to another Member," and "uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder." I would ask that the Speaker ask the member to rise, withdraw, and apologize.

**The Speaker:** The Official Opposition House Leader.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We were speaking of misogynists. This was a question about Tucker Carlson, who has said: I love women, but they're extremely primitive; they're basic; they're not that hard to understand. He has told women that they just need to be quiet and: kind of do what you're told.

This was an extremely heated back and forth between the government and the Official Opposition, and the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud was not speaking to any individual in this Chamber. Certainly, Tucker Carlson being a misogynist is a matter of debate in this House, and it has been quite inflamed right now, Mr. Speaker, because of Albertans' strong reaction to knowing that Danielle Smith is going to endorse such a person on a national and international stage.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Official Opposition House Leader will know that the use of a proper name in this Assembly, particularly that of the Premier, would be a point of order and inappropriate. However, I will accept the fact that it could have been a mistake.

Are there any others?

I am prepared to rule. I do have the benefit of the Blues, and I do see that there were some interjections at the time, which has been stated. However, the interjections which have been recorded by *Hansard* do not include the statement that has been alleged has been made by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

As I've said in this House a number of times just in the few sitting days that we've had, the chair cannot be expected to rule on comments made off the record in the absence of a reliable record. I would say that if that member did say, "You are a misogynist," that would be a point of order. However, if she was making broad statements with respect, while probably unhelpful, it may not in fact be a point of order.

In this case, without the evidence of a reliable record, the Speaker is unable to rule as to the point of order. I consider this matter dealt with and concluded.

Ordres du jour.

## Orders of the Day

### Consideration of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

Ms Lovely moved, seconded by Mr. Lundy, that an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To Her Honour the Honourable Salma Lakhani, AOE, BSc, LL.D, the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Alberta:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

[Adjourned debate November 8: Ms Wright]

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, are there others wishing to provide replies to the Speech from the Throne? The hon. Member for Grande Prairie to provide his maiden speech.

**Mr. Dyck:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise before you, with gratitude and optimism, representing the remarkable riding of Grande Prairie in northern Alberta. It's a privilege to share with you who I am, my reasons for entering public office, and the unique strengths of our constituency. We had such a great throne speech. I am thankful to be able to respond to this while emphasizing the opportunities and bright future that northern Alberta holds for our incredible province of Alberta.

[Mr. van Dijken in the chair]

First, a little bit about me. I started my working journey on a farm, learning the skills about hard work, the can-do attitude, and growing and further understanding the importance of family. I want to thank Bill and Sylvia Klassen for hiring me and starting my work journey with you and your family. You truly showed the Alberta spirit of hard work, the can-do attitude, and a desire to grow and build into the next generation. Thank you.

As well, thank you for my family and for your support. Thank you to my grandparents John and Betty Dyck, who first came to Alberta and instilled the values of family, patience, and love of life. I deeply thank you for your love of our entire family and for all who have become friends, not just family. To my parents, Doc and Ruth Dyck, thank you

for your continued desire to love others and encourage and instill in us the values of hard work and character and your love of God. You are amazing.

To my wife, Sandra, and my young family: Nash, Jayce, and Creed. To Sandra: your unequivocal support and desire to see our entire family grow and build into our community is truly exemplary. Thank you for choosing to continue to build the future of Alberta alongside myself and this team. To my sons Nash, Jayce, and Creed: while you may not fully yet understand the significance of this work, your joy in pursuit of life is incredible, and I look forward to continuing to be part of your journey as you develop into strong, thoughtful, brave leaders.

### 3:00

To those who came before and served the people of Alberta: I am very thankful for your service and continued encouragement. Thank you to the hon. Walter Paszkowski, the hon. Marvin Moore, the hon. Mel Knight, the hon. Everett McDonald, the hon. Wayne Drysdale, the hon. Tracy Allard, and the hon. and incredible prior Finance minister Travis Toews. That is a lot of honourables in the last 30 years. Thank you for your service to this incredible province. Your contributions continue to be significant and important.

From the very moment I entered the workforce, I did so full of hope, energy, a can-do attitude, and a desire for entrepreneurship. At the young age of 18 I started my first business, a construction company, alongside my father. My passion for business has only grown since then, having started several businesses in the last few years. As a businessperson I see endless opportunities in Alberta, across our great province. Particularly, I see it in northern Alberta, where I do believe we are the next frontier of growth for Alberta, and I'm committed to working hard to grow this potential for the benefit of all Albertans.

I'm drawn to public service because I truly believe in what our province can achieve. I want Alberta to continue to be the top spot for jobs and family life all while we lead the way in the world of energy, forestry, agriculture, technology, and many other fields, all while doing so responsibly. As an entrepreneur and business owner one of the reasons I am passionate about joining this and continuing public service is the tireless efforts of small-business owners and their contributions to Alberta.

As a small-business owner myself, as I mentioned, I know the many hours, countless creativity, hard work, and can-do attitude required to run a small business. I believe Alberta is the best place to be a small-business man, and I want to be able to contribute to the continued growth of the business community. To the small-business and business owners: your work and contributions matter to Albertans and to the success of all our communities.

Now let's take a moment to celebrate the incredible qualities of our region. Northern Alberta, particularly the vibrant city of Grande Prairie, stands as the largest commercial centre north of Edmonton and is a major connector to the Canamex and north-south trade corridor. I believe the opportunities and growth of the north and northwest are the future of our province. We have the opportunity of a lifetime, and we are the frontier of this growth and opportunity for many years still to come.

Now let's turn our attention to the future, a future that northern Alberta and Grande Prairie is well prepared to shape. My riding of Grande Prairie is a bustling city. It's a shining example of the hard work and can-do attitude of northern Albertans. Our business community is a thriving place, with companies and a workforce that are passionate about what they do, with many companies in energy, technology, and architecture working internationally. We have world-class businesspeople who inspire us with their innovation, with their adaptability, and success. They are part of the backbone

of our economy and a source of inspiration for our next generation and myself.

Speaking of economic stability, northern Alberta has consistently contributed to the province's economic well-being. We're not only thriving ourselves but are also ensuring the prosperity of Alberta as a whole. We're a crucial pillar of Alberta's success, and we're committed to maintaining that position. In our region we understand the importance of energy as a cornerstone in our economy. Our skilled workplaces and workforce play a crucial role in supporting our energy industries. Their can-do attitudes and incredible work ethic continue to be major contributors to Alberta's well-being.

The future of energy lies in continued technological advances, and we're poised to be at the forefront of this transition, setting an example for the rest of the province and the world. Technology is an ever-changing frontier, and our region is leading the way. Energy companies in northern Alberta are leading the way in these technologies, paving the path towards a greener and more sustainable future. From technology companies that have worked across the world to creating technologies that contribute to the streamlining of energy development, the talent and can-do entrepreneurial spirit is strong in our city.

Promoting our energy technology globally can significantly cut down emissions, enhance safety standards world-wide within the energy sector, and continue to pave the way for sustainable energy security for all nations involved in energy production. The people of Grande Prairie and area have already greatly contributed to this substantial work and are partners in creating this cutting-edge technology.

Agriculture, too, is a cornerstone of our region's prosperity. We have vast fertile lands that yield excellent crops and provide a home for livestock. From canola to barley, wheat, and cattle farming our agricultural sector is diverse, contributing to the province's food security and economic prosperity. Many residents who live in Grande Prairie are professionals across this field and have made cross-border contributions in this sector.

Our forests, covering vast expanses of land in the north, are more than just a natural wonder; they represent a wealth of opportunity and a vital resource for our economy in building homes, producing paper pulp, and creating sustainable jobs that have a global impact. We continue to sustainably harness the potential of our forests, promoting responsible harvesting that continues to care for and grow our future forests while also continuing economic growth and building jobs. When we take proper care of forests through responsible and thoughtful harvesting, we promote healthy forests, which is what this government is actively doing, and I'm proud of this. As part of this, the people of Grande Prairie and surrounding areas are world leaders when it comes to forestry development and sustainability.

In the realm of education our region stands as a strong example. Synergies between school boards in northern Alberta are a shining example for the rest of the province. From multiple school boards working together to create synergies in bus routes to recently supporting the opening of a new school, our school boards and community excel at showing up for each other, working hard together, and working together for the education of our children. The co-operation and collaboration between school boards is truly praiseworthy, creating a foundation for greater strength in our education.

Furthermore, we're actively preparing for the future by investing in our youth and expanding the trades in the north. We're setting the stage for a future where our region will continue to thrive and lead and bring continued strength to the trades. We have put our money where our mouth is in supporting both high school programs and red seal programs. Further, our commitment to trade education

is evident through initiatives, through recent grants to expand high school co-op programs. These programs have strengthened our education and are also bolstering the future of the skilled trades across disciplines.

In advanced education we have a responsive and thoughtful institution in Northwestern Polytechnic. The polytechnic's leadership has continued to be strong, working to bring quality trade programs into our area. They are also doing excellent work in equipping our current and future generations for skilled trades. But Northwestern Polytechnic hasn't stopped there. They have innovated and are doing the hard work to be a leader in the medical world here in Alberta through their international health care solutions in the nursing bridging program. There are many exciting times together for NWP. Thank you for your leadership. Your continued work as an institute is a testimony to the hard work and forward thinking of our area.

For everyone in Alberta I'm eager to continue to collaborate with our current government to enhance our health care system. It's crucial that we do so. Grande Prairie and Northwestern Polytechnic continue to have a place in providing solutions and engaging in the future of the medical workforce. I wholeheartedly back our government's vision of Alberta being the leading health care provider on a provincial stage, ensuring timely and quality care for all our residents. We are taking the bull by the horns and are doing the hard work for Albertans across our province.

Further, I look forward to joining this government to continue to create a great place for Albertans to call home by reducing the tax burdens of Albertans and focusing our efforts to reduce costs related to housing, to fuel, to electricity, and to insurance. We're striving to make Alberta one of the most affordable places to live, to work, purchase a home, and raise a family.

As well, our city council and mayor are a hard-working, passionate group. A big shout-out to them. City services in our region are not just up to par but are excellent. They continue to have innovative infrastructure such as the Eastlink Centre, Muskoseepi trails, and incredible tourism and culture. Our Eastlink Centre provides our community with an Olympic-sized pool, family play area, basketball courts, racquetball and squash courts, walking track, gym, and connection to the twin ice rinks at the Design Works Centre. These are truly leading facilities.

My wife and I have spent many nights walking Muskoseepi trails. They aren't just a connector; they go from one end of the city to the other, a unique attribute to our city. They are truly a great centrepiece to our city and showcase the quality of life in northern Alberta.

Tourism and culturalism are also integral to the vibrancy of our region. A couple of cool things are happening in the near future. In February 2024 we're hosting the Alberta Winter Games. In 2025 we're hosting the Special Olympics Alberta summer games, and we are the first Alberta community to host the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in May of 2024. These events are incredible, and we are very thankful to be able to host them.

**3:10**

Now I would like to take a moment to extend an open invitation to those who are considering joining us in Alberta to consider Grande Prairie. Whether you're a skilled tradesperson, a health care worker, a business owner, an entrepreneur, you are very welcome to make Grande Prairie your home, and we would welcome you to be part of our community and journey as the frontier and future of Alberta.

I am proud to represent the amazing people of Grande Prairie, a region teeming with potential, innovation, opportunity, can-do attitude, and hard work. As their representative I am committed to

working tirelessly to ensure that our region continues to prosper and contribute to the growth and development of the entirety of Alberta.

I firmly believe in a free and prosperous Alberta for my children and for all Albertans, and together we can achieve this vision. I am excited to be part of this journey, along with this team, for a brighter and more prosperous future for our great province.

Thank you.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you, Member.

Are there more that wish to speak?

**Member Hoyle:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to actually say hello to family and friends who are at home watching. It's a rare privilege of a lifetime to rise in response to the throne speech for the 31st Legislature.

I am filled with gratitude as we gather here on Treaty 6 territory, the ancestral lands of the Cree, Métis, Blackfoot, Dene, Nakota Sioux, Saulteaux, and Inuit. My riding of Edmonton-South has a high school named after Dr. Anne Anderson, an author and teacher instrumental in preserving the Cree language and Métis heritage in Alberta, Canada.

I want to extend my sincere congratulations to the esteemed members of the House on both sides of the aisle on their successful election campaigns. I am here because of hundreds of dedicated volunteers and donors who devoted their energy, their time, and their connections. I would like to recognize two very special people, Liz Dolcemore and Cynthia Fedor, who have believed in me through thick and thin. I am beyond grateful.

To all of my constituents who voted for me, to all of you who did not: please know that I am here to represent you all equally.

To the love of my life, my husband Ryan Hoyle, one of the most brilliant and deeply committed people I know: you are the foundation of our home and create the space for me to bloom and pursue every single goal I have. It's an honour to share and benefit from the deep-rooted history that your family holds in Edmonton and Alberta going back to the 1880s, a history of building community and helping others regardless of their background. We're lucky that their legacy is remembered at the Henderson round barn at the Fort Edmonton Park, giving us and so many others around us a chance to share in that history.

To our two adored boys, Kaiden and Logan, who always tell me how lucky they feel to have me as their mom: thank you with all of my heart for sharing me with Albertans.

To my dear, beloved mother, Fay Mildred Phelps: your sacrifices, unwavering love, and tireless encouragement have moulded me into the person that I am today. This journey would not have been possible without you. Thank you.

To my late grandparents Lillian Ida Benn Phelps and Herbert Douglas A. Phelps: thank you for teaching our family how to live life fully, to thrive with passion, humour, and style.

I stand before you all today with a profound sense of duty and responsibility. I have lived in Edmonton-South for almost 20 years, and I have seen how much it has changed in a short amount of time. As a previous business owner in the oil and gas industry, a devout community leader, mentor, and fundraiser, I know the importance of having leaders who step up and put people before politics. I wanted our riding to have a strong voice in the Legislature. This is what inspired me to run.

It's my great honour as the 965th member of less than 1,000 MLAs in the history of this province to be the first Black woman elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Alberta. I'm still trying to digest what this means for me, for diverse communities, and our province as a whole. I take this responsibility seriously, knowing that my presence is not just about me. It's about every young Black and racialized youth who has big dreams and

sees they can achieve them, too. While I may be the first, I am determined that I will not be the last.

I was born and raised on an island of Trinidad and Tobago, which shares similarities with Alberta as its economy is founded on oil and gas and agriculture. Trinidad has been free of slavery for over 180 years, and my grandfather was the engineering project manager for the first oil refinery at the Palo Seco fields in Trinidad in the early 1900s.

My ancestors are predominantly African, South Asian, Indian, and European, so all of that history flows through me both physically and spiritually. It's a gift to stand on the shoulders of my Caribbean ancestors. My late father, Charles Russell Lindsay, went to London School of Economics and was an economist and a professor. My mother studied at Oxford, extremely rare for a woman of her time, and was a professor. They encouraged me to be smart, work hard, step out of my comfort zone, and know that it is always my responsibility to help others. To this day my mother says: to whom much is given, much is expected.

In this Chamber we are more than just decision-makers. We are partners in community development. It is a true privilege to be the second MLA and first woman ever elected in Edmonton-South, an incredibly diverse, beautiful, and prosperous riding. When my husband and I built our house, Ellerslie Road was nothing but a gravel road. There were no schools, no amenities. Now we are the fastest growing area in Edmonton. In the last four years we grew by over 30 per cent. Our riding is home to seniors, professionals, and young families who work in energy, the tech sector, health care, education, and research to make their living. They work hard to provide the best life for their families and are concerned about their futures.

Mr. Speaker, we've been waiting for the south Edmonton hospital since 2017, when the then NDP government first announced it. We don't have access to a nearby hospital, and many can't find a family doctor. Families are struggling to keep food on the table and pay their bills. Schools are at maximum capacity, and teachers are still feeling abandoned. Postsecondary students are facing sharp increases in tuition. As a mom so much of the work I have done has been for my kids and for all children in our riding. As Dr. Eric Williams, the first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, said: the future of this nation lies in the school bags of our children.

Mr. Speaker, residents in Edmonton-South are worried about trusting this government in leading with integrity and doing what's right for all Albertans. I will work tirelessly in this Assembly to ensure that Edmonton-South continues to thrive, to deliver better health care, better education, and better jobs for all Albertans.

With unwavering gratitude and an unshakable determination I look forward to the journey serving you moving forward. Thank you.

3:20

**The Acting Speaker:** The Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti is next, followed by the Member for Edmonton-Rutherford.

**Mr. Wiebe:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise in this House and formally deliver my reply to the Speech from the Throne. I want to thank my wife, Mary, for joining me here today. Allow some of my first official words on the record here in this Chamber to be those of gratitude, gratitude to the constituents who have offered me their confidence to serve as their representative of Grande Prairie-Wapiti, gratitude to those who helped me with the election this spring and the volunteers and many hundreds of people who contributed and participated.

I also want to offer respect for the fellow candidates from other parties who worked hard and made many sacrifices. I offer words of thanks for those across the way who share a commitment to public service. Although we may not always agree on the path to move Alberta ahead, I look forward to spirited and respectful debates.

Mr. Speaker, most importantly I want to extend gratitude to my family; my wife, Mary; my children; my grandchildren; all who supported me in different ways in this process. To Alberta's MLAs, ministers, Premiers, and Speakers, all who've made a commitment to serve our province: without their humble service and the service of their staff, Alberta wouldn't be the envy of the nation that it is today.

There are a few former hon. members who have particularly inspired me to step into public service. The late Al Adair, better known as "Boomer," was my MLA for 22 years while serving in various ministerial roles. Former members Marvin Moore, Walter Paszkowski, Everett McDonald, and Wayne Drysdale stood up for our agriculture, forestry, and oil and gas sectors. And, Mr. Speaker, most recently, former Finance Minister Travis Toews demonstrated public service by making prudent decisions to get our fiscal House in order. He balanced the budget ahead of schedule and set up a fiscal framework that benefits us today while preparing for the needs of the future generations. It's thanks in large part to his work that our economy is firing on all cylinders again and that we are attracting major global investments.

Travis and I got to know each other well over the last year as we travelled this province. I saw Travis connect with folks from Edmonton to Calgary to Taber to Rio Grande on issues like health care, public safety, and affordability. Travis was as comfortable talking in boardrooms in New York as he was at his ranch in Rio Grande. I have a tremendous amount of respect for Travis's ability, and I'm grateful for his mentorship as I step into politics.

Mr. Speaker, Grande Prairie-Wapiti is an innovative, problem-solving, entrepreneurial community. It's that spirit that drew me to move my family and my business to Grande Prairie decades ago. Growing up, my dad was a farmer and a trucker. I found out quickly that I liked driving trucks more than a farm tractor. My interest led me to build a family business in trucking, which became part of one of Canada's largest petroleum carriers.

Business success stories don't just happen without their fair share of challenges and failures and, by extension, major learnings. In business I learned the importance of cross-functional teamwork. It requires working with various business departments bringing together teams and customers to work together to find solutions. I'm convinced that our work here is no different. We need to bring people together, from front-line workers to middle management to executives, to find the best common-sense solutions to the problems we face, whether they're in health care, public safety, or a myriad other issues, all with a single goal in mind of making every Albertan's life better. Humbly bringing together teams with experience and expertise will allow us to land on the best possible solutions. That, to me, is servant leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to stand in this House and advocate for the continued development of resources that are so abundant in my constituency. Our oil and gas sector is seeing steady growth, and we're attracting value-added petrochemical projects to our region.

Our agriculture industry is making impressive technological advances to increase efficiency in yields while reducing expensive inputs and minimizing the environmental impact. Our forestry sector offers lumber, OSB, and pulp and paper while making sure that we steward our renewable resources through reforestation. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention our beautiful backyard where this all happens. The rolling hills and the Rockies to the southwest offer a

great place for outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, camping, and much more.

Our community – Alberta, Canada, and the world – benefits from our resources. But there's more to do. The world needs more of our oil and gas products produced at the highest ethical and environmental standards. The world needs more of our high-quality ag products. The world needs more of our grade A lumber. That requires building more pipelines, expanding economic corridors, and improving transportation to connect us to global markets.

I was drawn to public service for exactly this reason. With the assistance of my talented staff, I hope to serve my constituency and make their lives better while adding to the Alberta advantage. Together with members in this House I hope to work on the broader legislative environment to bring forward policies that create the right atmosphere for the people to succeed.

I mentioned earlier the entrepreneurial spirit and the opportunity present here in Alberta. We can't take these gifts for granted. It took generations to build, and we must work hard to protect these gifts for future generations. It's a great honour and also an immense responsibility, Mr. Speaker, and I assure you that I will work humbly every day to serve the constituents of Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Thank you, and God bless Alberta.

**The Acting Speaker:** The Member for Edmonton-Rutherford.

**Member Calahoo Stonehouse:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Remarks in Cree] My Cree name given to me by my late mushum, teacher, mentor, Cecil Nepoose, translates to: the woman who walks on the earth until her hair turns grey. It took 30 Legislative Assemblies before I could stand and claim with pride that I am the first First Nations woman to be elected to this Assembly, to greet you in my language, Cree, and to tell you my name as it was given to me, and to put into record the names of my kin.

I give thanks, and I recognize all those who have come before me, especially Pearl Calahasen, who was the first Métis woman to be elected into the Legislature, back in 1989. Breaking trail is where all blood, sweat, and tears are shed, but it's what we do so that the next generation can walk with ease. I am deeply honoured to be here, and I want to express my gratitude to the people of Edmonton-Rutherford for placing their trust in me and to all Albertans for the opportunity to serve our beautiful province in opposition.

The collective energy that brings me in front of you today has many inputs. First, it was Richard Feehan, a two-term MLA for the NDP in Edmonton-Rutherford, who was a Minister of Indigenous Relations. He saw in me a voice and perspective that has evaded the Assembly Chambers since Alberta joined Confederation. It was thanks to Richard's tireless work ethic, support, promotion, mentorship, and guidance that we won Edmonton-Rutherford by over 60 points. After Feehan nudged me enough, I took protocol to my elders and I asked for guidance. It was Grand Chief Wilton Littlechild who told me that I must go wherever I can make change. So here I am.

The energy of my EDA, my campaign team, and all the incredible volunteers was the heartbeat of my spring. We felt every step of the way that this campaign was going to be historic. I fed off their positivity and take their vote of confidence seriously.

Edmonton-Rutherford is a constituency of contours, texture, from the Whitemud creek in the west across the softly rolling hills in Aspen Gardens, sloping downward away from Whitemud Drive across the flats of Duggan, Ermineskin, and Bears paw clean to the corner of Calgary Trail and Anthony Henday Drive. It is a constituency made of newcomers, multigenerational families, high-rises, coach homes, retirement facilities, daycares, mosques,

churches, Chinese supermarkets, the Century Park Market, coyotes, rabbits, the Derrick golf and country club, and Monster Mini Golf.

3:30

I walked across Edmonton-Rutherford at least a dozen times during this campaign, and I was struck not by its differences but, rather, the tight-knit camaraderie and an expectation of my constituents that as an MLA I would fight for quality health care services, equality, supports for seniors, investments in small businesses like my very favourite, Mimi's, and initiatives that move the needle on climate change. I pledge to do that, and I am proud to represent Edmonton-Rutherford.

I am also proud to come from a long line of hereditary chiefs, headmen, and clan mothers. My chapon, one of my great-grandfathers, was Chief Michael Calahoo, who represented my family, my band, my nation when we signed Treaty 6, the peace and friendship treaty, that is considered a sacred covenant between the settler newcomers, us the Indigenous people, and gitchy manitou as the witness, God the Creator; this would be that we would coexist as relatives as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.

My love for the land started when I was a little girl. My grandfather Napoleon Majeau would take me out along the river with my sister, and we would dig up medicines, we would fish, we would trap beavers, we would pick medicines, and he would tell me stories. We stopped trapping beavers when I was 10 because the population declined. We also stopped fishing because of the high nitrogen, which creates blue algae, which is poisonous. My grandfather would tell me that when the water is sick, so will be the people. The traditional ecological knowledge that my grandfather spent many years instilling in my heart and mind is a foundation of knowledge that as Indigenous people we carry in our hearts and minds on this land. Our families have survived these lands sustainably for millennia.

I would not be here, the matriarch I am, if I was not raised by strict parents who loved and nurtured me. To my mother, Connie Calahoo, who taught me the importance and value of growing your own food, the value of using the land wisely, and to do everything possible to protect it from contamination. I was raised to see all people regardless of ability, sex, gender, income, culture, race, or religion as my equal and love them. My dad, Bruce Stonehouse, fire chief, paramedic, nurse, first responder: you've taught me the value of saving lives. Anywhere we would drive, you would pull over, pull someone out of a burning house, but the reality is that you taught me that responders respond in a crisis, being paid or not. Albertans look after Albertans.

My grandparents Stony and Doris, who own the Home Hardware in Onoway. What I learned was the value of small business in a community. Family-run business is vital to the fabric of our province.

Lastly, my kids, who are my inspiration and my strength. You hold me to the highest account, call me out when I need to be, and encourage me when I have doubts. I admire and give thanks to you both so much. I am so proud to be your mother and the mother of many. You are all my blessings.

Turning my attention to the Speech from the Throne, we've all had some time to digest this. At the moment when I heard it, as I'm sure many other Albertans did, I may have had a bit of confusion. It claims our population will grow to be the second-largest province in the country by 2050 while at the same time other provinces will just magically stop. It also claims that we're going to increase energy production but also, incredibly, hit net-zero targets at the same time. It claims we're going to establish a regulatory regime on renewables while clearing out regulatory red tape. But you know what confused me the most? When the position was taken that every Albertan would have access to affordable and reliable electricity no matter the time of day or weather, a hearty promise.

That is what this government is going to do: always keep the lights on. But you can't drink electricity. You can't put out fires with electricity. You can't drill for oil with just electricity. Albertans can only do these things with water: clean, safe, accessible water. I've seen the devastating impacts of what happens when Albertans do not have access to clean, safe, accessible water. This issue is not just First Nations, Métis; we also see it in southern Alberta, Mr. Speaker. We need a government that will take the position that all Albertans will have access to clean, accessible water. It's a monumental threat. Water is life, and I'm here to protect it.

As we gather here in this House on Treaty 6 territory to address the challenges and opportunities facing our province, it is vital that we recognize this historic significance of the elected Indigenous folks here in this Assembly with me. Our presence symbolizes a step towards reconciliation, the inclusion of Indigenous voices in decision-making processes. It underscores the importance of diversity and the richness that different perspectives bring to these discussions.

Our province is one of great beauty and abundant resources, but it is not without its challenges. We must confront these issues on climate change. We must do economic diversification, access to quality education for every single child. My intention is to work collaboratively with all of you in this House to address the issues that affect our shared future. Together we can build a stronger, inclusive Alberta. [Remarks in Cree] to my ancestors, to my Lisa, to my family, to my team – my incredible team, I love you – to my supporters, and to everyone for making this historic moment possible. [Remarks in Cree] As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you, Member.

Member for Edmonton-West Henday, you wish to speak?

The Member for Calgary-East.

**Mr. Singh:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and reply on behalf of the constituents of Calgary-East to the Speech from the Throne given by her Honour the Lieutenant Governor on the 30th of October.

Mr. Speaker, while campaigning, I met many Albertans from all walks of life. I had the privilege of chatting with them and listening to their stories, and there were several concerns that I heard over and over: job creation, support for the natural resource sector, affordability of living essentials, better health care, and maintaining world-class public services, all values and goals that our government is dedicated to upholding. I promise you that our government didn't just listen to these concerns and worries of Albertans without taking action. This can be proven by the fact that we have been working on a variety of critically important issues facing our province. Alberta has come a long way. We have also put Alberta back on a path to success and prosperity. We promise to work continuously and tirelessly on making lives more affordable for all Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that we will remain committed to defending the rights and interests of Alberta from jurisdictional overreach of Ottawa. Our Canadian Constitution is very clear that the federal and provincial governments are equal, each with our own areas of exclusive jurisdiction, and our government will work to protect that. Ottawa is our partner, and like so many other Albertans, I'm a proud Canadian and have been since moving here decades ago. This country and especially this province have given me a lot: peace, opportunities, prosperity, security, a sense of belonging, and resources to raise a great family, amongst many other things. I believe that this is the case of many other immigrant families. We will keep fighting to protect Albertans from the misguided, unconstitutional,

and harmful policies being inflicted by the federal government on our province.

I take the opportunity to call on our federal counterpart to get spending under control, to scrap the federal carbon tax, that is driving up costs for all hard-working Canadians. No elected representative who is serious about making life more affordable for families should support these taxes, especially at a time when inflation is so high. Hard-working Albertans deserve to be treated fairly. Mr. Speaker, the federal government claims that the consumer carbon tax is an environmental policy. No, it's not. The carbon tax is a tax policy. The Parliamentary Budget Officer confirms it will cost the average Alberta family \$710 this year even after rebates, and it will go up every single year, therefore causing a rise in living costs.

**3:40**

Mr. Speaker, our government has the strongest job growth in the country; pays the highest wages; reduced red tape massively; provided electricity and natural gas rebates; indexed income tax to combat inflation; reindexed benefits like AISH, PDD, and income support as well as the Alberta seniors' benefit and the Alberta child and family benefit; provided targeted payments for children under 18, seniors 65 and older, and vulnerable Albertans with a household income below \$180,000; provided additional supports for low-income transit programs; and introduced a host of other reliefs. Despite all this, the looming federal carbon tax increase on April 1 will make everything more expensive again, and this is unacceptable.

Our government knows that affordability is the primary challenge facing Albertans right now and that families are counting on us to take decisive action to address the rising cost of living. That's exactly what we are doing and will keep doing. With record-high inflation, caused in part by record spending from the federal government, our people are being forced to choose between the necessities of life and paying their bills, this despite our province experiencing the strongest job growth in the country, high wages, and a nearly full economic recovery from the pandemic. To help Albertans to weather this inflation storm, we will continue to reduce costs under our jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Honourable Lieutenant Governor that electricity costs are high. The Alberta government will not allow that to continue. We will ensure that every Albertan has access to affordable and reliable electricity no matter the weather or time of day.

Mr. Speaker, our government is not hesitating in tackling health care reform, which is an ongoing concern in my riding and ridings across Alberta. We have been working so hard so that health care is available for all our people when they need it. On this, we have also taken action by launching the health care reform plan, which aims to improve EMS response time, decrease emergency room wait times, reduce wait times for surgeries, and develop long-term reforms through consultation with front-line workers.

Albertans need to protect their vehicles and properties with insurance. Our government will continue to look for long-term solutions to make sure Alberta's insurance industry is affordable and sustainable. As our government is considering every option to provide relief to Albertans and while exploring long-term solutions, we will take further action to reform auto insurance in Alberta and help make driving safer and more affordable for Albertans.

The trickle effect of harmful federal policies on Albertans is making it hard for people to afford rent as they can hardly catch up with expenses at the rate at which inflation, housing, and rent prices are growing. Shelter homes are struggling to meet demand and have been over capacity since June. It saddens my heart to see a great number of my constituents living in the street with no place to call home. Our government continues to prioritize the well-being of

Albertans and take unprecedented immediate action to reduce homelessness that we are currently experiencing across Alberta as it is imperative that we make Alberta a place where all residents can have a home.

Albertans deserve to feel safe in their province. They need to be able to protect themselves, family, businesses, and their gathering places from individuals who wish to do them harm. Thankfully, our government has taken ambitious steps to improve public safety in Alberta by deploying more officers to guard neighbourhoods and by providing the less fortunate with access to government funds. We created the public safety and community response task force to increase the law enforcement presence and to act in bolstering community and business safety.

Mr. Speaker, after the last few difficult years we have been through as a province, I want families, business owners, and all Albertans across the province to know that we are moving forward. Better days are ahead. Our government will forever be committed to the mandate.

Since we got elected in 2019, Alberta has been leading Canada in economic growth. Our province is growing faster than any other time in our history. This has resulted in increased immigration to Alberta. People and businesses are coming back to our province in record numbers and are intentionally choosing to call this province home. This growth represents incredible opportunities for Alberta's growth.

As we continue to focus on creating jobs, attracting investments, and opening the door for newcomers, we have also diversified Alberta's economy. Our energy and agriculture hubs have grown immensely. We have created many landmark investments across the province. Our rapid growth in new industries such as hydrogen, tourism, rare-earth minerals, technology, and new forestry products will continue building on our core strength while incentivizing the creation and growth of new industries and opportunities.

I firmly believe that the legislation initiatives outlined in the throne speech will only further enhance the momentum we are already currently seeing in our economy over the next four years to build a more affordable, prosperous, stronger, and freer future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker:** The Member for Edmonton-West Henday.

**Member Arcand-Paul:** [Remarks in Cree]

Karen Arcand; Vaughn and Debby Paul; Ella and Beatrice Arcand; Angus Paul; Edward Arcand; Dan Alexis; Mark and Hale Arcand-Paul; Kristi and Jason; Mila Walker; Rosalee Arcand-Paul; Noah Yon Fong; Eira Arcand-Lovett; Violet Arcand Kootenay; Haylie, Paige, and Addison Morkin; Phoenix Walker; Cullen Arcand-Paul; Terence Morkin. Mark and Hale Arcand-Paul and Kristi and Jason: say them twice. Why not? [Remarks in Cree]

We are here on the traditional territories of the Nehiyaw, Niitsitapi, Nakota Isga, Dene, Anishinabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Métis. Many folks refer to this territory as Treaty 6, and this is an important relationship to this land that was entered into between our ancestors for all of our benefit, yes, even today.

Specifically, I can trace my direct ancestor, Catchistawayskum, who entered into Treaty 6 here at Fort Edmonton, a few short steps from where I now have a desk and have given my life to the public service. This adds a responsibility on me to ensure that we honour our treaty relationship every single day, because this House owes it to our Indigenous kin.

I just introduced you with one of the oldest laws the Nehiyawak have retained. Despite decades of colonial violence and attempted eradication by successive Canadian governments, our laws have persevered, just like our nations and our people. This law to identify our kinship and connections is enhanced by the law of Wahkotowin,

which creates a moral obligation for good relations with each other. Although relatively straightforward, it is one that we hold tightly, now especially.

We are facing unprecedented numbers of folks claiming Indigenous identity, or, as it is aptly called in pop culture, pretendianism. This is one way to address the ongoing harm caused by folks claiming our identities for their own personal gain. This includes those folks who do not have any connection to an Indigenous community in the present day. Yes, that also means the Premier's tenuous claims of Cherokee roots.

3:50

Not only is it a Nehiyaw law, but it's important to introduce myself and my family to acknowledge that I would not be here today without all of these amazing people standing beside me and encouraging me to reach for the stars when so many told me to keep my head and voice down so as to not disrupt the status quo. Mr. Speaker, my mama raised me to be a force of good in this world, and that is exactly what I intend to do.

In my introduction I used my traditional name, Sipiysis, which was a name given to me when I was born by my capan Jean Arcand, my paternal great-grandmother, who made an offering for me at ceremony. My name translates to "little river," and for me it's a constant reminder that water is life and that we must always defend it.

I also mentioned that I come from the Alexander First Nation, or Kipohtakaw, which loosely translates to "the bushed-in people." If you've ever visited Alexander, you'd know that the title fits. The amount of trees and small ponds and rolling hills gives it a feeling that it is truly the bush. I was born at the Charles Camsell hospital, the old Indian hospital that is now being turned into condos. I spent most of my life on my rez – yes, I like to say "rez" because that's what I've called it my entire life – and I'm proud of that upbringing because I believe this is what shaped me. The beautiful, sprawling hills of Alexander were where I would drive my quad or bike, dodging not-so-little rez dogs with my friends and cousins. In our way cousins are always our first best friends.

As the first two-spirit MLA in Alberta's history I take my place in history along with the many firsts that our team accomplished for the 31st legislative session, and they spoke today: the largest Official Opposition in Alberta's history, the first Black woman elected in our province's history, the first First Nations woman elected – and I could go on. We accomplished these important firsts because our team is committed to representation of all Albertans, because our lived experiences help this House to navigate difficult policy and legal considerations.

Throughout my career I've dedicated my expertise and knowledge to further the priorities and rights of Indigenous peoples. From First Nations education to protecting our sacred treaties as a lawyer, I've worked hard to ensure that my people and indeed all Indigenous peoples across Canada retain and strengthen their rights, laws, and sovereignty, that have never been eroded by any government or statute despite their best efforts. Protecting and strengthening the relationship between our province and the sovereign nations found in Alberta, who predate all of these institutions on this land, is something we must all work toward on our journey of truth and reconciliation. Wahkotowin requires it, Mr. Speaker.

While in our role in Official Opposition and as the critic for Indigenous Relations and reconciliation, I honour the important role in keeping this government accountable on these points. Now, as the elected member representing my constituents in Edmonton-West Henday, it is my duty to hold this government accountable to its decisions that impact all Albertans; for example, the misuse of Albertans' hard-earned tax dollars on advertisements outside of

Alberta to stick it to – you guessed it – Justin Trudeau. And, hey, for the record, Mr. Speaker, I'm not a big fan of him or his decisions either. But we don't need to be spending millions of Albertans' dollars on wrapping Toronto subway cars just to send him a message when we have over 4,000 unhoused folks on Edmonton streets with a brutal winter around the corner.

The work ahead of us is a mountain, specifically the beautiful Rockies' eastern slopes, which we will work hard every single day to protect in this Legislature along with many of the priorities of everyday Albertans. From pensions to schools, climate change, and health care, the Alberta NDP will never let this government forget that there are 38 of us, who represent many beautiful and diverse communities and their interests.

I am so thankful for the number of previous MLAs who represented my amazing constituents: Jon Carson, the hon. Dave Eggen, and Raj Sherman to name a few. I'm also thankful for my team and volunteers: Phil, Stephen, Krystle, Leonard, Nancy, Alice, Beth, Don, Keith, Mahesh, Nadine, Roseanne, Taralynn, Sydney, Jim, Irene, Gina, Karen, and Lyric Jane.

Mr. Speaker, my riding has changed so very much since the start of this millennium, in so many ways beyond just their boundaries. We have expanded the limits of the city of Edmonton with the beautiful communities of Secord, Rosenthal, Hawks Ridge, Trumpeter, Starling, Kinglet Gardens, and the numerous estates at Big Lake. These beautiful communities, which I call home with my supportive and handsome partner, Jason, who is in the gallery now, and our adorable golden retriever, Jake, who is, unfortunately, not in the gallery, are joined by our gorgeous, tree-lined, established neighbourhoods of Calder, Westview Village, Athlone, La Perle, Belmead, Terra Losa, and Lewis Estates, all of which have fabulously active and cohesive community leagues who are bringing their communities together for fundraisers, community dances, casino nights, and sometimes even a hot-air balloon ride over their community.

Many of these communities are, sadly, awaiting many services that this government has overlooked today. For example, the good people of Edmonton-West Heday have been asking this UCP government in their last term for schools for their young ones. Thankfully, they had some reprieve when the NDP government built three in the riding to meet the growth. But, Mr. Speaker, we need so much more for the many, many families, the young families that are building their homes in these communities. They have been asking day in and day out for our infrastructure needs to be met, including intelligent and capable modifications to our highways that have outgrown our ever-expanding neighbourhood needs. The Whitemud and 16A have far exceeded the needs of Edmonton-West Heday. You should try taking a trip on them during rush hour. It's not fun.

They're also asking this government to seriously consider the affordability crisis in real, tangible ways. Instead of complaining about the carbon tax, they want the UCP government to actually provide them with real solutions. They need this government to seriously consider putting in meaningful caps on their utility bills so that they don't have to pay their bills on their already overloaded credit cards or risk blackouts. I've met folks from my community that are struggling to make ends meet from their rising rents, utility bills, and insurance and the rising costs of being able to just put a meal on their table. One family in my riding admitted that they were forced to eat rice for weeks because they could not keep up with the piling bills, that have grown since the UCP took office.

We're also seeing a rise in tents and makeshift homes setting up around our communities that were never there when the NDP were in government and which have certainly increased across the board since the UCP took the helm. When I speak with constituents about these structures, I am not met with pleas to lock them up or hide

them away. Instead, I hear genuine concern about their well-being. They, much like many of my colleagues on this side of the House, are heartfelt in wanting better for all Albertans, including those experiencing houselessness. Every Albertan deserves a roof over their head. It is a human right, full stop.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Edmonton-West Heday have elected me to bring these concerns to this Legislature, to have honest and open debate with the members across the aisle. While we may not always agree on which approach is best, I sincerely hope that this session can address our collective issues and help Albertans out when there are too many pressures already on them.

I'm here because of my ancestors. I'm here for the next seven generations. I'm here for those queer kids that deserve to see themselves in this House, because they belong here, too. [Remarks in Cree], Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker:** The Member for Edmonton-South West.

**Mr. Ip:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am truly honoured to rise in the House today as the 966th member of this Assembly and as the member for the beautiful riding of Edmonton-South West. Edmonton-South West is one of the fastest growing ridings in the province. It is diverse, both demographically and in its environment. The riding is home to the future Big Island provincial park, which contains 68 acres of untouched natural beauty along the North Saskatchewan River, including significant wetlands, mature balsam forest, and abundant wildlife.

4:00

On a map Edmonton-South West is oblong in shape, bisected by the North Saskatchewan River. The riding has been described as, and I quote, having the vague appearance of an abstract cockatoo looking over its shoulder. End quote. Edmonton-South West is home to many vibrant communities, representing many different cultural backgrounds and religions. Major languages spoken include Tagalog, Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish, Punjabi, and Arabic, among others. In many ways Edmonton-South West is a perfect microcosm of Alberta. It is a reflection of hard-working folks from all walks of life, from oil field workers to plumbers to health care workers and teachers. The average age of residents is 34. Their top concerns: affordability, health care, and education, especially the need for schools. I am proud to have advocated and opened several area schools, having served as the Edmonton public school board trustee for much of the riding for nearly 10 years, but we need more.

My story is like the story of many Albertans. I am the son of immigrants. I was born in Taiwan. My parents came to Alberta in the 1980s, in part so that my sister and I could be afforded better opportunities. Like many immigrants of their generation, it was not easy making their way in a new country. Economic opportunities were often limited for folks who had little or no formal education in Canada, so my parents worked hard to forge their own path, operating small businesses over the years. Some achieved moderate success; others less so. Money was at times tight, but we were always provided for, always loved. From my parents I learned grit, resilience, ingenuity, and the importance of perseverance. While my mother spoke little English, she was resourceful, always informed, active in her church, and surrounded by other amazing women in the Chinese-Canadian community, where they would uplift one another.

My childhood was rooted in and supported by community. As a one-time English language learner I benefited from the support of teachers and educational assistants until second grade. Without question, I wouldn't be here today without the support of a strong public education system and of a vibrant community, but today the building blocks of a well-supported education system are at risk.



Funding per student has not kept pace with population growth. Class sizes are larger and more complex than ever before. Students travel long distances to attend school. New and growing neighbourhoods do not have enough school space. Alberta is short thousands of teachers and educational assistants. Having served as a school board trustee, I witnessed first-hand the impact of deep cuts to education over the past four years and, in particular, the gutting of program unit funding, or PUF, an early-years intervention program that was once the envy of Canada.

It is well documented that between ages zero to five is a crucial window in a child's development. Children who are able to read at grade level by grade 3 are more likely to finish high school and achieve success beyond, so it is shameful that this government has cut funding and support to Alberta's most vulnerable children. Changes to the education funding formula have resulted in fewer dollars for growing school divisions and do not fully fund student growth, especially at a time when the province is seeing high interprovincial and international migration. Cuts are often cloaked and disguised as funding formula changes or adjustments, but a cut is a cut, and it comes at a price. As my former school board colleague the great Ray Martin would always say: you pay now or you pay later.

Mr. Speaker, it is ultimately the children of this province who bear the costs of short-sighted decisions by this government in the name of fiscal prudence. We know that investing in prevention, whether in health care or in education or in other essential public services, will benefit all Albertans in the long run. We must also consider the human costs. Imagine children who fall through the cracks and who do not receive the intervention or support they need. Imagine the Albertan who cannot access timely primary care. We all bear the costs of lost potential.

As Alberta builds the economy of the future, it's not what's underneath the ground that is most valuable; it is what's above it. It's people. To adapt and thrive in an ever-changing world, we must invest in the people of Alberta. That means investing in the collective good, in initiatives that will benefit all Albertans. That means investing in public education, in public health care, in a renewable energy future. We must invest in new and emerging innovations in knowledge creation and research and talent retention, which also means adequately funding postsecondary education.

The world is changing. Globally we face an uncertain future. With climate change, upheaval in parts of the world our province is at a crossroads. We can either embrace change or run away from it. We have the opportunity to make the principled and necessary decisions that will harness the potential and possibility of this province.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the role of government is to create the best possible conditions that will allow all Albertans to prosper, thrive, and flourish and to ensure that every Albertan regardless of background or circumstance can live a life of dignity and fulfillment, rooted in a sense of belonging and community. I am proud to be part of a social democratic tradition, where we believe that access to quality education, health care, affordable housing, a living wage is a right, not a privilege. I am proud to be on the side of the House that cut child poverty in half when in government and that believes in the potential of everyday Albertans. I am proud to be part of a history-making caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent much of my career in community and economic development advocating for Albertans. Most recently, prior to my election to this House, I led start-up programs for Edmonton Unlimited, the city of Edmonton's innovation catalyst. There I was inspired by entrepreneurs and innovators who were doing their part to solve intractable problems. I met a small-business owner who was creating a platform and marketplace for underserved, racialized women. Another company pioneered a technology that transformed waste to energy. One entrepreneur was working to connect students to affordable housing. Like my parents and so many everyday Albertans I've met in my riding, these innovators, entrepreneurs, and problem solvers represent the spirit and resilience of Alberta. Our diversity is what makes us strong.

It is hard to believe that just three generations ago my election to the Legislature would not have been possible. One hundred years ago, with the passing of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1923, someone like me would not have been allowed to enter Canada, much less seek public office. I am proud to be part of just a handful of members to have been elected to this Chamber of Chinese descent, and I am proud to be the first Taiwan-born MLA. Progress towards a more equitable and inclusive and more just society cannot be taken for granted. The trajectory is not always linear. I'm standing here on a path paved by trailblazers before me, and it is in their honour that I will continue fighting for a kinder, more inclusive Alberta.

And to those Albertans who feel unseen and unheard, I want you to know that you matter and you belong. When my mother first arrived in Alberta, the first thing she noticed was a big, blue, seemingly endless sky. Our blue skies are emblematic of the possibility of this province. My colleagues, we are all here for a limited time, stewards of this hallowed place in all it represents. Let's work together in the interest of all Albertans.

Finally, I want to thank my family for their enduring love and support, especially to my mother, the strongest, most resilient person I know. I am proud to be your son. To my mentors and many friends, volunteers, and supporters: my journey would not have been possible without you. To the people of Edmonton-South West: thank you for sharing your stories, your hopes, your dreams, aspirations, and challenges with me. My abiding commitment to you is to always represent you with integrity and to the best of my ability and to always tirelessly advocate for you. Thank you for placing your trust in me.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

**The Acting Speaker:** The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

4:10

**Mr. Williams:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank everyone for hearing more of their inspiring and moving maiden speeches. I'm hoping that we can dismiss a little bit early, and for this Deputy Government House Leader's position I hope everyone uses those extra 19 minutes to race home to their family.

With that, I move that we adjourn the Assembly until 1:30 on Monday, November 20, 2023.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:11 p.m. to Monday, November 20, at 1:30 p.m.]



## **Bill Status Report for the 31th Legislature - 1st Session (2023)**

**Activity to Thursday, November 9, 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 Taxpayer Protection Amendment Act, 2023 (Smith)**

First Reading — 10 (*Oct. 30, 2023 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 57-58 (*Nov. 1, 2023 aft.*), 96-97 (*Nov. 2, 2023 aft., passed*)  
Committee of the Whole — 145-47 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft., passed*)  
Third Reading — 147-54 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft., passed on division*)

### **Bill 2 — Alberta Pension Protection Act (Horner)**

First Reading — 89-90 (*Nov. 2, 2023 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 154-55 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft., adjourned*)

### **Bill 3 — Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Amendment Act, 2023 (Williams)**

First Reading — 22 (*Oct. 31, 2023 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 90-93 (*Nov. 2, 2023 aft.*), 180-87 (*Nov. 8, 2023 aft., adjourned*)

### **Bill 4 — Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 (\$) (Horner)**

First Reading — 55 (*Nov. 1, 2023 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 159-63 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft.*), 155-56 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft.*), 187-90 (*Nov. 8, 2023 aft., passed*)

### **Bill 5 — Public Sector Employers Amendment Act, 2023 (Horner)**

First Reading — 55-56 (*Nov. 1, 2023 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 156-57 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft.*), 190-97 (*Nov. 8, 2023 aft., adjourned*)

### **Bill 6 — Public Health Amendment Act, 2023 (Amery)**

First Reading — 90 (*Nov. 2, 2023 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 157-58 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft., adjourned*)

### **Bill 7 — Engineering and Geoscience Professions Amendment Act, 2023 (Sawhney)**

First Reading — 111 (*Nov. 6, 2023 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 158-59 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft., adjourned*)

### **Bill 8 — Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 (Amery)**

First Reading — 209 (*Nov. 9, 2023 aft., passed*)

### **Bill 201 — Alberta Health Care Insurance (Access Fees) Amendment Act, 2023 (Brar)**

First Reading — 90 (*Nov. 2, 2023 aft., passed*)  
Second Reading — 114-25 (*Nov. 6, 2023 aft., adjourned on amendment*)

**Bill 202 — Education (Class Size and Composition) Amendment Act, 2023 (Chapman)**

First Reading — 209 *(Nov. 9, 2023 aft., passed)*

**Bill 203 — Foreign Credential Advisory Committee Act (Dyck)**

First Reading — 111 *(Nov. 6, 2023 aft., passed)*





## Table of Contents

Prayers .....	199
Introduction of Guests .....	199
Members' Statements	
Remembrance Day .....	200
Government and Opposition Policies .....	200
Anti-Semitism .....	200
Health Care System .....	201
Diwali Bandi Chhor Divas .....	201
Oral Question Period	
Health System Reform.....	201, 204, 205
Provincial Pension Plan Proposal .....	202, 207
Premier's Appearance on <i>Tucker Carlson Live</i> .....	202, 208
Indigenous Consultations on Health Care.....	203
Education Funding.....	204
Health System Reform Consultations.....	205
Homeless Supports .....	206
Minimum Wage Rate .....	206
Agricultural Support Programs.....	207
Business Council of Alberta Report .....	209
Introduction of Bills	
Bill 8 Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 .....	209
Bill 202 Education (Class Size and Composition) Amendment Act, 2023 .....	209
Tabling Returns and Reports .....	210
Orders of the Day .....	211
Consideration of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech .....	211

*Alberta Hansard* is available online at [www.assembly.ab.ca](http://www.assembly.ab.ca)

For inquiries contact:

Editor

*Alberta Hansard*

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875

E-mail: [AlbertaHansard@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:AlbertaHansard@assembly.ab.ca)