



Province of Alberta

The 31st Legislature
First Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, November 28, 2024

Day 75

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),
Official Opposition Deputy Assistant Whip
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)
Dreeschen, Hon. Devin, ECA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UC)
Dyck, Nolan B., Grande Prairie (UC)
Eggen, Hon. David, ECA, Edmonton-North West (NDP)
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Ellis, Hon. Mike, ECA, Calgary-West (UC),
Deputy Premier
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Eremenko, Janet, Calgary-Currie (NDP)
Fir, Hon. Tanya, ECA, Calgary-Peigan (UC)
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., ECA, Calgary-Mountain View (NDP),
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Official Opposition House Leader
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Haji, Sharif, Edmonton-Decore (NDP)
Hayter, Julia K.U., Calgary-Edgemont (NDP)
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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),
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(UC)
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Kayande, Samir, Calgary-Elbow (NDP)
LaGrange, Hon. Adriana, ECA, Red Deer-North (UC)
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Long, Martin M., West Yellowhead (UC)
Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UC)
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Lunty, Brandon G., Leduc-Beaumont (UC)
McDougall, Myles, Calgary-Fish Creek (UC)
McIver, Hon. Ric, ECA, Calgary-Hays (UC)
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Nixon, Hon. Jason, ECA, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre
(UC)
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Petrovic, Chelsae, Livingstone-Macleod (UC)
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Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC),
Deputy Government Whip
Yaseen, Hon. Muhammad, ECA, Calgary-North (UC)
Vacant, Lethbridge-West

Party standings:

United Conservative: 49

New Democrat: 37

Vacant: 1

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Tanya Fir	Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women
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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
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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
Chelsae Petrovic	Parliamentary Secretary for Health Workforce Engagement
Scott Sinclair	Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Policing
Tany Yao	Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Northern Development

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Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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Yao

Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee

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Wright, J.

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

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Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

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Standing Committee on Public Accounts

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Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

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Armstrong-Homeniuk
Calahoo Stonehouse
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Eggen
Hunter
McDougall
Sinclair

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 28, 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.

Hon. members, it being Thursday, we will now be led in the singing of *God Save the King* by Nicole Williams.

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: Hon. members, please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadows or the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar on his behalf has a school group to introduce.

Mr. Schmidt: Mr. Speaker, I have two school groups to introduce. Can I introduce them both?

The Speaker: Please do.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you very much. On behalf of my colleague from Edmonton-Meadows, I'm pleased to introduce students and parents and teachers from A. Blair McPherson school. We've got about 36 students and at least one grown-up looking after them. If they could please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

I also have a number of students and staff and parents from STEM Collegiate school located in the humble constituency of Edmonton-Gold Bar. I've got 96 students in attendance with their teachers: Mrs. Gendi, Ms Williamson, and Ms Cannan. If they could please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Airdrie-East has an introduction.

Ms Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's such an honour to rise and introduce to you and through you a very good friend of mine, family, really, Adrian Pruden. Adrian was recently elected as a district councillor for the Rocky View Métis district of the Otipemisiwak government and was recently awarded a King's coronation medal. He's raised so much money for charities in my community. Please receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

Mr. Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to introduce to you three great 4-H clubs, that have representatives here today touring the Legislature – the Gilby 4-H club; the Rocky 4-H club; and the Rimbey 4-H club, led by the deputy reeve of Clearwater county and my dear friend Genny Mehlhaff – who are up here. I'd ask that they all rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

Mr. Sinclair: Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to rise today and introduce to you and through you a friend of mine, Mat Cardinal, and his girlfriend, Shelbie McQuaid. Mat's the lead singer of the award-winning band the Prairie States. He's also from my riding, a proud First Nation from Bigstone Cree Nation. On top of that, he's also a survivor of kidney disease and an amazing – amazing – role model for all little Albertan kids. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Ms Lovely: I rise to introduce to you and through you some fantastic guests. I'd like to welcome Heart and Stroke employees: Jennifer Michaud, Kendall Saravanamuttoo, Derek Newman, Sonia Lallier as well as volunteers Eric McVeigh, Vi Tran, and Dr. Jonathan Duff. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Chamber.

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

Member Batten: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce one of my amazing constituency assistants – you've heard me brag about Calgary-Acadia – Marnie McCormack and her sister Debbie Shore. Please stand up and enjoy the warm welcome.

Mr. Haji: Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly one of the incredible constituency assistants of mine, Aziza Ibrahim her father Abdinasir Ibrahim. I ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The chief government whip has an introduction.

Mr. Getson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today and introduce to you and through you friends from the Alberta chapter of the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Vishal Zaveri, vice-chair of the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Alberta chapter, and Trupti Zaveri, senior vice-president of Primerica, south Asia women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs lead with Indo – I'm going to stop. Just please rise so we can clap for you.

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Children and Family Services.

Mr. Turton: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and to all members of the House the new executive director of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters and her biggest fan, her husband Mathieu Champagne. Please rise, Cat Champagne, and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

Mr. Singh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to rise today to introduce to you and through you friends from the Alberta chapter of the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Jyoti Tailor, pharmaceutical and women's chapter lead within the Indo-Canada Chamber, and Anu Srivastav from V4U Radio & TV Canada and media partner. I request them both to rise, please, and receive the warm traditional welcome of the Assembly.

Member Boparai: Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly – Khotira, Nyshal, Angeli, Taminah, Paige, and Brooke – dental hygienist graduates advocating on the barriers faced by qualified and skilled professionals from out-of-

province programs seeking to practice in Alberta. I ask that they rise to receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock.

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislature a family from Vilna, Alberta: mother Christine, son Landon, and daughter Brianna Hominiuk. I was happy to present this family with their century farm and ranch award this morning. I also would like to introduce Mitch Tinant and Rob Litzenberger, the supervisor and director, respectively, at Fortis Alberta. Will you all rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly?

The Speaker: Are there other introductions? The Minister of Affordability and Utilities.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly my former chief of staff Jon Dziadyk, who previously served as the Edmonton city councillor for ward 3 and a 2023 UCP candidate. Would you please rise and receive the warm traditional welcome of the Assembly?

Members' Statements

Education Concerns

Ms Chapman: Dear daughter: you didn't choose the family that you were born into. I like to remind you, though, that you won the lottery of birth because you get to grow up in one of the best places in the world: Calgary, Alberta, Canada. You get to grow up inside a network of support that I have been weaving around you since the day you were born. I am so invested in your past, present, and future. That is what every child deserves, but it is not what every child gets.

When we walk to your bus stop, every morning that I can, we talk about what's going on at school that day; I am so invested in your education. Your dad has good benefits, so you got the psycho-ed assessment you needed. It means that when you get off that bus, you walk into a public school program with controlled class sizes. Right now you're painting a reproduction of Botticelli's *Birth of Venus*. You study the structure of the Louvre to better understand Pythagorean theorem. Your teachers have the time and space to do so many things. That is what every child deserves, but it is not what every child gets.

Girl, the adults in charge have lost the plot. There are kids whose parents can't afford that psycho-ed assessment, so they don't get one. There are kids who aren't having their needs met at school. There are kids who have twice as many or more kids in their class as you do in yours. Think about how much one-on-one time you have with your teacher; now cut that in half. I hate to offer advice to a teen, but I hope you take from this letter an understanding of your privilege because you have what every child deserves. You'll make your own choices, but I hope that you use your privilege to advocate for all kids who deserve the exact same thing.

Love you, kiddo, to infinity and beyond.

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

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada

Ms Lovely: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For over 70 years the Heart and Stroke Foundation has been essential to help raise awareness and improve the lives of people at risk of or living with heart disease and stroke across Canada. Through the support from volunteers, donors, health care professionals, system leaders, and other critical organizations the Heart and Stroke Foundation can tackle innovation and drive life-saving medical initiatives. Their

collective activism and collaboration are fundamental to their overall mission of promoting good health, saving lives, and enhancing recovery.

1:40

Mr. Speaker, every five minutes heart disease and stroke and related conditions take a life in Canada, making it the leading cause of death in our nation. This shocking statistic is the reason why the Heart and Stroke Foundation remains vital. Their unwavering support and dedication to this cause will help ensure that all Canadians receive the resources and assistance that is necessary to live long and healthy lives. The Heart and Stroke Foundation is a passionate leader in several priorities such as transforming lifelong care, closing gaps in health equity, and advocating for healthier generations. They are also taking on a stance of critical national concerns such as ensuring fairness in health research and promoting virtual care options.

Mr. Speaker, through donors and volunteers Heart and Stroke invested \$22 million in life-saving research and \$32.5 million in advocacy and health promotion last year. Ten \$100,000 grants were also given to leading stroke researchers in partnership with Brain Canada and the Canadian Stroke Consortium. With support from the Heart and Stroke Foundation new ideas and discoveries are made every year. Through the development of many fundraising activities across the country it has become one of Canada's most recognized and prominent organizations.

I'm grateful and appreciative that Canadians have a strong advocate for heart and stroke research and awareness, and we thank you for your incredible leadership.

Government-owned Housing Maintenance and Repair

Mr. Haji: Mr. Speaker, my office continues to receive numerous complaints about the poor deteriorating conditions of government-owned social housing units. These concerns are not new to me. Just over 13 years ago my family and I lived in one of the government-owned housing units, and my lived experience makes this issue deeply personal. Unfortunately, deferred maintenance under this government has made an already dire situation even worse.

Earlier this year I directly raised the issue with the minister responsible for housing, and I specifically referenced the worsening conditions of the social housing units in Balwin, in Dickinsfield, and in Delton, all in Edmonton-Decore. The minister's response was, "we invested \$115 million to advance capital maintenance and renewal of our own stock" to bring more units online.

However, actions speak louder than words, Mr. Speaker, even if the minister repeats those words 1,000 times. The recent Auditor General report revealed that the Department of Seniors, Community and Social Services lacks effective processes to assess and manage the conditions of provincially owned affordable housing units. The consequences of this deferred maintenance under this government go beyond inconvenience. They directly impact the health, well-being, and the dignity of those relying on affordable housing. The Auditor General's report pointed out, and I quote: vulnerable Albertans are being forced to live in deteriorating units that pose serious health and safety risks. We need proactive and transparent investment in maintaining and expanding our social housing stocks to ensure safe, habitable conditions for all Albertans.

Vulnerable families and individuals deserve more than a quote from a government document's talking points. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Federal Policies

Mr. Sinclair: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is report card day for my two daughters. In the spirit of performance and evaluation I thought I might give Trudeau a report card as well.

Public safety: F. Teacher's comments: I'm afraid Justin is failing miserably. He needs to immediately repeal Bill C-75 and re-establish common sense and law and order. We need jail not bail. Furthermore, his promised legislation for making First Nations policing an essential service is way past due.

The economy: F. Teacher's comments: When Justin said that the budget will balance itself, I think everyone thought he was joking. Unfortunately, he was not.

Housing: F. Teachers comments: Justin's reckless spending has made buying your own home a pipe dream. His idealistic policies have created more hurdles and roadblocks.

Hair: A plus. Teacher's comments: Still got pretty good hair.

Environment and energy: F. Teacher's comments: Justin needs to fire his buddy Steven Guilbeault. When they aren't hugging trees or trying to climb on the roof of the principal's house, they're actively trying to shut down the oil and gas industry at every turn. The carbon tax is the biggest Ponzi scheme since Bernie Madoff, and the production cap is only going to kill jobs, but they don't seem to care.

Drama: A plus. Teacher's comments: Justin really excels here. His ability to pretend he cares about working-class people and families is the best I've seen since his father. His flawless hypocrisies, infectious. Not only the Liberals but even his friend Jagmeet and their newest regional manager, Nenshi, who's pretending to be NDP, put him in the running for best supporting actor just behind Randy "the adopted Cree" Boissonnault.

Final recommendations. I'm concerned that Justin doesn't understand the implications of his actions and is completely out of touch with real people. I recommend that he goes back to what he's good at and starts teaching high school drama again. Call an election now. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

Transgender Youth Policy

Mr. Ellingson: Since the introduction of the Premier's antitrans policies my office has been flooded with hundreds of e-mails and phone calls from Calgary-Foothills constituents who are angry at the government for their regressive policies against the 2SLGBTQIA-plus community and afraid of what this means for children growing up today. I heard from a mother who talked about their transgender child's journey. On the advice of their gender clinic and medical professionals at age 14 they benefited from being able to access hormone blockers. Today they're happy and thriving as a young adult. This mother said that without essential care, she feared it would have led to her child's suicide.

Another mother reached out to proudly announce that her transgendered son recently married his high school sweetheart. She talked about how gender-affirming care saved her child's life.

I heard from a teacher who has been educating children for over 25 years and worked with many teens who have come out as trans. They said that of those who came out with supportive, loved access to care, 100 per cent are now living happy lives, but those who lacked support all talked about the challenges they face, and heartbreakingly one child did not survive past high school.

There was a grandparent concerned about the well-being of their nonbinary grandchild, a brother proud of their trans sister, an auntie, a co-worker, a neighbour, and so many stories from allies.

A recently published scientific journal said that trans kids living in jurisdictions with antitrans legislation like that that has been introduced have a 70 per cent higher rate of self-harm and, sadly, suicide. Alberta children should not fear going to school. They should not fear being themselves. We should foster an environment where children feel safe and confident to be who they are. I hope

the Premier and this UCP government will listen to the facts, the thousands of stories, and their allies.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Funding for Book Publishing

Member Ceci: Mr. Speaker, Alberta is home to one of the strongest communities of regional book publishers in North America, yet they receive less provincial investment per capita than every other province except Prince Edward Island. In fact, the last permanent increase to the industry was under an NDP government in 2018. We need to invest in Alberta's book publishing industry now to support the critical role they play in telling Alberta's story. They are the curators and preservers of Alberta's diverse perspectives, which are the foundation of our culture.

Alberta book publishers are entrepreneurial success stories that create stable jobs, contribute \$15 million to the provincial GDP, and support \$5.7 million in wages and salaries. This has been achieved with little government support, so there is much room for growth. Let's raise the bar in Alberta and create the \$5 million Alberta book publishers fund so publishers can lead the way in Canada. It's important to note the direct impact that sustainable funding on this industry has. As we can see in B.C., where publishers receive 3.5 times more of the funding than Alberta, the book publishing industry is robust and flourishing. They contribute almost double the amount to the GDP, they employ over double the staff, and they publish almost three times the number of books per year.

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now so Alberta's authors can write the next chapter of Alberta's great story. This just makes sense.

1:50

Statement by the Speaker

Acting Clerk Philip Massolin

The Speaker: Hon. members, I'd like to draw your attention to the table today. We have sitting in as the Acting Clerk Dr. Philip Massolin, his very first question period in charge. Dr. Massolin is the Clerk Assistant, the executive director of parliamentary services. I know you all know him well. I trust that your conduct will be befitting of an Acting Clerk.

Oral Question Period

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

Trade with the United States

Ms Pancholi: Mr. Speaker, President-elect Trump has threatened a 25 per cent tariff on all Canadian exports, a move that would devastate Alberta's economy and put countless jobs at risk. Instead of taking a united Team Canada approach, the Premier is leaning into Trump's rhetoric. She's validating his baseless claims and saying she won't stand up against these tariffs until Alberta meets some arbitrary Trump standard. Alberta's economy depends on exports and a co-ordinated national strategy. Why is the Premier amplifying Trump's talking points instead of standing up for Alberta workers, industries, and jobs?

Mr. Jones: Mr. Speaker, the Premier stands up for Albertans every day in everything she does, and the Premier is responding to our most important trading partner's valid concerns while also standing up for Alberta's and Canada's interests. We are responsive to all of our trading partners' concerns. For example, Japan imports 85 per cent of their energy. We immediately worked with Canada and

British Columbia to try to find ways for them to source more energy from Alberta to supply their local market. The United States has priorities. We're committed to helping them achieve theirs, but hopefully they work with us on ours.

Ms Pancholi: Trump's proposed 25 per cent tariff would wreak havoc on jobs, workers, and on Alberta's largest export industries, including energy and agriculture. Canadian Premiers, including Quebec's, are calling for an all-hands-on-deck approach, wanting to work together to defend our economy, all except the UCP. It's naive and dangerous to try to negotiate with someone who has proven themselves, like Trump, to be irrational. Is the Premier too busy auditioning for a job in Trump's administration that she's forgotten that her actual job is to stand up for Albertans?

Mr. Jones: Mr. Speaker, that's simply not the case. The Premier has been working with her Premier colleagues across the country and Prime Minister Trudeau on how best to respond to both the valid concerns of the United States but also our mutually beneficial trade relationship and how we can not only preserve what we're already doing, about \$188 billion per year in bilateral trade, but how we can grow that. We have the United States' answer to energy security. The Premier has ambitions to double our oil production, and I can assure you that we're on that.

Ms Pancholi: As I said, Mr. Speaker, naive and dangerous.

Alberta workers can't afford a Premier offside with the rest of the country, who is too busy trying to get Trump's attention to fulfill the role Albertans expect of her. We need strong leadership to counter these threats to our economy. Other provinces are standing firm and united against Trump's bullying tactics, so when will the Premier stand up for Albertans by fighting for investment, jobs, and the free flow of Alberta's exports and stop chasing Trump's approval? Sorry, Premier; he's just not that into you.

Mr. Jones: Mr. Speaker, true leadership starts right in this Chamber, and I'm proud to stand here beside our Premier as she leads Alberta. We have the largest economy, the highest wages, the highest productivity, and the lowest taxes. Alberta is booming, and the United States is our top trading partner. The Premier and her colleagues across the country, including Prime Minister Trudeau, are going to work together to ensure that Canada's priorities are respected but also that we work together with our most important trading partner.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud for the second set of questions.

Members' Accommodation Allowance and Cost of Living

Ms Pancholi: Mr. Speaker, the only thing in Alberta more certain than our big, beautiful sky is the hypocrisy of the UCP. As the leader of the Wildrose in 2012 the Premier was outraged that the PCs voted to increase MLA benefits by 8 per cent and called out Alison Redford for not campaigning on it. Well, this Premier didn't campaign on MLAs getting a Christmas bonus, but now she's proudly supporting the UCP's 14 per cent hike in living allowance. Does the Premier agree that this is the height of hypocrisy?

Mr. Jones: Mr. Speaker, Members' Services is a standing committee of the Legislature with representation from all parties. Members of the Legislature are required to disclose expenses and follow predetermined limits. Albertans can and should review their members' expense disclosures from time to time and also review

their members' performance. In 2019 Albertans reviewed the performance and costs of the NDP government and decided it wasn't worth it, and they exchanged them for this government.

Ms Pancholi: Hypocrisy it is, Mr. Speaker.

Under the UCP Albertans have seen nothing but hikes: hikes to their utility bills, hikes to their car insurance, hikes to their rents and mortgages, and a 14 per cent hike to their living allowance. Oh, wait. That hike is only coming for the UCP. The government only cares about their own cost of living and not Albertans'. The Premier once stood in this House and said that getting taxpayers to cover an MLA living allowance "is just something that would not happen in the real world." Well, Premier, is it the real world that she's living in? What has changed?

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

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will point out that this government has taken an all-ministry approach to address the top issues of Albertans, including affordability. That's why we have provided nearly \$1.2 billion of additional funding: \$700 million for Health; \$240 million for Seniors, Community and Social Services; \$125 million to Education; and \$124 million to Mental Health and Addiction. We have allocated \$1.7 billion of our contingency, leaving only \$279 million left, but we are working hard on behalf of Albertans and balancing the budget, something the NDP never did.

Ms Pancholi: Well, Mr. Speaker, I will agree that the UCP has taken an all-government approach to addressing their own affordability issues.

The Premier stood up seven times in this Legislature and railed against the PCs raising MLA benefits, but now she's accepting a 14 per cent raise to her own benefits. Mr. Speaker, this is worse than hypocritical. It's a slap in the face to Albertans across this province, who keep telling this government that they are desperately struggling to make ends meet only to be stretched even thinner by the UCP's choices. What will it take for the Premier to listen to Albertans rather than just her backbenchers?

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the issue the hon. member is talking about was before a standing committee of the Legislature, not in the control of the Premier.

But if we want to talk about people showing up, I'll tell you this. We got a situation, for example, that just took place in Jasper, one of the most catastrophic situations that we've ever seen take place in a mountain community. I can tell you where my Premier was less than 24 hours later. She was there in Jasper, making sure we rebuild it. She was setting up committees to be able to make sure we could rebuild those homes. That's how she acts each and every day. You know what, Mr. Speaker? The NDP leader, who is missing, has still never been to Jasper, so let's not argue about who's showing up for Albertans. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud for question 3.

Ms Pancholi: Mr. Speaker, these ministers should be goalies; they're so good at deflecting things.

Automobile Insurance Reform

Ms Pancholi: The Premier's new private, no-fault auto insurance scheme is the worst of all worlds. Drivers will pay higher rates than for a public system for a no-fault scheme that won't properly

compensate them, and it comes with a big price tag. Alberta drivers will pay hundreds of dollars more, and in the end we will still have the highest auto insurance rates in the country. Why would the Premier saddle us with the most expensive car insurance scheme and set us up for yet another UCP disaster?

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

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to stand with our Minister of Finance and the terrific work that he's done taking all the considerations and talking to all stakeholders relevant to this file to make sure that we have the best option available to Albertans from where we started, a defunct system that the NDP left behind in tatters, where nearly 40 per cent of drivers had no insurance whatsoever. Making sure that we have a care-first model, modelled after other provinces in Canada, that provides better, faster, and more affordable auto insurance to Albertans, getting them to where they need safely: I'm proud to stand with him on that.

Ms Pancholi: The UCP's own report shows that a public option could save drivers more than \$700 a year. For the 3.7 million registered vehicles in Alberta, the one-year savings alone would be \$2.8 billion. Setting up a public system would pay for itself in one year and mean relief for Albertans' wallets. Why would the Premier set up an insurance scheme to pour billions into the coffers of private insurance companies at the expense of Alberta drivers?

Mr. Neudorf: Very likely, Mr. Speaker, that's because it would take five years and \$3 billion for Albertans to pay for, something that we're not willing to do. Not only that; it would put nearly 5,000 privately employed insurance brokers out of business, something that we don't do. That's what the NDP does really well: firing private industry, seeing jobs flee, and costing taxpayers billions of dollars. We're not taking that path. We are charting a responsible path, serving Albertans with private auto insurance, asking them to pick up the slack and serve Albertans in a care-first model. That's a responsible path, and that's what we're doing.

2:00

Ms Pancholi: What's the phrase, Mr. Speaker? I know math is hard. However, for the minister, you should be aware that the savings of \$2.8 billion per year would actually total \$5.6 billion, which is more than the \$3 billion cost to set up the public insurance. Alberta drivers already face the highest car insurance rates in the country, and the UCP is allowing those premiums to increase by 15 per cent in the next two years. This comes after scrapping the rate cap, ignoring the recommendations of their own report. They've chosen the worst of all options and are leaving Albertans exposed to insurance companies. I'm curious. What fancy gift does the insurance lobby offer the government for the support of their scheme?

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

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we are doing the work that the NDP failed to do when they were in office. They just let people have no insurance whatsoever, racked up bills, cost billions of dollars, lost jobs. We're not going that direction. We are working with our industry to make sure they provide the best care model available to where we start from today, and we're doing so in a time frame at less than half the number of years that it would take to set up a public insurance claim system, which other provinces have already realized that they can't continue to do. We are providing the best care for Albertans no matter where they live, trying to make life more affordable for them.

Jasper Disaster Relief and Recovery

Ms Goehring: Mr. Speaker, Jasper is reeling from a devastating wildfire that wiped out a third of its buildings, leaving the town with a \$9 million tax revenue shortfall. Meanwhile the province is asking Jasper to cover \$7 million under the disaster recovery program, a cost requiring a 40 per cent increase to residents. Tax relief for Fort McMurray and Slave Lake came without these kinds of strings attached. Why is the minister playing hardball with Jasper instead of offering immediate unconditional support to help the community rebuild?

Mr. McIver: Well, Mr. Speaker, I guess they found somebody different to be uninformed about Jasper today. Congratulations on trying something different. In fact, what was just said is incorrect. Jasper knows there's tax relief coming, and we are doing the responsible thing of getting leases in place so we can leave \$120 million worth of funding provided by the Alberta government in support of Jasper. As soon as that's done, Jasper – we already told them that the tax relief is coming. We're doing everything for Jasper, and I hope that the second question is a little more informed than the first one. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

Ms Goehring: Fort McMurray and Slave Lake received direct tax relief after the disasters. Jasper's financial recovery is critical to Alberta's tourism economy. They should have the same access to support. The minister is suggesting that selling modular homes to turn a profit will somehow stabilize Jasper's economy when they need relief now. What will the minister commit to Jasper so that they have the resources they need to continue to recover as a community without an unaffordable 40 per cent jump in property taxes?

Mr. Nixon: Only the NDP would make fun of a government that is investing \$115 million of taxpayer dollars to put in interim housing that could become permanent housing for the community of Jasper. I can tell you that Jasper is very happy about the work that this government has been doing. Our Premier has taken a leadership role in this from day one. It is very sad to see the misinformation coming from the Official Opposition. If they want to talk about leadership when it comes to Jasper, our actions speak for themselves. Again, Mr. Speaker, through you to them: where is your leader? Maybe he can show up and do some work in this Chamber instead of hiding from the people of Alberta. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

Ms Goehring: Modular homes and rebuilding efforts won't be finalized for a while. Jasperites are facing years of financial instability while this government drags its feet as the economy slowly recovers to prewildfire strength. Let me be clear. Every delay pushes a 40 per cent tax hike closer to reality. Will the minister work to reduce these red tape burdens on Jasper to help speed up recovery rather than lead them down the path to a punishing property tax hike?

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, while the NDP have done nothing, not bothered to go to Jasper, not met with anybody, put no effort into helping that community, this government has evacuated 20-some thousand people from that community, helped put out the fire, got the people returned, cared for the seniors that had to be evacuated, all the time helped dismantle the town. You know what we also did? Unprecedented, we were able to make leases in Jasper, clear them, bring utilities, and are on track to create 250-plus new homes in

Jasper just after Christmas this year. Nobody anywhere else in this country can do what this government has done.

Automobile Insurance Reform (continued)

Mr. Ip: Mr. Speaker, Alberta drivers are already facing some of the highest auto insurance premiums in Canada, and this government's decisions have only made things worse. They removed the NDP's cap on insurance premiums, causing rates to skyrocket by over 35 per cent, and in 2023, after a temporary pause, they put in a so-called good-driver rate increase that they're now doubling per year. To the Premier: why is this government boosting the profits for big insurance companies at the expense of Alberta drivers?

Mr. Neudorf: Having gone through these questions just earlier, Mr. Speaker, we'll just focus a little bit on the NDP's record, costing taxpayers billions and billions of dollars, putting us in debt that could take 20 or 30 years to pay for. And now they're suggesting that we do that again. That is not the path that we're doing. I'm very happy to stand up beside this Premier and our Finance minister, who are here to serve Albertans and provide them a care-first model that will be better, faster, and cheaper in the fastest time frame possible. We're here to serve Albertans.

Mr. Ip: Mr. Speaker, given that this government's no-fault plan will strip Albertans of their right to sue for damages, pain and suffering, and loss of income after an accident and given that the system has already failed in other provinces like Ontario, where drivers face some of the highest premiums in the country while receiving less care, and given that Alberta rejected this very proposal over 20 years ago under Ralph Klein because it hurt victims, why is the government recycling a no-fault system that takes away rights from accident victims and hands them to insurance lobbyists?

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

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe they should pay more attention to the briefings. We are not doing that. You still retain the right to sue under the new program. We are modelling this not after Ontario but after Manitoba, where they have some of the best care-first models. That is exactly what we're doing here in Alberta. It's privately delivered, retaining competition and choice, something Albertans have told us in great numbers that they want. Again, we are here to serve Albertans and put their needs first, not throw away their money, just like the NDP did for four years.

Mr. Ip: Given that insurance companies have a history of cutting off care before people recover and given that Alberta's current system protects victims and given that we know from other provinces that a no-fault system leaves taxpayers on the hook for covering lifelong care while insurers walk away from the responsibilities, costing more in the long run anyway, why is the Premier siding with insurance companies, leaving taxpayers to clean up the mess?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again misinformed questions and not listening to the answers. This new system will be care focused, allowing Albertan drivers to receive an unlimited amount of medical treatment until they are recovered. Again, we are modelling this after Manitoba, except we are increasing the benefits, we are increasing the time frame, and we are making adjustments for the cost of living here in Alberta being higher. This care-first model will provide better, faster, more affordable treatment for Albertans, more affordable insurance for

Albertans in the fastest time frame we can while preserving thousands of private-sector jobs, something that we think is important.

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

Domestic Violence Prevention

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. November is Family Violence Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about where individuals fleeing domestic violence can turn for support so that we can end cycles of abuse and prevent future harm. Women's shelters are key in helping survivors get the resources they need. That's why our government promised to provide women's shelters an additional \$10 million, so survivors can get help anywhere in the province. Can the Minister of Children and Family Services update this House on how our government is delivering on this promise?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Children and Family Services.

Mr. Turton: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to that member for her incredible advocacy for women and children in her riding. Our government is proud to support women's shelters and the amazing work that they do each and every day to help keep women and children safe. That's why we rolled out more than \$5 million on our commitment earlier this year, which is helping fund over 100 additional beds and innovative programs across the province to stabilize capacity. I'm also excited to share news in a couple of weeks about an additional \$1.5 million investment. These investments are making a difference in ensuring that survivors have access to the supports that they require.

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

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. Given that preventing domestic violence requires more than just funding but a new and innovative approach and given that a recent report by the University of Calgary School of Public Policy says that we need to increase education efforts to reach men and boys on violence prevention, can the same minister explain how our government is working with men and boys to help end the cycle of family violence before it begins?

2:10

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Children and Family Services.

Mr. Turton: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and again to the member for her question. Our recent family violence info ad campaign included a video of a man who recognized that he needed help to end cycles of abuse. He got help through the line at 310.1818, and since we've seen an increase in would-be perpetrators reaching out for help. Alberta's women's shelters are also national leaders in reaching out to men. Fear is Not Love's Men & program is doing great things to reach men and boys, and we are so proud to support them in this important work.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. Given that the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters has a new executive director, who we are pleased to have joining us today, and given that empowering survivors and preventing domestic violence requires collaboration between government and family violence prevention partners, including the Council of Women's Shelters, can the same minister explain how our government plans on continuing its work with women's shelters to ensure positive futures for the family violence sector?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Turton: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and again to the member for her question. We're so grateful for the partnership of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters and shelters right throughout Alberta. Work is already under way to positively transform the sector by reducing red tape and administrative burden by making grant agreements more flexible, and that's just one of the changes that we've made. I've already met with Cat Champagne, and I look forward to working with her to make sure that the needs of shelters and survivors across the province are met.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity has a question to ask.

Access to Cancer Services

Dr. Metz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has been telling Albertans that there are now 160 in-patient beds in the new Arthur Child cancer centre, but she should tell the entire story. Only 92 beds have operating dollars attached. There's been no increase to operating funding despite the wait times for cancer treatment and the availability of this space. Since moving, the staff at the new cancer centre are going above and beyond to care for more patients than the units are funded to support. Why hasn't the government funded cancer care properly so that these beds can get operational funding?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Health has the call.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm really proud of the great work that's happening at the Arthur J.E. Child cancer centre, a one-of-a-kind, state-of-the-art facility that is the envy of all of North America and, I dare say, globally. When the Arthur Child was stood up, we knew that Alberta Health Services would need to take some time to build the capacity, so they didn't plan to open all the beds right away. That is something that they are staging over time.

Dr. Metz: Given that Albertans with cancer are dying before they're even seen by an oncologist and treatment is usually initiated outside of the recommended treatment times and given there are 13 vacancies for radiation therapists at the Arthur Child cancer centre as recruits are going to B.C., which offers better wages and a \$30,000 to \$40,000 signing bonus, and given that Alberta needs to be competitive, what is the minister doing to train, retain, and recruit radiation therapists to Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that Alberta Health Services is aggressively recruiting oncologists and other front-line cancer care professionals. Between September 1, 2023, and August 31, 2024, they have successfully hired 10.9 full-time oncologists and 5.1 hospitalists. We have 15 full-time oncologists and seven hospitalists starting in the near future. There have been a total of 202 FTEs hired across Cancer Care Alberta, including casuals, from September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024.

Dr. Metz: Given that there is absolutely no treatment space at the Cross Cancer centre in Edmonton to increase capacity to see the increasing number of cancer patients needing care and given that the minister keeps claiming that there is adequate treatment space throughout Edmonton, will the minister tell us where the cancer care needed will be delivered, and will she reconsider the need for the south Edmonton hospital to allow for future growth of the Cross Cancer centre?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we're going to continue to work to enhance the capacity that we have in cancer care right across this province. I'm not going to take any direction from the members opposite who saw wait times in surgeries increase under their watch, who continued to put stress on the system even as they drove out hundreds of thousands of people. We're going to continue to work to improve the system. We're doing that. We're seeing great progress, and that is going to continue.

Transmission Grid Reliability

Mr. Haji: With the cold weather Albertans are worried when they will receive the next grid alert on their phones. They have seen grid alerts in minus three, in minus 30, and anything in between because under the UCP they are becoming more and more frequent. Last year Albertans even received an emergency alert because the grid was about to completely fail. This UCP government had five years to fix this problem. Can the minister assure Albertans that they can celebrate Christmas and New Year's without worrying about receiving grid alerts?

Mr. Neudorf: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the member for that question. I want to assure every single Albertan that our grid is reliable. We are very happy to announce that we have over 2,000 new megawatts of generation, dispatchable generation, clean natural gas generation, that doesn't become intermittent during the winter months. It can be depended upon. That is why we continue to do all the work fixing the problems left behind by the NDP, when they opened the doors without readjusting our system to allow for the intermittency of renewable generation. This is a practical problem taken to task by a practical government solving problems for Albertans.

Mr. Haji: Given that between January 2022 and April 2024 Alberta accounted for 33 per cent of all level 3 alerts in North America and given that up until April this year Alberta was 20 times more likely to issue level 3 grid alerts than any other North American jurisdiction and given that this risks Alberta's reputation and drives away investment for generators and customers, can the minister quantify the lost investment on the grid fragility?

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

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to point out that the reason we have such volatility in our grid is because of the work of the NDP. We have over 35 per cent renewables on our grid, meaning that when we get to winter and it's not as sunny or not as windy, we have all kinds of reliability problems. Thankfully, our government took power and we have sought to correct this problem, which we have by adding dispatchable natural gas generation to our grid. We have over 13,000 megawatts of capacity to feed our 12 and a half thousand peak load. Basically, we have enough power put together to serve Albertans' needs.

Mr. Haji: Given that the government banned renewables without warning, which drove away billions of investments that this province needs today, and given that the government has started a market reform process that has so far created what industry calls chaos and given that this uncertainty will increasingly be felt by consumers in increased grid alerts and higher bills, can the minister lay out how he will address the chaos caused by this government and how the government will support Albertans facing this fragility?

Mr. Neudorf: Well, look, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. We have done a tremendous amount of work. We have a reliable system, and we have not scared away any investment. In fact, we continue to see billions of dollars of investment in renewables, in battery, in natural gas, creating a more reliable system. But on top of that I just want to pass along to Albertans that the single-greatest act of affordability our United Conservative government has achieved is defeating the NDP in the last two elections. They're the ones who chased away billions of dollars in investments. They're the ones who put us billions of dollars in debt. They're the ones who have lost hundreds of thousands of jobs. We've turned that around. Proud to . . .

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

Youth Addiction Treatment Services

Mr. Dyck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta's government is decisive. When we are presented with a problem, we take decisive action to support Albertans, and we are taking action on battling the devastating disease of addiction, particularly among our youth. The Alberta recovery model is breaking barriers for treatment, increasing access to critical resources, and ensuring evidence-based recovery options are available for those in need. To the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction: how is Alberta's government assisting young people and helping them build a pathway toward a brighter future?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction.
2:20

Mr. Williams: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker and through you to the member. Earlier this week we announced a \$23 million renovation so that we can have the northern Alberta youth recovery centre. This is a more than 150 per cent increase in the province-wide youth addiction treatment capacity right here in Edmonton. It is going to continue to provide life-saving care for those families, 300 per year, where their children are trapped in the deadly disease of addiction. We will continue to support an alternative to the policy that's been on offer to the rest of Canada for decades. Alberta believes not in drug facilitation for our youth but instead in health care and recovery.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

Mr. Dyck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the minister for this welcome investment for our youth in Alberta. Given the northern Alberta youth recovery centre will provide a safe, supportive, and home-like environment for young Albertans suffering from addiction and further given that this centre will more than double the province's capacity to treat youth with addictions, to the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction: how will the northern Alberta youth recovery centre ensure that youth struggling with addiction receive the support they need to pursue recovery and build a brighter future?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Mental Health and Addiction.

Mr. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When this facility opens in 2026, it's going to be a part of the Alberta recovery model, focusing on youth. That means they're going to get individualized care for social and psychotherapy, bringing people out of addiction. I want to thank the member for the support that he has and thank the critic of the members opposite for supporting the policy that brought this about with this facility. However, we still have members opposite who think there ought to be more, quote, harm reduction, unquote, for youth in Alberta. We oppose that. Drug

paraphernalia has no place in our youth's homes, in their lives. Drug use is devastating in families. We need to build recovery.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

Mr. Dyck: Thank you and again to the minister. Given that addiction affects not just the individual but also affects their families and communities and given that it's National Addictions Awareness Week and given that Alberta is leading Canada in establishing a successful recovery model for other provinces to follow and by rejecting and getting rid of the NDP drug injection sites, which keep people in active addiction, can the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction please provide an update on the critical work being done in supporting vulnerable Albertans suffering from addictions, both in Grande Prairie . . .

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, it's true that we are continuing to expand capacity across the province, and Alberta is leading the way in the country, including in Grande Prairie where the member advocated hard for a new 50-bed facility, a \$35 million investment, opening in 2026 as well; that's going to provide capacity for northern Alberta. Northern Alberta, all of Alberta, and the country of Canada have a choice to make. You can go down the path of the B.C. and Alberta NDP along with Justin Trudeau, facilitating addiction, pushing drugs into our communities, pushing drug paraphernalia onto our children, or instead we can choose the path of hope, the path of life, the path that says that addiction is not a disease you die from; it's one you recover from, and Alberta is behind you.

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

Child and Youth Advocate Recommendations

Member Batten: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The OCYA's calling for action report that was issued recently had five recommendations calling for transparency, co-ordination, accountability in the transition to adulthood program, kind of the same support that my Motion 514 would have delivered before this UCP government decided to vote it down. Alberta's most vulnerable youth cannot afford more inaction. Will the minister commit to implementing these recommendations and finally provide the support these young people so desperately need?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Children and Family Services.

Mr. Turton: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. We take the recommendations from the OCYA extremely seriously. That's why we're actively making improvements in the system. Over the last year and a half we've been actually making intentional investments at earlier ages to increase family connections, cultural connections amongst young youth because we know that that will actually help them become more resilient when they become young adults. Again, I'd just like to thank the incredible work that the OCYA does to put forth these recommendations. Together we're doing our best to keep children safe.

Member Batten: Well, given that the minister seems confused about how many recommendations he's actually done – 46 recommendations since 2019 have been brought forward by the advocate; 30 per cent were, and I quote, met – now, given that 1 in 5 children in Alberta are living in poverty, an appalling rate not seen since the Alberta NDP halved the rate of child poverty, and given that these children living in poverty are further harmed by this government's repeat cuts to services

and given that every child in Alberta deserves better than this neglect, what is the minister going to do about it?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Children and Family Services.

Mr. Turton: Well, thank you again so much, Mr. Speaker. Since 2013 CFS has implemented 105 of the 111 recommendations that have come to our ministry, with five more that are in progress. Regarding children that need help: that's why we're investing in our family resource networks. Over 125,000 families and children are using these networks. We know that it's working, and it's making a tangible difference to help some of the most vulnerable and complex families and children here in the province.

Member Batten: Given that his numbers continue to be wrong and given that Alberta's children intervention workforce is in crisis, with far too many cases and too few workers, and given that this minister claims to have hired 540 new staff, who have not yet built up the experience that the vulnerable children and youth deserve to support them let alone put in solutions to support this work, what's the minister's plan to ensure that these new hires get the mentorship and training required so that they can do their job? Or is this government content to just let these workers and the children continue to suffer?

Mr. Turton: Mr. Speaker, our incredible workers at Children and Family Services are dealing with some of the most complex and vulnerable children here in this province. For the member opposite to cast allegations, the fact that maybe they don't have the training, that their heart is not in the right place, is just absolutely shameful. Over the last year we've hired over 540 additional workers. They're looking after some of these amazing complex kids. We have undertaken a number of initiatives to increase recruitment for these valuable social workers, and I appreciate the work that they do to help keep our children safe.

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

Airline Flights and Tourism Development

Mr. Lundy: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Edmonton International Airport, located in my constituency of Leduc-Beaumont, serves as a vital gateway for goods and travellers to and from Alberta. As a key entry point for tourism in the province it plays an essential role in welcoming visitors and driving economic growth for the region. Can the Minister of Tourism and Sport please explain what steps our government is taking to maximize the economic potential of the airport in boosting tourism across Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. the minister of tourism.

Mr. Schow: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank that hon. member for the question. It's great to see that members on this side of the House have great interest in tourism, the development that it brings, and the economic opportunity, something, obviously, that members opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, Naheed Nenshi, the deputy leader, and the deputy deputy leader, which isn't actually a real thing, have shown very little interest in.

Mr. Sabir: Point of order.

Mr. Schow: The reality is that expanding your roots into Alberta matters. It helps us diversify our economy, bring in visitors from around Canada, around the world, and around the U.S. so that we can continue to build towards our goal of reaching \$25 billion by 2035.

The Speaker: A point of order is noted at 2:27.

The Member for Leduc-Beaumont.

Mr. Lundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and through you to the minister. Given the critical role that tourism plays in fostering economic growth and further given that recent announcements from the Edmonton International Airport include new major nonstop U.S. flight routes from WestJet and United to take effect in summer 2025, boosting Edmonton's connectivity by at least 23 per cent, can the same minister please explain to this House the importance of the partnerships between the government of Alberta, airports, and airlines in supporting tourism and business?

Mr. Schow: Well, Mr. Speaker, it has been said that when you come to Alberta, you come by air or you don't really come at all. That's why air traffic is so essential. That was the CEO of WestJet who said that, by the way. Alberta's government, through Travel Alberta, is working to grow and strengthen the province's economy by partnering with airlines and to develop new routes into Alberta and to help promote these routes for travellers. More than 85 per cent of international travellers visit by air. Developing new routes from key markets is essential. In Budget 2024 we're providing \$11 million to Travel Alberta to support increased air access.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Lundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the minister for that answer. Given the growing impact of international tourism on Alberta's economy and given the increasing competitive nature of the global tourism market and further given the shifting priorities of travellers and the need for strategic partnerships, can the same minister please explain how the government of Alberta collaborates with international travel organizations to promote the province as a premier tourist destination?

The Speaker: The hon. minister of tourism.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through Travel Alberta, Alberta's government works closely with trade partners around the world to promote Alberta as a premier destination for tourism. Particular focus is paid on key markets that we have identified with the maximum growth potential, places like the U.K., the U.S., France, Germany, South Korea, and Japan. Mr. Speaker, since assuming the role of Minister of Tourism and Sport, I've also had the opportunity to travel to some of these key markets and promote Alberta's tourism sector, and the feedback is resounding. The world wants more Alberta.

2:30

Diabetes Treatment Coverage

Ms Wright: Mr. Speaker, last spring I shared a story from a constituent about her son with type 1 diabetes. Despite federal Bill C-64 being in the earliest stages of debate, the minister at the time rejected federal funding for diabetes drugs. Many families can't afford the high costs of Blue Cross coverage, copays, and dispensing fees, which means being forced to pay out of pocket when you can't afford it. When can Albertans expect this government to begin negotiations with the federal government and secure a deal on diabetes coverage, one that truly benefits Albertans, especially children with type 1 diabetes?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Health.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. In fact, we are working very diligently to come up with real solutions for diabetes care. In fact, we have one of the most comprehensive pharmacare programs currently in existence, with

over 5,000 drugs covered. There are drugs for diabetes covered in those. We're working with a diabetes working group that has provided recommendations on how we can further enhance the coverages that we do have in Alberta.

Ms Wright: Mr. Speaker, insurance is not pharmacare.

Given that another constituent living with type 1 diabetes is facing a tough transition as she turns 18 and is about to lose access to her insulin pump and continuous glucose monitor as she ages out of coverage and given that she's anxious about resorting to needles and finger pricks for the very first time and given that if Alberta implemented the federal pharmacare deal, these critical supplies would be covered for my constituent by that health care, does anyone in this government believe Albertans should get diabetes care, and if so, why are they unwilling to make a deal?

Member LaGrange: Mr. Speaker, the member opposite should know that health care is a provincial jurisdiction. We've been very clear with the federal government that we do have programs in place and that those dollars should come to the province so that we can further enhance the programs we already have in place. We are working on the recommendations that have come from the diabetes working group. The member opposite should stay tuned. We have some very good information and news to come shortly.

Ms Wright: Given that the rest of the country is set to get first-payer pharmacare funded by the federal government, given that this government appears happy to lag behind, given that Albertans in rural communities and areas like my own constituency of Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview are struggling with a lack of doctors, who help catch and prevent diseases like diabetes and ensure patients get the care they need, why is this government failing Albertans, neglecting to get family doctors and true pharmacare services they need to stay healthy?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can let the member opposite know that we are working very closely with the federal government. We've had very good communication with Minister Holland, the federal minister, who also wants to ensure that we are doing what we need to do to enhance programs.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite are very hypocritical. While they were talking about a new physician compensation model way back in 2017, do you know how many people signed on to their compensation model? One clinic. I won't take any direction from the members opposite.

Affordable Housing in Bow Valley

Dr. Elmeligi: In Banff and Canmore we love welcoming the world to our hometowns. The communities welcome over 5 million visitors a year and contribute over \$1.2 billion annually to the provincial economy. But our tourism economy needs staff: servers, hospitality workers, guides, ski lift operators, and more. They need places to live, but most can't afford one. While the UCP give themselves a cost-of-living increase, residents of the Bow Valley need to work multiple jobs just to pay their rent. When will the UCP start being part of the affordable housing solutions in the Bow Valley?

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, we talk about this every day. We're investing \$9 billion, creating 82,000 more affordable households, the fastest construction rates anywhere in the country, the only jurisdiction where

rent is going down. There's been a lot of leadership talk today. The reason we succeeded with that is because our Premier is here each and every day leading a government that is working to fix things for Albertans. Where is the NDP leader today? Hiding in the gallery? Hiding somewhere else? I know what he really is hiding from. He's hiding from running in a by-election. He's hiding from Albertans, because they know this Official Opposition ain't leading nothing, and this government will continue to lead the way for the rest of Alberta. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

Dr. Elmeligi: Housing units are in the Bow Valley, and that is what I am focused on as the MLA for that area.

Given that a living wage in Canmore is \$38 an hour, much higher than anywhere else in Alberta, the average rental for a one-bedroom unit in Banff is over \$700 a month and in Canmore it's over \$2,300 a month, Mr. Speaker – that's even bigger than what the UCP MLAs just awarded themselves – given that the Homelessness Society of the Bow Valley was over capacity several times during the winter, minimum wage earners drive the economy that generates billions for this province, and they see no support from this province. When will the minister step up?

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, you know where you're not seeing any support from for sure? It's the NDP leader. The NDP leader, again, hiding in the gallery, hiding somewhere else in the province most days. Where he is not in this Chamber leading his caucus. This is why you continue to see silly questions like this. You continue to see no clear message from NDP people and members on how they will stand up for Albertans. What I do see a clear message from is this government. We will continue to work each and every day to make Albertans' lives better.

Again, through you, Mr. Speaker, which one of them is going to resign and finally let Naheed Nenshi come here and go toe to toe with my leader? [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

The hon. Member for Banff-Kananaskis with no preamble.

Dr. Elmeligi: Given that it is insulting to suggest that the struggles of the homeless people in the Bow Valley is silly, given that it isn't just minimum wage earners who can't find a place to live – it's teachers, doctors, young professionals, families – and all are forced to leave the Bow Valley when they can no longer afford to stay, given that when the NDP was in power, we provided \$11.9 million, roughly 50 per cent of the construction cost, for a 130-unit affordable housing complex in Banff, which is now home to hundreds of people, when will this government stop playing political games and actually build affordable housing? [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, this government has built more houses in Banff and Canmore in this year alone than the NDP built houses across Alberta in their entire time. That's leadership.

Again, Mr. Speaker, through you to them, when is their leader going to show up for work here in Alberta and go toe to toe with the leader of the Conservative government and stop hiding, hiding from by-elections, hiding from Albertans, hiding from the Chamber? He wants to lead a political party? Right here come and lead it. Which one of you is going to resign and let him lead it? [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

The hon. Member for Airdrie-East.

Airdrie Water Supply

Ms Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year water restrictions were placed on the city of Airdrie, affecting over 80,000 residents and local businesses for several weeks. These restrictions disrupted daily life and raised serious concerns about the sustainability of our water infrastructure and supply. Can the minister of transportation please outline what steps our government is taking to ensure that Airdrie and other communities are better prepared for water emergencies?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors.

Mr. Dreeshen: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that very important question. We're happy to work with the city of Airdrie and other growing communities that suffer from growth pressures and aging infrastructures. But Airdrie suffered from water restrictions due to the disastrous record of the NDP leader, Nenshi, when he was mayor of Calgary, because, unfortunately, Calgaryans weren't the only ones impacted. Airdrie residents were as well. It's a shame that all those people had to suffer from the sheer incompetence of Nenshi when he was the mayor of Calgary. We're going to make sure that Albertans will never suffer from that type of mismanagement ever again. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order.

The hon. Member for Airdrie-East.

Ms Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that Airdrie only knows Nenshi as the worst mayor Calgary has ever had and given that Airdrie is one of the fastest growing communities in all of Alberta and further given that with this scale of growth proactive measures are needed to support our water infrastructure, can the minister share what kind of investments or initiatives our government is undertaking to expand and modernize water infrastructure to meet Airdrie's long-term needs?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Dreeshen: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We've invested millions into water infrastructure to help Alberta municipalities across the province. We understand that this is very important, unlike Nenshi, who diverted millions of critical infrastructure spending into shameless vanity projects. Nenshi, while he was the mayor of Calgary, decided to build a 55-foot blue ring instead of a seven-foot water main that would have actually provided water to families in Calgary and in Airdrie. It's shameful. It's embarrassing. But that record will just be the end of it.

2:40

Ms Pitt: Mr. Speaker, given that Nenshi has had such a significant negative impact on the people living in Airdrie, especially when there are water restrictions, and given that this impact may limit Airdrie's ability to implement their own risk and emergency management mitigation policies, can the minister share how the government is working alongside municipalities like Airdrie to ensure that they have community-specific plans during times of water emergencies?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Dreeshen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the Minister of Municipal Affairs and I met with water commissions – there are about 40 of them across the province – to find ways to work together and work for the province of Alberta, unlike the NDP's Nenshi, who is more focused on working for himself. He made himself the highest paid mayor in Canada. He relishes the fact

that he's Trudeau's choice for Ottawa. Albertans deserve better. He's been missing for so long, he could be on a milk carton in this building. He refuses to join his own caucus, which just goes to show his disdain for NDP MLAs and for this place. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

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

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock.

Bill 215

Prohibiting Ownership of Agricultural Lands (Pension Plans and Trust Corporations) Act

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 215, Prohibiting Ownership of Agricultural Lands (Pension Plans and Trust Corporations) Act.

Ownership of agricultural land by individuals is paramount in keeping our rural communities and culture strong and is the foundation of our food production industry. Bill 215 aims to enable the long-term success and sustainability of our agriculture industry, preserve our food security, and, above all, protect the culture and well-being of our rural Alberta communities.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I move first reading of Bill 215.

[Motion carried; Bill 215 read a first time]

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Mr. Wright: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got three different tablings. One is an article showcasing the success of AGLC in shutting down and working on shutting down the illegal cigarette markets that are going on across Alberta and highlighting the \$33.5 million in contraband that they've collected in 10 months.

The second one that I've got is in regard to some comments made by members opposite on the border issue not being as big as what it is. It highlights that between 2022 and '24 1,100, almost 1,200, individuals on the terrorist watch list were apprehended at the Canada-U.S. border whereas there were only 205 apprehended at the Mexico-U.S. border, highlighting the importance of that.

The third one, I think, is one that I take the biggest issue with, and that's recently the missing member of the opposition, their leader, actually insulting Christians and members of this caucus.

The Speaker: Are there others? The hon. Member for Calgary-Beddington, followed by Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, and Calgary-Acadia.

Ms Chapman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Education seems to have missed all the tablings I've done on the value of comprehensive sexual health curriculum, so I will table another one today. The State of Sex-Ed in Canada by Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights speaks specifically to the connection between gender-based violence and sexual health education.

The Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

Member Irwin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table a very thoughtful letter written by Ryder Richard. Ryder is a trans athlete here in Edmonton. I urge all members of the House to read his letter,

wherein he calls on the UCP to abandon their egregious antitrans bills. Thank you, Ryder.

Member Batten: I rise to table the five requisite copies of an article from earlier this week sharing new research showing that 1 in 5 children in Alberta are living in poverty. It goes on to say that what this tells Albertan youth and young people in care is that they are not a priority of the UCP government.

The Speaker: Are there other tablings? The Member for Edmonton-Glenora.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the requisite number of copies of a website that expresses a steady demand in profitability as well as that one's operation of the building's value has the potential to double that initial investment and more; talking about private, for-profit, two-tiered, American-style health care as well as letters of endorsement for this specific project from the Minister of Energy, the parliamentary secretary for rural health, and the MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Tablings to the Clerk

The Acting Clerk: I wish to advise the Assembly that the following documents were deposited with the office of the Clerk: on behalf of hon. Mr. Amery, Minister of Justice, pursuant to the Public's Right to Know Act the report on crime and justice statistics 2019-2020 to 2023-2024; on behalf of hon. Ms Fir, Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women, pursuant to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Act Alberta Foundation for the Arts 2023-24 annual report; on behalf of hon. Mr. Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, pursuant to the Mental Health Act office of the Alberta Health Advocate and Mental Health Patient Advocate 2023-2024 annual report.

The Speaker: Hon. members, that brings us to points of order. At 2:28 the Deputy House Leader of the Official Opposition rose on a point of order.

Point of Order Insulting Language

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At that time I rose pursuant to 23(j), "uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder." At that time the Government House Leader was answering a question from, I believe, his own member and did refer to the NDP leader and then went on to say "deputy leader, and the deputy deputy leader," comments directed at my colleague, the MLA for Edmonton-Whitemud.

I think that if anybody else would have said that, it may not amount to the level of a point of order, but given the Government House Leader's conduct and comments directed at the same MLA, the MLA from Edmonton-Whitemud, were the basis of a point of privilege in this House not long ago, I think that the Government House Leader making those kind of comments, insulting comments directed at the MLA for Edmonton-Whitemud, her title, that would likely cause disorder in the House. That's the kind of insulting language that this provision prohibits. I hope that you rule this out of order.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Amery: Mr. Speaker, this is absolutely not a point of order, in our view. Members must be judged on the same standards. The hon. Deputy Opposition House Leader is suggesting that you assess this and the merits of that point of order at a different standard than what

you would do to other members in this Assembly. That would be, in my view, inappropriate.

The reference to a point of privilege that occurred some time ago is not related to this particular point of order, nor are the comments that the official Government House Leader made related in any way to what was alleged at that time at the point of privilege. Mr. Speaker, I would urge you to separate the two, rule this is not a point of order, and move on.

The Speaker: Are there others? I do have the benefit of the Blues and I am prepared to rule, but if a member has a substantive contribution to make, I'm happy to hear that now.

Hon. members, at 2:28 the Minister of Tourism and Sport said the following:

the Leader of the Opposition, Naheed Nenshi, the deputy leader, and the deputy deputy leader, which isn't actually a real thing, have shown very little interest . . .

I am of the opinion that this is not a point of order. Perhaps a case could be made for not using proper titles, but even then it would likely be a stretch. I don't consider this a point of order. I consider the matter dealt with and concluded.

2:50

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

Bill 25

Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act, 2024

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

Mr. Jones: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today to move third reading of Bill 25, the Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act, 2024.

Mr. Speaker, early learning and child care is essential to our economy, to families, and our communities. The Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act, 2024, is about maintaining families' trust and confidence in our child care system while maintaining quality, accountability, and safety. The Early Learning and Child Care Act already outlines enforcement mechanisms to protect the health and well-being of children attending child care programs across Alberta, but the reality is that our mechanisms in place were not designed for the rapid growth of the system today. Demand for child care in the province has shifted and grown substantially in recent years with rapid population growth and a highly subsidized affordable child care program.

Fortunately, the vast majority of child care providers in Alberta care deeply about the safety and quality for the children in their care. They share our view that the health and safety of children is their top priority. Most child care providers want clear guidelines from the government so they know exactly what is expected of them and so they can continue to exceed our expectations for quality care. This bill aims to deliver that clarity, Mr. Speaker, and it does this in part through enhanced accountability and strengthened enforcement mechanisms.

These enforcement mechanisms include proposed administrative penalties. These penalties guarantee real consequences for those who refuse to uphold Alberta's high-quality standards or who jeopardize child safety and well-being in any way. It's vital that we get this right, Mr. Speaker.

If passed, this bill would also help to minimize the impact of closure on families by providing the authority to issue partial closures if those will address the issue. This means providers can address issues with one part of a program without disrupting care in the full

facility, so we can address small issues while avoiding large-scale implications for parents and their ability to access their much relied upon child care spaces. This bill outlines our government's measured, reasonable approach to enforcement and our willingness to work with our child care providers for a better system.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

As I mentioned earlier, Madam Speaker, the sector and our providers welcome greater clarity from government. The request for more clarity was echoed recently by the Food Safety and Licensed Facility-Based Child Care Review Panel. This panel was struck shortly after the devastating September E coli outbreak and raised questions about the role of health and safety rules in licensed child care settings. The updates we are proposing directly address one of the panel's recommendations by clarifying the applicable legislation for facility-based licence holders. The government is pleased that we can offer this first step in addressing the panel's recommendations, starting with the recommendation that targets the ELCC Act. The government is still actively reviewing and implementing the other recommendations from the panel that touch other pieces of legislation, and we'll be using their recommendations to shape future governance of the child care sector.

Again, Madam Speaker, keeping our kids safe in child care is our top priority. We need to make sure they are receiving a valuable early learning experience that will help them succeed and thrive. That's why this bill also focuses on preserving quality care with expanded capabilities so that the statutory director, acting independently, can work with providers to address issues. In its current form the Early Learning and Child Care Act does require approved program plans before a provider can receive their licence. In the future providers will need a plan before they can provide a program, and the government will be there to ensure plans are adjusted, when necessary, to address concerns. Our objective is always to work with providers to deliver the high-quality care that Albertans expect.

Speaking of supporting providers, the amendments we're proposing would contribute to safety and quality in another crucial way. The changes would help to address the widespread shortage of early childhood educators in the sector. Safe, quality child care depends on qualified staff. The act clarifies that certified 16- and 17-year-olds can work in child care facilities as long as they are supervised. This clarification would increase providers' confidence when hiring youth to help staff their programs. It would create new opportunities for young Albertans interested in pursuing a career in early learning and child care. Most importantly, it would help ensure safe staff to child ratios, which are essential to high-quality programming. This change would provide better care for our kids, better safety, and the opportunity for our youth to transition into quality careers in child care.

Finally, Madam Speaker, these changes would put more information at parents' fingertips so they can confidently make informed choices about the care their children are receiving. Parents and guardians deserve peace of mind when their kids attend child care programs. This bill aims to help them get that information so they can find the provider that best suits their family's needs.

If passed, these changes would require an early childhood educator's certification status to be publicized so that parents and providers alike can be assured children are being looked after by qualified professionals. Families would also be able to easily find out whether an unlicensed provider has had any stop orders issued against them in the past.

We want to make sure parents feel confident in our child care system, and we are proud to provide families with more transparency, resources, and tools to do so. Alberta's excellent early learning and

child care system is one of the strongest and most capable systems in Canada. Though we know Alberta families trust and rely on our child care system, there is always room for continuous improvement when it comes to the safety and well-being of our kids. These proposed changes would increase confidence and trust while giving the sector the guidance and clarity that they've been asking for.

With that, Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to move third reading of Bill 25, the Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act, 2024. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Any members wishing to join the debate? The hon. Member for Calgary-Acadia.

Member Batten: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a privilege to rise and speak once more to the proposed Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act, 2024, now in its third reading. What we have heard are several evidence-based, common-sense solutions provided from this side of the House and mostly silence – okay; maybe not silence – but with the exception of the mover, a single UCP member, and finally today the minister, who kind of just read off a media release, they have not engaged in debate on their own bill, for which we have been asking questions and providing solutions.

I understand, like, I'm new to this House. This is only my second fall inside, so I'm still learning the ropes. Maybe one of the members who were recently gifted their five-year pin, the seasoned members from across the aisle, can explain to me why a government would consciously and intentionally disregard plausible solutions. It sends a really interesting message to Albertans. It speaks to a very, we'll say, different understanding of what demonstrating respect inside this House looks like. Albertans need their government to engage with their representatives, regardless of which side of the House they're on.

I remember about this time last fall being told by one of the seasoned members on the other side how the work that is done inside this Chamber is for the opposition . . . [interjection]

The Deputy Speaker: There are no interventions allowed quite yet, not until the third speaker.

Member Batten: Thank you. Well, it is too bad. I would have loved to hear from the minister more during other readings, but too late.

All right. Back to the unsolicited information I had received from a seasoned member across there indicating that this House and what we do in here is simply about the time the opposition has in front of the government. Now, that's not incorrect. This is the time we have in front of the government to engage in debate, to share information back and forth, and in a different reading maybe have a conversation. That would have been great. I'm really excited that we did hear from the minister, and I'm hoping that we hear from other government, other UCP, members to stand up and speak to this bill. Explain to us why this is a good bill, why we should support it.

I'd really like to know why the amendments brought forward yesterday weren't even debated by the other side, yet they voted them down. I would love to hear – the minister had just mentioned how they're implementing the rest of the recommendations. That's fantastic. That report was paid for by taxpayer dollars and commissioned by them to do it. Implementing a single recommendation is simply irresponsible.

I'm really happy to hear it's going to show up in other bills. However, other bills isn't enough. Now, this question has been asked several times and just yesterday from the Member for Calgary-Edgemont: what is the plan? Where are they being applied? Even with what the minister has shared today, was that panel simply another payout to someone's friend?

The rejection of an amendment without debate, pushing through a bill claiming that it increases child safety but without mention of prevention or harm reduction – I know that members on this side of the House are eager to speak, Madam Speaker. Although I have a lot more to say, I will save it for another day.

Thank you so much.

3:00

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

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I want to thank the Member for Calgary-Acadia for her passionate remarks on this bill.

It is incredibly concerning to me that the government seems to have three types of approaches to addressing the public problems that are facing the people of Alberta.

The first is to make it worse, and that's what we see with matters of affordability. You know, they're increasing insurance rates. They're not doing anything to control rent or make housing more affordable in this province while also lining their own pockets and making sure that their rent bills are covered. They make sure that public health care gets worse while their Health minister is driving doctors out of the province. Other government ministers are endorsing private health care companies setting up in their own ridings. So that's the first type of legislation that we've seen from this government since they've been elected.

The second type, of course, is legislation that's focused on problems that don't exist. I am of course referring to the legislation that created the snitch line designed to harass suspected trans women competing in women's sports.

The third type of legislation is the type of legislation that we have here today, which is a half measure that won't actually do anything meaningful to solve the problem that it's intended to solve. Like my friend from Calgary-Acadia has said, this bill was prompted by an investigation that the government led into the poisoning of hundreds of children with E coli at a number of child care facilities in the Calgary area.

Now, when the minister stands up and says that Canada has the safest child care system in the entire country, what he neglects to say is that that one particular E coli outbreak in Calgary in September of last year was the second largest E coli outbreak in all of Canadian history, second only to Walkerton, Madam Speaker. It takes a lot of brass for the minister to stand up and say that we have the safest system in the entire country when we've just gone through the second-worst E coli outbreak in Canadian history and he's presenting legislation that won't do anything to solve the next one.

How do I know that it's not going to solve the next one, Madam Speaker? We've actually had another E coli outbreak at a daycare in Blackfalds just a couple of months ago, and, unlike the E coli outbreak that happened in Calgary, there was no investigation into it whatsoever – well, that's not true. There was no well-publicized investigation. AHS investigated it and found that, in that case, it was person-to-person transmission, very different from what happened at the E coli outbreak in Calgary. In Calgary what happened is that the child care provider served tainted meat to the children in their care. This legislation will not prevent that from happening again, and neither will their related meat inspection bill. More importantly, Madam Speaker, that's not what happened in Blackfalds. That was a person-to-person transmission.

You know, person-to-person transmission of E coli is fairly clinical, so I want to break it down for people who may not understand exactly what's happening in those cases. That means poop is getting spread around. Poop is ending up from one child's bottom into somebody else's mouth, and that's how people are getting sick

from E coli. And there is nothing in this piece of legislation that will make children safe from that happening again.

In fact, it's incredibly concerning to me that my friend from Calgary-Acadia proposed an amendment to at least clarify that child care providers are required to follow some basic hygiene protocols to make sure that kids aren't eating each other's poop in daycare again but, apparently, the UCP has no problem with kids eating poop and is not at all interested – yes. The Minister for Tourism and Sport is incredibly predictable, and I suspect he has something to say.

Mr. Schow: Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: I wasn't sure if this was an intervention or a point of order.

The hon. Government House Leader.

Point of Order Language Creating Disorder

Mr. Schow: I was actually trying to stop myself from laughing because of how outrageous it is that I have to actually call this point of order. But it's obvious that the UCP is not interested in kids eating poop, Madam Speaker. This is language that is certain to cause disruption in this Chamber. If it wasn't so ridiculous and outlandish, it would be funny. That's partially why I'm laughing, but, I mean, to suggest that our caucus, whether it's an individual, a member, or all of us want kids or insist on kids or appreciate kids eating feces is totally out of bounds. I would say that that would be a point of order and ask that member to apologize and retract and refrain from using that kind of language in the future.

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

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. What I would say is that this is a matter of debate. What the member is referring to are actual circumstances that we've had with tainted food that has been served to children. We are talking about a piece of legislation that is in response to that. We are talking about decisions of government as to which recommendations following that incident, which did involve E coli, which does come, unfortunately, from human waste making its way into food. The member was referring to that in that context and in the context of the concern about the government's choices in how it is responding to that and, again, referring in the collective to the UCP as the government. So in my view, this is not a point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: There are words I don't want to say in response to this point of order, but most certainly this is a point of order. Saying things like "the UCP doesn't care if kids eat poop" is not helpful for decorum in this House and the level of debate in which these important matters deserve respect, so I'll ask the hon. member to apologize and withdraw and carry on with his remarks.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am truly sorry that the UCP doesn't care that kids are eating poop in daycare and won't do anything about it, so I withdraw the remarks. [interjections] I apologized and withdrew the remarks, Madam Speaker.

Thank you very much. [interjections]

Debate Continued

Mr. Schmidt: Yeah. Well, the members opposite are welcome to engage in debate at any time, so if they have something insightful to say, you know, there's always the opportunity for them to stand up and offer their remarks in this regard.

My point is this. Like my friend from Edmonton-City Centre said in his defence of this point of order, that's how kids get sick from E coli. They're ingesting human waste. There's no nicer way to put it. And if the UCP were truly concerned about preventing this from happening, they would have passed my friend from Calgary-Acadia's amendment that would have at least clarified that early childhood providers are required to follow some basic hygiene protocols. Make sure the kids aren't eating poop. That's, apparently, a bridge too far for this government.

For the minister to say, "Oh, the other problems that the food safety panel will identify will happen sometime in the future" – well, why do kids have to wait? We know that there is a significant problem with kids getting sick and E coli. We've had two major outbreaks in just a year. Here we have a half measure that won't prevent any future outbreaks, and the minister has the gall to stand up and say that we've got the safest child care system in the country. It's outrageous. If I still had children in daycare, I would be terrified to send my kids because this government is asleep at the wheel, not taking measures that will actually prevent kids from getting E coli.

The other issue that I have with the minister's statement was his bold suggestion that they're providing more information that'll be readily accessible at the fingertips of parents. Well, I have a few thoughts on this government's willingness to share information with the public, Madam Speaker.

The child care file is one that has been so terribly mismanaged that, in February 2024, the minister for children's services had that responsibility relieved from him, and it was transferred to the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade. Now, it wasn't just because he was failing to protect children from E coli outbreaks. There were a whole bunch of other failures that that minister was responsible for, in particular with the funding arrangements with the federal government. Regardless, that minister did such a terrible job that he lost his responsibility for looking after child care in this province, and it was transferred to the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade. You know, we've seen how low the bar is for achievement here in this government. These guys all should be fired, in my opinion, but only the minister of children's services has lost part of his responsibilities. He's done that bad a job.

3:10

Now, when we tried to ask some questions about this E coli outbreak at Public Accounts when children's services was there, even though the deputy minister, who was responsible for the system at the time that the E coli outbreak happened – she refused to answer any questions, and government backbenchers bent over backwards to make sure that they could cover up for the deputy minister who was responsible for overseeing the service at the time.

They actually took the extraordinary step of overriding a ruling from the chair to make sure that I couldn't ask any questions, that I couldn't dare to question the deputy minister who was responsible at the time for the largest E coli outbreak in a child care setting in Canadian history. It's outrageous. For the minister to stand up and say, "Oh, we're doing so much to provide information to Albertans about what's going on in their child care system" – they won't even let their own deputy minister answer questions that the people of Alberta have the right to have answered.

I wish that the government would live up to the things that they're actually saying here and take meaningful steps to address the problems. You know, I had a chance to review the food safety panel report, and it provides some excellent recommendations. I think that had the government come forward in this session and implemented all of those recommendations, we could comfortably say that children would be safer in a child care setting now than they were before this session started, but that's not what happened, Madam Speaker. Between this and the meat inspection bill, Bill 28, there

are no meaningful measures that this government is going to take to make sure that kids don't get sick from E coli again.

It's cold comfort to the hundreds of children who attend daycare daily in my riding to know that the system is no safer now than it was before this session started, even though the government continues to insist that they're taking the issue seriously. You know, if they were to take the issue seriously, what we would see is more regular inspections of daycares to make sure that the food that they're serving is safe, to make sure that their hygiene protocols are sufficient to prevent E coli from being spread around, and we would see meaningful investments into the system to make sure that we have enough people working in those daycares to actually implement these kinds of necessary safety protocols.

The minister has talked about the need to increase the number of people working in child care settings, and he'll do anything in his power except actually spend money on the system to put more people to work looking after our kids in daycares. Now, he's bringing forward legislation that clarifies that 16- and 17-year-olds can work in the system, saying that that will somehow magically increase the number of people working in the system. Well, forgive me for saying that simply clarifying that what's currently happening is actually allowed to happen won't increase the number of people who want to go work in the system. You know, we need to make sure that the people who are looking after our kids get paid a wage that actually shows that we value the work that they do, but this government is not interested.

They're not interested in paying fair wages to people who are doing that important work. They are interested in making sure that their board members get their salaries doubled. They are interested in making sure that the CEOs and the agencies, boards, and commissions that they oversee make three-quarters of a million dollars a year in what seems to be clear violation of the salary caps that are in place. They're absolutely certain to make sure that their rent is covered at a time of increasing inflation, but when it comes to increasing wages for people working in child care settings, they've got nothing to say. Absolutely nothing.

Now here we are at the end of the debate on this bill. We've got half measures that will clarify language. We've got half measures that will do nothing to improve the actual safety of children in child care settings. We've got some half measures that won't improve the qualifications for people working in child care or improve the wages for people working in child care. We've got nothing to actually increase the number of spaces in child care. The child care system is exactly the same today as it was the day that this bill was introduced. It will be exactly the same the day that this bill is proclaimed. There will be no meaningful changes.

And mark my words, Madam Speaker. We're going to see another E coli outbreak at some point before now and the next round of legislation, and then the minister is going to march into the House and introduce some other half measures to try to cover up for his failure to take meaningful steps right now that he could have taken that would have made children safer. The government should be ashamed of this legislation, and they really need to do better to make sure that our kids have a safe place to go during the day, but unfortunately they can't get it from this UCP government.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other members to the bill? The hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

Mr. Getson: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rising to support Bill 25, I can't say it any better than the minister, a lot of the items that we're trying to take care of. To the Member for Calgary-Acadia: I really appreciate you being here. I appreciate you asking these questions and your obvious advocacy from across the aisle.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, I hesitate to interrupt. Please direct your comments through the chair.

Mr. Getson: I apologize, Madam Speaker. Through you to the member – honestly, a new member. She asked some really great questions in here. She obviously cares about kids, and I thought it would deserve a quick answer of walking through some of the processes. We've been asked that before in here, so when the member is asking why our side isn't standing up a ton and debating this, it's, quite frankly, through you to the Member for Calgary-Acadia, that we believe in the bill. We believe it's sound. We've had ample debate on our side. We've talked about policy with our government.

When you do back-of-the-napkin math in here – some folks were alluding to that earlier – it costs us around \$5,000 a minute to be in this House, to all the support structure, to have this debate, to do these things. We're both fiscally prudent on this. We want to make sure that we're spending the money wisely. We want to also make sure, Madam Speaker, through you to that member, that we get this bill in effect and try to help as many parents and families as quick as possible. From you to her: appreciate her advocacy, but I felt she deserved an answer on why we're not spending a lot of time on this side debating it. It's a bill we believe in. We hope they would encourage them to support this bill and move it forward.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-South.

Member Hoyle: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yeah. Rising to speak on Bill 25, the Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act, 2024, which aims to make changes to the Public Health Act and Safety Codes Act. You know, it's clear that this legislation is targeted to address some very real challenges we've been seeing in child care over the last year, in particular the devastating E coli outbreak across 17 Calgary daycares, which impacted thousands of families last September; 356 cases of E coli were confirmed, with 38 children being hospitalized.

You know, just as a parent thinking about having used child care and daycare and my kids being impacted, some of them permanently, to their health, this is something that all of us should be taking extremely seriously. While it's good to see, finally, that this government is taking some of this seriously in this bill, better policy should have been in place to ensure that a situation to this degree never happened to children in Alberta and to their families, especially when there's been evidence that the government has exhibited gross negligence in safeguarding children in Alberta's child care system.

3:20

Despite the province's mandate for at least two inspections per year, a report shared in May of this year shows that over 20 per cent of licensed daycares in Alberta with food services have not received a single inspection in more than a year. In more than a year. Like, just listening to that is devastating as a parent when I'm entrusting this government to make sure that the system is safe for my child to go to and other, you know, families and Albertans and their children as they work hard every day to take care of their families and put food on the table and pay their bills, and we can't even trust the system. Additionally, it is revealed that more than 40 per cent of the daycares that were inspected violated food handling or hygiene standards. The most common violations were food handling, cleaning, and sanitation.

If the government wasn't able to stick to previous inspection deadlines, what in this bill will ensure that stricter compliance measures will actually be followed up, especially when the number of children attending daycare in Alberta has already soared to about 35,000 since 2021? According to the most recent annual report from AHS the total number of food safety inspections has fallen by about 15,000 per year

since 2018. To make matters worse, AHS is still working through a backlog of inspections resulting from the pandemic. I mean, listening and just even saying these facts is shocking and devastating. Clearly, the UCP is already having trouble enforcing compliance, so how does Bill 25 change that? As my colleague the Member for Calgary-Acadia said then, "The delays in daycare inspections are egregious and incredibly dangerous."

But not only has the UCP failed families and children; they've equally failed to support child care facilities and business owners who provide services to families. I have spoken with several child care facilities in Edmonton-South and across the province who have been dealing with a multitude of challenges as they try to provide quality child care for children, and the most common theme revolves around the fact that other facilities are feeling the impacts of poor planning on the part of this UCP government, not to mention an overall lack of communication and transparency when it comes to compliance.

Even with more recent closures in Edmonton, owners are happy to see what they describe as bad apples facing major penalties for noncompliance, but they bring up the important role and the important note that when these facilities close their doors, dozens of parents are left scrambling to find alternative child care with no notice or notification. So what's being done through Bill 25 to, you know, not only support parents as they scramble to find alternative care but also to ensure that existing facilities can take on more children in a safe and effective way? A lot of parents will be in a tricky spot and have been in a tricky spot, especially now with the demand for daycares, and there are not even that many openings. So when existing facilities are feeling the pressure of increasing demands for limited spaces, how does this bill solve that challenge?

What's worse is that many current providers who are fully compliant are eager to open additional facilities but are dealing with the mountains of red tape and bureaucratic delays. Parents and families in these situations are left hanging and in dire straits to get the help they need to work and to provide for their families. We know that affordable child care is crucial to a strong and prosperous economy by allowing parents to return to work sooner and help them maintain meaningful employment, especially as we have an affordability crisis. There are definite obstacles that have undermined the trust that families have in the child care system.

You know, as I stand here and I speak to this bill, that really has no depth or breadth and does not build trust or any real support for Albertan families, does not address the quality of care – and we should be leading in Canada in our quality of child care – I would expect more from this legislation on child care, and I know that all Alberta families would, too. Clearly, there is more work to be done to ensure that Bill 25 is comprehensive enough to support parents, children, and small-business owners.

For that reason, I absolutely cannot support this – I don't even know what word to choose for this bill. I will not be supporting Bill 25. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Any other members to join in on the debate? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview.

Ms Sigurdson: Well, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to join my voice to the debate on Bill 25, Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act, 2024. There are some things that this bill is doing. This bill will increase the scope of authority of the statutory director, creating more transparency regarding stop orders, early childhood educator certification status. They must be publicly posted now so that parents, people who are interested can know what situation is happening for that particular child care centre. We know that there will be administrative penalties, up to \$10,000 for each infraction, that must be paid by operators if they're found to be, you know, not fulfilling

what they should be. Sixteen- to 17-year-olds may work in centres under adult supervision. That's another clarification. This legislation does mandate compliance with the applicable health and safety acts.

Those are some of the things that this bill does. It's a step forward, but it's not enough, Madam Speaker. We know that there's so much more that needs to happen, but I did want to identify some of the things that it does do.

In 2023, as many of my colleagues have already spoken about, there were over 400 cases of E coli across 17 licensed child care facilities; 400 cases. That is horrific. That was a huge outbreak of E coli that made many children sick. Many were hospitalized with their parents. This is kind of the antecedent, I guess, to this legislation. The UCP did appoint a review panel to understand: how can we avoid this kind of a catastrophic outbreak again?

This legislation is kind of part of their response to that, but it sort of boggles the mind that this panel actually had made 30 recommendations – 30 recommendations – to, you know, make sure that this kind of a catastrophic outbreak never happened again, but they have only implemented one of them through this legislation. There are 29 that they are ignoring for some reason. This is a UCP-appointed panel. I mean, it doesn't make much sense. Why would they not fulfill all of them? I mean, that's a question I have for the government.

Bill 25 does not set any further requirements regarding hygiene policies at child care facilities to eliminate future outbreaks. Another shortcoming of the legislation is that it does not apply to unlicensed child care facilities. This will mean facilities will continue to be at risk for things like an E coli outbreak again or other diseases perhaps. I guess there are some outstanding questions that certainly we have for the minister, that we have for the government. You know, why is the UCP not actually listening to the people they appointed to the panel regarding avoiding these kinds of catastrophic events in the future? Why would they go to all that trouble yet only implement one?

3:30

The Member for Calgary-Acadia put forward an amendment for a simple but extremely effective hygiene practice, hand washing. When we put forward that amendment, the UCP voted that down, and I guess I'm asking the minister and I'm asking the government why they would not accept that amendment. It is certainly something that we know makes a significant difference in, you know, whether communicable diseases are transferred; it is a well-researched hygiene practice that makes a significant difference. But, sadly, the UCP would not accept that as an amendment. Why did the UCP vote that down?

But all of this is just folly, Madam Speaker, if nobody knows what's going on. Of course, there's a system in place, or there's supposed to be a system in place for regular inspections of daycare centres, yet we know that those are not happening in many of them. So how do we know if the child care centres are fulfilling on what they must to make sure children are safe in Alberta? Hey, we don't know. That's where the government really needs to step up. It is about the implementation. They can have all the policy they want, but if nobody's further carrying out the practices of monitoring to ensure that child care centres are fulfilling on what they need to, our children are at risk.

Children are at risk in Alberta. Families are at risk, and certainly myself as a mother of three sons, who are now adults – it's been a long time since they've been in child care centres, but certainly as a single mom I relied on them very much to care for my children. At that time we had a different name for it; it was "accredited child care centres." I always went to accredited nonprofit child care

centres, and I must say I had a wonderful experience with all of them. My grandson now, who's almost two, goes to a licensed nonprofit child care centre, and certainly he's been thriving in that facility.

We want to make sure all children are thriving, and so it is the responsibility of the government to make sure that these facilities are safe for children. I want to say that the UCP has taken some steps forward but has not gone far enough to make sure that children are safe in Alberta.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there others to join the debate?

Seeing none, I will call the question.

[Motion carried; Bill 25 read a third time]

Bill 30

Service Alberta Statutes Amendment Act, 2024

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction.

Mr. Nally: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to move third reading of Bill 30, the Service Alberta Statutes Amendment Act, 2024.

Bill 30 contains important, practical changes recommended directly by Albertans for the Condominium Property Act, the Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act, and the Public Works Act. These changes are aimed at ensuring the condominium and construction sectors have access to reliable legislation that meets their needs. For example, members of the condominium community have been asking for the establishment of a condominium dispute resolution tribunal for years. Bill 30 lays the framework to make that happen.

[Mr. van Dijken in the chair]

If passed, it would also enable chargebacks to be treated as contributions, protecting condominium owners from rising fees or special levies that would otherwise be required to cover the cost of unexpected damage or costs caused by the actions or inactions of another owner or persons they are responsible for. Other amendments included in Bill 30 would strengthen condominium governance. This includes changes such as establishing a simple method to vote for simple matters at condominium general meetings and providing greater protections for individuals serving on condominium boards from frivolous lawsuits.

It would also enhance consumer protection by requiring a technical analysis of condominiums after construction is completed, which would support condominiums in their warranty claims and provide condominium board owners with information about the overall state of their condominium. Over 18 per cent of Albertans live in condos. This bill addresses their concerns and well-being.

Along with the condominium sector we're also taking the opportunity to gather feedback from the construction industry that helped draft the amendments in Bill 30 related to the Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act as well as the Public Works Act. For starters, Bill 30 would address existing ambiguity around when a construction contract is considered to be complete and would make adjudication available for 30 days after the date of completion.

We also heard that consulting professionals, like architects and engineering firms, would like the option to opt out of PPCLA holdbacks so they can get paid in full sooner. If passed, Bill 30 would make that possible. It would also provide more clarification around the adjudication process to ensure that adjudication remains an efficient option for dispute resolution.

In addition, Bill 30 addresses the call to see the rules of the Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act extend to government projects. If passed, these amendments would create a prompt payment framework for public construction projects under the Public Works Act. It would also introduce prompt payment timelines and adjudication to government of Alberta projects.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 30 is about making life easier for Albertans. We heard their input on how to shape this legislation to better make their needs, and we took action.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank all members for their thoughtful contributions to the discussions on this bill. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any others wishing to speak? I will recognize the Member for Calgary-North East.

Member Brar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this bill. This bill touches some important acts that are already existing in Alberta, and it makes some changes, amends them. Those include the Condominium Property Act, Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act, and Public Works Act. This bill impacts the livelihoods of workers, subcontractors, contractors, and everybody working in that chain.

We have been hearing for a long time from these subcontractors, from these contractors, from these workers that they need to be paid on time so that their business can be sustained, their workers can be paid on time, and they can hire more people, and finally we have seen that they are getting what they asked for. The intent of this bill is good, and it is important that we all work together to make sure that we all serve our constituents and Albertans and make sure that we provide the environment for them which is safe. We make sure that they get paid on time so that they can pay the bills on time and they can raise their families and have a stress-free life here in Alberta.

Even though this bill is a step in a positive direction, we are a bit late. Other provinces have already made these changes, including Ontario, including B.C. Even Saskatchewan and Manitoba have taken important steps to amend these acts.

I'll start with the condominium dispute resolution tribunal. One of my constituents reached out to me because he had some issues going on with the condominium, dealing with condominium disputes in the building where he lived. He was pretty stressed out and was already going through a tough time, didn't have much money to go to the court and fight expensive legal battles because of the affordability crisis that is caused by this government, so he was really struggling and reached out to my office for help. We had a detailed discussion around how it will help if there was a tribunal that was existing in Alberta that could have sorted out his case on time. Unfortunately, that was not the case back then, but I am glad that we are finally having that tribunal that will help Albertans to navigate their cases.

Mr. Speaker, just having the tribunal or just having any government program is one thing, and it is a good thing, but making sure it is well resourced, making sure there are enough resources behind that program and that the program actually serves the needs of the people we represent is another important and integral part of the job that this government does.

3:40

Mr. Speaker, I used to be the critic for small business, and there is a very good program in Alberta's government. We call it the Biz Connect program, but it was not well resourced and it was not well advertised so that Albertans can actually benefit from that program. What I mean to say here is that having a program is a good thing, but making sure it is actually properly advertised to Albertans and it is actually well resourced is another thing.

There are many other good programs that the Alberta government has, but unfortunately, they are not well resourced. I hope that, going forward, this tribunal will be well resourced. The starting point is \$8 million, which has been already mentioned under this bill, which is, again, a step forward, but just having that \$8 million will not be enough for the long-term. We need to look into it in detail because, as I mentioned, their livelihoods, mental health, everything depends on this.

Mr. Speaker, the condominiums are not just the brick-and-mortar places; they are the actual homes where people have invested their lifelong savings and where people raise their families, where they raise their kids and build their dreams. We need to take it very seriously and I'm, again, glad that it is a step forward in a positive direction.

Lots of Albertans depend on it. There are about 250,000 condominium units that will be impacted, and more than half a million Albertans who live in these condominiums will see the benefit. But again, as I said, my only caution and my only my concern here is that we need to make sure that we actually fund this tribunal and there are actual resources.

The second thing that this bill talks about is the technical audits. I'm glad that we are catching up on the standards, but we still need to look into other provinces, other jurisdictions to see what can be done. Currently this bill introduces mandatory technical audits for new condos. This aligns with Ontario's existing standards. It ensures structural soundness and addressing defects and buyer assurance. Alberta's history of condo defects underscores the needs, which owners have often paid out of pocket to fix the leaky roofs, to fix the electrical systems, and other defects that were there in the condominium units. I'm glad that this bill will address that. It is better late than never.

Going forward, addressing these needs is critical for all of the elected officials because we serve the people who have elected us. They expect nothing less, and they deserve nothing less, Mr. Speaker. We should be leading other provinces when it comes to serving those constituents and serving Albertans. We shouldn't be catching up to other provinces.

This bill also requires technical audits for newly built condominium buildings. This is a critical step forward in aligning with other provinces. We should not ignore that Albertans have already gone through lots of stressful times just because there were not enough technical audits present at that time. It was a really difficult time for them, and we could have done this earlier. It shouldn't have taken this long for this government to come up with this bill and with these changes in this bill. Mr. Speaker, that is why we always stress on this issue that we need to talk about the issues that matter to all Albertans. We need to talk about the issues that help Albertans instead of talking about antitrans bills, instead of talking about the Bill of Rights, which help nobody except a few people who were involved in the AGM of the other side of the House, but we should not be discussing those issues. We should be discussing the issues like this bill which will actually have an impact on Albertans' lives.

The third thing, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about is prompt payment legislation. It is important that we are learning from Ontario, we are learning from Saskatchewan, and we even are learning from the federal government. Mr. Speaker, it is a step forward, but this part doesn't go far enough. The criteria, the time period that is set under this bill to be paid from contractors to subcontractors and then everybody else in the chain does not align with other provinces like Ontario and B.C., where they just have seven days after receiving the payment from the contractor that the contractor must pay to the subcontractors after receiving the payment from the Crown. But here it is way more than that, and that is not something that those subcontractors were looking for.

Setting a timeline: again, a good thing, but setting a timeline that doesn't help anybody is not a good thing, Mr. Speaker. So we need to make sure that we set a timeline after consulting with those subcontractors and make sure that this aligns with other provinces like Ontario, like the federal government, like B.C., Saskatchewan. That would be something that could help those subcontractors. So I would request the minister to consider changing this bill so that we set that timeline to seven days instead of more than 30 days, and this is something that can be changed in this bill.

When workers and subcontractors leave their homes, go to work in different places, they don't know the details of everything that's going on. All they do is they go out and work honestly, do their best, and they expect the payment. Unfortunately, in this bill the P3s are not covered. This bill will not apply to the P3 projects, and we need to make sure that all the workers, all the contractors, all the subcontractors working on those P3 projects should also be paid on time and should also be allowed and helped to run their businesses safely and to make sure their workers get paid on time.

The fourth thing that I want to talk about this bill, Mr. Speaker, is adjudication and legal clarity in the Public Works Act. This bill allows adjudication and court actions to run concurrently for faster resolution, aims to cut legal backlog following other provinces' practices. Adjudication is progress, but oversight and accountability in projects are still lacking. It's important that we lower the backlog in our courts, but at the same time we need to have oversight on what other methods we are looking at. So this bill needs to look at that as well.

The amendments made in the Public Works Act aim to improve the adjudication process for public works disputes, and by allowing adjudication to proceed concurrently with court action and making determination binding, the government hopes to expedite dispute resolution and reduce the legal backlog, which is a good thing. This aligns with practices in other provinces that seek to simplify and accelerate dispute handling in the public sector.

While this step is in the right direction, adjudication alone cannot address the broader inefficiencies in Alberta's public works projects. Alberta also needs to work to address the insufficient project oversight co-ordination issues and bureaucratic bottlenecks. Adjudication is helpful for specific payment-related disputes, but it does not tackle these systemic issues which require a more comprehensive approach, including transparency, clear timelines, and accountability measures to prevent delays before they occur.

We need to learn from other provinces and condo tribunals. Ontario and B.C. offer online accessible systems. We need to look at that. We might not be copying them. I'm not suggesting that, but we need to make sure that we look at their models, online models, make sure that this tribunal is available and accessible to people with disabilities, and make sure that people are able to use it online. It should be easy for them to file their concerns.

The second thing: Ontario's technical audits serve as an early warning system for condo buyers. Alberta's adoption of this requirement is essential, but to truly protect condo owners, the government should establish strict penalties for developers who fail to meet standards or ignore defects uncovered in these audits. We should be as diligent in protecting homeowners as we are in supporting those developers. We need to make sure that we stand up for people who have elected us, and we need to make sure that we represent them.

3:50

Prompt payment. Again, as mentioned, Ontario's prompt payment standards have become the benchmark across Canada. Alberta's alignment with these timelines is commendable, yet the exemption for P3 projects undermines this progress. In other provinces prompt

payment timelines are becoming universally applied to avoid loopholes, ensuring that everyone in the contract chain, from contractors to small subcontractors, receives timely payment. Alberta should also consider reducing the payment deadlines to seven days, as I mentioned in my earlier remarks when I was speaking to these audits, making it similar to other jurisdictions.

The UCP has a pattern of reactive government. They do not, like, lead; they like to react to things. Whether it is the green LRT project and other projects, they are always reactive. While I acknowledge the progress made in this bill, it is essential to recognize a pattern that this government has, which is of a reactive government rather than proactive and visionary leadership, which is missing in Alberta, missing in this government. Alberta is adopting policies and protections that other provinces implemented years ago, and instead of leading with innovation, instead of leading and coming up with visionary leadership to protect Albertans, this government is not doing the job. They are just trying to catch up with what is happening in other provinces.

While they are busy trying to catch up, Albertans have suffered a lot. Albertans have spent lots of their hard-earned money just to fight expensive, unnecessary legal battles. Albertans have gone through a lot of stress, which they shouldn't have gone through if this government would have paid attention a little bit earlier. For instance, a technical audit requirement for new condo bills is essential, but had we enacted it sooner, thousands of Albertans could have been spared costly repairs and legal battles.

The prompt payment rules are necessary, but by excluding P3 projects, the government still is leaving so many contractors, workers, subcontractors vulnerable. A proactive approach is needed in this province, visionary leadership is needed in this province rather than a reactive leadership, rather than catching up with what other provinces have done. We need to move forward with progressive solutions.

Mr. Speaker, as we move forward with Bill 30, I urge this government to consider stronger and more progressive solutions to truly serve Albertans. There are some ways that this government can do that, and if they are open for dialogue and discussion, I am happy to suggest some suggestions. Universal prompt payment protections should be applied to all P3s. The current exemption creates inequality within the construction sector. They can make changes to that. Developer accountability can be improved, and they should introduce stricter regulations to hold that. Similarly, I have already made some suggestions on public works oversight and digital accessibility.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my fellow members that we should support this bill. It is a positive step. It is a step in the positive and right direction. But at the same time, we should keep a sharp eye on funding this tribunal, making sure workers are paid on time, making sure Albertans feel safe in the places that they invest.

With that, Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this bill.

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Minister of Technology and Innovation.

Mr. Glubish: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to rise and speak in favour of my colleague's bill, Bill 30, the Service Alberta Statutes Amendment Act, 2024. This is near and dear to my heart because, as you know, I actually served as minister of service Alberta for a number of years before my colleague took over the file, so I know a thing or two about what he's been working on.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to get to Bill 30 in just a second, but I want to take a little trip down memory lane because it is relevant to the discussion at hand. You know, when we first formed government in

2019, we realized that we had inherited a ton of work that had been left undone by the NDP. Service Alberta was a perfect example of a file that had been left completely ignored by the NDP. As a result, over the three and a half years that I spent as service Alberta minister, we brought forward more legislation in that period of time and got it across the finish line than in the last 10 years by all ministers of service Alberta combined. Because there was so much work left undone by the NDP, we had so much work to do, and I'm really proud of that track record.

Let's go through a trip down memory lane. There was my first bill, Bill 3, in the 30th Legislature, the Mobile Home Sites Tenancies Amendment Act, 2020. If you remember here, Mr. Speaker, folks from mobile-home communities did not have access to a dispute resolution service. You know, if you lived in a condo or if you lived in a regular home, you could go to the residential tenancy dispute resolution service. All that folks living in mobile-home communities wanted was to have the same treatment as everybody else; if they had a dispute with their landlord, they wanted to be able to go to a dispute resolution tribunal that specialized in those kinds of cases instead of having to go to the courts.

You know, this got really heated in that session, Mr. Speaker, because the members opposite kept criticizing us for taking so long to deal with this when, in fact, at the very beginning of our term we dealt with it. Yet for four years they were arguing with themselves, when they were in government, about whether they should do anything about it. They dithered for four years; we got the job done.

Then we went on to Bill 11, the tenancies statutes emergency provisions. This was in the middle of COVID, Mr. Speaker; not my favourite period of time, but we brought forward legislation to make sure that there was some relief for folks who were unable to pay their rent because of some of the challenging restrictions imposed during COVID. This was a temporary measure, and it saved so many folks a ton of heartache. We acted quickly because we knew that folks needed action, again, something the NDP never did in their term. They did not know how to act quickly; they did not know how to deliver results; they did not know how to get legislation passed that would help people.

Mr. Speaker, next was Bill 20 in the same session – this was my third bill in the same sitting – the Real Estate Amendment Act, 2020. When I first became minister, I learned that the real estate community had been begging the previous government to modify and change and update the real estate regulatory environment and that government at the time had completely ignored their calls for action. So in my first term, in my first sitting, we got legislation done in order to deliver results for them. We restructured the way in which the real estate industry was regulated, and it has been working so much better ever since.

Mr. Speaker, then we went on, Bill 28 – this is one of my personal favourites – the vital statistics amendment act, dealing with ensuring that convicted sex offenders could never hide from their past and hide in our communities and change their names. This is what good government looks like; we find a problem, and we solve it. We realized that if a convicted sex offender could change their name, they could hide in a community and they could hide their history from families and law-abiding citizens. That's not acceptable. And guess what? Now in Alberta that can't happen, and you know what? Other provinces, like Ontario, are following our lead and joining us in implementing the strongest protections for their citizens, just like we already did.

Then, Mr. Speaker, Bill 37, the original prompt payment legislation, which I know this legislation that the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction, that we are talking about today, is building upon that foundation. Again, this was something that I heard loud and clear in my first term, that the members opposite, the NDP, when they were in government completely ignored the concerns of the construction industry at large in saying: "You know what? We need to have prompt

payment regulations and controls to ensure that folks get paid in a timely manner and that everyone knows what the rules are and everyone plays by the rules."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I worked for almost two years on that file, working in in-depth consultation with industry, and we got that first foundation laid. What I told folks at the time was: "You know what? It may not be perfect, but we've listened, we've worked with you, you've had input, and everybody is getting an improvement. Now we'll monitor it for a little while, and if it needs some adaptation or some changes, we'll make sure we work with you to deliver those changes." That's exactly what the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction is doing, building on that foundation from that first term.

Then, Mr. Speaker, after Bill 37 let's talk about Bill 53, another vital statistics amendment act which was required to clean up a bunch of issues that had been left behind. That one was actually about allowing for virtual meetings. This one was super important. It was again during the pandemic, and we needed to make sure that not-for-profits had the ability to conduct official business through virtual meetings so that they didn't lapse when it came to filing their corporate documents with the registries.

4:00

Bill 61, the Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2021, is about dangerous offenders. We wanted to say, "You know what? We learned so much from the sex offender name change legislation; now we've made sure that dangerous offenders couldn't change their names," again, to strengthen protections for families in Alberta.

And the last one, Mr. Speaker: Bill 84, the Business Corporations Amendment Act, 2021. This was, again, to make Alberta one of the most attractive jurisdictions in North America to start a business.

This is all of the legislation that we got done in our first term, in my first three and a half years as service Alberta minister, more than all of the ministers of service Alberta in the previous 10 years combined. So when the member opposite talks about, "Oh, you know what? There's some good work being done here in the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction's Bill 30, but it took too long," and, "Oh, they should have acted faster" – well, you know what? The members opposite, when they were in government, did nothing. They did nothing on the service Alberta file, and I wouldn't trust them to get this kind of work done. It's a good thing that Albertans didn't trust them either and they sent us here to do the job instead.

Let's talk a bit about Bill 30 that is now before us here. Why do I support it? Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, one of my only regrets from my time as service Alberta minister is that I wasn't able to get the condo dispute resolution tribunal across the finish line. I know how important this is because I spoke with so many folks from across this province about how important this was going to be, and I knew that this would touch so many lives.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know if you've ever lived in a condo, but I sure did for five years, and I spent two years on my condo board. The fact is that living in condos is an important option for so many families. Five hundred thousand Albertans live in condos, and the challenge that they had is that they just needed to have an option to deal with disputes, whether it be between the condo board and a resident. There's just so much that this kind of legislation can help with, and I'm so proud of the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction for building on that foundation and getting that work across the finish line for the benefit of so many Albertans.

Again, just to wrap up, I support this legislation. It is super important. It builds on a lot of the work that we've been doing for four and a half years, almost five years, and it certainly eclipses anything the NDP ever even tried to do in their term in government, so I will not listen to them

when they lecture and say that it should have been done faster. We are moving at lightning speed by comparison, and we will continue to do so.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any others wishing to speak?

Seeing none. The hon. Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction to close debate. Waived that.

[Motion carried; Bill 30 read a third time]

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 33 Protection of Privacy Act

[Adjourned debate November 27: Member Arcand-Paul]

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday has about one minute left if he wishes. Otherwise, we have the Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs to speak.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise this afternoon to speak to Bill 33, Protection of Privacy Act. This piece of legislation is really important because it's something that addresses Albertans' privacy and protecting that. Throughout the debate so far we've heard some significant concerns about this piece of legislation and that it's so important to get it right, that in order to safeguard the dignity of each Albertan we need to really be able to ensure that what the government is putting forward is exactly what it should be, just to make sure that it's the right piece of legislation.

The existing legislation that this will replace is quite outdated, and it absolutely needs to be updated. There's so much going on right now in the way of technology and data that this is a piece of legislation that is absolutely needed. However, we do have some significant questions and some concerns about the timing of this legislation and whether or not it should be able to proceed right now. There are some things that we're worried about, that there are not the proper checks and balances in this privacy legislation. We think that there are some significant increases to some of the timelines, quite frankly, which is not shocking from this government, addition of red tape.

We've heard over and over that there's not significant trust from Albertans when it comes to this government, and when we're looking at something as significant and as important as the Protection of Privacy Act from Albertans that don't trust this government, we need to make sure that the legislation that's being put forward is as good and clear and precise as it needs to be.

There are five key changes that this legislation will do: prohibiting the sale of personal information; introducing requirements of privacy management programs, privacy impact assessments, and breach notifications; update collection notices and requirements; introducing clauses around nonpersonal data; and increasing fines for violators.

It's a big task, Mr. Speaker, and we want to make sure that when we're looking at everything that needs to be done, we're considering all of the feedback that has been received. There have been some recommendations that have come forward in the past, and a lot of those recommendations aren't actually being implemented in this legislation.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce an amendment.

The Acting Speaker: The member may proceed.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment says that I move that the motion for second reading of Bill 33, Protection of Privacy Act, be amended by deleting all of the words after "that"

and substituting the following: "Bill 33, Protection of Privacy Act, be not now read a second time but that it be read a second time this day six months hence."

We're not saying that this bill shouldn't proceed. What we are concerned about is that the feedback that's been provided to this government, specifically from Alberta's Information and Privacy Commissioner, be considered. This amendment would allow the opportunity for government to perhaps consider some of the important feedback that should be considered when moving forward with this legislation so that we're not in a position where we're reopening it up and bringing it back into the House.

We want to make sure that the best sort of checks and balances are in place when it comes to supporting privacy. We have been very, very clear with this government when we've been debating this that there are some serious concerns not raised just by Albertans but by the Privacy Commissioner, and we can't support it going forward the way that it is, Mr. Speaker.

The job of this Assembly is to put checks and balances in place for that legislation. In order to make sure that this is something that is done properly, done right, done with feedback from those that clearly understand the legislation and have made recommendations, we're just asking that it not be read a second time today, that it be delayed until six months.

One of the concerns that the Privacy Commissioner has raised is that this legislation is quite vague. We want clear legislation around privacy. I think that is a very clear way to have privacy legislation. It needs to be clear, specific, and not vague.

4:10

The other pieces that it will add: increases to some timelines and the addition of unnecessary steps. Like I had mentioned regarding red tape, perhaps if every minister looked at the importance of reducing red tape and not leaving it up to one minister, they could have caught this. However, this government has felt that it was important to have one minister do the work instead of all of their ministers doing the work, and so here we are with the possibility of creating some unnecessary red tape for a piece of legislation that should be very clear and have no barriers included.

With that, Mr. Speaker, again, I'm encouraging all members of this House to support this amendment and just delay the process. Six months is all that we're asking. We think that's reasonable. Please support this amendment.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs has introduced what's referred to as a hoist amendment.

I will seek further speakers. The Member for Edmonton-South West to speak.

Mr. Ip: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs for the amendment. I think that this bill presented before us also presents an opportunity. The current iteration of this bill is presented as a modernization of Alberta's privacy laws. It offers much in promises but, really, it's a bit lacking in the desired substance, particularly based on what we're hearing from stakeholders. It does not protect Albertans as it claims to, and, in fact, the way that the legislation is structured right now, it introduces confusion, in some cases even weakens oversight and ignores perhaps the most pressing risks of modern technology.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment that the hon. member has presented, I think, is a reasonable and fair one. It does not reject the premise of this bill and legislation. It simply is asking for more time, for more opportunity to perhaps work collaboratively as a Chamber to

ensure that this is the best piece of legislation possible that will protect Albertans for generations.

I should mention that the FOIP Act, which this legislation is meant to replace, was last updated more than 20 years ago, so when you look at Bill 33 and Bill 34 as well, it really is intended to be enduring. It's intended to reflect the changing times that we live in. You know, if you look at the reality 20 years ago, the world has changed dramatically.

This piece of legislation is quite lacking. It is not future proofed. It is not going to ensure that it remains relevant far into the future. We now live in a data-driven society where vast amounts of personal information is collected, analyzed, and used by both public and private entities. Mr. Speaker, this presents both opportunities and risks, so it's absolutely imperative that our privacy laws keep pace. But I have to say, and I've certainly said this the last time I rose to speak on this bill, that Bill 33 fails to rise to the occasion.

I do want to sort of set, you know, the broader tone because I think that sometimes we can get enmeshed in the details and really forget kind of the broader strokes and why particular pieces of legislation are important, why the work that we collectively do in this Chamber is important to Albertans' lives. Fundamentally, what we're talking about is privacy, and privacy matters now more than ever before. It might seem abstract. Certainly, this concept of privacy 20 years ago meant some very different things. The reality is that our information in this digital age is everywhere; it's ubiquitous. It's on government websites, health apps, educational platforms. Everything that you do in your daily lives requires you to disclose your personal information, to sign up for new services. Even to access simple, basic government services, you're required to disclose your personal information.

When Albertans share their information, they're not just handing over numbers and addresses; they're also sharing parts of part of their lives, so, you know, it comes with a trust, and with that trust comes a sense of responsibility, which I believe under this current iteration of the bill the government is failing to meet. It's not just a bureaucratic check box: we've protected Albertans' privacy. It's about ensuring that Albertans ultimately have control over their own information and that we recognize that we're simply government organs, and government institutions are simply the stewards of this information.

But we need to ensure that the appropriate structure and framework is in place because when we weaken privacy protections, which this bill inadvertently does in its current form, we actually undermine Albertans' ability to fully engage and participate in all that life has to offer and all of the different services that government offers in this digital age.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that one of the most striking structural problems – and I did raise this the last time I spoke on Bill 33 – is the fact that it now bifurcates Alberta's privacy framework into Bill 33 and Bill 34. By splitting the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act into two separate pieces of legislation, one for privacy and one for access to information, what that does is that it actually creates risk for it to be incoherent. It actually creates risk and makes it more challenging for the average and regular Albertans to be able to navigate through the maze of bureaucratic regulations to be able to, frankly, understand what their rights are under the law. I think that's really important, that legislation should be accessible to everyday Albertans.

Let's be honest. Most Albertans: you know, we don't, myself included, spend our evenings reading legislative texts. I do because I have to, but a lot of Albertans don't. But it's imperative that they know what their rights are, they know what remedies are and what the pathways for recourse might be if their privacy rights or other rights are violated. Under this current structure understanding those rights will be a game of legislative hopscotch if you will. You might

need a course in sort of basic legal research to be able to understand and figure out what applies to what. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I think that does a disservice to everyday Albertans. Legislation should be structured in such a way that Albertans with a certain level of literacy can answer basic questions like: which act governs their information? Where do they file a complaint? What happens if one law contradicts the other?

What we're finding is that even stakeholders, even those that are learned in the law are struggling to answer these questions under this current structure and how the bill is presented. And instead of simplifying the system, the government has added red tape. Red tape, Mr. Speaker, doesn't really protect anybody, as you know. What I again would encourage members on the other side of the House is: let's work collaboratively on this piece of legislation. This is a very reasonable amendment. It asks for time. It asks for the opportunity, in fact, to collaborate as a Chamber and do what's right for Albertans.

4:20

I want to talk a little bit about the foundation of trust, and I opened earlier to talk about why privacy is so important. We live in such a digital age, where trust is really at the foundation of society. Everything is based on trust when you hand over your information. The fact that you're driving in a car and you stop at a red light: you trust based on just the fact that you're following traffic laws that others will as well. Our whole society is predicated on trust.

So when it comes to trust, we need to make sure that there are organs of oversight and those checks and balances, and what has happened under Bill 33 is that the role of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, which also existed as a carry-over from the original FOIP Act: that particular role is actually weakened. This bill strips the commissioner of key powers. It limits the ability to audit compliance, to oversee privacy management programs, to enforce breach notifications, and frankly, Mr. Speaker, that is unacceptable. That isn't going to strengthen this piece of legislation, by limiting the ability for the Privacy Commissioner to do her work.

I also have to say that the most glaring example of this bill's approach is on data breaches. Under Bill 33 public bodies will actually decide for themselves whether a breach is significant enough to report, and the threshold is a very particular legal term that, frankly, is open to all sorts of interpretation. The threshold is a reasonable person test. It's vague, it's subjective, and frankly, Mr. Speaker, when things are vague and subjective, it's open to abuse, and Albertans deserve better. No one, no Albertan is going to spend their evenings trying to prove their case and trying to use this reasonable person test. It needs to be accessible. It needs to be transparent. Again, breach reporting should be automatic, it should be comprehensive, and it should be – again I'll use the word – transparent.

That's just the structure of the bill. We're just talking about sort of the basic design of the bill, which is flawed fundamentally, but we haven't even talked about the future-proofing of a piece of legislation that is intended to stand the test of time. You know, again, I mentioned that the previous FOIP Act was last updated 20 years ago, and the world has changed. The world has changed. I think Taylor Swift was still a child 20 years ago, so, yes, the world is absolutely different.

But let's also turn to the elephant in the room, and that is the impact of artificial intelligence, of technologies and methods like data matching and automated decision-making. These are no longer futuristic ideas, Mr. Speaker. These are very much part of our lives. Whether we realize it or not, it's very much here, shaping how not just private companies operate but actually how public bodies operate. How many of us in this Chamber have used tools like ChatGPT and other tools where artificial intelligence and algorithms are used? These tools, these technologies are shaping how public bodies operate and how

decisions are made about Albertans, yet Bill 33, in such a ubiquitous aspect of our daily lives, in modern Albertans' lives, does nothing to address these kinds of technologies. It doesn't, for example, require transparency when automated systems are used to make decisions, and it doesn't clearly provide any recourse for Albertans affected by those decisions. It doesn't address, for example, how personal data might be used or misused to train AI systems.

I've given different scenarios before, but I'll give one here during this time as well. Imagine this scenario. An Albertan applies for a government service, but their application is denied because of an algorithm. We might actually conceivably see that in government HR processes, for example, that might sort through hundreds or thousands, in some cases, of resumé and applications to find applicants, suitable applicants. And let's say that in this case an algorithm is used, but there's no explanation. There's no appeal process. A person who potentially . . . [Mr. Ip's speaking time expired]

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Are there others wishing to speak to the amendment? The Member for Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Haji: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to Bill 33, Protection of Privacy Act. The protection of Albertans' privacy is a very important matter. Proper privacy legislation is important for safeguarding the dignity of each and every Albertan, and this is something that we all in the Assembly agree on. The challenge on Bill 33 is that there are quite a number of loopholes that the bill doesn't address. I want to highlight some of the concerns. My colleague the Member for Edmonton-South West has already articulated eloquently very well around the era that we are in when it comes to the importance of information protection, privacy protection, information bombardment and all

those kinds of things, the digitization of everything, and the risk that this has on our privacy.

So what are the concerns of Bill 33? Mr. Speaker, the bill is weakening the oversight of protections. This is a time when you want to strengthen the oversight of protections. It's not a time when you want to weaken the oversight of privacy protections. The bill undermines the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. It reduces the ability to oversee the office and enforce privacy protections.

The commissioner has raised the significant concerns that the bill does not introduce meaningful updates to the province's privacy regime, and then there is a lack of mandatory breach notifications. Think about, Mr. Speaker, when, despite the claims from the minister that there is no requirement to notify Albertans directly if their personal information is compromised – Albertans deserve to know when their data is at risk. Really, that is a cornerstone of what we need to address. Trust and transparency require, as my colleague has already mentioned, transparency. It requires clear mandatory breach notification processes, which Bill 33 does not provide and doesn't give room for that.

You expect this is a government that will reduce red tape or blue tape, whatever colour tape you can call it, but it introduces within this bill red tape by new timelines and unnecessary steps, complicating the processes and creating bureaucratic hurdles. This makes additional red tape that undermines efficiency and could delay access to information for Albertans.

The Acting Speaker: I hesitate to interrupt, but pursuant to Standing Order 4(2) the Assembly stands adjourned until Monday afternoon at 1:30.

[The Assembly adjourned at 4:30 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 31th Legislature - 1st Session (2023-2024)

Activity to Thursday, November 28, 2024

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*)
Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 c6]

Bill 2 — Alberta Pension Protection Act (Horner)

First Reading — 89-90 (*Nov. 2, 2023 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 154-55 (*Nov. 7, 2023 aft.*), 274-85 (*Nov. 21, 2023 aft.*), 336-43 (*Nov. 23, 2023 aft.*), 394-400 (*Nov. 28, 2023 aft.*), 424-30 (*Nov. 29, 2023 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 522-30 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft.*), 552-59 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed*)
Third Reading — 565 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve.*), 583-90 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 cA-29.5]

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.*), 272-73 (*Nov. 21, 2023 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 307-09 (*Nov. 22, 2023 aft., passed*)
Third Reading — 334-36 (*Nov. 23, 2023 aft., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 c10]

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*)
Committee of the Whole — 309-13 (*Nov. 22, 2023 aft., passed*)
Third Reading — 336 (*Nov. 23, 2023 aft., passed*)
Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2023 c13]

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.*), 265-72 (*Nov. 21, 2023 aft.*), 403-09 (*Nov. 28, 2023 aft.*), 430-35 (*Nov. 29, 2023 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 456 (*Nov. 30, 2023 aft., passed*), 519-22 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft., recommitted*), 559-62, 563-64 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed with amendments on division*)
Third Reading — 515 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft., recommitted to Committee of the Whole*), 564-55 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve.*), 575-83 (*Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed on division*)
Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on Proclamation; SA 2023 c12]

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

First Reading — 90 (Nov. 2, 2023 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 157-58 (Nov. 7, 2023 aft.), 313-20 (Nov. 22, 2023 aft.), 435-38 (Nov. 29, 2023 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 456-62 (Nov. 30, 2023 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 462 (Nov. 30, 2023 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 c11]

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.), 273-74 (Nov. 21, 2023 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 400-03 (Nov. 28, 2023 aft.), 423-24 (Nov. 29, 2023 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 514-15 (Dec. 5, 2023 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 c7]

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

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

Second Reading — 299-307 (Nov. 22, 2023 aft.), 438-41 (Nov. 29, 2023 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 515-18 (Dec. 5, 2023 aft.), 546-52 (Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 564 (Dec. 6, 2023 eve.), 569-75 (Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2023 c8]

Bill 9 — Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 (Schow)

First Reading — 478 (Dec. 4, 2023 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 513-14 (Dec. 5, 2023 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 546 (Dec. 6, 2023 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 590-92 (Dec. 7, 2023 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 c9]

Bill 10 — Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (\$) (Horner)

First Reading — 673 (Mar. 12, 2024 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 705-16 (Mar. 14, 2024 aft.), 868-73 (Mar. 26, 2024 aft.), 904-05 (Mar. 27, 2024 aft.), 899-901 (Mar. 27, 2024 aft.), 970-75 (Apr. 9, 2024 aft.), 1003-05 (Apr. 10, 2024 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 1005-09 (Apr. 10, 2024 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 1040-43 (Apr. 11, 2024 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — (May 16, 2024 aft.) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2024 c4]

Bill 11 — Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Ellis)

First Reading — 685 (Mar. 13, 2024 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 976-90 (Apr. 9, 2024 aft.), 1009-15 (Apr. 10, 2024 aft.), 1091-96 (Apr. 16, 2024 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 1217-20 (Apr. 23, 2024 aft.), 1334-1341 (May 7, 2024 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 1448-55 (May 14, 2024 aft., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (May 16, 2024 aft.) [Comes into force May 16, 2024, except section 1, which comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 c6]

Bill 12* — Consumer Protection (Life Leases) Amendment Act, 2024 (Nally)

First Reading — 727 (Mar. 18, 2024 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 1015-22 (Apr. 10, 2024 aft.), 1043-46 (Apr. 11, 2024 aft.), 1096-102 (Apr. 16, 2024 aft.), 1135-40 (Apr. 17, 2024 aft., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 1220 (Apr. 23, 2024 aft.), 1239-48 (Apr. 24, 2024 aft., passed with amendments)

Third Reading — 1367-74 (May 8, 2024 aft., passed)

Royal Assent — (May 16, 2024 aft.) [Comes into force May 16, 2024; SA 2024 c3]

Bill 13 — Real Property Governance Act (Guthrie)

First Reading — 779 (Mar. 21, 2024 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 1102-09 (Apr. 16, 2024 aft.), 1132-35 (Apr. 17, 2024 aft.), 1161-63 (Apr. 18, 2024 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 1220-28 (Apr. 23, 2024 aft.), 1341-43 (May 7, 2024 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 1395-1400 (May 9, 2024 aft., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (May 16, 2024 aft.) [Comes into force May 16, 2024, with some sections deemed to have come into force on March 21, 2024; SA 2024 cR-5.3]

Bill 14 — Appropriation Act, 2024 (\$) (Horner)

First Reading — 791 (*Mar. 21, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 855-63 (*Mar. 26, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 887-93 (*Mar. 27, 2024 aft., adjourned*), 903 (*Mar. 27, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 920-24 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on March 28, 2024; SA 2024 c1]

Bill 15 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2024 (\$) (Horner)

First Reading — 841 (*Mar. 25, 2024 eve., passed*)

Second Reading — 863-68 (*Mar. 26, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 893-99 (*Mar. 27, 2024 aft., adjourned*), 901-04 (*Mar. 27, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 924 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft., passed*), 920 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft.*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on March 28, 2024; SA 2024 c2]

Bill 16 — Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Nally)

First Reading — 935-36 (*Apr. 8, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1127-32 (*Apr. 17, 2024 aft.*), 1248-53 (*Apr. 24, 2024 aft.*), 1279-82 (*Apr. 25, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1456-60 (*May 14, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1490-92 (*May 15, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 16, 2024 aft.*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2024 c7]

Bill 17 — Canadian Centre of Recovery Excellence Act (Williams)

First Reading — 959 (*Apr. 9, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1156-61 (*Apr. 18, 2024 aft.*), 1272-79 (*Apr. 25, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1361-67 (*May 8, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1464-66 (*May 14, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 16, 2024 aft.*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 cC-1.5]

Bill 18* — Provincial Priorities Act (Smith)

First Reading — 993 (*Apr. 10, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1122-27 (*Apr. 17, 2024 aft.*), 1209-17 (*Apr. 23, 2024 aft.*), 1253-60 (*Apr. 24, 2024 aft.*), 1329-34 (*May 7, 2024 aft.*), 1533-40 (*May 21, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1540-42 (*May 21, 2024 aft.*), 1569-77 (*May 22, 2024 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1664-68 (*May 28, 2024 aft.*), 1692-99 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 cP-35.5]

Bill 19 — Utilities Affordability Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Neudorf)

First Reading — 1177 (*Apr. 22, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1344-48 (*May 7, 2024 aft.*), 1400-03 (*May 9, 2024 aft.*), 1455-56 (*May 14, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1460-64 (*May 14, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1492-96 (*May 15, 2024 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 16, 2024 aft.*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2024 c8]

Bill 20* — Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (McIver)

First Reading — 1271 (*Apr. 25, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1374-82 (*May 8, 2024 aft.*), 1562-69 (*May 22, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1591-94 (*May 23, 2024 aft.*), 1669-75 (*May 28, 2024 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1699-1700 (*May 28, 2024 eve.*), 1712-13 (*May 28, 2024 eve.*), 1729-35 (*May 29, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation, except ss 2(24) and (25), which come into force on January 1, 2025; SA 2024 c11]

Bill 21 — Emergency Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Ellis)

First Reading — 1394 (*May 9, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1508-19 (*May 16, 2024 aft.*), 1542-48 (*May 21, 2024 aft.*), 1634-41 (*May 27, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1649-50 (*May 27, 2024 eve.*), 1675-81 (*May 28, 2024 aft.*), 1683-84 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1700-01 (*May 28, 2024 eve.*), 1704--11 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 30, 2024; SA 2024 c9]

Bill 22 — Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (LaGrange)

First Reading — 1447 (*May 14, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1594-1600 (*May 23, 2024 aft.*), 1641-48 (*May 27, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1650 (*May 27, 2024 eve.*), 1684-90 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1700-01 (*May 28, 2024 eve.*), 1713-15 (*May 28, 2024 eve.*), 1735-41 (*May 29, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 c10]

Bill 24* — Alberta Bill of Rights Amendment Act, 2024 (Amery)

First Reading — 1754-55 (*Oct. 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1788-1805 (*Oct. 29, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1819-36 (*Oct. 30, 2024 aft.*), 2051-58 (*Nov. 20, 2024 aft.*), 2082 (*Nov. 21, 2024 aft.*), 2144-45 (*Nov. 26, 2024 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2171-72 (*Nov. 27, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Bill 25 — Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act, 2024 (Jones)

First Reading — 1818 (*Oct. 30, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1855-56 (*Oct. 31, 2024 aft.*), 1907-12 (*Nov. 5, 2024 aft.*), 2027-29 (*Nov. 19, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2189 (*Nov. 27, 2024 aft.*), 1717-20 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 2222-27 (*Nov. 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 26 — Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (No. 2) (LaGrange)

First Reading — 1848 (*Oct. 31, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Second Reading — 1900-07 (*Nov. 5, 2024 aft.*), 1969-77 (*Nov. 7, 2024 aft.*), 2137-40 (*Nov. 26, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2145-50 (*Nov. 26, 2024 aft.*), 2172-77 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve., passed*)

Bill 27* — Education Amendment Act, 2024 (Nicolaides)

First Reading — 1848 (*Oct. 31, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1912-20 (*Nov. 5, 2024 aft.*), 2020-27 (*Nov. 19, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2177-89 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve., passed with amendments*)

Bill 28 — Meat Inspection Amendment Act, 2024 (Sigurdson, RJ)

First Reading — 1818 (*Oct. 30, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1854-55 (*Oct. 31, 2024 aft.*), 1966-69 (*Nov. 7, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2058-60 (*Nov. 20, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2066-68 (*Nov. 20, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 29 — Fairness and Safety in Sport Act (Schow)

First Reading — 1848-49 (*Oct. 31, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1934-40 (*Nov. 6, 2024 aft.*), 2088-92 (*Nov. 21, 2024 aft.*), 2140-44 (*Nov. 26, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2150-52 (*Nov. 26, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 30* — Service Alberta Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Nally)

First Reading — 1868 (*Nov. 4, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1946-53 (*Nov. 6, 2024 aft.*), 2068-70 (*Nov. 20, 2024 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2082-88 (*Nov. 21, 2024 aft.*), 1720-24 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 2227-31 (*Nov. 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 31 — Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Amery)

First Reading — 1898 (*Nov. 5, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2029-35 (*Nov. 19, 2024 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 32 — Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (No. 2) (S) (Horner)

First Reading — 1868 (*Nov. 4, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1940-46 (*Nov. 6, 2024 aft.*), 1724-27 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve., passed on division*)

Bill 33 — Protection of Privacy Act (Glubish)

First Reading — 1931 (*Nov. 6, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2060-66 (*Nov. 20, 2024 aft.*), 1727-31 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve.*), 2231-33 (*Nov. 28, 2024 aft., adjourned on amendment*)

Bill 34 — Access to Information Act (Nally)

First Reading — 1931 (*Nov. 6, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2035-38 (*Nov. 19, 2024 aft.*), 2153-57 (*Nov. 26, 2024 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 35 — All-season Resorts Act (Schow)

First Reading — (*Nov. 7, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1731-36 (*Nov. 27, 2024 eve., adjourned*)

Bill 36 — Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Schow)

First Reading — (*Nov. 20, 2024 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.*), 234-37 (*Nov. 20, 2023 aft., reasoned amendment agreed to on division; not proceeded with*)

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

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

Second Reading — 237-46 (*Nov. 20, 2023 aft.*), 358-64 (*Nov. 27, 2023 aft., defeated on division; not proceeded with*)

Bill 203 — Foreign Credential Advisory Committee Act (Dyck)

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

Second Reading — 364-70 (*Nov. 27, 2023 aft.*), 479-86 (*Dec. 4, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 730-43 (*Mar. 18, 2024 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 805-12 (*Mar. 25, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on June 28, 2024; SA 2024 cF-16.5]

Bill 204 — Municipal Government (National Urban Parks) Amendment Act, 2023 (Lunty)

First Reading — 332 (*Nov. 23, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 486-92 (*Dec. 4, 2023 aft.*), 649-58 (*Mar. 11, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 812-17 (*Mar. 25, 2024 aft.*), 938-48 (*Apr. 8, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Third Reading — 1059-66 (*Apr. 15, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 16, 2024 aft.*) [Comes into force May 16, 2024; SA 2024 c5]

Bill 205 — Housing Statutes (Housing Security) Amendment Act, 2023 (Irwin)

First Reading — 510 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 658-62 (*Mar. 11, 2024 aft.*), 948-50 (*Apr. 8, 2024 aft.*), 1066-71 (*Apr. 15, 2024 aft.*), 1178-81 (*Apr. 22, 2024 aft., defeated on division; not proceeded with*)

Bill 206 — Child and Youth Advocate (Parent and Guardian Advisor) Amendment Act, 2024 (Cyr)

First Reading — 917-18 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1181-90 (*Apr. 22, 2024 aft.*), 1294-1300 (*May 6, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 207 — Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education (Valuing Skilled Workers) Amendment Act, 2024 (Hoyle)

First Reading — 1152-53 (*Apr. 18, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1300-09 (*May 6, 2024 aft.*), 1417-20 (*May 13, 2024 aft., defeated on division; not proceeded with*)

Bill 208 — Psycho-Educational Assessment Access Act (Hayter)

First Reading — 1359 (*May 8, 2024 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1420-29 (*May 13, 2024 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 209 — Reconciliation Implementation Act (Arcand-Paul)

First Reading — 1868-69 (*Nov. 4, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 211 — Arts and Creative Economy Advisory Council Act (Ceci)

First Reading — 1590 (*May 23, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 212 — Organ and Tissue Donor Information Agreement Act (Metz)

First Reading — 1663 (*May 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 214 — Eastern Slopes Protection Act (Notley)

First Reading — 1729 (*May 29, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill 215 — Prohibiting Ownership of Agricultural Lands (Pension Plans and Trust Corporations) Act (van Dijken)

First Reading — 2221 (*Nov. 28, 2024 aft., passed*)

Bill Pr1 — St. Joseph's College Amendment Act, 2023 (Sigurdson, L)

First Reading — 289 (*Nov. 22, 2023 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills*), 421 (*Nov. 29, 2023 aft., reported to Assembly; proceeded with*)

Second Reading — 455 (*Nov. 30, 2023 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 515 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 530 (*Dec. 5, 2023 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 7, 2023 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on December 7, 2023; SA 2023 c14]

Bill Pr2* — Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta Amendment Act, 2024 (Justin Wright)

First Reading — 918 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills*)

Second Reading — 1633 (*May 27, 2024 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1691 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1711 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 30, 2024]

Bill Pr3 — Providence Renewal Centre Amendment Act, 2024 (Calahoo Stonehouse)

First Reading — 918 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills*)

Second Reading — 1633 (*May 27, 2024 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1691 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1711 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 30, 2024]

Bill Pr4 — Rosebud School of the Arts Amendment Act, 2024 (Petrovic)

First Reading — 918 (*Mar. 28, 2024 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills*)

Second Reading — 1633-34 (*May 27, 2024 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1691 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1711-12 (*May 28, 2024 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 30, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 30, 2024]

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