



Province of Alberta

The 31st Legislature  
First Session

# Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, March 27, 2025

Day 93

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

# Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 31st Legislature

First Session

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van Dijken, Glenn, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (UC), Deputy Chair of Committees

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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)  
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Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)  
de Jonge, Chantelle, Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)  
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Dreeschen, Hon. Devin, ECA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UC)  
Dyck, Nolan B., Grande Prairie (UC)  
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LaGrange, Hon. Adriana, ECA, Red Deer-North (UC)  
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Long, Hon. Martin M., ECA, West Yellowhead (UC)  
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Neudorf, Hon. Nathan T., ECA, Lethbridge-East (UC)  
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(UC)  
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Wiebe, Ron, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UC)  
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Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC),  
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Vacant, Edmonton-Ellerslie  
Vacant, Edmonton-Strathcona

## Party standings:

United Conservative: 48

New Democrat: 36

Independent: 1

Vacant: 2

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Nate Horner	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
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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
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Nolan Dyck	Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous and Rural Policing
Shane Getson	Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Corridor Development
Chelsae Petrovic	Parliamentary Secretary for Health Workforce Engagement
Ron Wiebe	Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health (North)
Justin Wright	Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health (South)
Tany Yao	Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Northern Development

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Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell

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Brar  
Kasawski  
Kayande  
Stephan  
Wiebe  
Wright, J.

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

Chair: Mr. Getson

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Cyr  
de Jonge  
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Stephan  
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### **Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee**

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Deputy Chair: Mr. Long

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Hunter  
Ip  
Lovely  
Rowswell  
Sabir  
Wright, J.

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

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Deputy Chair: Ms Goehring

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Deputy Chair: Mr. van Dijken

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

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Deputy Chair: Mr. Getson

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

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Deputy Chair: Mr. Wiebe

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Dach  
Gray  
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### **Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

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

Chair: Mr. Rowswell

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Al-Guneid  
Armstrong-Homeniuk  
Boitchenko  
Calahoo Stonehouse  
Dyck  
Eggen  
Hunter  
Yao

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 27, 2025

[The Speaker in the chair]

### Prayers

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

Hon. members, we will now be led in the singing of *God Save the King* by the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

### 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 Calgary-Glenmore has a school group.

**Ms Al-Guneid:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to introduce grade 6 students from Calgary Jewish Academy in Calgary-Glenmore, 17 of them, along with their teachers Dorit Gohar, Jessica Rynn, Gal Nussbaum. Please stand up and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. 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 Assembly one of my most favourite schools from the town of Stony Plain, Meridian Heights, and they are led by their teacher Liz Jepsen. Please stand and accept the warm applause from the Assembly.

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

**Member Miyashiro:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce my sister Cathy Whyte and her friends Iris Barrington Leigh and Jerome Szabo. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Neudorf:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you six recipients of the prestigious King Charles III coronation medal: Janet Annesley, Evan Bahry, Jason Bradley, Karl Johannson, Colette Chekerda, and Janine Sullivan. They are all outstanding individuals who have greatly contributed to the Alberta utilities sector. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The Member for Calgary-Elbow.

**Member Kayande:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly Miriam and Lee Obst. They have travelled from Calgary-Elbow to be here today because they are concerned about cutbacks for disabled Albertans and Inclusion Alberta. I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

**Mr. Nixon:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce you to several neighbours from Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, including the Clearwater regional fire rescue services members that are here, Bentley fire services, and Eckville fire services as well as the Christian Health Association of Alberta and their member organizations, including the Good Sam Society and the Bethany Group. I'd ask that they all rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**Mr. Ip:** Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you the amazing board of the Glastonbury community league, that is celebrating their 20th year. Community league volunteers are the foundation of community. Please rise – Chelsea Balzan, Brian Geislinger, Denise Forwick, Kimberly Johnson, Kathryn Lowry, Rebecca Thompson – to receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

**Ms Chapman:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce to you and through you my lovely family. Thank you, guys, for coming over spring break, maybe mostly for the mall, but thanks for staying to hang out with me. Jonathan, Lizzie, Oliver, Arthur, please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise and introduce three very special guests: my daughter Opal and her friends Megan and Sienna. They're here because it's spring break, and they're curious to find out if I am actually as embarrassing as they are afraid that I am. I ask that they please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** My guess is more embarrassing.  
Are there others?

**Mr. Glubish:** Mr. Speaker, I didn't see that he was here, but I see now. My cousin's cousin Ryan Hastman is here. I'd like to ask him to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly. The NDP may not like it, but he was the first person I called when I decided I wanted to be an MLA. He's the one who gave me all the advice I needed to get started, so you can blame him for me being here. Nice to see you, Ryan.

### Members' Statements

#### Eid al-Fitr

**Mr. Haji:** Mr. Speaker, as Ramadan draws to a close, Muslim families and communities across Alberta and around the globe are preparing for the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, a day that marks the end of the month, filled with faith, reflections, and self-discipline. Eid is anticipated to fall on either March 30 or 31. The timing of the Eid al-Fitr is guided by the traditional sign of the new moon. Over the past four weeks Alberta's Muslim communities engaged in fasting from dawn to sunset, dedicating their days to generosity, patience, and compassion. During this month Muslim Albertans dedicated

their evenings to spend with families, with neighbours, and communities in the spirit of prayer and reflection.

Eid al-Fitr is more than a festive occasion; it is a powerful expression of faith, community, and hope. These values – compassion, gratitude, and solidarity – are not only central to Islam but are also core to who we are as Albertans. For many Muslim Albertans it holds a deep personal and cultural significance. It fosters a strong sense of identity and belonging, something every Albertan deserves to feel.

As representatives of a diverse province let us take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt Eid greetings to Alberta's Muslim community. Our shared future depends on recognizing and respecting the richness of our differences and celebrating them together. To Alberta's Muslim community, [Remarks in Arabic].

Wishing you blessings throughout the year. [As submitted]

To fellow Somali Albertans, [Remarks in Somali].

Happy Eid. Enjoy a healthy holiday. [As submitted]

Mr. Speaker, this Eid occasion is an opportunity for all of us to recommit to building a province rooted in inclusion, dignity, and respect. Thank you.

### Official Opposition

**Mr. Lundy:** Well, Mr. Speaker, it must be tough times at the Alberta regional branch of the NDP these days. The head corporate office is going down in flames. Previously valued employees are jumping ship like sewer rats. The old boss, Thomas Mulcair, is telling Canadians not to vote for their party, and their current boss, Jagmeet Singh – remember him? – is practically invisible. Maybe he's taking notes from No-show Nenshi. Ouch. As a quick reminder, it's Jagmeet Singh that acts as the NDP boss. It's in their party's constitution.

Not that Albertans could be blamed for being confused. After all, when former NDP MLA Rod Loyola recently resigned to run federally, he chose to take his communist sensibilities to copycat Carney and the federal Liberals, truly a match made in Marxist heaven. Apparently, when the opposition says Team Canada, they actually mean Team Carney. In fact, I'm surprised Carney's face isn't on the shirts they're all wearing today. But should we really have been surprised? This NDP opposition has been in love with the federal Liberals for quite some time, fully supporting their efforts to systematically destroy our energy sector and lower our standard of living.

It didn't have to be this way, Mr. Speaker. The impending demise of the federal NDP wasn't inevitable. We tried to warn them. Our government called on Jagmeet Singh to denounce Justin Trudeau and trigger an election much earlier, pointing out the obvious, that by integrating themselves so closely with Trudeau, Albertans and Canadians couldn't tell the difference between the Liberals and the NDP. But our advice fell on deaf ears, and because of that, the very existence of the NDP Party may soon be in question. The members' opposite are surely tearing themselves apart asking: are you Team Carney or Team Singh? The reality is that if the opposition had simply decided to be on Team Alberta, they wouldn't be in this position. [interjections]

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

1:40

### Premier's Leadership

**Ms Chapman:** Last week my kids and I cheered on Rachel Homan as she led Team Canada to a decisive win in the women's world curling championship. Next week it'll be Alberta's men's curling team who will represent as Team Canada at the world's. I know;

usually we talk about hockey in here, which is a shame because few sports are as quintessentially Canadian as curling. Alberta has produced some of the finest curlers in the world: Chelsea Carey, Kevin Koe, Cheryl Bernard, Kevin Martin, and Randy Ferbey, just to name a few.

Curling is a sport known for being polite and respectful. What could be more Canadian than a sport that values teamwork, community, and inclusivity? When you listen to curling chatter, you'll hear phrases like, "Would you ever go for the freeze here?" or "Ankle race? I don't mind that," but don't be fooled. Underneath that civility is a cold, calculating, confident strategy: knowing when to blank an end to get a fresh start, seeing all the angles so you can steal points when the other team has the advantage, or how to set a trap to force your opponents to take the risky shot.

It's clear that our Premier hasn't been keeping up with this Canadian competition. For one, she never knows when to blank the end. Instead of admitting she's wrong, she doubles down, fishing around for a narrative that makes her latest scandal palatable, and carries on even when it's clear that her approach is failing. And she's terrible at setting the trap. She's so busy blasting out her plans to any right-wing ideologue that will give her the time of day that even if she did have a strategy to address the current crisis, she'd have blathered it to the very people trying to tear us down before she had a chance to implement it.

The Premier could use a refresher on what it means to be on Team Canada. I hope that she'll join me and my kiddos at the curling club. It's a great community, and she can learn some valuable lessons over a pint.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Grande Prairie is next.

### Upper Smoky Subregional Plan

**Mr. Dyck:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Canada's economy is under attack and has been for the last decade by the Liberal government in Ottawa. Their reckless policies and anti-industry agenda are choking Alberta's energy and forestry sectors to be able to grow and flourish by putting their time-intensive and red tape burdens upon our industries that drive our province and this country forward. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Upper Smoky subregion. The federal government has continually tried to block responsible development, putting Alberta jobs at risk and increasing wildfire dangers. Ottawa refuses to acknowledge basic forest science. Trees grow old, trees die, and trees burn.

In Alberta we have made environmental stewardship a key priority, leading the way for decades. Our forestry industry follows a long-term plan, all of which must fit within an over 200-year forest management plan, not reckless ideological roadblocks from Ottawa. There are only three ways a forest renews: it's harvested and replanted responsibly, it dies from age or a disease, or it burns. We have the expertise to renew forests, protect jobs, and safeguard our communities, yet instead of allowing Alberta to take care of its own land, the Liberal-NDP coalition keeps throwing up roadblocks, making investment challenging, and leaving forests to become fire hazards.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta is leading the way with real action. The Upper Smoky subregional plan is a decisive step in striking the right balance to protect our environment while keeping people working. We don't need Ottawa's interference; we need Ottawa to get out of the way. It takes boldness to lead. It takes boldness to have courage. It takes boldness to face these incredible odds and make decisions that are the very best for Alberta. On our side of the House we have strong leadership from the ministries of environment and forestry,

that have made decisive decisions and actions in the Upper Smoky subregional plan, which is essential to reducing forest fires.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### Public Health Care

**Dr. Metz:** One of the things that Canadians take pride in is public health care. It's far from perfect, but one way to improve it is to give up on things that are shown not to work. Yesterday the Parkland Institute reported that between 2019 and 2024 public funding for for-profit surgical facilities in Alberta increased by 55 per cent and the per-procedure cost increased by 79 per cent. Meanwhile wait times across the system increased for 7 of 11 critical surgeries, including knee replacements, hip fracture repair, cardiac surgery, and all types of cancer surgery. At the same time provinces with little reliance on chartered surgical facilities all had shorter wait times.

Once a corporation has a monopoly, they jack up the price – we see that here – or, as happened with DynaLife, they go bankrupt, leaving the public system to bail them out for millions of dollars. Corporate health care only provides what is cheap and easy. The goal is profit. Complex care and care to rural and remote areas cost more, so they are the first to go. Also, we have a limited number of care providers. If health care workers are drawn to work in private health care, we don't have them for what we need the most, for the emergency surgery for your child or your parent. Taking an American-style approach to health care won't get the results Albertans deserve, but that's what this Premier is demonstrating every day, as we see in this corrupt care scandal. She puts ideology ahead of results.

We have to stop repeating the same mistakes. We need publicly funded, publicly delivered health care, the Canadian way.

### Support for Persons with Disabilities

**Member Kayande:** Mr. Speaker, earlier I introduced members of this House to Lee and Miriam Obst. Lee was a fighter pilot. He flew F-18s during the Cold War and kept Canadians safe from the Soviet threat. It meant a lot of risk for their family, time in far-flung places in Alberta and Canada, and postings to the then West Germany, where the Soviet hammer was expected to fall hardest. They risked their lives for us, but that's not why we're here today.

They're here for their niece. Lee and Miriam rely on the persons with developmental disabilities program, or PDD, to obtain supports to take care of their niece. She's family, they love each other, and she needs care. PDD is an essential mechanism that allows people like the Obsts' niece to receive care in a home setting outside of institutions with a portion of the cost supported by the good people of Alberta.

For developmentally disabled Albertans who receive care at home rather than in institutional settings the supports are life changing, Mr. Speaker, but the UCP makes these supports hard to access. Miriam and Lee met with Inclusion Alberta seven times over three months to discuss their appeal with PDD. Lee and Miriam don't know if they could have been successful in getting the resources their niece needs without their help. Inclusion Alberta's funding has also been cut, leaving it with fewer resources to assist others who are being denied vital resources. Lee and Miriam have a right to ask themselves what all their sacrifice was for if their family can be treated so callously by a government that seems to act against the most vulnerable and helpless members of their family. They fought the Soviet Union only to have Soviet-style callousness and inhumanity hit them here, just like it's hitting the veterans at the Colonel Belcher facility.

Everyone knows someone with a disability. Everyone with a disability is loved by someone. This isn't a story about one family's

struggle but a story about everyone in this province who is getting swept under the carpet, ignored, and uncared for while the UCP government manages to find hundreds of millions to fund corrupt care.

### Notices of Motions

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

**Mr. Schow:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to give oral notice of Bill 49, the Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, sponsored by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services.

### Oral Question Period

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

### Provincial Response to U.S. Tariffs

**Ms Gray:** Mr. Speaker, we're wearing red and white today for Canada. When we see the members opposite wearing red and white, it's usually their MAGA hats. We know that because we see former MPs and people close to the Premier launching a bid for Alberta to be annexed by the United States, and instead of shutting down this dangerous idea, the Premier encourages it. In the Medicine Hat newspaper the Premier invited a citizen-led referendum on Alberta separating from Canada. At a time when Trump tariffs attack our jobs, economy, and way of life, why is the Premier encouraging those who want Alberta to separate from Canada?

1:50

**Mr. Schow:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the Premier has done anything of the sort. What I can tell you the Premier has been doing is lobbying our neighbours to the south, legislators at the state and federal level, including secretaries, to make sure they understand the important relationship that Alberta has with the United States of America. It's one thing to wear red, but don't talk about it; be about it. Be on Team Canada. Be on Team Alberta.

**Ms Gray:** Mr. Speaker, whether it's chemtrail conspiracies or Alberta separatism, this Premier embraces every outlandish idea put before her, and when she encourages those folks, the Premier appears to support separatism. In her UCP leadership election the Premier embraced western separatism put forward by none other than her current chief of staff. Why is the Premier so unwilling to stand up for our great country, whole, undivided, and united against American attacks? Why would the Premier threaten a national unity crisis in the midst of a trade war?

**Mr. Schow:** Well, Mr. Speaker, as the hon. Minister of Health likes to say, nothing could be further from the truth. Actions speak far louder than words, and as we speak, the Premier is making a case for Alberta with our neighbours down to the south. What I can assure you is that the Premier cares very deeply about national unity. If the members want to dig deep in the repertoire of things done in the past, let's talk about Tzaporah Berman, somebody that they appointed to bring in here and consult on our energy sector. Mr. Speaker, they compared us to Mordor.

**The Speaker:** I might just remind the Government House Leader that he wouldn't want to refer to the presence or the absence of a member for any purpose.

**Ms Gray:** Trump tariffs are in place now, and Donald Trump is threatening more to come. While Canadians are rallying behind the flag, seizing this moment to invest more in our country, to diversify our export markets, and to protect Canadian jobs, the Premier yet again flies to America and shares bread and a stage with those threatening our country. The Premier has no mandate to separate from Canada. Albertans are sick of her dalliance with extremists and those who are actively causing harm to our great nation. Why won't the Premier loudly denounce those outlandish calls to break apart our country?

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, what the Premier has done is loudly denounce tariffs. It's the exact reason why she continues to travel across the U.S. border to meet with secretaries, state and provincial legislators. The members talk about going to receptions. I've seen them at many receptions. This business is about formal and informal engagements. They know that very well, and they know that when you go to these receptions, it's a time to talk about the important things that are facing stakeholders. All Albertans are stakeholders, and we're here to defend them.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud has a question to ask.

#### Premier's Travel to the United States

**Ms Pancholi:** Yesterday the Premier stood in this House and actually asked Albertans to feel sorry for her because she has "lost track of how many nights I've spent in uncomfortable hotel beds." Albertans aren't shedding a tear for a Premier who has been staying in fancy hotel rooms and attending cocktail parties and fundraisers in the U.S. for her American friends who want to annex our country, especially since she has nothing to show for all of these trips. I'm wondering. Is the Premier losing any sleep over the UCP's betrayal of Canada, or is it only cheap hotel beds in Florida that make her lose sleep?

**Mr. Schow:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that the Premier cares deeply about this province and that the threat of tariffs, the threat of harm to our province is what would keep our Premier up at night. It's what keeps her working 24 hours a day to make sure that we have our best interests represented across the line.

I don't understand what the members opposite actually want. If the Premier doesn't go across the line to lobby on behalf of Alberta, they'll say she's doing nothing. If she goes over there, they're saying she's not defending Alberta. Mr. Speaker, if the Premier walked on water, they'd say that she couldn't swim.

**Ms Pancholi:** Mr. Speaker, what we want is a Premier who is on Team Canada.

In the midst of a trade war the Premier has lost a cabinet minister, fired a caucus member, is in the middle of the worst corruption scandal in the province's history, and is passing a budget that doesn't support rural Alberta or prepare their communities for the impacts of tariffs on their farms or their businesses. While government MLAs will be driving home tonight on snowy highways to spend a week with angry and scared constituents, the Premier will be eating at a \$1,500-per-plate dinner in sunny Florida. Wait, does the Premier actually know it's snowing in Alberta today, or is she too busy applying sunscreen and looking for her flip-flops? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud might be cautious about referring to the presence or the absence of a member, as is the Government House Leader.

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, I completely reject the premise of the question, and there wasn't anything in there specifically about government business.

But I'm glad the members opposite decided to bring up agriculture and defending our agriculture producers in this province. It's not that long ago that they attacked the family farm in Alberta, Mr. Speaker, the bedrock – the bedrock – of our province's economy. The members opposite wanted to unionize the family farm. They had tractors out front of the Legislature because of their ridiculous ideas. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Ms Pancholi:** You can smell the desperation like a cheap cologne.

This week WestJet announced it is cancelling routes out of Calgary and Edmonton to the U.S. because Albertans are showing their patriotism by choosing to travel or vacation elsewhere. Well, most Albertans, because there's one Albertan who loves travelling to the U.S., especially on the taxpayer dime. The Premier can't produce any notes or dates of her so-called meetings with U.S. decision-makers, probably because, even as she admitted, they weren't meetings; they were of a social nature, which would explain why she has nothing to show for them, certainly nothing for Alberta. My question is for the government MLAs. How does it feel to know their constituents are patriotic enough to cancel their vacations but not their leader?

**Mr. Stephan:** Out of order.

**The Speaker:** Order. A point of order is noted at 1:57.

**Mr. Schow:** Nobody knows desperation like the members opposite. I suspect they're seeing the same provincial polling numbers that we're seeing.

Mr. Speaker, what I can tell you is that I will help the members opposite understand a little bit about how the United States works. You cannot meet with an incoming Secretary of State in the official capacity as Secretary of State or secretary of anything without them being officially confirmed. Thus, some of those meetings were technically unofficial, but building relationships is important. I can tell you that they know her name; they know the Premier's name. They certainly don't know anyone across the aisle. [interjections]

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

The hon. Member for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall.

**Mr. Sabir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On his show Ben Shapiro stated that, and I quote, Islamic civilization is inferior to the west. End quote. The Premier is using taxpayer money to fund raise with the same Ben Shapiro for PragerU, an organization with a well-documented history of propagating hate and extremism. They even tried to get their hateful and Islamophobic videos into schools in front of young students. Why does the Premier and the UCP government find themselves so comfortable around people with such hateful and extreme views such as Ben Shapiro?

**Mr. Schow:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier has made it very clear that she will meet with anybody to make sure that we're continually selling Alberta's vision for the prosperous trade relationship with our neighbours to the south. What I can say is that the member opposite has no idea what he's talking about when it comes to building relationships. On this side of the House the Premier will continue to meet with elected officials at the state and federal level, including secretaries, to make sure they know how important our trade relationship is with the United States.



**Mr. Sabir:** Ben Shapiro openly supports President Trump's ban on immigrants and has stated this as well, that banning all Muslim immigration also doesn't answer: what do you do with the 3 million Muslims who are already here? End quote. Alberta is home to more than 200,000 Albertan Muslims, and many more are coming every year. Will the Premier state for the record that her government opposes such exclusionary policies and will never support any such policy for the province of Alberta?

2:00

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

**Mr. Schow:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if this microphone is on, if the members opposite can hear me, but I've said it many times, and I'll say it again. This government and, I hope, all members of this Chamber, I suspect, completely and unequivocally condone racism or discrimination of any . . . [interjections]

**An Hon. Member:** Condemn.

**Mr. Schow:** Condemn. Condemn, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I retract that. Of course, the members opposite would love to find humour in mistakes. We condemn – absolutely condemn – racism or discrimination. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order.

**Mr. Sabir:** The Premier and this government have stated that the fundraiser in Florida today will help end this trade war and tariffs, but Mr. Shapiro has accomplished nothing of that sort ever. There are tariffs just threatened today. In fact, the Premier is using taxpayer money to fund raise for an extremist and Islamophobic organization, which will only help perpetuate hate and extremism in our communities. Will the Premier state for the record, as a matter of government policy, that this government stands against Islamophobia and condemns, not condones, PragerU and its hateful views?

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, we condemn extremism. We will take no lessons from the members opposite about building relationships. The Premier continues to meet with legislators across the line to build those relationships. The only people the members opposite can call are probably Tzepporah Berman, Rachel Notley, or Justin Trudeau, all failed politicians. Now, this may be very difficult for the members to take. This is like a firehose of facts hitting them fast, but I recommend the members drip-dry and waddle their way back to reality.

**Member Irwin:** Tonight the Premier will fund raise using Alberta taxpayer dollars for an extremist organization called PragerU. This group posted a video saying, quote, Islam is not a religion of peace. Another video blames immigrant Muslim men from the Middle East, South Asia, and various parts of Africa for committing, quote, crimes against girls and women, groping, harassment, assaults, and rape. Despicable. Tonight is the holiest evening for Muslims, Laylat al-Qadr. Why is the Premier using taxpayer dollars to fund raise for this hateful organization?

**Mr. Schow:** Like I've said many times, Mr. Speaker, our government and all members of this Chamber, I would suspect, condemn any form of extremism. The Premier continues to travel on behalf of the province and all Albertans to make the case that our trade relationship with the United States should remain tariff-free. I don't know why this is so difficult for the members opposite to understand. I know there are a lot of things that they don't

understand. I'm happy to sit down when I have more than 35 seconds to explain it to them.

**Member Irwin:** The Premier isn't going on the Ben Shapiro podcast; she's using taxpayer dollars to fund raise for PragerU. PragerU hosts videos calling the me-too movement, quote, a mechanism for witch hunts. They say women will have, quote, unfettered permission to say something happened, and you're going to believe them. Well, for the record, yes, on this side of the House, when women report sexual assault, we believe them. Why is the Premier fundraising for this hateful organization?

**Mr. Schow:** Again, Mr. Speaker, the Premier is across the United States border to plead the case for Alberta and the importance of our trade relationships. But if you want to talk about relationships and the things that people have said in the past, I would love to know why members on that side of the Assembly continue to defend things like calling Albertans the embarrassing cousins of Confederation or calling Albertans sewer rats. Those are direct quotes from the members opposite. I can tell you right now that Albertans down in my constituency don't appreciate that kind of language, but they do appreciate the work the Premier is doing.

**Member Irwin:** Let's remember that that fundraiser for PragerU was with Ben Shapiro, the same person who called for Canada to be annexed, and now the Premier claims he's turned over a new leaf. Well, it sure ain't a maple leaf. The Premier claims that Shapiro is now onside and pushing a pro-Canada message to his audience, but if that's the case, why isn't the Premier's strategy working? Why are there new tariffs on Canadian goods, with more to come next week? Please explain.

**Mr. Schow:** Well, again, Mr. Speaker, I don't think I have enough time in 35 seconds to explain to the members opposite how tariffs work or how Confederation works and how we need help from the federal government, who is completely absent, who has called an election in the middle of a potential tariff war. I think that they've been asleep at the wheel over there or, rather – sorry – asleep in the back seat. Heaven forbid they ever get the wheel again. They have been asleep this entire time, not understanding that we need to work with our federal government and with the United States, but without one, our Premier has to take that leadership and fill that vacuum.

### Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention

**Member Batten:** When it comes to the United States, health care professionals, especially women, immigrants, gender-diverse workers are fleeing their country because of Trump's policies and dangerous rhetoric. Alberta should be a safe place to live, but instead, the Premier is aligning herself with far-right extremists like Ben Shapiro by fundraising for PragerU. Does this UCP government realize that they are undermining Alberta's ability to recruit top talent by connecting our province to the same rhetoric that is driving these professionals away?

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, just because the Premier is meeting with Ben Shapiro doesn't mean she aligns with everything that that person says. That's like saying they're all totally antienergy because they hired Tzepporah Berman. Now, I do believe they are. But what I can say is that while the Premier continues to meet with influencers in the United States with millions and millions of followers on social media who listen and put pressure on their local and federal representatives, what else do they want us to do?

**Member Batten:** Given that across the U.S. Donald Trump's administration is cancelling green cards without notice, sparking fear of detention and deportation, especially among immigrant health care professionals, given that paramedics, nurses, pharmacists, and doctors are now looking for a welcoming, stable place to call home but given that if they see the Alberta Premier aligning herself with Trump's policies, far-right commentators and having Alberta ministers wearing MAGA hats, these professionals will not come, why is this government sending a message that Alberta is closed to the very health care professionals we need?

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

**Mr. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, if the members opposite would focus on Alberta, they would realize that Alberta is attracting more professionals than ever before; 200,000 people relocated to Alberta. This is despite four years when the NDP told people to go work elsewhere. They told businesses: we don't want you; we're going to raise your taxes; we're going to make it harder to do business; we're going to see tens of billions of dollars go to the United States. That's after four years of them. But we've turned it around. People are coming here, including professionals, because we're the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

**Member Batten:** Given that the UCP government has been in power for six years, given that it's not just the Premier's dangerous rhetoric and far-right alliances that are hurting Alberta's ability to recruit health care workers, it's also this government's disastrous management of the health care system and given that we've just learned the Minister of Health was demanding the former CEO of AHS fire 1,900 AHS staff and slash nearly a billion dollars of funding – these reckless cuts do not send a message of stability; they tell foreign-trained professionals to look elsewhere – how does this minister expect to attract talent when she's making Alberta's health care system a place where nobody wants to work?

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

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, nothing could be further from the truth, because we are in fact attracting more health care workers. We have more doctors coming to the province than ever before. We have over 12,200 doctors. When the members opposite were in power, they were in fact driving people away, and, in fact, we were losing health care professionals. We are attracting more nurses. We are attracting health care aides. We are attracting more medical graduates. We are on fire, and we're going to keep making sure that we have . . . [interjections]

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

The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville has a question.

#### CFEP Grants in Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville

**Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things I love about rural and small-town Alberta is the sense of community you share with those around you, even if your neighbours live miles away. The scattered nature of rural and agricultural community populations makes the curling and hockey rinks, community centres, church and club halls more important for maintaining a sense of community and togetherness. To the Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women: how is our government supporting vital community facilities in Alberta's small towns through Budget 2025?

**Ms Fir:** Well, Mr. Speaker, thank you to the member for this important question and for continuing to be a fearless advocate for your community. Alberta's rural communities are vital to our province's identity and success, and we are committed to supporting their growth and prosperity. Since 2023 under our leadership the community facility enhancement program has supported over 644 community projects, with about one-third of annual projects being funded in rural communities. In Budget 2025, if passed, we maintain our record-level funding of \$50 million for our CFEP program to continue supporting nonprofit organizations to build, upgrade, and sustain hundreds more community and cultural gathering spaces in every corner of the province.

2:10

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

**Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Centennial Arena in the town of Two Hills was originally built in 1967 and given that this facility serves an important purpose by hosting hockey games, 4-H shows, the Agri Day and Trade Show, and the run to the hills rally and given that earlier this year I presented a nearly one million dollar cheque to the Two Hills agriculture society for upgrades to this facility, to the same minister: what upgrades will this significant investment enable, and why is it so important for community life in Two Hills and the surrounding area?

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

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Two Hills agricultural society aims to bring community neighbours together, create childhood memories, and improve the quality of life for the residents of Two Hills and the surrounding area. Our government is supporting this mission with significant investments that fund important and much-needed upgrades to the Two Hills Centennial Arena, including installing solar panels, constructing electric vehicle charging stations, and replacing the ice plant system for their ice rink. These improvements will make the facility more sustainable, reduce overhead costs, improve operational efficiency, and keep the facility accessible for all Albertans for generations to come.

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

**Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that I also represent many other smaller municipalities like Minburn, Mundare, Mannville, Lamont, Myrnam, Lavoy, Josephburg, Andrew, Bruderheim, Chipman, Innisfree, and others and given that those same municipalities and the areas that depend on them often need to rely on aged facilities that need repair and upgrades, again to the same minister: what other investments has our government made recently to support the valued community organizations of the municipalities in the constituency of Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville?

**Ms Fir:** Mr. Speaker, our CFEP grants support the unique needs of rural areas to help sustain the demand on their community gathering spaces by facilitating repairs, facility upgrades, equipment purchases, expansion projects, and more. Additional investments made by our government in the member's constituency include over \$45,000 for the Mundare Recreation Centre, benefiting over a thousand individuals; over \$40,000 for the Lavoy Community Hall, benefiting over a thousand individuals as well; over \$32,000 for the Lamont Fish and Game Association, benefiting over 5,000 individuals; over \$3,500 for the Two Hills Seniors Citizens Centre, benefiting over 1,500 individuals, just to name a few.

## Provincial Response to U.S. Tariffs

(continued)

**Member Tejada:** Our economy is under threat, and extreme alt-right ideologues in the U.S. are musing about annexing Canada. Albertans demand that our government stand up for us, not Trump, but our Premier has asked the Trump administration to pause the tariffs not because the tariffs are bad for our economy but to interfere with our elections. She's excited to head to Florida to hang out with Ben Shapiro, the very extremist who thinks Canada should become the 51st state. Why won't the Premier get on Team Alberta? Because right now it looks like she's on Team Trump.

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to hit the members opposite with some more of that firehose of facts. Fact: do nothing is not a strategy. Fact: relationships make a difference. Fact: the NDP have done and continue to fail in their advocacy for the province of Alberta. I want to know. If they won't call anyone across the line in the United States and make the case for Alberta, will they at least call their boss Justin Trudeau or, rather, Jagmeet Singh and Mark Carney and Justin Trudeau, who's probably now vacationing somewhere in Tofino? Would they call him and at least ask them to stand up for Alberta? We're doing our part. They should do theirs.

**Member Tejada:** Given that the Premier has never missed an opportunity to build relationships with the extreme alt-right and given that the Premier's selfie tours, party primping, and other embarrassing attempts to ingratiate herself to the wrong people have done zero to avoid tariffs and given that at a time of unprecedented economic uncertainty we need our leaders sitting with decision-makers, not influencers from Telegram, will the Premier commit to collaboration with Team Canada instead of wasting public money fundraising for the extreme alt-right in Florida?

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, wearing a Canada shirt or wearing a Canada tie or putting on a red shirt doesn't mean that you're on Team Canada. Actions speak much louder than words, and I can tell you that on this side of the House, every single one of the ministers on the front bench and the private members all advocate with the stakeholders. We advocate with those across the United States border to make sure they understand the importance of our relationship with the United States. The members opposite have refused to do that. Instead, they just throw stones across the aisle. Do nothing is not a strategy.

**Member Tejada:** Given that the Premier has repeatedly refused to work with other provinces and build relationships with them, skipped the in-person first ministers' meeting, and wasn't even invited to the Canada-U.S. summit and given that the Premier delivers ultimatums under the threat of a national unity crisis to the new Prime Minister instead of finding ways to help Albertans and given that the UCP has long pandered to separatists while deriding Team Canada and has now gone so far as to tell other countries how to interfere in our elections, will the Premier admit that the national unity crisis she speaks of comes from within her government and nowhere else?

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, again I repeat that the key part of the Premier's U.S. advocacy is advancing Alberta and Canada's message with the American people. Mr. Shapiro has millions of followers on social media and strong connections within the Republican Party. Why would we not have a conversation with Ben Shapiro when he has those millions of followers that can help us advocate with the President, state and federal legislators on behalf

of the government of Alberta? The members opposite know nothing about relationships. They broke every relationship they had, whether it was the oil and gas sector when they were in government or the . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Banff-Kananaskis.

## Premier's Travel to the United States

(continued)

**Dr. Elmeligi:** Mr. Speaker, this week the Premier read from a long list of influencers she's met with in the States. It doesn't matter if they're racist or Islamophobic or want to annex Canada. It's okay because they're influencers. But influencers are not decision-makers or politicians; they're big egos, talking heads, and pretty faces, and a chat with one does not change government policy. Where is the Premier getting her negotiating tips? TikTok? What are Albertans getting for the endless stream of yearbook selfies with influencers?

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, the members opposite know all about TikTok. It's the only way that they can actually get their message out because their leader is out somewhere in the building, shooting those kinds of TikTok videos that – I hate to break it to them – nobody's watching. But we did talk. The member opposite just mentioned a list of people the Premier has met, and I will go through some of those people. U.S. governors: Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Montana Governor Greg Gianforte . . . [interjections]

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

**Mr. Schow:** . . . Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo, North Dakota Governor Kelly Armstrong, Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon, Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry, Utah Governor Spencer Cox.

**Dr. Elmeligi:** Well, given the Premier has said that she's met with some decision-makers – I'll grant you that – even though we know through estimates debate that these were run-ins at a cocktail party and given when these interactions do happen, the lack of results speak for themselves, given that after meeting the governor, the Governor of Montana told Trump that the route to Canada as the 51st state is through Alberta and that Alberta will be the first to crumble – excuse me? – why would the Premier ever think what she's doing is working? Why has she failed to protect Canada's sovereignty?

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, like I said, do nothing is not a strategy unless you're the NDP because they have nothing. You want to talk about results? Let's talk about the election results just recently in 2023. That's why the members are opposite. Albertans know that they have no plan. But I'll continue along this list of people that the Premier has met with, and that goes along with Colorado Governor Jared Polis, Hawaii Governor Josh Green, New Mexico Governor Michelle Grisham.

Now, of course, let's talk about industry stakeholders as well at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, including president of the Global Energy Institute, Martin Durbin; Chet Thompson, CEO of . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Banff-Kananaskis.

**Dr. Elmeligi:** Well, given that I wonder, Mr. Speaker, how many of those governors are also telling President Trump that Alberta will be the first to fall – this is very scary for me, and I am not the only one – given tariffs are still coming, Albertans are nervous and scared, and rather than comfort or assure them, we have chaos,

corruption, and cuts, given we have yet to see the Premier announce any programs or supports for Alberta ranchers, small businesses, or anyone who is about to be dramatically affected by these tariffs, when will the Premier show up for Albertans like she's showing up for American influencers and Team Trump?

2:20

**Mr. Schow:** I find the three Cs of the NDP funny, but how about this: debt, deficit, and dumb decisions. That's what characterizes the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. In the four years that they were in government, they racked up tens of billions of dollars of debt, saddling that on the backs of Albertans in the future.

Mr. Speaker, what I can tell you is that on this side of the House, we believe in a strong economy and a tariff-free relationship with the United States of America. That's why the Premier has met with multiple U.S. federal stakeholders, including Congressman Bruce Westerman, Congressman Scott Peters, Congressman Adrian Smith, Michael Waltz, national security adviser for the United States. [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

### Provincial Response to U.S. Tariffs (continued)

**Member Calahoo Stonehouse:** Well, Alberta's Premier has her tin foil hat on again.

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

**Member Calahoo Stonehouse:** The Premier says, "maybe those are chemtrails," the Premier says, "maybe Alberta should separate," the Premier says, "maybe I should go talk conspiracies in Florida," and the Premier most recently was caught asking foreign countries to interfere in our federal election. The rest of Canada wants to go elbows up, and she's got her head you know where, headed to Florida. When will our Premier stay home and start working for Albertans?

**The Speaker:** I hesitate to interrupt, but I have said it on two occasions, about referring to the presence or absence of a member. I encourage members of the Assembly to follow the rules of it.

**Mr. Jones:** Mr. Speaker, when Naheed Nenshi was appointed as leader of the NDP, he must have thought he'd been called worse by better people, and his own members don't feel any better about him. They wouldn't step aside to allow him to run in Calgary. He was too afraid to run in Lethbridge . . . [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order. Order. Order. We've heard you many occasions.

**Mr. Jones:** . . . and now we know why. The polling is disastrous. I almost want to step down just so he has somewhere to run and lose right now. [interjections]

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

**Member Calahoo Stonehouse:** Given that I have constituents asking me if the Premier cares more about Republicans than she does about Albertans, which is hard to deny when she signed up for a swimming time with Ben Shapiro in Florida and given that the Premier is confused and thinks that meeting with extreme far-right conspiracy theorists and asking for foreign election interference is synonymous with standing up for Albertans, which it is not, I ask my colleagues: do they really believe that far-right fundraising in Florida is what Albertans want from their Premier?

**The Speaker:** I'm not sure if the hon. member is aware that the point of question period isn't to ask members what they believe or don't believe; it's to ask them about what is government policy. I've heard very few questions today about government policy, and I think I've been more than lenient.

**Mr. Schow:** Well, Mr. Speaker, first, I want to address the first question that the member asked, which was full of inaccuracies and, frankly, just outright disrespectful. I want to ask that member: did your constituents elect you to come into this Chamber and speak to your colleagues like that to represent them?

**Mr. Sabir:** Point of order.

**Mr. Schow:** I thought that was so disrespectful, to say: the Premier has her head you know where. Completely disgusting. Absolutely disgusting.

What I can tell you is that what Albertans want is a Premier that respects the Alberta population, not one that says that Albertans driving an F-350 are cavemen, Mr. Speaker. Let me tell you, those F-350 drivers are moving cattle; they're moving horses down in my constituency. They deserve respect, too.

**The Speaker:** A point of order is noted at 2:22.

Perhaps all members might like to take a big, deep breath and focus on the future of the province.

**Member Calahoo Stonehouse:** Mr. Speaker, given that the UCP's job should be recognizing the sovereignty of Indigenous peoples alongside protecting Canadian sovereignty, given that far-right extremists like Ben Shapiro want to annex Canada, making it an outlying U.S. territory, and given that such an act would violate the rights of all Indigenous peoples in Canada, this is harmful rhetoric being spewed by the far-right extremists and the Premier's willingness to ignore the rights of Indigenous peoples is offensive, will the minister denounce this harmful rhetoric?

**Mr. Wilson:** Mr. Speaker, I meet with Indigenous groups daily, and we are very concerned about their sovereignty, and we talk about it a lot. This government supports and respects our Indigenous people so much, and the Premier especially. She's asked me to make sure that we work on everything from Jordan's principle – it's right in my mandate letter, on Jordan's principle – that we make sure everyone is looked after. No one is left behind.

### Indigenous Relations

**Member Arcand-Paul:** Mr. Speaker, there is nary a person across the aisle that speaks with the First Nations as sovereign nations in the country of Canada. A Team Canada approach must recognize the sovereign First Nations that entered into treaty on these territories and who are original partners in Confederation. That side of the House forgets about the rights of Indigenous peoples when it comes to the threats of us becoming the 51st state. Does the Minister of Indigenous Relations understand that treaty supersedes all laws on these territories, and will he commit to the First Nations today that we will never be the 51st state? [interjections]

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

The Minister of Indigenous Relations.

**Mr. Wilson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I meet regularly with First Nation people. Just yesterday we met with the grand chief of Treaty 8, an amazing man. We're working so close with him, and he's wanting to work with this government. We have protocol tables with many of the First Nations, and now we're working on

an accord table with Treaty 8. Never been done. Never done on that side, for sure. We make sure that all of our First Nation people get a chance to work with all of our ministers one on one and with the Premier. That's the relationship that we've developed by working hard to make sure that we understand each other.

**Member Arcand-Paul:** Given that First Nations like the Sturgeon Lake Cree nation and the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, which you have a relationship agreement with, Minister, and the nations of Maskwacis wrote this government that they are violating the articles of treaty and given that the threat of annexation flies in the face of sovereignty for those First Nations, will the minister commit today to the nations that he will make sure Alberta will not become the 51st state? I haven't heard you say that. Will you commit to being on Team Canada right now by promising to hold treaty promises? Yes or no, Minister.

**Mr. Wilson:** As I've said, Mr. Speaker, we work very closely with our First Nation people. Just this morning we met with our Métis brothers and sisters. The Métis settlements: we're working so close with them. We're developing a relationship with them. We're developing protocol tables with them as well because we want to make sure that they have a voice. We make sure that every minister works with them, the Premier works with them to make sure that our Indigenous brothers and sisters are part of our government.

**Member Arcand-Paul:** Given we have a crisis facing our women, girls, and two-spirit-plus people but given that instead of solving this crisis, the Premier will travel back to Florida to soak up the rays and meet with an anti-Muslim, anti-queer, antiwoman racist and given that if any of my aunties ever heard what Ben Shapiro has said come out of my mouth, they would have given me a good lesson in respect . . .

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

**Member Arcand-Paul:** . . . will the minister commit to disowning the Premier's actions, or will he continue to ignore the crisis facing our women, girls, and two-spirit-plus people with these actions?

**Mr. Wilson:** Mr. Speaker, we work so closely with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We've developed the Premier's council to work with missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. They work directly with the Premier. We've developed a pathway forward to make sure that that voice is not mistaken. We've just worked with a group to develop an app so that you can go online and see how many women and children have gone missing, and the numbers are terrifying. That's why many of the ministers here are working on this problem, to make sure that that voice doesn't go unheard. You'll always see me wearing my red dress, and that's just to bring awareness. People come and they ask me, "What's this all about?" and it gives me the opportunity to explain to them what that's all about.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, a point of order is noted at 2:28.

## 2:30 Alberta in Canada

**Mr. Stephan:** Mr. Speaker, Canada could be the most prosperous nation on Earth, but many are watching their standard of living getting destroyed, feeling helpless to do anything to stop it. For a long time Canada has been broken, and we cannot trust these politicians to fix what they broke. To the minister: how is Canada undermining Alberta on GDP per capita, foreign investment, and taxes?

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

**Mr. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question. Alberta is doing better than any other province when it comes to measures such as GDP per capita, investment attraction, tax competitiveness, and most other economic indicators. We have a corporate tax rate lower than that of 44 U.S. states, and we consistently rank in the top echelon of provinces and states when it comes to productivity. But, as I've said many times, unfortunately, that merely makes us the fastest skater on a slow team. The very best thing for a strong Canada economically is a strong Alberta.

**Mr. Stephan:** Given that Canada is currently suffering under economic warfare yet, Mr. Speaker, given that Alberta has already suffered economic warfare under Trudeau-Singh for many years, given that Team Canada did nothing or enabled or supported this warfare on Alberta, given that some on Team Canada are now calling for export taxes for Alberta, using us as their sacrificial lamb, to the minister: why should Albertans trust some on Team Canada? [interjections]

**The Speaker:** Order.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is the economic engine of Canada. We are better as part of a united Canada, but we need the rest of Canada to support us in getting our resources to new markets. I was heartened in a recent PT, provincial-territorial, meeting with other Finance ministers to have unanimous consent from coast to coast to coast on abolishing Bill C-69, the no-more-pipelines act that the NDP-Liberal coalition brought in.

**Mr. Stephan:** Given that Albertans voted in a referendum to get rid of equalization and given that the Premier of Quebec said that one of his favourite things about Canada is equalization and given that Albertans were ignored and given that the Quebec Bloc calls Alberta's oil dirty, seeking to block pipelines, and given that Alberta is again being attacked in this election, to the minister: if we do not have Albertans' backs, who will?

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

**Mr. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question. We have Albertans' backs. We make sure they pay \$20 billion less in taxes than any other province. We're bringing in more investment than any other province. We have the highest wages, the fastest growing economy, the best and most innovative energy and agriculture sectors anywhere in the world. It's time that the rest of Canada sees that and supports us. The very best thing for a strong Canada economically is a strong Alberta.

## Premier's Travel to the United States (continued)

**Ms Sigurdson:** Since I celebrated Canada's centennial in 1967, I've had a strong love for my country from an early age, when I was six years old. Canadians across this country are feeling that same love now due to the attacks from the President of the United States. How can the Premier abandon fellow Canadians by attending a fundraiser for an extreme alt-right U.S. podcaster and generally go rogue rather than being on Team Canada with the other Premiers?

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, the Premier has been very clear. We are on Team Canada; we're just asking that Team Canada be on Team Alberta. When Prime Minister Carney was here not that long ago,

the Premier made a very clear pitch of what we expect going forward, and that is guaranteeing Alberta full access to unfettered oil and gas corridors to the north, east, and west; repealing Bill C-69; and lifting the tanker ban off the coast of B.C. This is real leadership. The Premier is standing up for Alberta's best interests. Why won't the members opposite do the same?

**Ms Sigurdson:** Given that the last time the Premier sat down with an extreme far-right media outlet, Breitbart, she called on the Trump administration to interfere in Canada's federal election, asking for a pause in tariffs so Pierre Poilievre could catch up in the polls, a pause just so Trump could hit us harder later, and given that Albertans deserve a Premier who advocates for us, not Trump, will the Premier stop aligning Alberta with extreme far-right hate groups and cancel her fundraiser?

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, I don't think the Premier or I or any other member of this caucus could be more clear. We believe in a tariff-free relationship with the United States. That is also why we have made a pitch, an appeal, to Prime Minister Mark Carney that we have expectations, including eliminating the oil and gas emissions cap, which is effectively a production cap, scrapping the so-called clean energy regulations, ending the prohibition on single-use plastics, and abandoning the net-zero car mandate. These are all not in Alberta's best interests. It's why she's bringing that to the Prime Minister's attention.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Given that this is not a public event; it's a \$1,500-a-plate fundraiser for an extreme far-right propaganda outlet and given that the last time the Premier sat down with one of these groups, she lobbied for foreign interference into our democracy and, given that record, Albertans can't trust what she's saying behind closed doors, will the Premier commit to making all remarks made at this private fundraiser public so Albertans can be certain she won't further betray Canada?

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, I would start with a point of order.

The second thing is that the only people that are betraying Canada are the members opposite, who refuse to stand up for Alberta. A strong Alberta is good for Canada. A strong Saskatchewan is good for Canada. A strong Nova Scotia is good for Canada. That's why we're on Team Canada. We're asking Canada to be on Team Alberta, which would include returning oversight of the industrial carbon taxes to the provinces and halting the federal censorship on energy companies, Mr. Speaker. Why won't the members opposite get outside?

### Provincial Response to U.S. Tariffs (continued)

**Ms Wright:** Mr. Speaker, workers in Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview are worried, and so they should be. This Premier's so-called diplomatic strategy isn't about protecting workers; it's making them more vulnerable. I've seen my share of bullies, and one thing is clear: appeasement doesn't work. That just invites more attacks. Albertans look to government to lead when times are tough, but this government is embroiled in corrupt care, shady deals, and dodgy friendships. Cozying up to America's far right isn't standing up for Alberta. It's incompetence, and it's selling us out. When will this government stop pandering to extremists and start fighting for Alberta's workers?

**Mr. Jones:** Mr. Speaker, we fight for workers every day, and we're doing that with Team Canada. We're working to address internal barriers to trade, and we're also trying to improve labour mobility across the country. We're working on a mutual recognition pilot to

make trucking easier across Canada. That, of course, will support workers and jobs. We're working to finalize the financial services chapter of the Canadian free trade agreement. Again, that will support economic activity and workers. And we continue to have the most business-friendly, job-friendly environment – low tax, low regulation, highest earnings in Alberta – thanks to this government.

**Ms Wright:** Given that more than a third of Alberta workers say that they are afraid they'll lose their jobs because of tariffs, given that other provinces have already stepped up to support and protect workers – more retraining programs, helping businesses find new markets, accelerating priority projects so jobs are safe – given some provinces also created trade councils that include representation from Indigenous leaders, labour, industry, councils that focus on defending workers and their jobs, Mr. Speaker, why can't the same be said about this UCP government? Where's Alberta's task force? Where's Alberta's plan? Where are the voices of Albertan workers?

**Mr. Jones:** Since the beginning of this situation Alberta has been meeting with industry and stakeholders of all groups. We have the Alberta trade advisory council, that has met multiple times. This has representation from all of the major industries: manufacturing, agriculture, energy, all the chambers of commerce. We're just adding Calgary Economic Development, Edmonton Global, and other related organizations, and we are taking their advice on U.S. tariffs and their impacts on the proposed countertariffs and how we can best target those and how we can work together and make Canada freer trading internally and removing those barriers, again, to internal trade and labour mobility.

**Ms Wright:** Given that I didn't hear anything about labour and Indigenous leaders, given that workers show up and work hard to support their families but are being left to fend for themselves by a government more concerned with pictures and parties with influencers, given that the company you keep is a choice, given the Premier's actions undermine Team Canada's strategy and do nothing to help Albertans, given that these public embarrassments on the world stage are in fact isolating Alberta from both domestic and international partners, when will the Premier and this government finally put workers first and abandon this reckless alliance with Team Trump?

2:40

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

**Mr. Wilson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has been working very hard to make sure that our Indigenous folks are getting the same opportunities everyone else is. That's why we developed what we call the Aboriginal business investment fund. With just that one program alone, since I've been a minister, we've created over a thousand full-time jobs for Indigenous people across Alberta. When I go into communities now, I see the difference. I see the pride in people's faces. I know at one community I worked with, when I first started, they had two employees. Now they've got 150 full-time employees, and it's just amazing what's happening.

### Provincial Response to Chinese Tariffs

**Mr. Hunter:** Mr. Speaker, on March 8 China announced tariffs on many Alberta products in retaliation to the Liberal government's imposed levies on Chinese electric vehicles, steel, and aluminum products. Alberta products that China has imposed tariffs on include: canola oil, peas, and pork. This escalation in trade tensions has already significantly impacted bilateral trade and will continue to do so while these tariffs remain in place. To the Minister of Jobs,

Economy and Trade: how have the ongoing Chinese tariffs on Alberta and Canada influenced trade relations?

**Mr. Jones:** Mr. Speaker, Alberta's economy is built on strong trade relationships with our trading partners, and these tariffs have consequences on key industries both in Alberta and abroad. China's 100 per cent tariffs on canola oil, meal, and peas along with 25 per cent on pork, fish, and seafood will directly impact our producers. Last year alone Alberta exported over \$400 million in canola oil and over \$138 million in dried peas to China. The uncertainty these tariffs create for business disrupts supply chains and reduces market confidence, but we're committed to working with federal and international partners to protect our economy, diversify trade, and maintain global market access.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Taber-Warner.

**Mr. Hunter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. Given the rising tensions and trade barriers not only between the Liberals and China but also the U.S. and given that the president and CEO of the Canola Council of Canada has said that these tariffs are going to have a widespread and negative impact across the Canadian canola industry, to the same minister: how will these tariffs on Canadian goods affect the competitiveness of our industry in the global market?

**Mr. Jones:** Mr. Speaker, tariffs threaten Alberta's competitiveness at a time when global markets are already shifting. Alberta's exports to China have grown at an average rate of 7.1 per cent over the last five years, and we need to ensure that these new tariffs don't slow down our momentum. Canola alone is a \$30 billion industry for Canada, supporting thousands of good-paying jobs. That's why we're focused on market diversification, expanding export opportunities, enhancing value-added production, increasing domestic usage, and ensuring that Alberta producers remain globally competitive. We'll continue to advocate for fair trade conditions to protect our agriculture sector.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hunter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the minister for that response. Given that China is our second-largest trading partner behind the United States and further given that economic and geopolitical complexities between the two have grown because of the imposed tariffs from both the Chinese government and the federal Liberals, to the same minister: what role could these tariffs play in shaping Canada's trade policy and future negotiations with China in the long run?

**Mr. Jones:** Mr. Speaker, China is Alberta's second-largest trading partner, and diversifying trade is essential for our long-term stability. Our exports to China were valued at \$6.73 billion last year. That's why we're committed to strengthening trade relationships domestically and globally with other partners through, internally, our agreements like the New West Partnership and the Canadian free trade agreement while also supporting infrastructure development and trade missions that will help our businesses export their products internally and to additional international markets. The focus remains on securing new opportunities, ensuring new market access, and protecting Alberta's position as a global leader in agriculture trade.

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

### Introduction of Bills

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

#### Bill Pr. 5

#### Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta Act

**Member Miyashiro:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to request leave to introduce Bill Pr. 5, Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta was established in 1966 and has built their endowment funds to more than \$41 million with the intent to support our community forever. The foundation serves southern Alberta from Vulcan county south to the U.S.-Canada border and from the MD of Taber west to the B.C. border.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, the hon. Member for Lethbridge-West has moved first reading of Bill Pr. 5, Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta Act.

[Motion carried; Bill Pr. 5 read a first time]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

#### Bill Pr. 6

#### Burman University Amendment Act, 2025

**Mrs. Johnson:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to request leave to introduce Bill Pr. 6, Burman University Amendment Act, 2025.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, the hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka has moved first reading of Bill Pr. 6, Burman University Amendment Act, 2025.

[Motion carried; Bill Pr. 6 read a first time]

### Tabling Returns and Reports

**The Speaker:** Are there tablings? The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table five copies of an article from today's *Calgary Herald* heralding ongoing diversification efforts by Alberta companies while the Premier focuses on maximizing shipments of unrefined crude oil along with thousands of jobs downstream.

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

**Mr. Wright:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been tabling today from The Bureau entitled Fool Me Once: the Cost of Carney-Trudeau Tax Games and the impact that they will have on everyday Canadians.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, that brings us to points of order. At 1:57 the Member for Red Deer-South rose on a point of order.

We'll consider that withdrawn?

**Mr. Schow:** Nobody rose on it, Mr. Speaker, but I'll bet it was a point of order.

**The Speaker:** I guess we will never know unless there's somebody else that wants to argue it on his behalf.

The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul.

### Point of Order

#### Questions outside Government Responsibility

**Mr. Cyr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that was asked in question period during that time was a question to everybody within the House. That is not normally the process that this House follows. They ask a specific minister at the time to be able to respond. Again, this is 23 (h), (i), and (j).

Thank you.

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

**Ms Gray:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe this is a point of order. The member did not make reference to any allegations, false motives, or abusive or insulting language although he cited 23(h), (i), and (j), so I hope you rule it not a point of order and we move on to constituency break soon.

**The Speaker:** While the hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul may have not referenced paragraph 409, section 6 of *Beauchesne's*, where it says that oral questions "must be within the administration competence of the Government," or he may not have referenced *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, page 510, where it says that oral questions must not "seek information . . . of a purely personal nature" or page 509 of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, which says that any questions relating to government policy should be directed and answered by a member of Executive Council, or of *Beauchesne's* 409, subsection 4, where it says that oral questions should "not be frivolous," while he may . . .

**An Hon. Member:** Or.

**The Speaker:** There are a couple more ors, in fact.

While he may not have done that, on more than one occasion the Speaker did provide caution to members of the Official Opposition and, in a small twist of irony, perhaps the hon. Member for Red Deer-South could heed his own advice in his questioning today as well.

2:50

But I think we would all be well served if members of the Assembly continue or revert to using Oral Question Period for what its intention is, and that is to not ask frivolous questions, to ask questions within the competency of the minister, and to ask questions within the confines of what the provincial government is responsible for. I consider this a strong caution to all members of the Assembly.

Hon. members, at 2:21 the Government House Leader rose on a point of order.

### Point of Order

#### Insulting Language

**Mr. Schow:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. At the time noted, at 2:21, I rose on a point of order when the Member for Edmonton-Rutherford was speaking, asking a question to the government. In the question, which was riddled with inaccuracies but also offensive language, there are a couple that I will specifically note. The first one: saying

that the Premier was wearing a tinfoil hat. Now, I think my unofficial record here would say, "The Premier has her tinfoil hat on again," which is ridiculous, but nonetheless the member said it.

But I will say, Mr. Speaker, what really gets me here is the second line when they said, when referring to the hon. Premier: she's got her head you know where. Now, this kind of language is reprehensible. I don't know who the member opposite is trying to cater to using language like that speaking to anyone in this Chamber, let alone the hon. Premier. Each member of this Assembly deserves respect. We were all duly elected by our constituents. Whether I like it or not, the members opposite have every right to be here as much as we do in terms of our election results and we all deserve that respect.

Mr. Speaker, we recently dealt with a point of privilege that was addressed just like that, which was followed up by a very sincere and much appreciated apology. I wish the Member for Edmonton-Rutherford would take lessons from the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud on how to issue an apology, because this is disgusting.

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

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would agree with the Government House Leader only a tiny little bit. I do think that, certainly, in reference to the tinfoil hat that the Member for Edmonton-Rutherford may have gotten a little too enthusiastic, but certainly she answered the question that she was referring to the Premier being in Florida and that was clear in the record.

That being said, I will cede the floor to my hon. colleague, who I believe will apologize and withdraw.

**The Speaker:** I might just say, perhaps, I'm surprised by such language, and maybe for the benefit of the Assembly, you'll confirm what the intention was, where you were implying the hon. Premier's head may have been in your apology.

**Member Calahoo Stonehouse:** I apologize and withdraw.

**The Speaker:** I'll consider this matter dealt with and concluded. However, I do find the language and the implication – I don't know what you could have been implying about where her head was, but it is certainly unbecoming of a member of this Assembly.

Immediately following that, the hon. Deputy Official Opposition House Leader rose on a point of order.

### Point of Order

#### Insulting Language

**Mr. Sabir:** I think we heard that that question may have gone too far, but the minister, when responding to the same answer, also went quite far and made personal attacks to the member: is that what constituents sent her to represent here or say here. If the question was not that great, I think the minister's answer was also not that great, that respectful, and certainly the things that the minister accused the member of were also offside, 23(h), (i), and (j).

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, my unofficial records of my own remarks say as follows: "Did your constituents elect you to come to this Chamber and speak to your colleagues like that and represent them? I thought that was so disrespectful to say that the Premier has her head you know where, Mr. Speaker." That's my unofficial record.

I will defend this Premier every day. To hear that kind of language is, again, reprehensible in this Chamber. That is why I said what I said. It was not a personal attack. It was a question to the member opposite, asking the member to stand or at least to defend



her remarks if the member truly believes that kind of language is becoming of a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

**The Speaker:** I do have the benefit of the Blues, and I am prepared to rule. In light of the fact that the hon. member has apologized and withdrawn for her comments that were unparliamentary, I think it's difficult to make the argument that they weren't or that the member went too far. I would say that his language got elevated. What he failed to say is, "I thought that it was so disrespectful, to say: the Premier has her head you know where," which we've established was, in fact, a point of order, but he then went on to say, "Completely disgusting. Absolutely disgusting." I can see why the hon. Member for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall raised the point of order, although that's not a point of order. So I consider the matter dealt with and concluded.

Hon. members, at 2:28 I believe is the next point of order.

### Point of Order

#### Allegations against a Member

**Mr. Schow:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I rise in point of order on 23(h), (i), and (j). At the time noted the Member for Edmonton-West Henday was speaking – I probably need glasses soon – and he said at the time – and this is paraphrasing, of course; I'm trying to read my own handwriting – that the Premier is meeting with antiwomen, anti-Muslim racists. You, certainly, cannot do indirectly what you cannot do directly and suggest that the Premier is antiwomen, racist, anti-Muslim. Also, this has been ruled out of order in the past. Talking about the Premier meeting with people who are racist, xenophobic, anti-Muslim, et cetera: it's not parliamentary. I do believe based on past rulings that this would be a point of order under 23(h), (i), and (j).

**The Speaker:** The Opposition House Leader, the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I disagree with the Government House Leader. To my knowledge, referring to someone meeting with people who it is a matter of debate that the words that they have said have been xenophobic, Islamophobic, antiwomen, as we heard with direct quotes from the record of Ben Shapiro: this is a matter of debate and a matter of public record. All things have been proven in this room with, again, that person's own quotes. I do not think that this is a point of order. The Premier has chosen to go to a fundraising event and meet with and share a stage with an individual who has this record. I believe the Government House Leader is continuing debate in this point of order. It is not a point of order. I look forward to your ruling, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** I do have the benefit of the Blues, and I am prepared to rule, unless there are other submissions. Hon. members, the Member for Edmonton-West Henday said the following:

Given we have a crisis facing our women, girls, and two-spirit-plus people [and] given that instead of solving this crisis, the Premier will travel . . . to Florida [and] soak up the rays and meet with an anti-Muslim, anti-queer, antiwoman racist and given that . . . my aunties heard what Ben Shapiro has said come out of my mouth, they would have given me a good lesson in respect . . .

and a point of order was called. He then went on to say, . . . will the minister commit to disowning the Premier's actions, or will he continue to ignore the crisis facing our women, girls, and two-spirit[ed] . . . [in] these actions?

I'm of the opinion that at no point in time did the member imply that the Premier was those things, but an individual that she was meeting with was. Now, I think that because we have absolute

rights and privileges in the Assembly doesn't mean that those don't come without responsibility, and speaking aggressively about members of the public who don't have their ability to defend themselves has risen to the level of a point of order on occasion in the past in this Assembly. I don't think that's the case here today. The member has those rights. Certainly didn't imply that the Premier was those things, so I consider this a matter of debate and not a point of order. I consider the matter dealt with and concluded.

At 2:36 the hon. the Government House Leader also rose on a point of order.

**Mr. Schow:** Withdraw.

**The Speaker:** I consider the matter dealt with and concluded as it has been withdrawn.

Ordres du jour.

3:00

### Orders of the Day

#### Government Bills and Orders

##### Third Reading

##### Bill 42

##### Appropriation Act, 2025

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

**Mr. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to move third reading of Bill 42, the Appropriation Act, 2025.

Last month Budget 2025 was tabled, a plan to meet the challenges facing Alberta with responsible decisions to fund today's priorities. The budget also keeps in mind the ups and downs we've seen over the last year. We're being realistic about the risks we're facing that could impact our economy. This means keeping spending under control and directing every dollar to where it matters most.

[Mr. van Dijken in the chair]

With this budget we're bringing the message home with continued investments in education and health and lower taxes for families. We are continuing to improve safety and security in our communities while responding to border concerns. The funding allocations in Bill 42 give Albertans a much-needed tax break, secure Alberta's southern border, and boost investments in our economic future.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention supports to Albertans to meet the cost-of-living challenge. It's why we're cutting taxes now. With a new tax rate of 8 per cent 2 million Albertans will save up to \$750 annually, starting in 2025. Overall, the tax cut will save Albertans about \$1.2 billion in 2025. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to fulfill this commitment to Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, Budget 2025 makes prudent choices we need to get through these tough times. It helps Albertans today as we plan for tomorrow. I ask that all members of the House support this bill so we can support Albertans today and make sure they are supported in the future.

Thank you.

I move to adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

##### Bill 43

##### Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2025

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

**Mr. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to rise today and move third reading of Bill 43, the Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2025.

Bill 43 will provide authority for government to pay from the general revenue fund for additional costs that are not already covered or otherwise provided for during the current fiscal year. It includes \$470.3 million in expense funding, \$3.9 million in capital funding for the government, and \$18.3 million in other financial transactions.

The funding in Bill 43 will cover costs that reflect the government's commitment to strengthen and refocus our health care system, to keep our communities and families safe, and to protect the environment and our natural resources. I ask again that the hon. members support this bill and help the government move forward with funding Albertans' priorities.

Thank you.

I move to adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

## Government Motions

### Provincial Fiscal Policies

57. Mr. Horner moved:

Be it resolved that the Assembly approve in general the business plans and fiscal policies of the government as presented in the Assembly on February 27, 2025.

[Adjourned debate February 27: Ms Gray]

**The Acting Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition has 89 minutes to speak if she so wishes.

**Ms Gray:** Waived.

**The Acting Speaker:** I will recognize the Member for Lethbridge-West.

**Member Miyashiro:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to deliver my maiden speech as MLA for Lethbridge-West and greet this Assembly with: *oki*. In Blackfoot "*oki*" means "Hello," and it's the official greeting of the city of Lethbridge. My constituency is located in Blackfoot country, the land of the Kainai, Piikani, and Siksika nations. We are also home to the Métis of Alberta.

Before continuing this speech, there are a number of people I need to thank because I definitely didn't get here on my own. To my mother, Gerry, who is 91 years young and who has aged in a way to which we should all aspire. She was much beloved as an elementary school teacher, has an active social life. She regularly travels and lives in her own home. My mom tried very hard to teach me the proper way to behave and still tries but has not always been successful. Sorry, Mom. I'll try to be better. I am grateful for the many road trips my mom and dad took to watch me play baseball and hockey, from Vermilion to Emerson, Manitoba, and points between. My mom has always been there for me and my sisters, and I can never repay her for all that she's given me.

To my father, Seiko, who passed away in 2005 but at times seems like he's never left. His quiet wisdom and love for family left an impression on me. He was a tin basher by trade who had a small plumbing and heating shop. I was lucky to have worked with him, although at times I didn't feel so lucky, and to have golfed with him and to have had special meals with him, which my sisters didn't find out until much later or maybe now. Seiko taught me to never ask someone to do a job that you weren't willing to do yourself, which I carry with me throughout my career.

To my wife and partner, Erin, who has stood with me through five elections, provides me with the support I need, and also keeps me grounded by being my most honest critic. She truly completes me and makes me whole. Erin's compassion for some of our most marginalized people is exemplified in her decades-long work with individuals with developmental disabilities. Her compassion extends to animals, as is evident in her dedication to the humane society. One way or another Erin makes those around her better.

To my adult children Jessa, Brock, and Kael and their partners Ellis, Jamie, and Kayla and my grandchildren Mira, Maddox, and Linden, who lift my spirits and bring me joy whenever we're together and whose growth and exploration of life is a constant source of amazement and pride for me.

To my sisters Jackie, Cathy, Barb, and Judy, who for the first couple decades of my life were not that enamoured with me – being the only boy in a Japanese-Canadian family, I was a bit spoiled – but we've gotten closer as we've gotten older, have become supports for each other, and truly enjoy each other's company. The bonus of having four sisters is that I gained brothers-in-law – Dan, Alan, Eldon, and the late Frank – who became my brothers along the way.

And to my nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews, who have made our extended family so much fun and interesting.

Now, to Erin's family, her mom and stepdad, Dereka and Bill; her father, Jim; and her brother Ben and his wife, Kristin, and, of course, their son Culdar for becoming my family as well, with whom we have shared many adventures and lived to talk about it. Their unequivocal support for me in my political life is so much appreciated. In fact, I would not be here today without Ben's help in two contested nominations.

To Shannon Phillips, our three-time MLA, who began to strengthen the Alberta NDP in Lethbridge-West in 2011 with her small band of supporters and volunteers, building support for our party one door at a time. She was elected in 2015, 2019, and 2023 in what was formerly a Conservative stronghold and showed us that the way to win was through hard work. She has been a friend and a mentor, and I will be forever grateful for her support.

To Lisa Lambert, who has worked in our constituency office for years and could well be the prototype for what a constituency associate should be. She is intelligent and engaged and is always a step ahead and knows what I need and when I need it. In her spare time she's the backbone for the party in Lethbridge.

To our many volunteers who worked our campaigns and continue to support us and to the many voters in Lethbridge-West who have put their trust in me and honoured me with this position.

Mr. Speaker, I mention these people because they're the ones who shaped me and continue to do so. As I said at the outset, I didn't get here on my own.

Growing up in Taber – well, maybe "being raised" is a more apt description – I was fortunate to participate in sports year-round. It was through sports that I developed lifelong friendships and learned the value of working together towards a common goal. This teamwork led to a couple of provincial championships in baseball, numerous trips to provincial finals in hockey, and as an adult the provincial slo-pitch title.

Working together also became a theme throughout my adult life, and in my 40-year career as a human services professional I've been involved in over 60 boards, committees, and working groups, not including the 15 or so groups I was involved with during my two terms on Lethbridge city council.

Mr. Speaker, I speak of these things to provide perspective on why at my age I stand before you as a first-time MLA. In retrospect much of my life has been dominated by service to the community.

My role as MLA amplifies this service and will allow me to bring issues to the public and take actions that I likely could not by any other means. I need to bring the fight about coal mining in the eastern slopes directly to the government in this Assembly. I need to raise awareness about the dire state of the primary health system in my community in this Assembly.

**3:10**

People in my community that are fighting for an education system that is inclusive for all students, is a safe place to learn for all students in safe buildings, a system that has an age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate curriculum need to know that I will bring that fight to this Assembly. People in my community need to know that I will advocate for their needs, regardless of their politics, in this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, the most marginalized and minimized people in my community – Indigenous people, those living in poverty, people with disabilities, newcomers, especially newcomers of colour, and seniors – know that I'm going to fight for them in this Assembly.

The strength of Lethbridge-West is not just the University of Lethbridge, our revitalized downtown, or our thriving business community. Our strength is not just our wide variety of neighbourhoods, our wonderful parks and trail system, including our amazing river valley and coulees. Our strength is the people. Our diverse population of well-established ethnic communities – and I'm really proud to be one of the first Japanese-Canadian and Okinawan-Canadian MLAs in the country – combined with many newcomers from around the world has created a dynamic that is exciting. We're home to the largest Nepali Bhutanese community in Canada. We were a leader in receiving Syrian refugees. We experienced a surge in residents from a number of African countries, and our community stepped up to take in many Ukrainians displaced by war. Mr. Speaker, I will do my best in this Assembly for the people of Lethbridge-West.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Speaker, maybe we should have asked for this prior to going into third reading, but I do want to rise to ask for unanimous consent of the Assembly to move to one-minute bells for the remainder of the afternoon sitting.

[Unanimous consent granted]

## Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

### Bill 42 Appropriation Act, 2025 (continued)

**The Acting Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview has risen.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to join the debate in third reading on Bill 42, Appropriation Act, 2025. This, of course, is the budget bill that we've been debating and just went through budget estimates on for the last two weeks. Certainly, myself and my colleagues have extensively questioned the ministers concerning the contents of the bill, and certainly we see it is coming up quite short, not supporting Albertans. We know that Albertans want good jobs and help with the increasing cost of living. They also want investments in public health care, public education, and public safety. Instead, in this UCP budget we have cuts, chaos, and corruption.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to focus mostly on the shadow ministry that I have the honour of covering, which is Seniors, Community and Social Services, specifically seniors' programming, continuing care, and home care. One of the things that, right off the bat, was a concern that I saw in the budget, and we had foreshadowing of this in the fall session of the Legislature, was the ceiling on the indexation of the Alberta seniors' benefit. Of course, the Alberta seniors' benefit supports extremely low-income seniors to be able to manage the high cost of living that we have, certainly, in our province. We have had quite high rates of inflation, and besides that, too, we've had a significant growth in our population here in Alberta. We know that – what is it now? – the consumer price index was 2.6 per cent and population growth was 2.5 per cent. We know that the population of seniors has increased even greater. You know, seniors are living longer, healthier lives. I will soon be a senior myself – one more year and I'll be 65 – so I know that our population is growing significantly. That's a 5.1 per cent increase, yet the Alberta seniors' benefit has a ceiling of only 2 per cent. Seniors are not getting the supports they need just to stay in the same place. That is obviously missing in the budget.

Another significant issue is that there was investment in the previous fiscal year in seniors community grants, yet \$1,600,000 of those community grants were not allocated. They were left in the budget. This is, like, shocking, really, because we know that the needs in the community far outstrip the investments.

I meet regularly with nonprofit agencies all across the province that serve seniors, that do preventative work. You know what they're telling me now, Mr. Speaker? They're telling me that a lot of that preventative work they can't do anymore because they have to deal with the basic needs of seniors. What they're doing is opening food banks because people don't have enough income to be able to feed themselves. This food insecurity didn't used to be an issue, but it's growing amongst the seniors population, so they have to divert a lot of their services to that, start different programs.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we know that affordable housing in our province is very difficult to come by. We have seniors in the homeless population, which is extremely disturbing, that we're not respecting and supporting seniors to live in dignity in our province. It's certainly very disturbing to me to know that that kind of investment, those kinds of supports aren't there.

Many of these agencies across the province that support seniors would focus on supporting people with recreational and social programming, which is vital. We know that social isolation isn't just sort of a good thing to do, you know, to get together with your friends and that's kind of a nice thing. It's much more than that. We know health outcomes for seniors who are isolated mean that they deteriorate. These kinds of programs mean seniors' mental health and physical health are much better.

Yet in this line item in the budget there was \$1,600,000 that the government did not allocate. Like, what's going on? Why would the minister leave that much money on the table and not support seniors? That money and much, much more could have helped seniors in our province. I ask, you know, the government: why is that not being done?

We also know very much that besides the Alberta seniors' benefit, that's not being indexed to inflation, more than a year ago the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services appointed an advisory committee to look at the seniors' lodge program in our province, which is an important program. Sadly, it's been underfunded for many years. He asked this advisory committee to work together to create a seniors' lodge modernization program, which is great. That's great. He said that they'll be done their work in the spring, and he allocated \$25 million in the previous budget to actually do that work, you know, based on the outcome of the

report. I know that the report was complete by May 2024. What have we heard? Nothing.

3:20

Guess what? Just like the \$1,600,000 in community grants that was not spent, this \$25 million wasn't spent. I'm wondering. You know, this is the minister's own initiative. Why is he delaying on this when there is such a significant need in the seniors' community all across Alberta? We need to have this revitalization moving forward. People are not having the services they need in the community. Again, that was something that was just forgotten it seemed. I'm wondering why money is being left and not allocated and not supported. That's another huge issue with the budget.

Another thing is that there are some specific – certainly, in the annual report year after year, there are some seniors groups that are more vulnerable than others. You know, they were explicitly identified as seniors that are newcomers, seniors that are Indigenous, and seniors from the pride community. But this year that's expunged. It's disappeared. There's nothing about these vulnerable groups. I'm just wondering why that has been taken out and why is that not a focus anymore? Those populations really do need a lot of support.

I know, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues have much to say about the budget, and we don't have much time this afternoon. I just wanted to get those comments on the record to let people know that this budget could have been so much better and how much the UCP government is not doing what they need to to invest in seniors in our province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker:** Any others wishing to speak? The Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

**Ms Hoffman:** Glenora.

**The Acting Speaker:** Oh. Sorry. Edmonton-Glenora. My bad.

**Ms Hoffman:** That's all good. No worries. You can make it up by spending money in Glenora this next week you're back, instead of Gold Bar, to support our good local businesses.

I want to take some time this afternoon to just go over some of my high-level concerns and hopes as we consider the budget here today. I want to start by acknowledging all of the work of public-sector workers in going into preparing for this budget, and I'm sure that their many hours of work are appreciated by all members of this Assembly. However, what I will say is that the job of the public service is to implement the how; government's job is to determine the what. What we are considering today is not a good budget, Mr. Speaker.

If we were to population-proof and inflation-proof just the health and social service sectors – that's it – so organizations that address housing, as my colleague from Edmonton-Riverview has just identified, health care sector supports, we would have \$776 million more in just those two areas. That is approximately the amount of money that has been to question through the corrupt care allegations and scandal that are absolutely a part of this budget as we are considering the next fiscal year, Mr. Speaker. Three-quarters of a billion dollars that should be put into making sure that we are at least maintaining the level of services that we're providing to the people of Edmonton-Glenora and all Albertans would be, I would expect, the bare minimum from a government.

I also want to acknowledge the framing and the timing in which the former Infrastructure minister resigned and his acknowledgement that there were large and widespread inconsistencies in departments

throughout government. Inconsistencies, I think, is a gentle way of saying: money that is not properly accounted for.

Mr. Speaker, with that in mind, it brings the entire integrity of this budget into question. We know that Health has been at the heart of some of these corrupt care allegations. It's for good reason, and the biggest reason is that I think every single Albertan should have peace of mind that they will get the care that they need when and where they need it. That certainly hasn't been the case. We've been seeing large increases to the closures of emergency rooms and sometimes entire wings of hospitals, especially in rural Alberta. Folks in Alberta, I think, deserve so much better.

I think about the people who live in the Speaker's riding, for example, having to drive further and further to give birth or not knowing if their emergency department will be open when they need it on the weekends. That is something that I know that the government members didn't campaign on, but it is something that this budget in no way will work to remedy so that we can have confidence that we'll be able to show up at an emergency department and get the care that we need when and where we need it.

We also know, through recent court documents that have been tabled, that it's alleged that the government was directing Alberta Health Services to cut 1,900 front-line health care worker positions in the province of Alberta. Now, this number itself isn't in the budget, but the fact that the budget hasn't been inflation-proofed or increased for population is in black and white in the budget documents. These court documents allege that it works out to 1,900 Alberta Health Services employees, and that's not employees that will move from one pillar to another pillar or one letterhead to another letterhead.

These types of things have been investments made by the government that I don't think reflect what I used to anticipate as fiscally conservative, spending millions of dollars on a rebranding exercise. We asked specifically about the brand and the logos for the four new pillars, and this is one question where the minister did allow public servants to come forward and answer that question at the mic. We were told that it's \$1.6 million and that it's really important that people know who it is that's providing their care.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I know when I, you know, had to call 911 when I was up in Kinuso a couple of years ago, I didn't care what the ambulance said on the side of it. I cared that an ambulance showed up and that that ambulance could take the person I was worried about to a hospital nearby. I think it doesn't matter if you live in rural or urban Alberta; you want to make sure that you've got a paramedic who's well trained, well rested, and ready to respond in a crisis. You want to make sure that you've got a family doctor who can see you in a timely manner. I get letters almost every day from people telling me that they used to be able to get in to see their doctor quickly, and now they're waiting a month or longer. I have many more that tell me that they don't have access to a family doctor. It's almost a million Albertans in this province who don't have access to a family doctor right now, Mr. Speaker.

While I appreciate that there is an amending agreement – I want to commend the Alberta Medical Association for their patience and persistence in working with this government to make that happen – the budget line item for primary care is actually not going up. In fact, it's going down. So the amending agreement, which is supposed to result in family physicians being compensated at higher levels – but that line item going down either means that we're not going to be paying them for everything that they've provided in the past or that we're going to have fewer of them. Either way, it's not good news for the people of Alberta.

I'd be remiss if I didn't touch just briefly, Mr. Speaker, on education, another pillar of a strong democracy. We just saw this

government stand by while for months workers in Fort McMurray and Edmonton and then many workers across other parts of the province as well, including Leduc and Morinville and Calgary, went on strike, fighting for better opportunities to be able to pay their bills and better working conditions. I am glad that they appear to have all reached deals, the ones that were out so far, and I call on this government to do more to address affordability.

We could do things in this budget or in other bills to address insurance costs, to address electricity costs, to address rent increase costs. The government hasn't shown that courage in the bills that we've considered in this place. Those workers, public-sector workers, are absolutely going to need more money to be able to pay their bills when government is allowing those to increase at such record rates. Those are the things that I wanted to highlight as we consider the budget.

The last thing I'll say is that there used to be a practice, Mr. Speaker, in budget debate where every question that was asked got answered, and there has been a large divergence from that practice over the years and particularly with the use of block time. Ten questions will get asked, and one speech will be given in response. It is, I would say, a disservice to democracy when we don't share information back and forth, because part of the opposition's job is to hold the government to account, and the other part is to be able to communicate to the public about what's happening.

3:30

When we don't get answers to very basic questions that we're asking in estimates, it makes it hard for us to explain what the government is doing. Even basic things; when we ask about: how many hours were emergency departments closed in Alberta in this last fiscal year, and what are you doing in this upcoming fiscal year to turn that trend backwards? When we ask: why is it that the government stopped reporting in the annual reports and in the budget documents around targets on Indigenous life expectancy and infant mortality, things that used to be standard practice? When we don't even get answers from the government on those things, it makes it really difficult for us to trust that the government is acting in everyone's best interest and that the process is one that's emboldening good decision-making.

With that, I'll cede the remainder of my time and ask for everyone's consideration on those important questions as we move forward. Thank you.

**The Acting Speaker:** Any others wishing to speak? The Member for Edmonton-City Centre.

**Mr. Shepherd:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to stand and speak at third reading of Bill 42, the Appropriation Act, 2025, looking at the monies that are being allocated in the current budget. Now, a number of times today we heard the hon. government leaders stand in this House and declare loudly that doing nothing is not a strategy, but sadly that seems to be precisely what this government's strategy is in this year's budget on so many issues that are challenges for Albertans. This government is choosing to do nothing to help Albertans.

I think about education, Mr. Speaker, the number of parents I have had write to me, the number of teachers I have had reach out to me about the state of our classrooms, the overcrowding that we are seeing. Now, this government makes big promises about building schools and steps it's going to take years down the road, but there is nothing in this budget that is going to make a difference in any classroom in this province in the next 12 months. We are going to continue to see the kinds of pressures, the kinds of stresses that parents are seeing.

My colleague from Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview spoke about education workers. You know, she was heckled by the minister of energy, who was shouting: well, what about oil and gas workers? They are absolutely important, Mr. Speaker, but this government seems to focus on one section of workers, because that minister had nothing to offer for the educational support workers in his constituency who are working for barely minimum wage, hadn't seen a raise in decades. That minister did not seem to act in a manner that showed care for them. There's nothing in this budget that's going to make a difference there.

This government is choosing to do nothing about the dire state of things in advanced education. Just this morning I had a chance to meet with student leaders at MacEwan University here in my constituency. I heard again about the dire state for students who are struggling to pay tuition, working multiple jobs, often having to drop courses in order to take on more work, and then – guess what, Mr. Speaker? – under this government's decisions that means they then are all of a sudden no longer eligible for student financing. There is nothing in this budget that makes things better for those students. There is no strategy, no plan from this government. Those students who are struggling with increasing food insecurity: this government has no plans to help them. There is nothing in this budget.

There is nothing in this budget; this government is doing nothing to help Albertans who live with a disability. In fact, they are making their lives materially worse, Mr. Speaker. Albertans on AISH, Albertans living with a disability have now suddenly had the opportunity after years of advocacy to gain an extra \$200 a month. Not much, certainly less than these government MLAs awarded themselves in a raise, but this government is clawing that amount back. There is nothing in this budget that helps make up that gap, that helps those individuals who are struggling to pay their bills, struggling to pay for food, struggling to pay for the essential supplies that they require to live a life of dignity. This budget does nothing to help them.

This budget does nothing to help parents who have children who live with a disability, who are struggling with supports in schools, who struggled for multiple months. The answer from the Minister of Education, Mr. Speaker, was to say: well, those students don't have to go to school for a while. That's not support.

There is nothing in this budget that improves that access to services. We had a private member's bill brought in here forcing a new employee into an independent office of the Legislature because a member said that parents cannot access the supports and help they need, and they need support and navigation. This budget would have been the place to correct that, Mr. Speaker, not by forcing a government appointment into the office of the Child and Youth Advocate. This budget does nothing to provide additional funding to end the backlog, to provide more supports for those families in school or at home.

I dare say, Mr. Speaker, there's not really going to be anything in this budget that's going to improve the situation for health care in our province. Is there spending? Yes. Is there increased spending? Yes. Does it actually meet population growth and inflation? No. While this government is spending millions on consultants, while they are signing bloated contracts for their friends, there is little in this budget – I'd say nothing in this budget – that's going to make a material difference in actually getting Albertans access to care in a timely way.

This government says that doing nothing is not a strategy, but it sure seems to be a strategy that they implement a lot. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, I will be voting against this budget because Albertans deserve a government that's actually doing something about the things that matter to them, not charging them to send the Premier to

a \$1,500 far-right fundraiser in Florida, a government that's actually focused on Albertans' needs and not its own.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Deol:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to speak to Bill 42, the Appropriation Act, 2025, on behalf of my constituents but not a pleasure as I'm seeing the details of this bill, what this is offering to Albertans. Specifically, when I'm thinking about all those requests and complaints from my constituents, people who are walking into my office or people who are writing to my office from within my constituency and people from across the province, the biggest issue is health care. It does nothing to help solve the problems in the health care crisis we are going through since 2019, since the UCP took office in this province.

I heard a story from my constituent last week who went to visit the Grey Nuns hospital and gave up after seven hours of his time and walked back home with no hope that he will get his turn to see the doctor but ended up coming back again. That's the kind of situation, the types of issues, that people were expecting this budget to address, but we see none of those concerns being addressed in this issue.

To date the government could not explain the cancellation of the Edmonton south hospital. The Premier bragged that Red Deer is only an hour and a half away from south Edmonton. That was actually insulting to Edmontonians and Albertans. They are facing challenges like that.

I can go on and on. I was invited by a doctor to visit one of the hospitals, the kind of deficit they have been experiencing around repairs and lacking equipment and other staff in hospitals. I even said, like: "That will jeopardize your job. Why do you want to do it?" He said: "Who cares? I might leave this job anyway. We are not working under working conditions. I wanted to show you politicians what is happening here." None of those concerns and issues are addressed under this budget.

While I was discussing the budget estimates, I got a call from my constituent living across the street from a school. His kid was not being admitted to the school that was across the street from his place. The school is already full. There's no capacity in that school.

3:40

The government made a big announcement in September last year about maybe something for the next 50 years. Nothing is on the ground. You can see and you can tell your constituents and the people – they can believe, like, there will be something better. In the near future? No. Not under this government. Not under this budget. Per capita funding: lowest in the country. Schools are running over capacity. I don't have one call; I have, like – I have no answers to those people, except I can just only call. I write to the ministry. Any time I get that kind of complaint, right away I just forward those complaints to the ministry. They should be aware of this. Unfortunately, I cannot provide this help to those constituents under this UCP government that doesn't understand the crisis.

Further, their actions are making it worse, the bad situation worse. More of this. What will happen: Albertans are going to see higher insurance rates. A 7.5 per cent increase this year, and a 7.5 per cent increase next year. Fifteen per cent higher premiums that the government is legislating, deliberately downloading costs on Albertans.

Costs of utilities are skyrocketing under this UCP government. They removed the cost cap when they came into power in 2019. The prices, you know, increased more than fourfold, 400 per cent, from 6.5 cents to 32 cents in some time. I got a call from a

constituent. He was desperate. He was struggling to pay the bills. He called the company. They said: if you can't pay the bill, just use your hoodie. That is what is happening under this government. That is not just recent; that has been happening for the last four or five years.

Education property rates: that is government deliberately downloading costs to the municipalities, cities. They are already struggling to pick up their costs due to the city of Edmonton. Their grants and their programs were cut by this government, nearly \$100 million a year, and Albertans are picking up that cost.

At the same time, we have the lowest wage in the country. When this government came into power in 2019, we were nearly across the line of, like, high minimum wage provinces, but today, after six years of this government in Alberta, we have the lowest minimum wage in the country and the highest inflation rate.

Looking at all those details, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this budget. I will be voting against this budget.

Thank you.

**The Acting Speaker:** Are there any others wishing to speak? The Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs has risen.

**Ms Goehring:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm standing today to speak to Bill 42, the Appropriation Act, 2025. Unfortunately, the budget reflects what we've seen with this government: complete chaos, corruption, and, not surprisingly, a lot of cuts. There's a lot that was asked in estimates. There's a lot that's been asked of this government. There's been a lot of pleading about what can be done to fix this. Unfortunately, the government isn't listening. They're continuing their hard line of not improving lives of Albertans.

You know, the budget fails to deliver on any priorities that Albertans are looking at. They want to see security in jobs, in the economy. They want to make sure the cost of living is affordable. They want a strong public health care system. They want a strong public education system and public safety. That's what Albertans want. This budget doesn't address any of that. It cuts a lot of those services that every Albertan relies on every day. For that, Mr. Speaker, I can't support this budget.

Thank you.

**The Acting Speaker:** Any others wishing to speak?

If not, I will call on the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board to close debate.

**Mr. Horner:** Sure. Just quickly, Mr. Speaker. Bill 42: this is a great budget for Alberta. I'm not saying that it isn't without its challenges. It's a challenging time, obviously, but when I look at this budget, I see a credible budget. I see a government that brought the threat of tariffs actually into the baseline assumptions for the year. Only one other province has followed suit. I see record investments in health care, education, social services still coming off 4.4 per cent population growth.

The only thing that I see that this budget is missing is a path to balance, and that's the work that this entire House will have to do going forward. This has been on the floor of this House for a month; I don't think I've taken one question from the opposition about the fact that it's a \$5.2 billion deficit. You would think that would be a question worth asking. I would be happy to answer. Maybe they don't want to throw shade because it's smaller than any deficit in any budget they ever tabled. That may be wise.

But this is responsible. This meets the needs of Albertans. It's the right budget for right now. We're proud of it. I would recommend everyone in the House to vote in favour of it. It's the right budget for right now.

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

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:47 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Amery	Jean	Pitt
Armstrong-Homeniuk	Johnson	Rowswell
Boitchenko	Jones	Sawhney
Bouchard	LaGrange	Schow
Cyr	Loewen	Schulz
de Jonge	Long	Sigurdson, R.J.
Dreeshen	Lovely	Singh
Dyck	Lunty	Stephan
Ellis	McDougall	Turton
Fir	McIver	van Dijken
Getson	Nally	Williams
Glubish	Neudorf	Wilson
Guthrie	Nicolaides	Wright, J.
Horner	Nixon	Yao
Hunter	Petrovic	Yaseen

3:50

Against the motion:

Brar	Goehring	Sabir
Calahoo Stonehouse	Gray	Schmidt
Dach	Haji	Shepherd
Deol	Hoffman	Sigurdson, L.
Eggen	Irwin	Wright, P.
Ellingson	Renaud	

Totals: For – 45 Against – 17

[Motion carried; Bill 42 read a third time]

**Bill 43**  
**Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2025**  
*(continued)*

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, are there others? The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung has risen to join the debate.

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very pleased to rise today and proudly display a Canadian flag on my chest along with others who are wearing ties on this side of the House to firmly stand up for Canada and speak to this appropriation Bill 43, which, of course, is an act of supplementary supply. We speak to these bills every year because government will need some extra funds to satisfy the needs of each ministry that may have had unexpected contingencies come up during the fiscal year.

Of course, this is a fundamental principle of our Westminster parliamentary democracy, which differentiates us in many respects, as you will know, Mr. Speaker, from the republic to the south, which is incessantly seeming to go to the brink of having the government being unfunded and shut right down because they don't have this system of supplementary supply which allows us to continue funding government programs even though budgets may have run out during the fiscal year. We have the supplementary supply system, which works better. I'll leave it to those who are interested in researching that more in depth to find out why that benefits us here and why it's such a deficiency in the United States and other republics, which have had to go to the wire on a regular

basis and nearly have their government shut down because they don't have the funds to operate.

What I wanted to address my comments to this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, is a particular part of the Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2025, and that has to do with the health care budget, specifically on line item 5.2 on page 35. It speaks about the working together shared health priorities bilateral three-year program agreement between the provincial government and the federal government, which provided \$285 million for the '24-25 fiscal year. The funding was intended to expand health-based care and enhance virtual care to reduce wait times for CT scans and MRIs and accelerate secure digital health services. The point I want to focus on this afternoon is the fact that this \$285 million funding under the working together on shared health priorities was intended to specifically reduce wait times for CT scans and MRIs. This is something I've spoken to in this House numerous times, including with the previous Health minister, Mr. Copping, before the last election.

[Mr. van Dijken in the chair]

The issue arose because of concerns in my constituency, particularly at the Misericordia hospital of the lack of funding available to provide new CT scanners for that hospital, including for the new emergency department, which was built as a result of our government's decision to move ahead with that as a necessary health care improvement. However, unfortunately, that new emergency ward and the whole Misericordia hospital are forced to rely upon an old CT scanner which breaks down regularly. It hasn't for a while, but the last time it was out of service for about five weeks, in February of 2023 I believe it was. It is a hospital that serves a much wider community than just the Edmonton region, and the CT scanner serves areas up north as far as Westlock and even further, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, what I want to make sure that the minister knows is that the expectation is that part of this \$285 million will be spent on CT scanners not only at the Misericordia but other hospitals throughout the Edmonton region and perhaps elsewhere in Alberta.

From my experience recently with the Misericordia hospital there's a dire need for diagnostic equipment, including CT scanners, and particularly at the Cross Cancer Institute as well, where I've had occasion recently to have taken close family members there for diagnostic imaging. The oncologist there will tell you that the equipment is running on a broken shoestring. Over at the Cross Cancer Institute they really need upgraded machinery, diagnostic equipment such as CT scanners, PET scanners, MRIs. This fund of \$285 million would go a long way to helping them do that.

You don't want to see hospitals have to dip into their foundation funds or ask a foundation to fund medical equipment that is actually essential such as CT scanners. They're only 2 to 3 million bucks apiece. That sounds like a lot, but out of \$285 million you could buy CT scanners for every hospital in the province and have some change left over. I really hope that this money will be used to fulfill its intended purpose and make sure that the diagnostic imaging equipment that is so badly needed throughout the province, especially in areas like my own riding of Edmonton-McClung with the Misericordia hospital and then, further, into the Cross Cancer Institute – so that Albertans are properly served and have timely diagnoses to help prevent stage 4 cancer developing as the result of an early diagnosis at stage 1.

Thank you.

**The Acting Speaker:** Any others wishing to speak? I'll recognize the Member for Edmonton-Decore.

**Mr. Haji:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I spoke about this yesterday, and I will highlight some of the things that I hoped to see in the supplementary adjustments. Albertans have been very clear about what their priorities are. If this has not been captured in the budget in 2024-2025, you expect that in the supplementary these are some of the factors that will be taken into consideration.

Jobs and economic stability is a key priority for Albertans. One of the key areas that the ministry has identified and government's strategic document highlights is that investment when it comes to workforce building is an investment in the area of child care. I'll speak to that. The other piece that I hoped to see in the supplementary is affordability and cost of living, how that could be tackled in the supplementary budget. Unfortunately, I don't see that.

**4:00**

My colleague from Edmonton-McClung just talked about the public health care and some of the areas the supplementary budget is not addressing around access to family physicians, strengthening primary health care, and addressing some of the bilateral agreements that have been alluded to in there.

Going back to the jobs and economic stability and the government's strategic vision around investment in the workforce, which is child care. On page 47 of the supplementary document it requests for \$91.6 million with an additional \$15 million made available from lower than budgeted expenses in other programs to provide a total of \$107 million for an affordable and quality child care program. A high-quality child care program requires a well-trained workforce. Proper, quality child care programs require a well-paid workforce, and as we know, child care workers are predominantly women, predominantly single moms, predominantly underpaid, predominantly struggle when it comes to the cost of living, so I would have hoped to see an increase in terms of allocation when it comes to investment into the workforce in child care. This doesn't provide that.

When I highlight the areas around wage stagnation, underpayments, and all of those kinds of things around child care providers, on average a worker in the child care spaces – and let's

not forget that this is the government's workforce investment priority when it comes to this strategic plan document. An average child care worker makes \$36,000 annually; \$21,000 of that is tax exempt, so it's not taxed. If you calculate – I was hoping that the new budget will also provide some affordability relief. The government talks a lot about \$750. It's the higher number, but I will use the average number of \$36,000. Somebody who makes that with the new tax bracket will be saving 83 cents per day. That is not how you tackle affordability, and that is not how you invest in your workforce when you see that this is the amount that they are making, so this fails.

The other thing I will quickly add is that the ministry has removed the low-income subsidy for child care while implementing a flat-rate fee. Why doesn't this funding plan to subsidies ensure low-income families who cannot afford the flat fee can still access high-quality child care? This is where the supplementary budget fails to meet the key priorities for Albertans, specifically on affordability and specifically on well-paying jobs.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker:** Any others wishing to speak?

Seeing none, I will call on the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board to close debate.

The minister has waived that, so we will move directly to a vote.

[Motion carried; Bill 43 read a third time]

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

**Mr. Schow:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you through you to all members of the Assembly for your tireless work for the last week. I wish you all a prosperous constituency break, meeting with those who elected us to be in this Chamber.

With that said, I move to adjourn the Assembly until 1:30 p.m., Monday, April 7, 2025.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:05 p.m. to Monday, April 7, at 1:30 p.m.]



## **Bill Status Report for the 31th Legislature - 1st Session (2023-2025)**

**Activity to Thursday, March 27, 2025**

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*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 5, 2024; SA 2024 c12 ]

**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*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 c13 ]

**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*)

Third Reading — 2299-305 (*Dec. 3, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation with exceptions; SA 2024 c16 ]

**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*)

Third Reading — 2305-11 (*Dec. 3, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 c14 ]

**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*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force December 5, 2024; SA 2024 c18 ]

**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*)

Third Reading — 2311-14 (*Dec. 3, 2024 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 cF-2.5 ]

**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*)

Royal Assent — (*Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 c20 ]

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

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

Second Reading — 2029-35 (Nov. 19, 2024 aft.), 2270-78 (Dec. 2, 2024 eve., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 2319-23 (Dec. 3, 2024 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 2376-79 (Dec. 4, 2024 eve., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force December 5, 2024, except s. 1(4), which comes into force on proclamation, SA 2024 c17 ]

**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)

Committee of the Whole — 2314-17 (Dec. 3, 2024 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 2336-37 (Dec. 3, 2024 eve.), 2366-69 (Dec. 4, 2024 aft.), 2379-89 (Dec. 4, 2024 eve., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2024 c15 ]

**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.), 2278-80 (Dec. 2, 2024 eve., passed on division)

Committee of the Whole — 2351-57 (Dec. 4, 2024 aft., passed with amendments)

Third Reading — 2360-63 (Dec. 4, 2024 aft., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on the proclamation of SA 2024, cA-1.4; SA 2024 cP-28.5 ]

**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.), 2259-66 (Dec. 2, 2024 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 2281-84 (Dec. 2, 2024 eve.), 2323-32 (Dec. 3, 2024 eve., passed with amendments)

Third Reading — 2363-66 (Dec. 4, 2024 aft., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 cA-1.4 ]

**Bill 35 — All-season Resorts Act (Schow)**

First Reading — 1965-66 (Nov. 7, 2024 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 1731-36 (Nov. 27, 2024 eve.), 2266 (Dec. 2, 2024 aft.), 2267-70 (Dec. 2, 2024 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 2332-35 (Dec. 3, 2024 eve.), 2357-59 (Dec. 4, 2024 aft., passed)

Third Reading — 2371-76 (Dec. 4, 2024 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2024 cA-38.5 ]

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

First Reading — (Nov. 20, 2024 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 2280-81 (Dec. 2, 2024 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole — 2335-36 (Dec. 3, 2024 eve., passed)

Third Reading — 2389-90 (Dec. 4, 2024 eve., passed)

Royal Assent — (Dec. 5, 2024 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2024 c19 ]

**Bill 37 — Mental Health Services Protection Amendment Act, 2025 (Williams)**

First Reading — 2402 (Feb. 25, 2025 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 2441-50 (Feb. 26, 2025 aft., adjourned)

**Bill 38 — Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (Nally)**

First Reading — 2437 (Feb. 26, 2025 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 2534-44 (Mar. 13, 2025 aft.), 2642-47 (Mar. 24, 2025 aft., adjourned)

**Bill 39 — Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (\$) (Horner)**

First Reading — 2478 (*Mar. 10, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2692-98 (*Mar. 25, 2025 aft., adjourned*)

**Bill 40 — Professional Governance Act (Sawhney)**

First Reading — 2499 (*Mar. 11, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2724-29 (*Mar. 26, 2025 aft., adjourned*)

**Bill 41 — Wildlife Amendment Act, 2025 (Loewen)**

First Reading — 2511 (*Mar. 12, 2025 aft., passed*)

**Bill 42 — Appropriation Act, 2025 (\$) (Horner)**

First Reading — 2618 (*Mar. 20, 2025 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2679-85 (*Mar. 25, 2025 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 2712-21 (*Mar. 26, 2025 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2743 (*Mar. 27, 2025 aft.*), 2745-49 (*Mar. 27, 2025 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 27, 2025 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on March 27, 2025; SA 2025 c1 ]

**Bill 43 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2025 (\$) (Horner)**

First Reading — 2667 (*Mar. 24, 2025 eve., passed*)

Second Reading — 2686-92 (*Mar. 25, 2025 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2721-24 (*Mar. 26, 2025 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 2743-44 (*Mar. 27, 2025 aft.*), 2749-50 (*Mar. 27, 2025 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 27, 2025 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on March 27, 2025; SA 2025 c2 ]

**Bill 44 — Agricultural Operation Practices Amendment Act, 2025 (Sigurdson, RJ)**

First Reading — 2577 (*Mar. 18, 2025 aft., passed*)

**Bill 45 — Critical Infrastructure Defence Amendment Act, 2025 (Amery)**

First Reading — 2597 (*Mar. 19, 2025 aft., passed*)

**Bill 46 — Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (Glubish)**

First Reading — 2613 (*Mar. 20, 2025 aft., passed*)

**Bill 47 — Automobile Insurance Act (Horner)**

First Reading — 2629 (*Mar. 24, 2025 aft., passed*)

**Bill 48 — iGaming Alberta Act (Nally)**

First Reading — 2711 (*Mar. 26, 2025 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 Liaison) 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)

Committee of the Whole — 2491-92 (Mar. 10, 2025 aft.), 2557-70 (Mar. 17, 2025 aft., passed with amendments on division)

Third Reading — 2632-39 (Mar. 24, 2025 aft., passed on division)

Royal Assent — (Mar. 27, 2025 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on June 27, 2025; SA 2025 c3 ]

**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 210 — Employment Standards (Protecting Workers' Tips) Amendment Act, 2024 (Gray)**

First Reading — 2350 (Dec. 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 213 — Cancer Care Delivery Standards Act (Goehring)**

First Reading — 2298 (Dec. 3, 2024 aft., passed)

**Bill 214 — Eastern Slopes Protection Act (Miyashiro)**

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 on May 30, 2024; SA 2024 c21 ]

**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 on May 30, 2024; SA 2024 c22 ]

**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 on May 30, 2024; SA 2024 c23 ]

**Bill Pr5 — Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta Act (Miyashiro)**

First Reading — (*Mar. 27, 2025 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills*)

**Bill Pr6 — Burman University Amendment Act, 2025 (Johnson)**

First Reading — (*Mar. 27, 2025 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills*)







## Table of Contents

Prayers.....	2731
Introduction of Guests.....	2731
Members' Statements	
Eid al-Fitr.....	2731
Official Opposition.....	2732
Premier's Leadership.....	2732
Upper Smoky Subregional Plan.....	2732
Public Health Care.....	2733
Support for Persons with Disabilities.....	2733
Notices of Motions.....	2733
Oral Question Period	
Provincial Response to U.S. Tariffs.....	2733, 2737, 2738, 2740
Premier's Travel to the United States.....	2734, 2737, 2739
Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention.....	2735
CFEP Grants in Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.....	2736
Indigenous Relations.....	2738
Alberta in Canada.....	2739
Provincial Response to Chinese Tariffs.....	2740
Introduction of Bills	
Bill Pr. 5 Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta Act.....	2741
Bill Pr. 6 Burman University Amendment Act, 2025.....	2741
Tabling Returns and Reports.....	2741
Orders of the Day.....	2743
Government Bills and Orders	
Third Reading	
Bill 42 Appropriation Act, 2025.....	2743, 2745
Division.....	2749
Bill 43 Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2025.....	2743, 2749
Government Motions	
Provincial Fiscal Policies.....	2744

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