



Province of Alberta

The 31st Legislature  
First Session

# Alberta Hansard

Wednesday afternoon, March 20, 2024

Day 28

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)  
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 Assistant Whip  
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: 28

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

### **Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee**

Chair: Mr. Getson  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Long

Arcand-Paul  
Ellingson  
Hunter  
Ip  
Lovely  
Rowswell  
Sabir  
Wright, J.

### **Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee**

Chair: Mr. Yao  
Deputy Chair: Mr. van Dijken

Dach  
Dyck  
Irwin  
Petrovic  
Pitt  
Sabir  
Stephan  
Wright, P.

### **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: Mr. Sabir  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Armstrong-Homeniuk  
de Jonge  
Haji  
Lovely  
Lunty  
McDougall  
Renaud  
Schmidt

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

Chair: Mr. Rowswell  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Schmidt

Al-Guneid  
Armstrong-Homeniuk  
Dyck  
Eggen  
Hunter  
McDougall  
Sinclair  
Sweet

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

[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.

Please be seated.

### Statement by the Speaker

#### Alberta Francophonie Month

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, in 2018, March was officially proclaimed as Francophonie Month in Alberta. It is an opportunity to highlight the thriving Francophonie community throughout our province. French was the first official European language spoken on this land and has been part of Alberta's history for nearly 300 years. Francophonies have been vital to building Alberta and, in fact, the nation. They are partly responsible for building it into the beautiful community that we all enjoy today.

Earlier today I had the honour of hosting a celebration for International Francophonie Day and had the opportunity to be immersed in French culture. Please join me in wishing our francophone neighbours and community a happy Francophonie Month.

### Introduction of Visitors

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, it's a great pleasure and honour to introduce a special guest visiting from Fort McKay First Nation who I had the pleasure of meeting with earlier today along with the Member for Lesser Slave Lake. It's my honour to introduce to the Assembly Chief Raymond Powder. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

It's also my pleasure to introduce a visitor to many new folks here as well as a bunch of my colleagues, who will certainly have fond memories of Marg McCuaig-Boyd. She is the former Member for Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley, serving the constituency from 2015 to 2019, during which she led the ministry of energy. Marg attended the Francophonie celebration earlier today, and it is my pleasure to invite her to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

### Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, as I mentioned earlier, today in the rotunda I was honoured to host the Legislature's annual celebration and ceremony of the International Francophonie Day. One of my favourite parts of the rotunda event is getting to meet and engage with different community members and individuals who work with me and my office to produce these amazing rotunda celebrations. It's my pleasure to introduce to all members of the Assembly a few members of the community who are here as part of the celebration. Ms Nathalie Lachance is the president of the association of Canadian Francophonie of Alberta. She is joined by Amy Vachon-Chabot, manager of political strategy and government liaison with

the ACFA. I invite them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The hon. the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, the Official Opposition House Leader has a school to introduce.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to introduce to you and through you to all members 28 students from Meyokumin school in the fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Mill Woods. I invite you all to rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly. Welcome to the Legislature.

**Mrs. Johnson:** Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to rise and present to you and through you to all the members the beautiful 63 students from St. Augustine school in Ponoka. Please rise and receive the warm and traditional welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Forestry and Parks, the Member for Central Peace-Notley.

**Mr. Loewen:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and all the members of the Assembly from the bustling metropolis of downtown Worsley students, parents, teachers from Worsley central school, not to be confused with all the other schools in Worsley, which is in my constituency of Central Peace-Notley. Could you please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly?

**The Speaker:** The Member for Calgary-East has an introduction.

**Mr. Singh:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you many guests from the Council & Assembly of Filipino Foundations & Associations, supporting the Filipino organizations and community, headed by Teofy Buluran. I will ask them to rise and receive the warm traditional welcome of this House.

**Mr. Stephan:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce Cal Matala and Deesha Vanik from the Allergy Clinic, an Alberta medical business here in Edmonton that diagnoses and treats allergies. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the House.

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

**Ms Hayter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise and introduce to you and through you Stephanie Bagh and Matt Yanish. I thank you both for all the work you do to support the good people of Alberta. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the House.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

**Mr. Yao:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly Dr. Christina Cruz, a distinguished allergist and immunologist who has chosen Alberta to set up her practice in even though her family is in Ontario.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to rise today and reintroduce a good friend of mine, the leader from Fort MacKay First Nation, Chief Raymond Powder. Fort MacKay First Nation is one of the amazing communities that does a proper balance, in my opinion, between economic prosperity and maintaining their traditional culture. It's an honour to have him as my guest and my friend.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Ip:** Mr. Speaker, it's a rare privilege for me to introduce members of my family here today, including my 92-year-old grandmother Sai Cheng; my father, Luther Ip; my mother, Vicky Ip;

and my auntie Allie Wang. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

### Members' Statements

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

#### North Atlantic Treaty Organization

**Mr. Wright:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has stood firm as a bulwark against aggression for over 70 years. First formed in 1949, it was created to counter communist and Russian aggression in Europe. Decades later we now see Vladimir Putin's vicious assault on the rule of law and his illegal and monstrous invasion of the Ukraine. Today it appears NATO is just as important as it's ever been. That is why it's critical that the most innovative and brilliant thinkers in Canada are putting their talents to good use supporting the fight for freedom. Alberta will be at the forefront of that fight for democracy and liberty.

Today our government has made an announcement with the University of Alberta and SAIT, who have been chosen as test sites for NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic, or DIANA. As part of the test sites technology companies will be able to test their products for dual purposes, both defence and civilian use. Our Premier has directed the Minister of Technology and Innovation, Advanced Education, and minister for energy to work with NATO to show them the reality that Alberta is the best place to be. We have four military bases, the northernmost university in Canada. We will soon be home to the F-35 fighter jets. Our base in Suffield is already a hub for new defence technologies. As one of the top five AI hubs in the world the University of Alberta will play a key role in developing new technologies. They're already leaders, Mr. Speaker, in hydrogen, nanotech, cybernetics, and next-generation materials. SAIT will play a key role in drone and hydrogen technologies, amongst so many more.

Mr. Speaker, as Alberta's liaison to the Armed Forces I'm proud that we're global technology leaders. We are the most pioneering province Canada has. We are the best innovators, and today we can be proud that NATO recognizes our global leadership and that they will put our amazing technology to use.

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

1:40

#### La Francophonie Albertaine

**Ms Renaud:** Merci, M. le Président. Nous avons réunis aujourd'hui pour célébrer une langue commune, la richesse de notre culture et de notre patrimoine, ainsi le désir collectif d'améliorer la vie des albertains et albertaines francophones qui s'agissent sur les grandes villes comme Calgary, Edmonton, les villes de taille moyenne comme St. Albert, Grande Prairie, et Jasper, ou les nombreuses communautés rurales. La présence francophone est palpable et s'accroît dans toute la province. Nous savons que le pourcentage d'albertains venus de l'immigration et plus en plus, qui augmentent la francophonie albertaine et la population totale de l'Alberta. Depuis plusieurs immigrants et immigrantes sont encore des nouveaux arrivants ici, les besoins scolaires en français augmentent dans la communauté et l'accès aux services en français devient le plus en plus une priorité urgente pour soutenir d'une manière durable la vitalité de la francophonie albertaine.

En 2018 l'Alberta a pris une mesure historique et a déclaré le mois du mars le mois de la francophonie albertaine et a créé une politique de la langue française et un symbole provinciale,

fournissant une plateforme pour célébrer notre patrimoine culturel et notre diversité linguistique. Le gouvernement actuel a choisi de ne pas faire flotter le drapeau franco-albertain pendant tout le mois, ce qui est regrettable étant donné l'énormité de l'importance de la communauté. J'espère que tous les albertains et en particulier celles et ceux qui occupent les postes de direction réaffirment leur engagement à préserver, développer, et célébrer notre langue française et notre patrimoine francophone pour les générations à venir.

Je vous souhaite tous et toutes une journée internationale de la francophonie mémorable. Merci.

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

#### Small Business

**Ms Lovely:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Small businesses are the lifeblood of the Alberta economy. This is a fact that all of us on this side of the House recognize as small businesses represent over 96 per cent of all businesses in the province. Visiting the businesses throughout the Camrose constituency has shown me the value that small businesses add to my constituency in particular. Another fact that I believe that all members on this side could agree on is that a strong pro-business sector is a unique Alberta trait.

Almost three-quarters of Albertans are employed by small businesses. Under our United Conservative government Albertans can expect a strong small-business sector to persist and grow. When I was first elected in 2019, we campaigned on a promise to renew the Alberta advantage. That was a promise we kept. In 2023 Albertans went to the polls and renewed our mandate to extend that Alberta advantage far into the future.

How does the Alberta advantage support small business, you may ask? Well, the business-friendly politics of Alberta's government and the lowest tax environment in all of Canada mean small businesses have less pressure on their bottom line and can grow and hire more people.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business recently gave Alberta an A on cutting red tape, making us a leader among the provinces for four years running. This allows small-business owners to focus on running their businesses and being employers rather than checking boxes on unnecessary forms.

Where would you go in Canada to start a business? Well, the answer is clear to me. Albertans are ambitious and entrepreneurial by nature, and our province attracts people who are much the same. Whether you've lived here for a day or a decade, you deserve a government which is just as visionary, and I am proud to be a part of one . . .

#### Climate Change Policy

**Ms Hoffman:** This morning I announced the most aggressive plan to respond to climate change in the history of our province. My plan takes dramatic action to address . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Whoa.

Hon. members will know that during Members' Statements members are entitled to make a statement uninterrupted for the duration of the two minutes that is allotted. The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora will be able to restart from the beginning of her member's statement.

**Ms Hoffman:** This morning I announced the most aggressive plan to respond to climate change in the history of our province. My plan takes dramatic action to address the three biggest drivers of carbon emissions in Alberta: oil and gas, the electricity grid, and

transportation. I know that some folks are going to say that it goes too far and the members opposite think that we should do nothing for another three years, but when I see Alberta facing catastrophic drought, unprecedented wildfires, and air that isn't safe for our kids to breathe on a summer's day, I know it's time to take dramatic action. The time for creative accounting and fun with numbers and aspirational goals: it's over.

We must reduce carbon emissions that drive climate change and threaten our way of life. As Premier I will take back control of carbon policy by implementing a made-in-Alberta cap-and-trade system. We will redirect the revenue away from industry subsidies and the UCP energy war room into ways to actually help Albertans reduce their emissions and their bills. I will start a youth climate corps that will connect young Albertans with a job to help them take control of their own climate destiny.

My plan helps Albertans and families and communities reduce their costs. It will create jobs. It will protect headwaters. It will give young people hope that we can turn this problem around before it's too late. And my plan sends the bill to the folks who made the most money creating the problem in the first place.

Ban coal mines; build wind turbines. The industrial carbon tax goes up; Albertans' power bills go down. Clean up abandoned wells, and build EV charging stations. It's bold, it's ambitious, and it's unapologetically NDP, just like me. It's a plan to take action on climate change, and you can find out more at sarahhoffman.ca. Only party members are allowed to vote for the new leader. You need to be a member by April 22, and you can buy a membership at sarahhoffman.ca. [interjections]

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

### Alberta's Industrial Heartland

**Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk:** Last week I had the opportunity to tour the Industrial Heartland alongside the Minister of Affordability and Utilities. The optimism everyone on that tour felt after seeing the undeniable success is a clear indicator of the economic momentum we are experiencing. The majority of the Industrial Heartland lies within my constituency, but its borders also extend into Morinville-St. Albert. I'm happy to share this region with the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction. Even though we're the only government members representing the Industrial Heartland, I know our entire government values the extensive contributions of this region.

Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association just celebrated its 25th anniversary in January. This anniversary marks a quarter century of supporting development, innovation, and sustainability in Alberta. Being one of the world's most attractive locations for chemical, petrochemical, oil and gas investment, I have no doubt Alberta's Industrial Heartland will continue this trend.

The Industrial Heartland is the largest hydrocarbon processing region in Canada, seeing more than \$40 billion dollars in capital investment. A recent example was announced in November with Dow Chemical's investment of nearly \$9 billion into Fort Saskatchewan for their Path2Zero integrated ethylene cracker and derivatives project. This is one of the largest single investments in Alberta and in the Industrial Heartland's history. Through game-changing initiatives like the Alberta petrochemicals incentive program our government has continually worked to attract the investment which has made Alberta a leader in energy production, job creation, and sustainable industry. Dow's Path2Zero project is a testament to these efforts and a signal to other companies looking to invest in our great province. We welcome them with open arms.

Calling the Industrial Heartland the heart of Alberta could not be more appropriate. We will continue working to keep the heart pumping and will continue to stand for the hard-working, innovative Albertans building our future.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** I might remind the hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora that the use of a proper name, even if it was her own, would still be mildly inappropriate.

### Homeless Supports and Affordable Housing

**Member Irwin:** A hundred and twenty-nine tonnes of garbage: that is what we heard the minister call the belongings of our unhoused neighbours this morning. I cannot believe the lack of compassion for unhoused Albertans. It's disturbing that a member of this Legislature would make such an incredibly disrespectful comment violating the dignity of the people that we serve. It is not an MLA's job to decide if the items that someone has are garbage or not, and I will remind this minister that homelessness is a policy failure, and it is under this UCP government that homelessness has doubled.

After mass encampment sweeps this winter the UCP set up a navigation centre for unhoused Edmontonians. The minister has misled Albertans into believing this centre is connecting hundreds with housing. This morning I asked the minister directly just how many of the 630 unhoused Albertans sent to the navigation centre have been provided permanent housing. His answer? Five. That means that not even 1 per cent of the people who've used this service have been permanently housed. Let me say that again: not even 1 per cent.

The minister cannot force Albertans off the streets, out of sight, further into the margins and then pretend as if he has fixed this problem. We need unhoused Albertans connected with permanent supportive housing, not a referral to a wait-list, not a mat on a concrete floor, not a bed in a night-only shelter. Remaining trapped in the shelter system is not the same as being housed.

This minister cannot continue to deceive Albertans. The UCP are not housing unhoused folks. They are not addressing skyrocketing rents. They are not making home ownership more affordable. They are not building housing to keep up with population growth. They refuse to acknowledge the hundreds of thousands of Albertans who are at risk of homelessness. The only thing the UCP wants to do is fearmonger about Bill 205 and rent caps rather than face the facts. A temporary rent cap would help countless Albertans and keep them in their homes. I'm tired of the lack of accountability. I'm tired of the heckling. Albertans are tired. We are in a crisis. We, the NDP, are treating it like one. Why aren't the UCP?

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

**The Speaker:** A point of order is noted at 1:50. [interjections] Order. Order. Order.

1:50

### Oral Question Period

**The Speaker:** The Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition has question 1.

### Hospital Discharge Policies

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, by now we all know Mr. Blair Canniff's story. Shocking, to say the least. The whole government should want to apologize and also try to make it right. Instead, the Minister of Health went on the record yesterday and accused Mr. Canniff of lying, claiming that he chose the roadside motel himself. To the

Minister of Health: since we all know that that claim does not line up with the facts, will she today apologize to Mr. Canniff, first, for saying something that was not true and, second, for all that he has gone through under her watch?

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

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta Health Services has discharge policies, which we are currently reviewing with Seniors, Community and Social Services. When patients are assessed for discharge and require nonmedical care – and I want to repeat: nonmedical care – or specialized housing, they are provided options, and then they select the option that they want. It is extremely concerning to me that this nonprofit provider, that provides nonmedical housing, was not transparent with the patient.

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I have a letter, which I will table, sent from Contentment Social Services to another victim of the UCP's motel medicine. Its claims are so outlandish they would make a snake oil salesman blush. They promise a wide range of medical services and care. No mention at all of fast food and a roadside motel. So to the Minister of Health: is she proud that Albertans now need a consumer protection lawyer to guard themselves from being exploited when staying in Alberta's public hospitals?

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

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The letter itself is very clear. It says: housing support programs; this is nonmedical care based on assessed needs, specialized housing programs. Again, as I said earlier, this is the very reason why the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services and I the other day really went on public record saying that we have \$1.7 billion. We want to make sure that this doesn't happen again.

**Ms Notley:** Well, Mr. Speaker, all week this minister has been ducking, diving, refusing to take responsibility, throwing her colleague under the bus, but you know what? Albertans deserve answers. How many other victims of UCP motel medicine are there? How many other government contracts are there with Contentment Social Services? How many contracts with similar contractors? How many more motels are acting as hospital rooms? To the Health minister: how long has she known all of this was going on, and when, for heaven's sake, will she come clean to Albertans?

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

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, let's be very clear: this organization is not funded by Alberta Health. It's not funded by AHS. It's not funded by Seniors, Community and Social Services, and we do not accredit them. This is a nonmedical nonprofit organization which the individual chose. This letter affirms what we've been saying all along, that this is a housing organization, not a long-term care site, and this is why we need to provide authentic wraparound services. It's why we're actually going to look at the policies for discharge and do better.

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

### Support for Teachers

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, in the last election the Premier ejected a candidate for making the outrageous claim that Alberta teachers

were exposing our children to pornography. With the election pressure off, this candidate has re-emerged, hosted by a government MLA at a public event. Torry Tanner argues that the only people who disagree with her position are a very small faction of the UCP. To the Minister of Education – this goes to the heart of his job – does he disagree with Torry Tanner's claims?

**Mr. Nicolaidis:** Mr. Speaker, thousands of teachers do incredible jobs across the province to help ensure that our students receive a world-class education. Our government is committed to working with and supporting our teachers from every corner of our province so that our students can receive the very best education possible. I meet regularly with the Alberta Teachers' Association and other organizations to ensure that we can support our teachers in the best way possible, and of course it's important to take direction from some of their organizations as well.

**Ms Notley:** Mr. Speaker, there are close to 40,000 teachers in Alberta who work each and every day to educate our kids. Professionalism and support from the Minister of Education are critical to ensuring that they can do their job. But at a government MLA-sponsored event the keynote speaker declared that the vast majority of the government caucus agrees that Alberta teachers are showing our kids pornography, so to the Minister of Education: is the claim about his caucus correct? If so, what is he going to do about it?

**Mr. Nicolaidis:** Mr. Speaker, while the NDP is focused on party politics, our government is focused on improvements to the classroom, improvements to our schools so that we can continue to deliver world-class education. As an example, in Budget '24 we're increasing spending by 4.4 per cent; that's \$400 million to help support our school divisions across the province. We're building 19 new schools in this budget alone to make sure our students have updated and modernized spaces. We will continue to be there for teachers and students.

**Ms Notley:** Well, that did everything but answer the question, but the message was pretty clear. To the Minister of Education: if he is unwilling to stand up to his own caucus, if he is unwilling to counter these libelous and slanderous lies about the nearly 40,000 teachers across Alberta, if he is unwilling to defend teachers and ultimately the public education system for which he is responsible, how does he think he deserves to continue as the Minister of Education?

**Mr. Nicolaidis:** Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud of the fact, as I mentioned, that we're providing \$400 million to support our growing school divisions, that we're building 19 new schools, the largest number of new schools in the last seven years, that we're increasing funding for students with severe disabilities and other vulnerabilities to support them, that we're strengthening early numeracy and literacy screening to ensure students receive the very best support from the earliest possible age so they can succeed. We will remain focused on giving our students a world-class education experience that they deserve.

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

### School Construction in Calgary

**Ms Chapman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Calgary needs 16,000 new education spaces funded, with the Calgary board of education needing 22 new schools and five modernizations in their three-year capital plan. That's just to keep up with growth. This budget has funded construction of one new school for the largest school



division in western Canada. Students need space to learn, and we know that overcrowded classrooms do not support students in achieving their best. Can the minister please explain when he plans to catch up with the needs of students and teachers?

**Mr. Nicolaides:** Mr. Speaker, the facts are being cherry-picked. In fact, there are 18 projects coming for the Calgary metropolitan area. I'd be happy to read them into the record for the Assembly. There's a new K to 8 school for Airdrie, a second K to 8 school for Airdrie. There's a new K to 4 school in Evanston. There's a new high school in Rangeview. There's a new K to 8 school coming . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order. The hon. the Minister of Education is the only one with the call.

**Mr. Nicolaides:** There's also a new K to 8 school coming for Cochrane, Mr. Speaker. There's also a high school being planned for Airdrie, another high school in northeast Calgary, another elementary school in northeast Calgary, a modernization of a school in northeast Calgary. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

2:00

**Ms Chapman:** I don't know if the minister knows this, but students can't learn in a classroom that's in design. There is only one new school for the largest school board in western Canada being constructed in this budget. Albertans have seen the impact of years of UCP neglect and underfunding, with libraries being converted into classrooms and students being forced to learn in hallways. Can the minister please explain what he expects teachers and students to do while they wait for the UCP to realize they need to build more schools? Is hallway learning acceptable to him?

**Mr. Nicolaides:** Mr. Speaker, we're not asking for anyone to wait. That's why we're moving ahead with 19 full construction projects in this budget alone, as I mentioned earlier. That's the highest number of new construction projects in the last seven years. The Alberta . . . [interjections]

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

**Mr. Nicolaides:** Mr. Speaker, the Alberta advantage is back and booming, and people are once again flocking to our amazing province, no thanks to the members opposite, who chased people away from Alberta, who told them to go work in B.C. We've reversed those signs, and we will build the schools that those families deserve.

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

**Ms Chapman:** Thank you. One trustee spoke out about this budget, saying, and I quote: we are literally running out of room, and somehow I don't think the needs of Calgary families have landed with this provincial government. On this side of the House we stand with Calgary families and want them to know that we are prepared to do the hard work to get them the schools they need so that all students can thrive. Can the minister explain what it will take for the needs of Calgary families to finally land with this government?

**Mr. Nicolaides:** Mr. Speaker, we are already there. We are moving forward, as I mentioned, on 18 new school projects for the Calgary metropolitan area. Because of many of our amazing efforts over the course of the past few years, the Alberta advantage is back and booming. People are flocking . . . [interjections]

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

**Mr. Nicolaides:** Mr. Speaker, talking about Alberta's success always gets the NDP all fussed up and in a fury. However, on this side of the House we are proud of Alberta's success. We are proud of the fact that Alberta is the fastest growing province in all of Canada. We are proud of the fact that we have the fastest growing economy, and we will make sure we build the schools that our communities need. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

### Continuing Care Standards

**Ms Sigurdson:** This week we highlight the case of an Albertan recovering from a stroke needing long-term care being left in a motel room that wasn't big enough to accommodate his wheelchair, and yesterday we revealed how the government removed the minimum hours of care from the continuing care regulations. Albertans are rightly concerned by this government that fails to provide Albertans the support they need. Can the minister inform this House how many hours of care those patients experiencing motel medicine are getting?

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

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I need to correct – they're conflating two different issues. The first issue: I've already spoken to the individual who needs nonmedical housing. We've already spoken about that. But in terms of the regulations for long-term care, which are now called type A homes, we are actually funding 3.62 hours. The previous hours that were regulated were 1.9 hours. That was an old, antiquated policy that was in place, legislation that was in place . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Ms Sigurdson:** The Health minister failed to stand up for this Albertan and has refused to apologize to him for subjecting him to motel medicine; meanwhile, she's boasting about the standard of care Albertans are getting from this government all the while she is removing the minimum hours of care that Albertans used to have. Albertans need long-term care, deserve access to long-term care with regular support from health care professionals. Can the minister inform this House and table how many visits from a nurse or health care aide those patients in motel medicine are receiving on a daily basis?

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker, again the misinformation coming from the other side. We have actually done a ton of engagement with the continuing care providers; there was so much engagement. These are regulations that really adhere to what we heard from the providers, from patients, from families. We have heard that they want flexibility. And we are actually providing double . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order. The only one with the call is the Minister of Health.

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker, we are funding 3.62 hours versus 1.9 hours. We are among all the other provinces, other than Ontario, who actually has it legislated. We align with all other provinces.

**Ms Sigurdson:** The minister insisted that proper procedures were followed in this case of motel medicine. The minister also insists that this patient chose to go to the Travelodge, which the patient claims they did not. The minister couldn't tell us how many

Albertans were waiting for care in motels. She couldn't tell us how many motels were being used as long-term care facilities by the UCP or how much money was being given to providers to place patients in motel medicine. Since the minister can't answer these simple questions, will she please tell us and Albertans who in this government is willing to take responsibility for doing her job?

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker, the members opposite were not listening as I spoke earlier to this particular issue. Alberta Health Services does have discharge policies. Their health care transition teams, their discharge teams work with the individual and their families. The individual chooses where they want to go, and when they require nonmedical interventions, then they have chosen a nonmedical service provider. The fact that this nonmedical service provider was not transparent is totally unacceptable.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie. [interjection] Order. Order. Order.

### Hospital Discharge Policies (continued)

**Member Eremenko:** Like so many Albertans with aging parents, I have had a front-row seat to witness how well our systems are or are not equipped to support people needing continuing care. I get to see the strengths, the kind staff, the exceptional acute care, the navigation supports, but I also get to see the gaps, like the lack of a dementia strategy, policies to keep seniors in their homes during an affordability crisis, and now this, a patient discharged to a Travelodge completely unequipped for his mobility and health needs. How would any of the ministers feel if it was their loved one who ended up in a motel after six months in acute care?

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

**Mr. Nixon:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Health has already said, the issue in question is not an organization associated with the government, neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services. As was announced a couple of weeks ago, after the situation took place, the Premier has asked that my Department of Seniors, Community and Social Services comes in and supports the Ministry of Health and AHS as we work on discharge policies that connect to . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** The hon. the minister of seniors.

**Mr. Nixon:** . . . social services organizations in the province. I want to stress again that the organization in question is not funded by the Ministry of Health nor by the Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services, Mr. Speaker, and that is a fact.

**Member Eremenko:** Given that the minister has been asked on numerous occasions to apologize and given that the minister would not apologize, claiming AHS discharge procedure has been followed and that, therefore, this arrangement is acceptable and sanctioned, and given that this is clearly not the only instance when a patient has been discharged to a motel under a fly-by-night process, does the minister or any other ministry endorse this arrangement and the service provider who made it happen?

**Mr. Nixon:** Again, Mr. Speaker, I think the Official Opposition, if they would spend a little less time yelling, may be able to hear. We are not in charge of this organization. We do not fund this organization. They are not connected with the Department of

Health. They are not connected with the Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services. There are lots of organizations that exist in the province. The question, though, is whether they're connected to government, funded by government, or operated by government. They are not. But we saw the newspaper articles and have taken some action to make sure people are safe.

**Member Eremenko:** Mr. Speaker, given that the arrangement was provided by a nonprofit organization that had to have received granting from somewhere and given that \$85 million is going to be spent reconfiguring health care as the minister sees fit and given that health care is clearly getting worse under the UCP, what assurances will the minister give to me and my family and to every Albertan with a loved one in care that they, too, won't be on the receiving end of the UCP's motel medicine?

2:10

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, there are a variety of nonprofit organizations in the province that are not funded by the government. You'd have to ask this organization where they receive funding from. But, again, I want to stress that they are not funded by the Department of Health . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** The hon. the minister of seniors is the one with the call.

**Mr. Nixon:** . . . and they are not funded by my department. Having said that, both the minister and I have seen those newspaper reports, had questions that have been asked, and we've been able to ask our department to be able to make sure, one, that we're not involved with this organization and, second, that we can come into Alberta Health Services and support their social workers when it comes to complex discharge decisions around patients, Mr. Speaker, to make sure the full supports of the government are around all patients coming out of Health.

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright.

### Drought Preparations

**Mr. Rowswell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is facing worsening drought conditions as a result of a country-wide El Niño not seen in over seven years. These conditions are especially dire in southern Alberta, and we know that communities across our province, rural and urban, will be impacted. To the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas: can you please inform this House of what proactive steps were taken to help our province prepare for the drought ahead?

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

**Ms Schulz:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I do want to thank the member for the important question. We are doing more than any government in Alberta's history to prepare for drought and improve how water is managed, conserved, and shared in our province, the largest water-sharing agreements in provincial history. Those discussions are currently under way. Over 50 participants are involved in these negotiations, representing 70 to 90 per cent of the licensed water demand in the Red Deer, Bow, and Oldman basins. In December we took proactive action by creating a drought command team within the department and released a letter asking all municipalities to develop their water conservation plans. They are taking those steps, and we're very encouraged by it.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright.

**Mr. Rowswell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister for that answer. Given that Budget 2024, if passed, includes large funding to protect from natural disasters and given the minister herself has had numerous funding announcements in the last few months taking direct action on droughts and water shortages, to the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas: could you please explain to the great people of Alberta how our government is taking direct action on drought in Budget 2024.

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

**Ms Schulz:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We are making major investments to help protect Albertans from drought and make sure that more water is available for Albertans in the future. That includes \$125 million over five years to create the new drought and flood protection program. This will fund a new wave of projects to help protect homes, businesses, and, of course, lives. The program will help vulnerable municipalities and Indigenous communities across the province develop long-term infrastructure needed to improve their drought and flood resilience. We're also investing \$23 million over three years to increase water availability and improve water management. We're taking action on drought for today, tomorrow, and long into Alberta's future.

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

**Mr. Rowswell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the minister for the answer. Given that producers and irrigators have experienced drought conditions over the past two years and given that forecasts indicate that it could be another very dry year in the province, to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation: what is your ministry doing to prepare for drought, and what will you do to support farmers and ranchers if they do face another dry year?

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

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for this very important question. I've talked to a lot of producers' associations and irrigation districts already this year, and I hear their concerns about drought. That's why through Budget 2024 we are investing \$5 million for feasibility studies for water storage systems, \$19 million to help irrigation districts update their water infrastructure, and \$50 million to complete vital projects like the Dickson Dam capacity enhancement. This will help ensure that our producers are supported and able to keep putting food on tables here in Alberta and across the globe.

### Renewable Energy Development

**Ms Al-Guneid:** Mr. Speaker, the Piikani Nation said, we find ourselves as a First Nation unable to benefit from our own natural resources because of arbitrary government actions . . . [and] the province has no jurisdiction over what we build on the Piikani reserve, whether or not it believes that our improvements impact "Alberta's pristine viewscapes."

They brought forward this insightful critique to the AUC about government infringement on their rights. Why didn't the government consult with the Piikani Nation on their so-called pristine viewscapes policy?

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

**Mr. Neudorf:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for this important question. We completely agree that First Nations have complete autonomy over their lands, and we look forward to working with them as they bring forward the developments. That is absolutely the intent of the report and inquiry and our direction. Where we do have jurisdiction is over our electrical system and making sure that all development is co-ordinated to come online so that it doesn't cause negative impacts on any other developments on that electricity generation system. We look forward to working with the Piikani Nation.

**Ms Al-Guneid:** Given that the Rural Municipalities association said that

it is currently unclear how "pristine viewscapes" will be defined, but an overly broad definition could risk sterilizing renewable growth in large areas of the province, causing significant missed opportunities for both industry and rural municipalities

and given that rural municipalities are losing out because of this Premier and minister, why is the Premier making up rules as she goes when municipalities or experts are confused and advising differently?

**Mr. Neudorf:** Ironically, Mr. Speaker, we were at the RMA conference just the other day, and I got zero questions from their executive director, Paul McLaughlin. Why? Because generally they all support the direction that we're going. Not only that, but they praised our work by putting an agriculture-first lens while still allowing for responsible development. We look forward to all of our conversations with the RMA and taking their advice on allowing municipalities access before the AUC to talk about all of these projects.

**Ms Al-Guneid:** Given that the AUC report says that there is no universal definition of a pristine viewscapes, given that there is no universal consensus about what land classes constitute prime agricultural land, given that to impose unnecessary restriction creates uncertainties such that investment is driven away from the province, and given that the renewable company said, "We are struggling to find a way to keep investing in Alberta for future projects," why is the UCP continually going against expert advice, coming up with arbitrary rules, and scaring away investments?

**Mr. Neudorf:** Mr. Speaker, we love working with our industries and with our regulators to find the best path forward. In fact, we are creating certainty by providing a way for renewable development to work with agriculture. It's a win-win situation. Not only that, but we are protecting our pristine viewscapes to allow tourism, a central industry within Alberta, to continue to thrive. That is correct; there is no universal definition of pristine viewscapes because every jurisdiction is unique to themselves. Australia: it's about their beaches. California: also about their beaches and their deserts. In Alberta it's our majestic Rocky Mountains.

### Hospital Discharge Policies

*(continued)*

**Dr. Metz:** Motels are not long-term care facilities. This should have been obvious before lack of government oversight let an Albertan recovering from a stroke be taken to a Travelodge that wasn't equipped to handle his needs. The minister insists that all proper procedures were followed by front-line staff, so let's make sure that this is the case and that patients are protected in future. Can this minister confirm for this House that the AHS discharge teams can be assured that they won't be sending patients to inappropriate places like this Travelodge?

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, the minister has been clear about what the discharge process is and that individuals who can make certain decisions during that discharge process vary based on the individual cases. What I can tell you is that, again, the organization in question is not funded by the Department of Health, is not funded by the Department of Seniors, Community and Social Services, is a nonprofit organization that operates in the province. That said, we continue to work with Alberta Health Services, the Department of Health, and our department to be able to make sure that we give people access to the social services that they need in our province. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

**Dr. Metz:** Given that this patient claims he wasn't given a choice of where he was taken and given that the minister believed that this patient chose the location and made that decision to be taken to a Travelodge and given that many Albertans are worried about this sort of treatment happening to their parents or grandparents or partners, can the minister once again confirm for this House how patients and families can be assured that they won't be transferred from a hospital to somewhere like the Leduc Travelodge?

2:20

**Mr. Nixon:** Mr. Speaker, again, for specifics about AHS decisions and individual cases, I can't speak to it in the Chamber. What I can tell you is that the Department of Seniors, Community and Social Services together with the Department of Health together with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction is working closely with Alberta Health Services to be able to make sure that those requiring continuing care in our community, as they are discharged from hospital, receive appropriate services. Some of that comes from nonprofit organizations. Some of that comes from organizations that are funded by us or municipalities. This organization has nothing to do with the government of Alberta. [interjections]

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

**Dr. Metz:** Given that Alberta seniors and those needing long-term care should expect to get top-quality care at the appropriate facility, not motel medicine, and given that we obviously need regulations and publicly available information to protect Albertans from being sent to facilities like the Leduc Travelodge, which was considered an appropriate facility for this senior, can the minister table for this House the list of all hotels, motels, bed-and-breakfasts that this province . . .

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

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to reiterate and be very clear that this organization is not funded by Health. It's not funded by Seniors, Community and Social Services or Alberta Health Services, nor are they accredited through us. This is a nonprofit, specialized housing association . . . [interjections]

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

**Member LaGrange:** This organization is a nonprofit, specialized housing organization that provides nonmedical housing to individuals that do not need medical care upon leaving hospital. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to . . .

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

## Rural Schools

**Mr. Boitchenko:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My beautiful riding of Drayton Valley-Devon is rooted in family values and community, and this has led to Drayton Valley-Devon attracting many families and young parents, who are concerned with access to high-quality education. Rural Alberta recently has been faced with a school capacity issue as we try to accommodate our growing communities. Can the Minister of Education please share what is being done to help rural families access high-quality education for their kids?

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

**Mr. Nicolaidis:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for his important question, and thank you for the incredible advocacy work that he does for his constituents. It's always a pleasure to see such fierce advocacy from an amazing member.

Of course, our government recognizes that our rural schools operate in very unique dynamics, and our rural school divisions do as well. They often have to operate over large geographic areas and oftentimes have to contend with declining enrolment. It's one of the reasons why our government continues to support the rural small schools grant, which, as you can tell by the name of the grant, is specifically designed to top up rural schools and help them with their funding needs.

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

**Mr. Boitchenko:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that proper staffing levels are key for children to access world-class education and given that some rural areas suffer from teacher vacancies due to the geographical realities of smaller communities, can the same minister please share how this government is attracting teachers to rural Alberta to help meet the increase in student population?

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

**Mr. Nicolaidis:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, in Budget '24 it includes an additional investment of \$1.2 billion to help our school divisions with expanding enrolment. In addition, we are providing a million dollars to add 35 additional student spaces to the University of Calgary's bachelor of education program to help expand the number of spaces that are available at that particular postsecondary institution for rural applicants. It's important that we create these spaces so that rural applicants and rural students are able to develop that unique experience and be able to return to their communities as well and provide important resources back home.

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

**Mr. Boitchenko:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that our government is committed to creating new and modernized student spaces throughout our province and given that adequate spaces are needed for all Albertans, can the same minister please share some of the ways this government has improved and expanded education spaces in rural Alberta and the effect this has on the students' education? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

The hon. the Minister of Education.

**Mr. Nicolaidis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Budget '24, which, of course, is before the Assembly, we're investing \$2.1 billion over

the course of the next three years to build and modernize spaces across the entire province. It includes support for 43 priority school projects that we're moving forward, with 10 of these 43 projects being in our rural communities. More specifically, these projects include the communities of Blackfalds, Brooks, Chestermere, Lac La Biche, Red Earth Creek, Wetaskiwin, Falher, Plamondon, and other areas as well. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

### Provincial Pension Plan Proposal

**Member Kayande:** Mr. Speaker, Albertans don't want the UCP meddling with their pensions – they've made that clear – but this government, clearly more interested in following the directives of the Premier rather than listening to what Albertans actually want, has done everything in their power to hide from transparency and accountability. Their latest tactic: preventing Albertans from reading their responses to the UCP pension survey. What is the minister hiding?

**Mr. Horner:** I'm not hiding anything, Mr. Speaker. That was a very theatrical delivery of that question. I think we're talking about a FOIP request that was denied by the department for the simple reason that the summary of that will feed the executive summary for Executive Council. And it's not concluded. That's the main point. It's not over yet, so it will all come out when we've concluded. The pause . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Member Kayande:** Given that this government routinely releases surveys so that Albertans can see the public responses and given that this government seems to think that they can bamboozle Albertans into supporting their pension scam by hiding and refusing to discuss the proposal face to face with Albertans and now by blocking the release of these surveys, that Albertans paid for, given that this lack of transparency is shocking even for the UCP, and given that Albertans have the right to see the results, will the minister release the results of these surveys today?

**Mr. Horner:** No, I won't. It's not over yet, Mr. Speaker. They've extended the deadline to submit workbooks to the end of August. We've paused the engagement because we're waiting on the Chief Actuary's interpretation of the legislation, and then we expect to get a number in the fall. The process isn't over yet, folks. Be patient. It'll all come out when it's over. [interjections]

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

**Member Kayande:** Given that on this side of the House we believe in engaging with Albertans while on that side their mandate is to inflict . . . [interjections]

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

**Member Kayande:** . . . this horrendous pension plan, based on fake numbers, regardless of what Albertans actually want and given that this minister could break the mould and be up front with Albertans and release this data that is . . .

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

The hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow has the call.

**Member Kayande:** . . . paid for by Albertans, given that millions have been spent for a fake consultation to force Albertans into something they overwhelmingly oppose, will the Finance minister

start listening to Albertans and end this whole wasteful pension scheme?

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, as we said, it will all come out at the end. The process is not over yet.

But it's a little rich coming from the opposition. I know that member wasn't there in the previous four years, but a few things come to mind: the carbon tax, that you guys didn't campaign on, that you legitimized across the country, a punitive measure hurting all Canadians, especially rural Canadians. What about Bill 6? [interjections]

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

The Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Horner:** Yeah. Like I was saying, not only the carbon tax but Bill 6, the Bighorn scam consultations. You guys were never transparent. You're the reason I ran. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

2:30

### Federal Carbon Tax Increase

**Mr. Sinclair:** Mr. Speaker, given that Trudeau is hurting Canadians again with this April Fool's tax hike and given how hard-working Canadians and Albertans are forced to cut spending on groceries and other necessities in order just to survive and further given how our hon. Premier along with six other Premiers across Canada have banded together to put a halt to next month's carbon tax hike, to the Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board: will this extra support from this coalition of Premiers actually make a difference, and will it help wake up Trudeau and make him finally axe the tax?

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

**Mr. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the continuation of this theme of questioning. I think it's extremely important. It's clear the carbon tax is not working. The Premier and her colleagues have repeatedly told Trudeau and his bestie, Guilbeault, that Albertans and Canadians have faced incredible pressures due to inflation and high interest rates. Despite the federal government's lack of leadership our Premier and our government have taken swift and immediate action to help Albertans. We've reindexed payments for seniors and people with disabilities, provided support for food banks, funded low-income transit, indexed personal income taxes. We're doing . . . [interjections]

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

The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake, uninterrupted, please.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Mr. Speaker, given that federal Minister Champagne and his Prime Minister Caviar have said that this out-of-touch carbon tax is an investment in the future and that the plan is working and given the daily struggle with affordability – I suppose the plan is to bankrupt Canadians and Albertans; no surprise from a leader who claims the budget balances itself – could the same minister please explain how the proposed plan to gouge Albertans' pockets at a time when the cost of living is insurmountable is not an investment in our future and is definitely not a plan that is working? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

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

**Mr. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, their plan is definitely not working. Guilbeault himself said that the carbon tax will take a long time to work, probably around 2060. Around 2060? Do you want to know how much the federal government's increase to the carbon tax will cost Alberta families as of April 1? Nine hundred and eleven dollars, up from \$710. We have a plan to move to net zero by 2050. Even more . . . [interjections]

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

**Mr. Horner:** Pretty chirpy. You'd think they'd like it; they started it.

Even more horrifying: the Parliamentary Budget Officer said that by 2031 the carbon tax is estimated to cost Alberta families \$2,773 a year.

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

**Mr. Sinclair:** Thank you, Minister and Mr. Speaker. Given that Albertans are already struggling under the Trudeau-Singh deficit duo and given that even the NDP Party is starting to back away from the support of their federal carbon tax, including but not limited to several of the applicants from across the aisle who are now flip-flopping in the hopes of becoming the next regional manager here in Alberta, could the same minister please explain how pausing the carbon tax would go to support Alberta's businesses, farmers, First Nations, and families and is a real investment in the future?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the minister.

**Mr. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. The NDP-Liberal alliance supports a carbon tax that Albertans pay for every time they buy groceries, fill up their car, buy consumer goods. The suspension of the carbon tax increase would provide much-needed relief to Albertans and Canadians. Currently the carbon tax costs Alberta households \$710 per year. That's nearly \$60 a month; 60 bucks can go a long way at this time. Do it. Do it now. It's ridiculous.

### Cardiac Care in Lethbridge

**Ms Phillips:** Mr. Speaker, the last time the Lethbridge Chinook regional hospital was updated was in 2016. Those upgrades were completed after 30 years by the NDP. In 2018 we began the process of a new cardiac care facility. Then, when the UCP won in 2019, that process stalled. Then, lo and behold, during election time there was a UCP election promise for cardiac care expansion, but the Finance minister confirmed last week it's actually not in the capital plan. The question is simple. Cardiac care for Lethbridge was promised. Why was that yet another broken promise?

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

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree that this is very important, and I can assure the member opposite that there has been a report that has gone into my department just very, very recently, a business case to support this, and we are going to delve into this business case and see what we can do.

**Ms Phillips:** Given, Mr. Speaker, that the Health minister bragged about cardiac expansion in Red Deer yesterday, which is her own constituency, but the business case from southern Alberta, the one the NDP began working from way back in 2018, showed just as much need for expanded cardiac facilities in Lethbridge at that time, will the minister acknowledge that the UCP broke their promise to

the people of Lethbridge and that she does not care about cardiac care in southern Alberta, only for her own community?

**Member LaGrange:** I will not agree to that because that is not true. I do care about cardiac facilities within Lethbridge as much as in Red Deer. I know that both our communities have been underserved. I'm looking at what's possible in both communities. Mr. Speaker, I just received the report in my department on the Lethbridge strategic plan, so I am looking at that. My department is analyzing it and bringing recommendations forward as soon as possible.

**Ms Phillips:** Mr. Speaker, given that if that were true, then we would have seen planning and design funds in the capital plan – and we don't – and given that the promise of new cardiac services was just another UCP falsehood to get elected, just like the tax cut, just like the promise to keep their hands off our pensions, and given that last year the mayor of Lethbridge said that he thought there was a page missing from Budget '23 because Lethbridge was left out and given that Budget '24 also seems to be missing that page, why was Lethbridge left out of two budgets in a row without expansion to our hospital's cardiac care facilities?

**Member LaGrange:** Mr. Speaker, I can assure Lethbridge and the whole community that they are a priority to this government. I will be looking at this report as soon as it comes to me. I will be looking at every opportunity to make sure that they are served in cardiac catheterization and other cardiac supports. This is of utmost importance to us, and we will make sure it happens.

### Arts and Culture Funding

**Member Ceci:** The world-renowned Edmonton Fringe Festival is the largest and longest running of its kind in all of North America. Artists, both local and international, depend on the Fringe Festival to showcase their talent and launch their careers. Alarmingly, Fringe director Megan Dart explains that the festival could be two-thirds its normal size in 2024 without immediate assistance. Costs are going up everywhere while their UCP arts funding stayed stagnant. To the minister: why did this government cut \$6 million from the AFA budget in the last five years?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women.

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Fringe Festival is a staple of Edmonton's festival scene which brings together Albertans from around the province to celebrate the performing arts. Alberta's government has proudly provided Edmonton's Fringe Festival with over \$2.5 million since 2019 through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the community grants programs.

**Member Ceci:** Given that the Fringe, like other performing arts festivals and theatres in Alberta, are struggling postpandemic to recover their audiences, volunteers, and revenues and given that many are having to resort to bookings like touring Broadway shows and safer presentations that do little to develop Alberta's own cultural voice and given that with delayed or insufficient support from the ministry of arts and culture once-proud venues like that and others may be forced to close, stranding artists and theatrical workers, can the minister explain if the urgency of this situation . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women.

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We heard of the news of the Fringe Festival's funding needs. They know I have an open-door policy. I'm

looking forward to meeting with them in the next several weeks. The increase in Budget 2024, if passed, to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts will allow our government to continue to support Alberta arts and artists in our amazing province.

**Member Ceci:** Given that in 2021 the arts and culture sector in Alberta contributed almost \$5 billion in GDP and almost 47,000 jobs and given that a key outcome for the ministry is to ensure that creative and cultural industries flourish, increasing investment and participation in growth, and given that without a strategy enacted immediately, thousands of artists, content developers, producers, and authors will be forced to leave the province or industry, what is the minister doing to ensure those in Alberta's arts sector are able to entertain Albertans and the rest of the world for years to come?

2:40

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women.

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Budget 2024, if passed, will increase funding to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. We're investing in the arts to increase the profile of Alberta artists and art organizations and ensure art is accessible to all Albertans in all corners of the province.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont is next.

### International Francophonie Day

**Mr. Lundy:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have heard, today is International Day of La Francophonie, a day to celebrate the French language and French culture here in Alberta and around the world. More than 80 countries recognize this day, and Alberta's government is proud to join in on the celebrations. The celebration is particularly meaningful to me as the MLA for Beaumont, a city with a deep and meaningful connection to French language and culture. To the Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women: what is the government doing this day and month dedicated to Francophonie?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women.

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to begin by wishing the hon. members in this Chamber a happy International Day of La Francophonie. I have attended several events celebrating Francophonie Month so far. In Calgary I held a francophone month kickoff event at McDougall Centre and attended Franco Winterfest. Our government would have raised the Franco Alberta flag at the start of March, but due to the passing of the Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney and the period of state mourning before his funeral, protocol dictates that we cannot. I will proudly be raising the flag at the QE II Building on March 25 in accordance with flag protocol to celebrate Alberta's Francophonie community.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont.

**Mr. Lundy:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that response. Given that Alberta's government has and will continue to recognize this significant day and month for Francophonie and given that Alberta has the third-highest French-speaking population outside Quebec, can the Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women please tell Albertans how Budget 2024, if passed, will support the French language and culture within our province?

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women.

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. Budget 2024, if passed, will increase funding for the Francophone Secretariat from \$1.4 million to \$4 million. This funding will strengthen the capacity of the secretariat to continue their vital work of implementing Alberta's French policy. It will also support other ministers in their work to provide, develop, and enhance government services in French, showing our government's commitment to supporting the vitality of the French language and communities within our province. We will continue to engage with the Francophonie community to hear how we can continue to support them.

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

**Mr. Lundy:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that response. Given that, if passed, Budget 2024 is investing in Alberta's French language services and culture via the Francophone Secretariat and other avenues and given that there's always more to be done to support this vital community within our province, to the same minister: can you please tell Albertans what else Alberta's government is doing to advocate for the francophone community here in our province?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta has the third-largest French-speaking population outside Quebec yet receives the second-lowest amount of federal funding. I will continue to fight for that.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also point out that the member opposite, in her remarks at the Francophonie ceremony today and again in her member's statement in this Chamber today, chose to comment about our government not having yet raised the francophone flag. The member opposite is well aware that due to the passing of the Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney and the period of state mourning before the funeral, government protocol dictates . . . [interjections]

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

**Ms Fir:** She's well aware that due to the period of state mourning before the funeral, government protocol dictates we cannot raise the francophone flag until after the funeral. Her comments are disappointing, not surprising. She may not respect government protocol, but we do. [interjections]

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

This concludes the time allotted for Oral Question Period.

In light of the estimates schedule we will not have a 30-second break. We will not have a break for the conclusion of the daily Routine. However, if members need to get to estimates, I appreciate that they will do so quietly and expeditiously.

### Tabling Returns and Reports

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

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the requisite number of copies from 106 residents in Lethbridge of a private senior retirement home that are calling on the government to establish statutory or regulatory caps on annual service fee adjustments. They are residents of the View, and they are tired of the affordability challenges that the lack of regulation that happens in other jurisdictions . . .

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

**Member Ceci:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling five copies of an article from Lily Polenchuk from the U of A newspaper concerned about prioritizing all arts not just the current economically successful ones.

**Member Irwin:** Mr. Speaker, I'm tabling five copies of *Can't Afford the Rent: Rental Wages in Canada 2022*. This study examines the gap between minimum wage and what it costs to rent an apartment, showing that in Alberta a full-time minimum wage worker cannot afford to rent a one-bedroom apartment, showing the need for action on rent and support for my Bill 205.

**The Speaker:** Are there others? The Official Opposition House Leader.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling five copies of a housing support program acceptance letter from Contentment Social Services, which describes Travelodge accommodations as bachelor-style suite accommodations.

### Tablings to the Clerk

**The Clerk:** I wish to advise the Assembly that the following document was deposited with the office of the Clerk: on behalf of hon. Mr. Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, pursuant to the Mental Health Act the office of the Alberta Health Advocates Mental Health Patient Advocate 2022-2023 annual report.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, that brings us to points of order, and at 1:50, at the conclusion of Members' Statements, the Government House Leader rose on a point of order.

### Point of Order Parliamentary Language

**Mr. Schow:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I certainly did. Today I saw a couple of things that I thought I'd never see in this Chamber, one which is unrelated to this. Selling memberships in a member's statement was pretty unusual, but that's not why I rose today.

I do rise, though, on 23(h), (i), and (j). While the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood was giving her member's statement, which is a time that we usually allow – well, not usually, Mr. Speaker. It is supposed to be done uninterrupted; points of order are not called during those so that the member can give the statement uninterrupted. The member said the following two statements that I have a real issue with. The first is: "the minister . . . misled Albertans into believing the centre is connecting hundreds with housing." You cannot directly say a member is misleading the public or anyone else.

The second one is later on in the member's statement. It says, "the minister cannot continue to deceive Albertans." Mr. Speaker, you cannot do in a member's statement what you can't do in a question in question period or regular debate. If Members' Statements were a time to directly attack another member in good standing in this Chamber with impunity, I can assure you there's a number of things members on this side would have to say about individual members on the other side. That is not the purpose of a member's statement. I have no problem with things that are divisive because that's what this Chamber is about, but making direct attacks, especially against a minister of the Crown, is completely unparliamentary. It's uncalled for. It's unbecoming of a member. Frankly, it's disgusting. I believe this is a point of order, and I'd

hope the member would apologize, withdraw, and never do that again.

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

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, on this point of order, I will say that in my many years in this Chamber things often get emotional and quite heated, especially when we come to situations where the facts do not match what we hear in rhetoric from government ministers. In this case I was in the room in estimates this morning when, counter to what we've heard the minister from community and social services say many, many times, instead of hundreds being connected with housing, we learned it was only five. I imagine tensions got quite heated, and unparliamentary language was used in this member's statement.

Now, the Government House Leader referred to Members' Statements as a time that would be uninterrupted. I will just note that, certainly, the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood was not uninterrupted. In fact, the minister himself was heckling during this time and accused and called that member "the tent critic" while he was heckling her, which I would call disgusting.

That being said, unparliamentary language was used on behalf of the member. I will apologize and withdraw for that unparliamentary language and hope that we might be able to have an honest debate about a serious issue going forward.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Are there others who have additional information to submit to the point of order? While I would typically accept an apology on behalf of a member and consider the matter dealt with and concluded, I think it's important that the Speaker make a statement with respect to the use of members' statements more broadly and remind members of Speaker Kowalski's ruling of December 1, 2010.

2:50

I won't read the entire ruling into the record today, but I do encourage members to peruse it at their leisure. It's page 1755 of *Hansard* that day. He went on to say:

I want to repeat again that there should be as wide a latitude as possible provided, that the Speaker should not deal with points arising out of members' statements, but that the members themselves have to discipline themselves with the civility and decorum that's requested and deal with policy matters and not personalities. Without that, it turns into a donnybrook, and the next day somebody else gets up and slams the person from the day before for two minutes about the irresponsible, universal condemnation of everybody.

It's simply unacceptable.

Hon. members, tensions can rise in the Assembly from time to time but rarely are members' statements unprepared or done on the spur of the moment and, as such, language as used in a member's statement that we saw this afternoon is certainly unparliamentary. As Speaker Kowalski did, I remind members of the need for civility. I'll also remind the hon. minister who did interrupt during the member's statement, but one could imagine after hearing such unparliamentary language and being accused of misleading or deceiving Albertans how one would also react. Both unacceptable. Both the Speaker will not tolerate in the future. I now consider this matter dealt with and concluded.

Hon. members, I have a statement to make with respect to the estimates schedule, and the Assembly will adjourn. The legislative policy committees will convene this afternoon, this evening, and tomorrow morning for the consideration of the main estimates. This afternoon the Standing Committee on Families and Communities



will consider the estimates for the Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services in the Rocky Mountain Room, and the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship will consider the estimates for the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas in the Grassland Room. This evening the Standing Committee on Families and Communities will consider the estimates for the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction in the Rocky Mountain Room, and the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship will consider the estimates for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in the Grassland Room. Tomorrow morning the Standing Committee on Families

and Communities will consider the estimates for the Ministry of Children and Family Services in the Rocky Mountain Room, and the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship will consider the estimates for the Ministry of Affordability and Utilities in the Grassland Room.

Hon. members, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 2:53 p.m.]



## Table of Contents

Prayers.....	763
Statement by the Speaker	
Alberta Francophonie Month.....	763
Introduction of Visitors .....	763
Introduction of Guests .....	763
Members' Statements	
North Atlantic Treaty Organization.....	764
La Francophonie Albertaine .....	764
Small Business .....	764
Climate Change Policy .....	764
Alberta's Industrial Heartland .....	765
Homeless Supports and Affordable Housing.....	765
Oral Question Period	
Hospital Discharge Policies.....	765, 768, 769
Support for Teachers .....	766
School Construction in Calgary.....	766
Continuing Care Standards.....	767
Drought Preparations.....	768
Renewable Energy Development.....	769
Rural Schools .....	770
Provincial Pension Plan Proposal .....	771
Federal Carbon Tax Increase .....	771
Cardiac Care in Lethbridge.....	772
Arts and Culture Funding .....	772
International Francophonie Day .....	773
Tabling Returns and Reports .....	773
Tablings to the Clerk .....	774

*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)