



Province of Alberta

The 31st Legislature
First Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, May 8, 2025

Day 109

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 31st Legislature

First Session

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

Al-Guneid, Nagwan, Calgary-Glenmore (NDP)
Amery, Hon. Mickey K., ECA, KC, Calgary-Cross (UC),
Deputy Government House Leader
Arcand-Paul, Brooks, Edmonton-West Henday (NDP)
Armstrong-Homeniuk, Hon. Jackie, ECA,
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UC)
Batten, Diana M.B., Calgary-Acadia (NDP)
Boitchenko, Andrew, Drayton Valley-Devon (UC)
Boparai, Parmeet Singh, Calgary-Falconridge (NDP)
Bouchard, Eric, Calgary-Lougheed (UC)
Brar, Gurinder, Calgary-North East (NDP)
Calahoo Stonehouse, Jodi, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP)
Ceci, Hon. Joe, ECA, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)
Chapman, Amanda, Calgary-Beddington (NDP),
Official Opposition Deputy Assistant Whip
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UC)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
de Jonge, Chantelle, Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)
Deol, Jasvir, Edmonton-Meadows (NDP)
Dreeschen, Hon. Devin, ECA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UC)
Dyck, Nolan B., Grande Prairie (UC)
Eggen, Hon. David, ECA, Edmonton-North West (NDP)
Ellingson, Court, Calgary-Foothills (NDP)
Ellis, Hon. Mike, ECA, Calgary-West (UC),
Deputy Premier
Elmeligi, Sarah, Banff-Kananaskis (NDP)
Eremenko, Janet, Calgary-Currie (NDP)
Fir, Hon. Tanya, ECA, Calgary-Peigan (UC)
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., ECA, Calgary-Mountain View (NDP),
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Getson, Shane C., Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland (UC),
Government Whip
Glubish, Hon. Nate, ECA, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (UC)
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)
Gray, Hon. Christina, ECA, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP),
Leader of the Official Opposition,
Official Opposition House Leader
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Haji, Sharif, Edmonton-Decore (NDP)
Hayter, Julia K.U., Calgary-Edgemont (NDP)
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, ECA, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)
Horner, Hon. Nate S., ECA, Drumheller-Stettler (UC)
Hoyle, Rhiannon, Edmonton-South (NDP)
Hunter, Hon. Grant R., ECA, Taber-Warner (UC)
Ip, Nathan, Edmonton-South West (NDP)
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP),
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(UC)
Johnson, Jennifer, Lacombe-Ponoka (UC)
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Kasawski, Kyle, Sherwood Park (NDP)
Kayande, Samir, Calgary-Elbow (NDP)

LaGrange, Hon. Adriana, ECA, Red Deer-North (UC)
Loewen, Hon. Todd, ECA, Central Peace-Notley (UC)
Long, Hon. Martin M., ECA, West Yellowhead (UC)
Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UC)
Lunty, Brandon G., Leduc-Beaumont (UC)
McDougall, Myles, Calgary-Fish Creek (UC)
McIver, Hon. Ric, ECA, Calgary-Hays (UC)
Metz, Luanne, Calgary-Varsity (NDP)
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(UC)
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Petrovic, Chelsae, Livingstone-Macleod (UC)
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)
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Shepherd, David, Edmonton-City Centre (NDP),
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader
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Sigurdson, Hon. R.J., ECA, Highwood (UC)
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Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UC)
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP)
Tejada, Lizette, Calgary-Klein (NDP)
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Wright, Justin, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UC)
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Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC),
Deputy Government Whip
Yaseen, Hon. Muhammad, ECA, Calgary-North (UC)
Vacant, Edmonton-Ellerslie
Vacant, Edmonton-Strathcona

Party standings:

United Conservative: 47

New Democrat: 36

Independent: 2

Vacant: 2

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Trafton Koenig, Law Clerk

Philip Massolin, Clerk Assistant and
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Nancy Robert, Clerk of *Journals* and
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Brian Jean	Minister of Energy and Minerals
Matt Jones	Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade
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Martin Long	Minister of Infrastructure
Ric McIver	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Dale Nally	Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction
Nathan Neudorf	Minister of Affordability and Utilities
Demetrios Nicolaides	Minister of Education
Jason Nixon	Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services
Rajan Sawhney	Minister of Advanced Education
Joseph Schow	Minister of Tourism and Sport
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Dan Williams	Minister of Mental Health and Addiction
Rick Wilson	Minister of Indigenous Relations
Muhammad Yaseen	Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism

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Chelsae Petrovic	Parliamentary Secretary for Health Workforce Engagement
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Justin Wright	Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health (South)
Tany Yao	Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Northern Development

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Yao

Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell

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Brar
Kasawski
Kayande
Stephan
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Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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de Jonge
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Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee

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Ellingson
Hunter
Ip
Lovely
Rowswell
Sabir
Wright, J.

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

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Batten
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Lunty
McDougall
Petrovic
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Tejada

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Getson

Deputy Chair: Mr. van Dijken

Chapman
Cyr
Dyck
Eremenko
Lovely
Miyashiro
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Shepherd

Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

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Deputy Chair: Mr. Getson

Eggen
Gray
Hunter
Metz
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Sabir
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Yao

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Chair: Ms Pitt

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

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk

Deputy Chair: Mr. Wiebe

Arcand-Paul
Bouchard
Ceci
Cyr
Dach
Gray
Sinclair
Stephan

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Mr. Sabir

Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Armstrong-Homeniuk
de Jonge
Ellingson
Johnson
Lunty
McDougall
Renaud
Schmidt

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Deputy Chair: Ms Sweet

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

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 8, 2025

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Deputy Speaker: Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our King and 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 prejudices, keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all.

Hon. members, we will now be led in the singing of *God Save the King* by Mr. Michael Peters. I invite you all to participate.

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!

Statement by the Speaker**80th Anniversary of VE Day**

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, today marks the 80th anniversary of VE Day, Victory in Europe Day. On May 8, 1945, hostilities in Europe came to an end as Germany surrendered at last. By this time, after five and a half years of war, Allied forces, including the Canadian military, overcame Nazi aggression and liberated Europe from occupation. VE Day, today, is a reminder of the importance of the victory of liberty over oppression, of democracy over totalitarianism. It is also an important opportunity to remember the sacrifice made by tens of thousands of Canadians in defence of their country.

During the Second World War more than a million Canadians served in the Armed Forces, 42,000 of them made the ultimate sacrifice, and tens of thousands more were wounded or imprisoned in prisoner of war camps. As we commemorate this significant anniversary, let us never forget the immense sacrifice that all our servicemen and -women made then and since then and in defence of Canada, our freedoms, and our democracies.

You may be seated.

Introduction of Visitors

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, we have a familiar face sitting in the Speaker's gallery today, the former member for Drayton Valley-Devon, Mr. Mark Smith. Please receive the welcome of this Assembly.

Introduction of Guests

The Deputy Speaker: Seated in the Speaker's gallery today as well is the constituency assistant from the amazing constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. It took me great pleasure to welcome Alana Gibson. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

Statement by the Speaker**Page Recognition**

The Deputy Speaker: Finally, hon. members, seated in our Speaker's gallery today are the retiring pages. We had the opportunity to celebrate with them over the lunch hour, and I'm so pleased to have them join us here today from a slightly different viewpoint as they are used to. They provided the Speaker's office with a farewell letter, which I'm most honoured to share on behalf of Speaker Cooper with all of you here today.

Mr. Speaker,

As this spring session concludes, many of us find ourselves reflecting on a chapter that is drawing to a bittersweet close. For retiring Pages, our time on the Chamber floor has been far more than just a workplace - it has been a second home. We offer our sincere gratitude for the privilege of serving in this historic place, one that has not only deepened our understanding of the democratic process but also sparked profound personal growth through its challenges and rewards.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Monique Hamelin, Terry Langley, and the entire Sergeant-at-Arm's Office for their unwavering support and guidance; to the Bills and Journals Clerks for their indispensable procedural expertise; and to the Legislative Assembly Security Services, who protect and always stand by us - our forever partners in crime.

Finally, we express our gratitude towards the Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Table Officers, and to you, Mr. Speaker, for your leadership in establishing "Order!" and decorum that underpins our democratic process. Thanks to all of you, we have come to appreciate the vital importance of this institution and the genuine passion of those who serve within it.

The Page program has exposed us to many facets of government, from procedures to people. As the hands and feet of democracy, we have cultivated professionalism, attentiveness, and we depart with a sense of maturity and confidence that we'll carry with us for life.

In return, we hope that we have left our own humble imprint in Alberta's history.

The experiences and knowledge we have gained in the Legislative Assembly will forever be etched in our memories, shaping our lives and dreams for years to come. With the great honour of having served the province of Alberta, we would simply like to say - thank you.

I would like to introduce to you, from the Speaker's gallery by name, the retiring pages. Please stand as I call your name: Gabriela Barreiro, Samuel Hoekman, Maria McLarney, Tori Turner, Katherine Cai, George Reid, André Rouleau, Nabeeha Irfan, Himanshu Surukanti, Ella Wilson, Josiah Pond, and Matthew Katz. Hon. members, please join me in expressing our gratitude for this exemplary group of young Albertans and their professionalism. [Standing ovation]

Introduction of Guests

(continued)

The Deputy Speaker: We have a school group to introduce. The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

Mr. Sinclair: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's an honour to rise and introduce to you and through you some amazing future leaders from St. Andrew's school in the small town of High Prairie in my riding. I had an opportunity to visit them in January, and I look forward to seeing what they can do for society. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism.

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today with great joy to introduce my family seated in your gallery. Joining us are my loving wife, Parveen; my two wonderful sons, Aamar and Osman; and my precious granddaughter, Amal, who truly is the light of my life and my entire world. I am deeply grateful for their love, affection, and support and am honoured to have them here. May I ask them to please rise and receive the warm traditional welcome of the Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker: Welcome.

Ms Hoffman: I'm pleased to introduce my friend Riley Dawson. He recently graduated with his master's in business as well as engineering from the U of A. He's a biological science expert, mechanical engineer. He knows a lot about coding, leveraging motion. He's also the president of my riding association and an amazing friend to door-knock with. Riley, please rise and receive the welcome of our Assembly.

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

Mr. Nally: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you six of my constituents from the riding of Morinville-St. Albert. Joining us are Matt Wood, Kirsten Challborn along with her children, Amelya, Briar, and David as well as a great friend of mine, Sheldon Kok. Welcome to the Legislature. Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the House.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mrs. Sawhney: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today and introduce to you and through you Ms Sharmila Mathur, an incredible sitar performer and the founder of the Indian Music Academy. She is joined today with her husband, Sanjay. I ask them to please rise and accept the warm traditional welcome of the House.

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

Mr. Sinclair: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's an honour to rise again to introduce to you and through you a couple of amazing leaders from Treaty 8. I have Chief Isaac Laboucan-Avirom from Woodland Cree Nation and Chief Andy Alook from Bigstone Cree Nation. They're here to support me today. Please rise and accept the warm welcome.

1:40

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

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today I would like to introduce to you and through you and to all members of the Assembly Ruth Folk, the mother of one of the very best policy advisers in this building. I would ask her to please stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other introductions? The hon. Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism.

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to rise and introduce Mr. Kashif Syed, a dedicated community leader, entrepreneur, and founder of the Canada Multicultural & Social Society, with chapters across Alberta, Ontario, and Manitoba. Joining him are his wife Dr. Uzma Erum and guests Isam Haidar,

Zuha Haidar, Hareem Haidar, Yousuf Haidar, Quratulain Nazir, Mustafa Nazir Qazi. I please ask them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Members' Statements

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

Support for Local Food Producers

Member Eremenko: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Buying local is more than just a reaction to an unhinged President threatening economic war with Canada. Supporting Canada-made products is bigger than a patriotic Elbows Up campaign. It's an invaluable way of supporting small business, social entrepreneurship, and family-run operations. It's a means of keeping more money circulating in the local economy, with greater assurances that the locally owned and operated businesses pay their staff better. The product is often superior because no one wants to sell garbage to someone they might bump into at a school assembly or at their kids' soccer game.

Now, as someone who has believed in buying local for a long time, sometimes it comes at a premium, a premium I fully recognize is out of reach for many families. Maybe it's greater cost. Maybe it takes more time. It takes some planning in a vehicle to go out and pick up your community-supported agriculture bin. It takes a deep freeze to hold that world-class Alberta beef when you've bought a quarter steer from a local rancher. Not everyone can buy local, but if you can, please do.

The multiplier effect of that decision sends ripples throughout this province. It's better for the community, and it's better for the economy. It fosters innovation and entrepreneurship and a creative cottage industry. Though sometimes it's more expensive, a lot of the time it really isn't. Make dinner with canola oil instead of olive oil tonight. Make cookies with Highwood Crossing oats. Visit madeinalberta.co for hundreds of local producers, and you'd be surprised what's made right here in your own backyard.

The constant yo-yoing of tariffs on, tariffs off isn't going away anytime soon, no matter how much ball-gown diplomacy the Premier pursues. Seize the opportunity to support Canada, buy local, and thank a farmer. We're stronger when we do it together.

Joshua Reimer

Mrs. Johnson: Madam Speaker, on the Tuesday following Easter, the morning after a heavy snowfall that had quickly turned to slush, creating dangerous driving conditions, Josh Reimer, a passenger in a vehicle, was on his way to work. He never made it. A terrible car accident took his life, leaving behind his two beautiful daughters, aged one and three, and his beautiful wife, seven months pregnant.

Josh was a friend to everyone he met. He was intentional in all his relationships. He would phone his friends out of the blue, loved to invite people over, and never wanted to leave anyone out. His motto was The More the Merrier. At a young age he started playing sports and quickly excelled. From hockey, volleyball, badminton, and basketball to spikeball and disc golf, he did it all. He had a very strong work ethic and was passionate about what he did, all while maintaining a humble and uplifting spirit. He had a deep love for Jesus and was often reading his Bible, memorizing verses, meeting with mentors, listening to trusted pastors, and striving to do all for the glory of God.

He chose to attend Millar College of the Bible, where he received his first two degrees, a bachelor of biblical studies and bachelor of arts and strategic ministries. He also met his wife, Shanyn, there.

They had a deep and sincere love for each other, and Shany's smile was his favourite sight in the world. They married and began their life in Red Deer, where they had their first daughter, Marlee, and their second daughter, Londyn. Josh was an amazing husband to Shany and daddy to his little girls and would do anything for them. The joy and pride he felt for his family was evident to everyone. Josh received his third degree, a bachelor of education, in 2023 and soon after began teaching at Rimbey Christian School.

He loved his job and each student that he taught and coached. Additionally, he also spent time volunteering with the youth at his church, and each one of them looked up to and was impacted by him. At only 29 years old Josh was an extraordinary man who lived and loved well, with integrity and intentionality. As one of the nearly 2,000 friends who attended his funeral, I stand here today to honour Josh and the legacy he left.

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

Women's Health Care

Ms Hayter: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Women's Health Week is an annual event in May, that occurs the week leading up to Mother's Day, a time to celebrate the women in our lives.

A critical blind spot in the government's vision is their failure to recognize that women's health and economic growth are inseparable. It's time they stop pretending to care about Alberta's prosperity while ignoring the health needs of half our population. Women's health is a cornerstone of society, well-being, and progress. Better health and well-being for women creates a ripple effect that extends to our families, communities, and our economy. There is underinvestment in women's health research. Closing the health gap will require increased investment to address undermet needs.

Despite clear evidence that contraception access is both economically sound and enhances women's ability to participate in the workforce, the UCP remains silent on federal funding for universal prescription contraception. This should be a win-win for our economy and the women in Alberta.

Limited research leads to potential underestimation of disease severity and health burdens, influencing both the care that women receive and the level of innovation and investment in women's health. Endometriosis and menopause have a substantial impact on women's ability to work, both causing pain and reducing the quality of life. Approximately 28 per cent of women have either had to quit their jobs or considered quitting due to menopause symptoms. Endometriosis diagnosis delays are averaging nearly seven years. Women are losing approximately 11 hours of work productivity weekly, hours that translate directly into lost economic output. That's a catastrophic brain drain of experienced talent that Alberta cannot afford.

Addressing the women's health gap could boost the global economy, with every dollar invested generating \$3 in economic growth. This isn't just poor health policy; it's economic malpractice. The UCP claims to understand economics, but they fail to grasp this fundamental equation, that healthy women equals a healthy economy.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

Pope Leo XIV

Mr. Dyck: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and congratulations to our newly elected Pope, Pope Leo XIV. As a fellow Christian and to our Catholic friends and family around the world, more than 1.4 billion strong, this is a historic and joyous moment. The election of a new Pope marks not only a transition but reaffirmation of

leadership that has guided Catholics in their faith in Jesus Christ for centuries.

In times of uncertainty the entirety of the Christian church continues to be a beacon of hope, moral clarity, and strong community, and the Pope, as a strong father to millions, represents a commitment to values that transcend borders and generations, rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Whether Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, or any denomination that follows Christ, we share a common foundation, a belief in grace in redemption and the call to live our lives with integrity, humility, and love in Jesus Christ.

As a fellow Christian I pray that Pope Leo XIV will lead with courage, with compassion, and with wisdom. May his voice not just be in the grand cathedrals but speak for the poor, uplift the downtrodden, and give hope through knowing Jesus Christ. To all our Christian leaders, pastors, priests, elders, and believers called to shepherd others, we look to you and thank you for accepting this calling. Thank you for leading with courage and strength and in boldness, speaking boldly with a passion for Jesus. We rely on you to help build the moral and spiritual foundations our world so desperately needs, a foundation of character, truth, and unshakable faith in Jesus. Thank you for guiding your congregations as you build them up, helping people flourish in faith and in life. In doing so, you make healthy families possible, building strong communities, and you become the cornerstones of a stronger, more hopeful Alberta.

Our faith and moral compass is the foundation for sound policy that will continue to help each person across Alberta for the very best. May God bless His Holiness, all those who follow Christ, and every leader who bears Jesus Christ's name. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Falconridge.

Government Priorities

Member Boparai: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let's talk about the drug crisis in this province. While Albertans are losing loved ones to overdoses every single day, this government would rather slash services, gut protections, and line their friends' pockets than deal with the real causes of addiction.

1:50

The UCP has cut health care, social supports, and community services that are essential to prevention, recovery, and dignity. Nonprofits doing life-saving work are being choked off. Housing costs are through the roof, and support systems are collapsing. This isn't a coincidence. This is what happens when a government refuses to deal with the root causes of addiction: poverty, trauma, mental health, and homelessness.

According to a *Toronto Star* investigation the UCP's recovery model is failing. Overdose deaths remain stubbornly high, and experts say that it ignores the best available data. Why? Because it's not about saving lives; it's about saving face.

Then Bill 38, Madam Speaker. This government's cruelty knows no bounds. Bill 38 strips away protections for some of Alberta's most vulnerable young people aging out of care. These are youth who have already endured so much, and now they will be left without oversight, without advocacy, and without a fighting chance.

This isn't just mismanagement. It's a pattern. It's a government that prioritizes ideology and profit over people while communities are left to suffer. Just look at corrupt care. This UCP government doesn't care about Albertans. If it did, it would invest in real solutions: housing, mental health care, and prevention. Enough with the slogans. Albertans deserve a government that believes in evidence and accountability and, most importantly, in people.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Oral Question Period

The Deputy Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition has question 1.

Alberta Separatism and Premier's Leadership

Ms Gray: Madam Speaker, we now know that the Premier's openness to a separatist referendum is all about one thing: holding on to her party leadership. It's not about demanding a better deal for Albertans. It's not about our economy and a better life for people. No, she said it herself: it's really about not splitting her political party. When it comes to Alberta separation, why is the Premier putting her political interests and her party ahead of what is best for all Albertans?

Ms Smith: Madam Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. I can tell you what we do not want in Alberta. We do not want an attitude of separation to set in to the point where they are electing Bloc Québécois members to the Legislature, or Parti Québécois members as a permanent feature of government, like they see in Quebec. This is the reason that I am focused on negotiating with the new Prime Minister for greater sovereignty within a united Canada. That is what my mandate is, and that is what I will be focusing on. Those members opposite should not be urging on the creation of new parties that will permanently divide Albertans, and we certainly won't on this side.

Ms Gray: So the Premier admits this is about not creating new political parties and splintering her power.

She said that, quote, you can see there isn't an outlet; it creates a new party. In Quebec right now the Parti Québécois is polling highest of the provincial parties, and we all see the Bloc won a significant number of seats. End quote. She is risking national unity for herself, her power, and her party. Madam Speaker, why is the Premier dividing the country and our province just to avoid dividing her party?

Ms Smith: It sure sounds like the member opposite just said exactly what I said. It's that we do not want a permanent feature of Alberta politics to be parties that send representatives to Ottawa whose sole purpose is to break up the country or brand new political parties whose sole purpose is to take this province out of Confederation. That is not the mandate of the United Conservative Party. What we are working towards is a united Canada with respect for provincial constitutional sovereignty over our areas of jurisdiction. That is what we have been fighting for from the moment we got founded, that's what we've been fighting for through the legislation we've been putting forward, and that's what we're going to keep on fighting for.

Ms Gray: The separatists the Premier is talking about are factions of her own party, and the action she is failing to take is to tell this faction of her own party that they are wrong. She is coddling Alberta's separatists, securing the endorsements of Quebec politicians who tried to block our pipelines, and failing to get good deals for Albertans.

Mr. Schow: Point of order.

Ms Gray: She's ripping up a century of treaty relationships with Indigenous people all to hold on to her own divided party and political power. Will the Premier ever put Alberta first, ahead of the grievances of the separatists in her own flawed party?

The Deputy Speaker: A point of order is noted at 1:55.

Ms Smith: Come on, Madam Speaker. They never put Alberta first. All they do is talk to their masters in Ottawa – first it was Jagmeet Singh; now it's Mark Carney – and they deign to tell Albertans what they should think and what they should feel. That's not who we are on this side of the House. We listen to Albertans, we take their concerns seriously, and then we take those concerns forward and we try to get the best deal for Alberta, putting Alberta's interests first. That is what our mandate is, that is what I'm going to do, and I'm going to continue to work with the Prime Minister so that we can find some kind of common ground to bring the temperature down so that not only can we benefit but the entire country can benefit, too.

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

Investigation of Health Services Procurement

Ms Gray: Madam Speaker, what we've seen this government do is give contracts to friends and insiders at inflated prices, taxpayer dollars involved in misspending, kickbacks, and corruption. They are concerned with chartered surgical facilities with bloated prices, unusable medication with \$50 million still missing, useless PPE that we're still paying to store in warehouses, shady land deals that result in hundreds of thousands of dollars of profit. To be very clear, all of the above is related to Sam Mraiche's companies. Why hasn't Sam Mraiche's good friend and relative the Minister of Justice recused himself?

Ms Smith: Madam Speaker, we believe in going through and finding out if there's any actual wrongdoing. Normally you don't punish people because of allegations or statements of claim that have been filed with a \$1.7 million price tag asking for a payout. What you do is you take a considered approach, you get all of the documents that you need, you ask the Auditor General, which we have done, to look at the information. We've asked Judge Wyant to do the same. We don't have that much longer to wait. We will be getting a report by the end of June. I'm looking forward to that being shared publicly, and then we will get some answers.

Ms Gray: When it comes to this scandal, the Auditor General and his investigation are key. But to prevent his work, this government told staff that they must speak to government lawyers before responding to his requests, something that is not normal or endorsed by him. When media reported it, the Premier said that she had directed her Minister of Justice to check in with the AG to see if the government can solve any errors or maybe help any problems there. Does the Premier really believe that Sam Mraiche's good friend and relative is the best person to help solve problems when it comes to this investigation?

Ms Smith: Madam Speaker, no one who has been named in the statement of claim has anything to do with the investigation. That is why a member of the independent civil service, the deputy minister of jobs, economy, is the person who hired the judge. It is why the Deputy Minister of Justice is co-ordinating to make sure the Auditor General gets everything he needs. It is why the Deputy Minister of Health, who has not been named in the statement of claim, is the person who is arranging interviews and helping to get the documents that the AG needs. The Minister of Justice has nothing to do with this.

Ms Gray: Procurement to Sam Mraiche's companies, the Minister of Justice's good friend and relative, is at the heart of this. You know what would solve problems more than asking the Minister of Justice

to look into it? If staff weren't under a gag order. You know what would help solve problems? If a good friend and relative of the person at the heart of this wasn't the one in charge of the investigation. A full public inquiry would be very helpful, Madam Speaker. Yesterday we heard in the House that concerns have been raised about procurement for Grande Prairie and Beaverlodge hospitals. When will the government stop blocking the Auditor General? Call a full public inquiry.

Ms Smith: Madam Speaker . . . [interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Ms Smith: Madam Speaker, the Auditor General can ask for any investigation he wants to, into any matter. He can talk to any employee, current and former, at his discretion. No one is blocking anything. Our role is to facilitate access to the documents that the Auditor General needs. It is defined in legislation. It is an independent office of this Legislature. They have the full co-operation on this side of the Chamber, and we will make sure that continues.

2:00 Interim Report of Independent Investigator into AHS Procurement

Ms Pancholi: Madam Speaker, on March 10 the Minister of Justice, the government's lawyer, addressed questions in this House about the UCP's newly appointed nonpublic inquiry into the corrupt care scandal. On that date the minister stated clearly that Judge Wyant will "deliver an interim report by May 30, 2025, so that all members of this Assembly can see what the recommendations and conclusions are." As the House may no longer be sitting when that interim report is completed on May 30, can the Minister of Justice advise how, as he promised, all members of the Assembly will receive a copy of Judge Wyant's interim report?

Mr. Amery: Madam Speaker, as I've said a number of times, an interim report will be prepared by Justice Wyant by the end of May, and a public report at the end of June will be available on alberta.ca for all members of this Assembly to download, review. All Albertans can take a look at it. It'll be publicly available for everybody in the province.

Ms Pancholi: Madam Speaker, this must be a little bit awkward for the Minister of Justice. He stated in this House that all members of the Assembly would be able to see the recommendations and conclusions of Judge Wyant before a final report was posted publicly on the government website unless, of course, the minister has changed his mind or the Premier doesn't want this Assembly to see Judge Wyant's conclusions until after she or the minister have had a chance to, say, provide their feedback. I mean, it's not a public inquiry, after all. It's a UCP inquiry. So which is it? Will all members receive the interim report as promised by the Minister of Justice, or does the UCP want to cover that up as well?

Mr. Amery: Madam Speaker, I think I've said it, but I'll say it one more time. All members of the Assembly, all Albertans will be able to access the full report by June 30, 2025.

Ms Pancholi: That's convenient, Madam Speaker.

The Minister of Justice has a strong potential conflict of interest when it comes to the corrupt care scandal because it's centred around his good friend and relative Sam Mraiche, so it would be highly inappropriate for the Minister of Justice to in any way be involved in the review of that interim report or the final report. If Judge Wyant concludes that Mr. Mraiche's conduct may have been

in any way criminal or unethical, Albertans would expect that the minister would have strong feelings about that, and that could probably influence his advice or direction. It's the very definition of a perceived conflict of interest. Can the minister confirm today that he will recuse himself entirely from anything to do with the interim or final report in the UCP's inquiry, and if not, why would Albertans trust anything that is concluded in that report?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. the Government House Leader.

Mr. Schow: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. Wonderful to see you in the chair today. What I would love to say – I find it interesting that any lawyer worth their salt would know that in this province you are innocent until proven guilty, but the members opposite think it's completely the opposite. They think it's guilty until proven innocent, and for some reason they're using this as an opportunity to disparage the character of the Minister of Justice. I have no idea. I think the members opposite have lost the plot on this. They don't know what they're actually looking for. We're all going to wait for the report, and when the report comes out, we're all going to review it.

Bill 55

Ms Hoffman: The government said that they wouldn't privatize health care. Then they expanded private surgical centres, seized ownership of Alberta Health Services' buildings and land, and now with Bill 55, the Health Statutes Amendment Act, they're pushing a bill that turns publicly funded and publicly delivered hospitals over to private interests and private hospital operators. Albertans don't want American-style care. Nobody should ever have to pay out of pocket. We've listened to Albertans; that's what they've said. Why won't the government?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I find it absolutely shocking that the member opposite was the Minister of Health for four years and doesn't know the legislation that she was overseeing. It is not the Hospitals Act, which is being amended under Bill 55, but the Health Facilities Act that governs the hospitals. In fact, it says very clearly in the Health Facilities Act that we're not changing. "No person shall operate a private hospital in Alberta." Period.

Ms Hoffman: Bill 55 is a disgusting betrayal of government's responsibility to ensure care is available to Albertans when and where they need it, regardless of their ability to pay. We're in the midst of an affordability crisis. When Albertans are worried about paying for their rent and buying groceries, it's simply cruel to add to their worries by potentially bankrupting families with new fees while they're in hospital. Twenty-five years ago Ralph Klein had the wisdom to pull Bill 11. Will the minister do the same today, or will she at least accept our amendments to codify in the legislation that there will be no privatization of Alberta hospitals?

Member LaGrange: Madam Speaker, obviously, the members opposite have not read the bill. The bill is not going to privatize health care. In fact, everything that the members opposite have alluded to is incorrect. It really is about not listening to their fearmongering and actually making sure that we have a modernized health care system. We need to continue to make sure that as we refocus the health care system, we are looking at the language that's already in that system, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry for calling you "Mr. Speaker."

Ms Hoffman: Well, Bill 55 also allows private operators to decide when a patient needing care can be transferred from one setting to another or discharged altogether. This means more motel medicine like we've seen with stroke patients in wheelchairs ending up in motels with no accessibility. It's just cruel to allow private hospital operators to push patients into motels, shelters, or onto the streets. Why does the government care more about profits and acting like American Republicans than they do about taking care of Albertans in need of public health care? Why won't they pull this bill?

Member LaGrange: Madam Speaker, why do the members opposite always resort to fearmongering when they have nothing else to bring forward? This is about making sure that the act that we have brought forward is to modernize health care. Why is it that when she had a chance to fix health care, when they chased tens of thousands of people out of the province, they still couldn't even do anything to fix health care? We are actually making sure that as we modernize the legislation, we are protecting Albertans. The members opposite weren't protecting Albertans; they were happy to see them suffer.

Alberta Separatism and Economic Development

Mr. Ellingson: Madam Speaker, the government continues to play footsie with separatists, and Albertans are worried. They're already worried about the cost of groceries. They're already worried about just making it to the end of the month. The government's threat of separation is making it worse. Families know that this will only cost the province more and risk their paycheques being less. As the Premier dances with separatists, can the Finance minister tell us today: what would the economic impact of separation be?

Mr. Horner: Madam Speaker, you can't model rhetoric. I know the economists would say that. I know I mentioned that in our estimates. But I would say this. The entire country is under great economic strain. I believe in what the Premier and our team and many have been saying, that Alberta is stronger as part of a united Canada. I think the things that will make Alberta stronger will also make Canada stronger. I think we have great allies around the table to ensure that we can attract investment, continue to grow, find new markets and egress, and make life better for everyone.

Mr. Ellingson: Well, given that even the mention of separatism can cause negative impact, given that the former Finance minister confirmed that a provincial tax collection agency could cost \$500 million a year, given that an independent Alberta police force would be \$1.4 billion over six years, given that an independent Alberta would also require its own border patrols, passports, diplomatic offices, separation would cost billions. Given that we are expecting Albertans to trust this government to navigate us through that process when they can't even manage health care, what are the real costs of separation?

Mr. Horner: Madam Speaker, I believe the number I told you on a tax collection agency was \$1.1 billion higher than that. I think what's important to see here is that I've had that conversation with Quebec, and they've said: you know, if we were allowed to collect and remit on behalf of the federal government, we would encourage you to do it. They've asked for that. They haven't been granted that, so I don't see a need to pursue that.

When it comes to the police initiatives under our minister of public safety, that is something about filling a gap that is required right now. The federal government is . . .

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Foothills.

2:10

Mr. Ellingson: Given that First Nations outright reject the separatist agenda and given that a disruption to Alberta's resource industry as we know it could cost good-paying jobs and billions in revenues to the province and given that this dangerous talk is all happening at a time when oil prices are already on the decline and this government is forecasting a \$5 billion deficit with no path to balance, can the minister right here, right now state that the talk of separation is bad for our provincial economy?

Mr. Horner: I think what the country needs right now and I think what Alberta needs right now is certainty. We're facing great global unrest economically. We're seeing it here. That's what I propose everyone focuses on. The only people I hear talking about it in this House are from that side of the aisle. I think if you want to talk about growing, I know in the Premier's first ministers' meetings and I know in my conversations with federal colleagues everyone is saying the same thing: support Alberta – this is coming from the Maritimes – unleash Alberta; they're the answer, not the problem.

Wildfire Prevention and Control

Mr. Wiebe: Madam Speaker, since January of this year there have been a total of 24 wildfires in the Grande Prairie forest area with limited damage to properties. No communities are currently under threat, and the Deer Ridge Estates fire was under control in two days. However, the risk remains, and none of us wants to see a devastating wildfire like the one in Jasper last year. To the Ministry of Forestry and Parks: can you explain how the Grande Prairie county regional fire service partners with the provincial government to effectively prevent and respond to wildfires?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Forestry and Parks.

Mr. Loewen: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the member for the important question. Protecting lives and livelihoods in Alberta's communities are the highest priorities we have going into wildfire season. Each year Alberta Wildfire offers training to municipal firefighters to build key wildfire skills, and provincial teams are always ready to support local fire services, including the county of Grande Prairie. Through mutual aid and resource-sharing agreements we provide access to specialized equipment like air tankers and wildland crews. Over the past week we have deployed support to municipalities to tackle at least three fires outside the forest protection area. Alberta's government is well prepared for the season ahead, and we will keep working closely with our municipal partners.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Mr. Wiebe: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that wildfire danger across the province is currently high, posing a serious risk of grass and vegetation fires, and given that our government has been able to invest in efforts to protect lives, property, and livestock from wildfire and further given that prevention remains the most effective wildfire mitigation strategy, can the same minister explain how the new equipment, technology, and strategies are being used to reduce the impact of wildfires in Alberta?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Forestry and Parks.

Mr. Loewen: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Preventing wildfires before they start is one of the most effective ways we can protect Albertans, which is why our campaign to reduce human-caused wildfires is more important than ever. We also continue to invest in

new equipment, technology, and strategies like night-vision helicopters, enhanced detection systems, drones with thermal imaging, and updated fire modelling tools. These advancements help us detect and respond to wildfires faster and more effectively, playing a key part in helping to keep people, property, and infrastructure safe. These tools are helping us stay on top of wildfire risk, and we will continue to use every available resource to protect Albertans this season.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Mr. Wiebe: Thank you, Madam Speaker and to the minister for that answer. Given that the Alberta government is investing \$160 million in base funding for wildfire personnel, equipment, training, and contracts for aircraft, dozers, and night-vision equipped helicopters through Budget 2025 and further given that the NDP continues to spread disinformation by claiming we are cutting the wildfire budget, can the same minister please update the Assembly on how much our government is spending to fight wildfires?

Mr. Loewen: Thanks again for that question. Alberta's government is fully committed to ensuring our wildfire response is as effective as possible with a historic \$160 million in investment in Budget 2025 and a historic increase in contingency funding. Let's be clear. There is absolutely no cut to wildfire funding under this government, unlike under the previous NDP government, who cut tanker contracts by \$5.1 million and reduced the wildfire management budget by \$9.6 million, bringing it down to just \$100 million. While the NDP continues to spread misinformation, our government is making record investments to help protect Albertans' homes and communities.

Alberta Separatism and First Nations Treaty Rights

Member Arcand-Paul: Madam Speaker, yesterday the minister claimed to be working with chiefs on Bill 54 and this government's Alberta independence agenda, but from what treaty chiefs have shared publicly, there's no working relationship with this government. All they are doing is disrespecting treaty to cater to extremists. To the minister: can you clarify what exactly you're working on with First Nations leaders? All we've seen is a government doubling down on separatism while ignoring the clear and constitutionally protected rights raised by treaty chiefs.

Mr. Wilson: Thank you for the question. Madam Speaker, in the last two days I've probably had six chiefs here from across the province talking about various issues. We just met yesterday with Chief Conroy Sewepagaham, talking about justice and how we can help them with the police force up there. Many things going on. We honour the treaties in Alberta. We work closely with our First Nation people. We've done so much, more than the rest of Canada combined, when it comes to reconciliation efforts. We just opened up a skating arena for Whitefish.

Member Arcand-Paul: Given that the minister yesterday said that he would rather run away and hide than face the backlash over Bill 54 and separatist rhetoric and given that the Premier refuses to disavow either and has doubled down on the legislation and rhetoric, will the minister stand in this House and finally denounce the government's separatist agenda, or will he continue to run his policy of running and hiding? Even Custer stood his ground.

Mr. Schow: Madam Speaker, again, we see the childish personal attacks from the members opposite. I'll tell you what. The Minister of Indigenous Relations is not running and hiding from anything. [interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Schow: The Minister of Indigenous Relations stood in this Chamber for the last six years and defended this government and defended this province and built relationships that are unprecedented with First Nations in Alberta, Madam Speaker. I'll tell you what. I'll defend him all day, every day, just like this caucus does.

Member Arcand-Paul: Given that despite all of that, this week the minister has refused to assure Indigenous peoples in Alberta that he or his government will reject separatism and given that he appears to treat this direct attack on treaty rights as "no big deal" and "I'm hoping this doesn't affect our relationship," does the minister understand that attacking treaty rights isn't something First Nations will get over? Those rights are foundational to the existence of this province and country. Does the minister recognize that Alberta is treaty land and all Albertans are treaty people?

Mr. Wilson: I enjoy being a treaty person. It's a beneficial agreement for everyone, Madam Speaker. We've done so much when it comes to reconciliation in this province. I don't know how many times — all I'm hearing is separation from that side of the House. They keep bringing it up. Maybe there's a hidden agenda there. I'm not sure. All I'm hearing on our side is that we're consistently advocating for a strong and prosperous Alberta within a united Canada.

Health Facility Construction Costs

Mr. Schmidt: Yesterday the former Minister of Infrastructure put out another eye-opening tabling. We now know the Beaverlodge hospital was approved as a P3 project with no open procurement process, without the input of the ministries of Finance or Infrastructure, and that the UCP overspent on that project as a result. In fact, Deloitte provided the government with an analysis that showed that the UCP could have saved millions of dollars. I'm wondering if the minister will table that report and tell Albertans how many millions would have been saved if this government had been competent and not so corrupt?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Infrastructure.

Mr. Long: Madam Speaker, thank you for the question. Our government will always, always, always look for the best value for taxpayers, and P3s are no exception. P3s are looked at as a viable option for projects where they provide value for taxpayers. Full stop. If that does not provide value for taxpayers, then we go with other project builds like design/build or project management. I do hope that eventually the opposition does get onboard with saving taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Schmidt: Given that tabling the document would be a good first step at showing that Albertans are getting value for dollars and given that the Premier called the former Minister of Infrastructure an obstructionist for doing his job by trying to stop wasting millions on noncompetitive contracts and given that we are talking about a government that's up to their eyeballs in corruption . . .

Ms Lovely: You are the worst MLA Gold Bar ever had.

Mr. Schmidt: . . . can the Premier explain what the former minister was obstructing her from doing? Was it giving hundreds of millions of dollars over to her friends and her cabinet minister's friends and cousins?

Mr. Shepherd: Point of order.

2:20

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

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I know that in the community of Beaverlodge that they were requiring a facility. It was looked at. It was put through the proper processes. The former Minister of Infrastructure was in fact charged with making sure that those contracts were put together, and my understanding is that everything was done according to proper protocols and procedures.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, given that apparently the Health minister has just admitted that corruption is the proper protocol and procedure and given that it wasn't just Beaverlodge hospital where the UCP fumbled the ball – the Grande Prairie hospital . . .

Mr. Schow: Point of order.

Mr. Schmidt: . . . cost nearly \$400 million more than budget, they've given a half billion dollars to Sam Mraiche for private surgical facilities, we've got warehouses full of unsafe PPE and unusable Turkish Tylenol, and now they're trying to privatize Albertans' hospitals – will the new Minister of Infrastructure stop hiding from Albertans and join us and his former colleague for a full public inquiry into the government's corruption scandal?

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, there were two points of order called at about 2:20. My apologies for missing those.

The hon. Minister of Infrastructure.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Actually, I love this kind of question. I've seen this from every setting this member finds himself in, including in Public Accounts a few weeks ago, where he deliberately became antagonistic and disrespectful to the public service.

Mr. Sabir: Point of order.

Mr. Long: It is completely and utterly abhorrent, the behaviour that they have towards the public service. It's one thing if they want to play political games with us, but my team works diligently to make sure that projects are timely and cost-effectively delivered.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, a point of order was noted at 2:22.

The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake has the next set of questions.

Government Policies

Mr. Sinclair: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Northern Alberta Indigenous people are tired of the corruption and failed results in health care. Given that nobody wants the top jobs at Alberta Health – and who could blame them? Not only are you hired to be fired, but the Premier also insists on vilifying people for simply doing their job or asking questions on financial oversight . . .

Mr. Schow: Point of order.

Mr. Sinclair: . . . bloated contracts, and obvious conflicts of interest, or obvious to anyone but her. To the Premier: are you surprised it's difficult to recruit health care leaders to join a corrupt castle, and when can northern Albertans expect health care results instead of town halls and name changes?

The Deputy Speaker: A point of order is noted.

The hon. Minister of Health.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In fact, we are finding more and more health professionals coming to Alberta. We've increased the number of doctors from roughly about 10,600 when I first started to well over 12,200. In fact, we have actually hired CMOHs for Acute Care Alberta as well as Primary Care Alberta. Medical officers of health are in fact working in our province. We have a great public health system that's working, and we're going to continue to recruit into those places.

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

Mr. Sinclair: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that Bill 54 and this whole referendum is more likely a desperate distraction from the scandals, bougie spending, and ballooning deficits and further given that it's been reported that several family members of Sam Mraiche work or worked inside the UCP government, making it a family business, with the *Globe and Mail* reporting last week that the Minister of Justice is a lifelong friend and relative to Sam Mraiche, to the Premier: why not solve your executive recruitment problem at AHS by hiring Sam Mraiche for the top job instead of pretending you don't already give him most or all of the government contracts? [interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Order. Order.

Hon. members, the hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I didn't hear a single question in there or anything related to government business, but I am happy to answer and stand up in defence of the Minister of Justice and recognize that the Minister of Justice is not obligated to table his family tree. As they say, you can pick your friends, but you can't pick your relatives. That remains the same here. I just don't understand, again, why the Member for Lesser Slave Lake has decided to join the NDP caucus in joining on these bully tactics. It is quite childish and, frankly, unbecoming of a member. It sounds to me a lot like sour grapes.

Mr. Sinclair: Given Bill 54 has made it impossible for Indigenous people to support the UCP going forward and given many First Nations are heartbroken that this Premier has transformed it into a separatist party and is forcing Indigenous Albertans to choose supporting the UCP or betraying their own people while she refuses to take the credit or the blame depending on what room she's in, to the Premier: will you apologize to the Minister of Indigenous Relations for erasing the sincere trust that I've personally seen him build with First Nation leaders while he's forced to defend your reckless plan to divide our province?

The Deputy Speaker: I find it very difficult, hon. member, to tie in your first and second supplemental with your first question, but here we are in the second supplemental. I do see the minister rising to speak, and he will have the opportunity to do so.

The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Wilson: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for the question because this gives me an opportunity to actually defend our Premier. Any time I've come to cabinet or anywhere, who's the first person standing up and saying: let's support the minister. Everyone else's budget is getting cut. She says: no; let's leave the minister's budget alone. So I really have to thank the Premier for her hard work in supporting the projects that move forward. I consistently hear her: what we want is that we're advocating for a strong and prosperous Alberta within a united Canada. I don't know how else we can make that any clearer. And she says that we're going to hold and honour the treaties of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people; therefore, any

citizen referendum question must not violate – must not violate – the constitutional rights of our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

Public Service Contract Negotiations

Ms Wright: Madam Speaker, AUPE's government services members are watching. They've watched this UCP government sow nothing but chaos. They've heard the allegations of corruption, bloated contracts said to benefit insiders. They've looked on as other employees are issued gag orders. They know what's up. They know about wage mandates, they know this government isn't bargaining fairly, and they know disrespect. Albertans depend upon these workers, so when can they expect this government to get back to the bargaining table, end secret dictates and mandated wage caps that are designed to keep wages low?

Mr. Horner: Madam Speaker, we've said time and time again that we don't bargain on the floor of this House. I think it's clear AUPE has to be written out of the mediator's report, and now they're taking a strike vote. We'll have more to say by Monday or Tuesday, but I will say this. I think that we have shown that we're willing to negotiate with the public service in a way that's fair, that will aid in recruitment and retention, and that is based on the market. I'll say this. A strike or a lockout won't change the market data. That's where we're at.

Ms Wright: Given these workers number in the thousands – they are administrative support workers, court reporters, librarians, cooks, caretakers, social workers, food inspectors, child and youth care workers, sheriffs, carpenters, electricians, conservation officers, LPNs, and wildland firefighters, amongst others – and given that too many too often work short-staffed, sometimes in dangerous conditions, and given their employer, this government, recently sent out an e-mail to these workers that was clearly intended to undermine bargaining, why is this government spending its time sending misinformation-laced e-mails that are designed to pit worker against worker instead of playing fair?

Mr. Horner: That certainly hasn't been what the government has done, and I think we've shown in our short track record through bargaining that we are prepared to come to fair deals, the first negotiated deal with registered nurses in decades. So I think if anything, what we see is a ratcheting up of expectations. I think it's a conversation that's between the unions and their members, and I want to let them have it. We'll see what they come back to us with, but we've never left the table; they have.

Ms Wright: Given these are dedicated workers who have endured years of inflation, some working multiple jobs, but continue to show up every day for Alberta; given these workers deserve better, deserve respect, fair wages, and are taking a strike vote this week; given this government recently filed an ALRB application to lock them out, why won't this government simply do what's right, return to the table, bargain in good faith? To the minister: can you clarify what exactly you're working on with First Nations leaders? All we've seen is a government doubling down on separatism while ignoring the clear and constitutionally protected rights raised by treaty chiefs. Is it because the UCP isn't interested in showing respect to the folks who keep this province running, or is it just plain incompetence?

2:30

Mr. Horner: I'm not going to sink to calling names of anybody. I don't want to fan any flames in this negotiation or this process. They're the ones who walked away from the table. That is clear. They wanted to be written out of the mediation. Zeros again. The

lockout is a tool. They've asked for permission to strike. We'll go through our process to make sure the lockout is a tool that is in the back pocket. We will see what happens on Monday or Tuesday, and we'll take it from there.

Health Care Wait Times

Mr. McDougall: Madam Speaker, Albertans across the province expect timely access to health care. However, in many communities, from our urban centres to our rural regions, wait times for surgeries, diagnostic imaging, and specialist care remain a concern. Ongoing population growth, staffing challenges, and rising demand are putting serious strain on our health system. Addressing these challenges requires targeted investments, strong co-ordination, and innovation. To the Minister of Health: what steps is the government taking to reduce wait times and improve access to care across Alberta?

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

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Our government is committed to reducing surgical backlogs and increasing surgeries at underutilized hospitals and chartered surgical facilities. In fact, Budget 2025 invests \$377 million for the Alberta surgical initiative, which is our plan to increase the number of surgeries and ensure Albertans receive their procedures within clinically recommended times. This will support a record 316,400 surgeries in '25-26. It also adds an additional \$265 million that'll be invested in the Alberta surgical initiative capital program to expand more ORs in our hospital. These are tangible initiatives that we are doing to ensure that we can expand our surgical reach.

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

Mr. McDougall: Thank you, Madam Speaker and to the minister for the response. Given that Calgary has experienced record-setting growth, particularly in the south and northeast, placing added pressure on hospitals and clinics, and given that localized bottlenecks in high-growth areas can create ripple effects across the broader health care system, to the same minister: how is the government working to identify and prioritize high-growth areas in Calgary when allocating health care resources and expanding service capacity?

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

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Madam Speaker and to the member for the question. Acute Care Alberta is the new provincial health agency. It will effectively oversee the governance and co-ordination of acute-care services right across the province, including in high-growth areas such as Calgary. This new agency will speed up access to high-quality care and reduce wait times for patients by working directly with acute-care providers, including AHS, Covenant Health, chartered surgical facilities, Lamont, et cetera, to reduce emergency room department times and surgery wait times. We're going to improve medical services right across the whole system.

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

Mr. McDougall: Thank you, Madam Speaker and again to the minister for that response. Given that reducing wait times also depends on improving system efficiency and given that better integration between Alberta Health, AHS, local providers, and community clinics can lead to more responsive, patient-focused care, to the same minister: how is the government leveraging collaboration, technology, and innovation to improve care delivery in Calgary and meet the health needs of a rapidly growing population both now and into the future?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We're committed to expanding health care access right across the province, and one example is through the \$1.4 billion investment that we made into the Arthur J.E. Child comprehensive cancer care centre, particularly in Calgary, where it's going to attract leading cancer experts. We're already seeing the result of that. Recruitment strategies for the centre include international campaigns into the U.S. and into the U.K. They're offering practicums and research opportunities in partnership with postsecondaries. We actually also have the Siemens partnership, that is the largest that they've ever had globally. Many of these things are going to provide continued access and services to Albertans. We're going to see improved wait times and timely responses.

Hunting Quotas

Dr. Elmeligi: The Minister of Forestry and Parks insists his decisions to increase hunting tags for cougars and trapping limits for fur-bearers are based on scientific data. Nope. In actuality the current scientific research shows that every decision the minister has made contradicts the scientific data and even some of the government's own species management plans. The misinformation coming from this minister is as boundless as the Rocky Mountains themselves. To the minister: if there is data proving these decisions are supported, will he table it in the House today?

Mr. Loewen: Madam Speaker, the cougar management plan that we follow: the quotas that we've set are well in line with that. But what I wonder about is that in 2018, 2019 the NDP had quotas at 95 males, 72 females for a total of 167 cougars, and what I just had this past season was 132, substantially less. In addition, that 132 is over double the area that it was when the NDP were coming up with 167 cougars. In one of the areas they had a quota of 18 cougars. There is not one area in Alberta that has over five.

Dr. Elmeligi: Given, Madam Speaker, that the science has been updated, so the quota should also be updated, given the science supporting these decisions doesn't exist except in the ... [interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: Order. That one worked much better.

Dr. Elmeligi: ... minister's imagination, given that the minister has also expanded special licences and spent over 10,000 taxpayer dollars last year selling these opportunities to international hunters, given the minister recently returned from another trip to Qatar and London selling more special licences, which may further impact wildlife populations, how much money did the minister spend on this recent trip to sell Alberta wildlife to the highest bidder, and how does this ensure sustainable hunting limits?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Forestry and Parks.

Mr. Loewen: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and thanks for the question. It's a great time to talk about the minister's special licences, that have been going on for over 20 years, through the period when the NDP were in power, of course. In fact, what's happening now is that we're getting a better return on those minister's special licences; \$1.2 million this year that's coming back to the province to be able to do wildlife management right in this province here. It's a great story that should be told and should be celebrated, but of course only the NDP would try to run down an opportunity to have better wildlife management right here in this province.

Dr. Elmeligi: Well, Madam Speaker, given that better wildlife management means keeping hunting limits within population sustainability amounts, which they are not, given thousands of Albertans have repeatedly asked the minister to justify these actions and he hasn't, given the Alberta Wilderness Association and Exposed Wildlife Conservancy and thousands of Albertans are calling on the minister to rescind these changes but the minister blows them off, calling them activists who lack common sense, well, I agree. It's not common sense; it's science. The data doesn't support these decisions and shows great potential to negatively impact our wildlife populations. When will the minister do the right thing, rescind these damaging decisions, and listen to Albertans?

Mr. Loewen: Madam Speaker, it seems like when members opposite leave their profession, they take off their professional hat and put a tinfoil hat on.

Mr. Sabir: Point of order.

Mr. Loewen: What I would like to say here is that if I've got to rescind all the changes, do I need to add the 14 per cent reduction that I did for antlered elk in the province of Alberta between '23 and '24? How about the 17 per cent reduction of antlered moose in the province that I brought in? This is about wildlife management, Madam Speaker. You look at antlerless mule deer for instance: a 63 per cent reduction in tags. That's wildlife management.

The Deputy Speaker: A point of order was noted.

The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Alberta Separatism and Economic Development

(continued)

Mr. Kasawski: Thank you, Madam Speaker. When Dow announced the Path2Zero project in 2023, it was a big win for Alberta and a credit to the NDP government for creating the petrochemical diversification program and the current government for keeping ND policy in place and not screwing it up, like they do with coal mining our eastern slopes and the corrupt care scandal. Dow has announced it is pausing investment in Alberta until after 2028, when Trump's presidency comes to an end. Does the Premier have a plan to replace those jobs, or is she too tired celebrating her big wins?

Mr. Jones: Madam Speaker, I actually met the president of Dow's North American operations yesterday, and he was dismayed that the NDP and the media were mischaracterizing their delay of the construction as a pause. He pointed out the same thing I pointed out last week in question period. They're spending 2 and a half billion dollars employing 1,000 Albertans this year, and the project remains on track to be completed. Not only that; all of Dow's partners continue to build their portions of the facility. Through you to the chair, it's not just a request from me now; industry would also like you to be more accurate.

2:40

Mr. Kasawski: Well, given that Dow announced ... [interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: Hold on. Hold on. Order. Order.

You may start again from the top.

Mr. Kasawski: Well, given that Dow announced it is pausing \$7 billion in construction on the largest capital project in Alberta because of an economic uncertainty created by the mad king of the United States, given that economic uncertainty is an industry killer – it freezes investment and scares away businesses and workers; the Minister of Finance just said that – given that the NDP successfully supported pipeline development to diversify Alberta's market

access with the Keep Canada Working campaign, how do the UCP think they are going to diversify Alberta's economy by threatening to separate from Canada?

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

Mr. Jones: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think this is a time for us to be unified in promoting Alberta to the world, in promoting the many competitive advantages of locating major projects here. Unfortunately, the members opposite continue to mischaracterize this project as paused or cancelled when, in fact, it continues with 2 and a half billion dollars of spend with 1,000 workers working on it. Through you to the chair, they should apologize and stop trying to harm Alberta's reputation for getting major projects done.

Mr. Kasawski: Given that Alberta voters understand the peril of pursuing a referendum on secession as a bargaining chip – the uncertainty discourages investment in Alberta, limits diversification of our economy, and polarizes the rest of Canada against us; i.e., the costs outweigh the benefits – given that there is no reality in which the other provinces that the UCP want to separate from will grant Alberta a pathway to diversify the markets for our products, notice the difference? NDP, keep Canada working; UCP, screw Canada. How is the uncertainty they are creating with the threats of separation going to help Alberta in any way?

The Deputy Speaker: I'm not sure that was very parliamentary language at all, hon. member. Perhaps you want to . . .

Mr. Kasawski: I apologize and withdraw, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. That's awesome.

Mr. Jones: Madam Speaker, I don't know what to do with that except to say that on this side of the House we are making the case that Canada is stronger with a strong Alberta, and that is objectively true. We are also a proud member of Team Canada and have been on internal trade and labour mobility and even investment attraction when I joined Team Canada on missions to Indonesia and the Philippines recently. I would encourage the members opposite to get on Team Canada and also on Team Alberta and stop telling the world that our projects aren't being built when they are and that people are cancelling projects when they aren't.

The Deputy Speaker: Oh, my gosh. Hon. members, that concludes . . . [interjections] I'm actually surprised it took that long to do that.

That concludes question period. You have 30 seconds or less, and we'll continue with the rest of the Routine.

Members' Statements (continued)

Alberta Separatism

Mr. Deol: Madam Speaker, I chose to come to Canada. I chose Alberta as my home. I made that choice because I believed the promise of this country, a nation rooted in democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. I'm proud to be Albertan, and I'm proud to be Canadian. That's why I reject the dangerous, divisive idea that Albertans should separate from Canada. That is not leadership; that is desperation.

At a time when Albertans are struggling to keep up with the soaring cost of living, when our health care system is under pressure, and the government is engulfed by the corrupt care scandal, this Premier is laying the groundwork for separatism, empowering fringe elements

within her party while claiming to oppose their agenda. It is reckless, harmful, and undermines what Albertans value most: stability, fairness, and unity. Worse, it undermines the very foundation of this province, treaty rights.

Madam Speaker, treaty rights are not optional. They are protected under section 35 of the Constitution, recognized in international law, and enshrined in the United Nations declaration on the rights of Indigenous peoples. They are the foundation of Alberta's very existence. But instead of honouring those rights, this Premier has disrespected them. First Nation leaders stood shoulder to shoulder this week demanding the respect they are owed and warning that this Premier cannot be trusted to uphold basic rights or the law. I stand with them. To truly love this province is to uphold the Constitution, honour treaty obligations, and reject the politics of division that threaten what makes Alberta strong.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Foothills.

Mr. Ellingson: Yeah. Madam Speaker, I have five copies of an e-mail from a constituent with deep knowledge of the auto insurance industry. He's written a lengthy e-mail talking about how no-fault insurance is based on inflexible tests and leaves people short of the compensation needed to make them whole.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

Dr. Metz: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have three papers which I am tabling today about wildfire smoke that I believe will be helpful to all members in supporting their constituents. One is about five things that people can do, from the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* from 2024, and two recent research papers about the health impacts of smoke and new approaches that can be used to help people.

Thank you.

Mr. Shepherd: Madam Speaker, I have two tablings today. The first is five copies of an ad taken out of the *Edmonton Journal* this week by the National Police Federation, in which they debunk some wild claims that were made by the minister of public safety against the RCMP.

I also have five copies of a document from the Rural Municipalities of Alberta entitled Bill 49, Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act: RMA Member Resource, in which they outlined several concerns with Bill 49, including the lack of consultation, a distinct lack of clarity due to the amount that's put in regulation, and their deep concern that this is something that will not be effective or solve any existing challenges.

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

Mr. Sinclair: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm tabling an article from May 1, 2025, outlining potential conflicts of interest with a senior cabinet minister in ongoing investigations and current government contracts entitled Alberta Justice Minister Has Personal Relationship with Man Whose Businesses Are Tied to AHS Investigation, written by Carrie Tait from the *Globe and Mail*. I have five copies.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

Member Eremenko: Thank you very much. I table a letter from May 7 from the president of the Alberta Medical Association, Dr. Shelley Duggan, in regard to some very significant questions they have of Bill 53, Compassionate Intervention Act. The letter ends

with stating that the very best intervention would be to invest in robust voluntary treatment and appropriate social supports.

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

Ms Wright: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I've got three tablings today. The first is an article from December 4, 2022, related to our debate last night, having to do with medicare in Australia and extra billing and how it didn't work.

The second tabling I have is a collection of stories that was collected by BuzzFeed, all about the American insurance system and what it's meant for folks.

Finally, the third tabling I have is a report on the 40th anniversary of Friends of Medicare and the fight to save health care and keep it public.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.
2:50

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to table the requisite five copies of two letters from constituents, written both to the office of the Premier as well as my office. The first one from Tyler says, "I am writing once again to express my . . . disgust" at the Premier's public address endorsing separation.

The second one is from Cassandra, who also writes to express her "strong opposition to any discussion of Alberta separating from Canada, including the idea of holding a referendum."

Tablings to the Clerk

The Clerk: I wish to advise the Assembly that the following documents were deposited with the office of the Clerk: on behalf of hon. Mrs. Sawhney, Minister of Advanced Education, pursuant to the Veterinary Profession Act Alberta Veterinary Medical Association 2023 annual report, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association 2023-24 annual report; pursuant to the Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta 2023 annual report; pursuant to the Chartered Professional Accountants Act Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta 2022-23 annual report; pursuant to the Architects Act Alberta Association of Architects 2023 annual report.

The Deputy Speaker: I believe this is the part where we go to points of order. Hon. members, given I was misgendered at least seven times today – I thought there would be some sort of grace period for Deputy Speaker in her first day as Acting Speaker in that capacity, yet we're, like, record setting at least five points of order. This is a great opportunity for either House leader to withdraw all of their points of order, and we just move on with – no; that's funnier than it is reality.

We'll go to point of order 1. The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Shooters have to shoot, and in this case I will grant your request. I'll withdraw this point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: It worked. All right.
Number 2.

Point of Order Insulting Language

Ms Gray: Madam Speaker, I am so sorry to disappoint. I'm not going to withdraw this point of order. At 2:20 I rose because the

MLA for Camrose, when the MLA for Edmonton-Gold Bar was asking a question, was clearly heard to yell: you're the worst MLA Gold Bar has ever had. The reason I'm not withdrawing this is because just yesterday that same Member for Camrose yelled to another member in this Assembly, "You were a terrible minister." Yesterday the Speaker chose not to find a point of order with this. Now, both of these comments are incredibly personal. They are insults.

Yesterday the Speaker highlighted that on some occasions certain members will use the language: worst minister in Alberta's history. I agree with the ruling that happened yesterday, but now, the very next day after the Speaker strongly urged against it and found it not a point of order, it seems the Member for Camrose believes that's permission to start yelling insults at members of the Official Opposition when they rise in this place. I would ask that you find it a point of order. When a member stands up to ask a question, hearing "you are the worst MLA riding name has ever had" is not helping the decorum of this place. It's not funny. It's not helpful. That is why I did not withdraw.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: I feel bad now. We're talking about the reasons why you shouldn't withdraw for my sake, and I apologize for that.

The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Madam Speaker. While we could debate back and forth on who was and wasn't the best or worst minister and the best and worst MLA of the area, this language certainly was unbecoming of a member of the Chamber, and I'll turn it over to the member to apologize and withdraw.

Ms Lovely: I withdraw and apologize.

The Deputy Speaker: Wonderful. Thank you.

We have point of order 3, 2:21. The hon. Government House Leader.

Point of Order Imputing Motives

Mr. Schow: Yes, Madam Speaker. I rise on 23(h), (i), and (j), particularly attributing false motives. At the time noted, the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, who seems to be the subject of lots of conversation today, said, with my unofficial records, "Well, given that apparently the Health minister has just admitted that corruption is the proper protocol and procedure." That would be certainly attributing false, unavowed motives. The hon. Minister of Health said nothing of the sort.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Official Opposition House Leader.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Unfortunately, I do not have the Blues, but if as the Government House Leader has reported, I disagree with this conclusion. This would make it a matter of debate. We're talking about words the Health minister said, not intentions or motives, but again, a matter of debate, which is what we are here in this Chamber to do. I disagree with the Government House Leader. I don't think it's a point of order, and I look forward to your ruling.

The Deputy Speaker: Wonderful. Thank you very much for both of your remarks.

The words that were spoken by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar are, in fact, the words that the Government House Leader

has said as such and which, I think, are probably pretty close to the line; words saying that “the Health minister has just admitted that corruption is the proper protocol and procedure” and goes on with the rest of the question. I won’t find this a point of order, but we’re very close to the line, and next time it probably will be a point of order. This matter is dealt with and concluded.

We will move to number 4, the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition. At 2:22 I actually think there might have been two, and then the next one is 2:23-ish, which will be yours.

Point of Order Imputing Motives

Ms Gray: I will argue, Madam Speaker, that at 2:22 under Standing Order 23(h), (i), and (j), specifically around imputing false and unavowed motives to another member, the Minister of Infrastructure, while pointing his fingers at the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar said – and I don’t have the Blues, but I believe the quote is roughly accurate to: he was deliberately being antagonistic and was disrespectful to public service. Specifically the words “deliberately being antagonistic” absolutely are imputing false and unavowed motives to another member, in this case the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar. I think that this is a point of order. I think there would have been better parliamentary ways to have a debate about how questions are asked. I also think it’s ironic that, rather than answering questions, the Minister of Infrastructure chose to make that accusation. Frustrated by this back and forth, but in this case saying another member was deliberately taking any action, I think, is a point of order. You can’t tell people what they were or were not doing.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Schow: Well, Madam Speaker, we just said that the Health minister had just admitted that corruption is protocol is not a point of order because you cannot necessarily say that it’s not a matter of debate. I think that this is also a matter of debate under the same logic that, you know, what the Minister of Infrastructure said, his interpretation of the conduct of the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, that would be his interpretation, a matter of debate.

What I will say, Madam Speaker, is that I think there could be some validity to the statement of the Minister of Infrastructure. When my own department was in the Public Accounts Committee recently, the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar was incredibly disrespectful to my department. That’s my opinion. You can debate that all you like, but as I saw that, I felt it was very unbecoming of a member to attack the public service like that.

Madam Speaker, I think this is a matter of debate, not a point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, I would agree with the Government House Leader. The same logic that was used in the last point of order would be the same logic I would apply to here. This is very close to the line. None of these comments are helpful. The minister is new to the role, perhaps gets a bit of grace period, but again the strongest of caution as used in this type of language moving forward. I consider this matter dealt with and concluded.

We’ll go to point of order 5. Hon. Government House Leader, that’s yours.

Point of Order Supplementary Questions Insulting Language

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The point of order that I’m calling now is on the Member for Lesser Slave Lake under

23(h), (i), and (j). There are also effectively two points of order rolled into one here. One is the fact that – and you did address this, but I need to call it anyways – the three questions that were asked of the government were completely unrelated. They were not on topic at all. This is not something that is common within this Chamber after leaders go over the first four questions. The question should be related to the first question, the first supplemental, and second supplemental. A bit of a rookie move, but that’s okay. You know, the member is certainly new to the independent side of the benches, but just worth noting that.

3:00

The other point of order, though, that I think is a little more egregious, is suggesting that the Premier is vilifying people. This is definitely suggesting that the Premier is making attacks against the people of Alberta or whatever public group that the member was referring to. This is 23(h), (i), and (j), a point of order, and that’s why I’m rising. I think this is becoming a bit of a pattern with the members opposite, all members opposite, including independent members, that we are getting very close to the line on personal attacks if not, in my opinion, crossing it deliberately and crossing it in a pretty egregious manner. I would just simply ask that the member apologize and withdraw and, you know, the next time we have questions, make sure they’re about government business and they’re all related and they’re not personal attacks.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Airdrie-Cochrane.

Mr. Guthrie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. That is one way to interpret the facts. It’s not the correct way, but it’s a way. If you read the government’s response to the statement of claim by Athana Mentzelopoulos, who is the former AHS CEO, you’ll see many accusations, name-calling, and this is right in a formal public court document. Furthermore, when the AHS Board was fired, the Premier intimated that they were brainwashed by the system. The evidence is clear. This is clearly a matter of debate and not a point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other comments on the matter?

Seeing none, I think there’s a theme with this comment and the last two comments in this Chamber, which I completely agree are totally unhelpful. I think there’s a theme and a path in which this Chamber is going in the wrong direction. You know, right now I think we’re trying to keep the ship afloat until a proper Speaker can be put into place and rightsize what’s going on here, but in the meantime this is certainly not helpful to debate in this Chamber.

As in the spirit of the two previous points of order, the strongest of caution: this cannot continue in this Chamber. The public doesn’t expect this level of debate, and we will not lower ourselves to that as well. This isn’t a point of order. Let’s be better moving forward. This matter has been dealt with and concluded.

I have one more point of order. The hon. Official Opposition.

Point of Order Insulting Language

Ms Gray: Thank you Madam Speaker. It’s been a long week with late evening sittings, so I think things got a little rangy in the House. This point of order I’m calling specifically 23(h), (i), and (j). The Minister of Forestry and Parks was quoted – and I do not have the benefit of the Blues – as saying: the members opposite when they take off their professional hat and they put on their tinfoil hat. This insulting language did appear to be deliberately directed towards one of my members, which is unfortunate because that is, I think, beneath this Chamber.

Even though the minister used a plural, the “members opposite,” Madam Speaker, I would refer you to *Hansard* March 18, 2021, when the Government House Leader called a point of order on the language of someone referring to members of the “tin-foil-hat caucus,” again referring to a group of people. At that time the language “tin-foil hat” when applied to a group of people was ruled out of order by the Speaker. A point of order was found. My team and I made note of that and have not been using the language “tin-foil hat.”

I think that given the past history in the previous ruling on March 18, 2021, as well as just the insulting nature of the comment, disparaging someone who has doctorates in this area, was unfortunate, so I called that point of order. I would ask you to rule it a point of order again because of previous rulings and because I think it brought down the decorum in this place.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Schow: I disagree. I think it's a matter of debate. We didn't offend any specific members. We said, “members opposite.”

The Deputy Speaker: Six points of order.

Hon. members, I think as this comment was said as such, “when members opposite leave their profession, they take off their professional hat and put a tin-foil hat on,” it's not specifically directed to a member. While I appreciate the arguments from the Leader of the Official Opposition, this is the same level of decorum that was definitely not helpful in the past. It's definitely not helpful today. It is Thursday, and on Monday we're all going to be better. Today this is again not a point of order. I consider this matter dealt with and concluded.

Now it is time for Ordres du jour.

Mr. Schow: Madam Speaker, I think that's not how it's said.

The Deputy Speaker: What did you say?

Mr. Schow: I don't think that's how it's said. I think Orders of the Day is said a little bit differently. [interjection] It is. It is, certainly. Change is hard. Change is hard, Madam Speaker, but thank you for your leadership today in the chair. We appreciate that. You certainly deserve all the credit in the world. You did a wonderful job.

Orders of the Day

Government Motions

Morning Sitting on May 13, 2025

63. Mr. Schow moved:

Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 4(1) the Assembly shall meet in the morning on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, for consideration of government business unless the Government House Leader notifies the Assembly that there shall be no morning sitting that day by providing notice under Notices of Motions in the daily Routine or at any time prior to adjournment on a sitting day.

The Deputy Speaker: This motion is not debatable.

[Government Motion 63 carried]

Government Bills and Orders

Third Reading

Bill 52

Energy and Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

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

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do believe that you are indeed a true Speaker of the Chamber. Well done.

It's an honour to rise today to move third reading of Bill 52, the Energy and Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 2025.

I want to thank my colleagues for their interest and support in this important piece of legislation that will enable our utilities system to meet the growing demands of Albertans now and into the future. Madam Speaker, Alberta is the best place in the world to live, raise a family, and start a business. It's a province rich with opportunity where entrepreneurs and innovators can not only chase their largest dreams but achieve a bright, successful future.

Our government wants to make sure that our province remains that way by making sure Albertans have access to the affordable, reliable utilities they need and depend on. If passed, this bill will allow for the safe use of hydrogen within the natural gas system by allowing a low volume of hydrogen to be blended with natural gas so that it can be used to heat homes and businesses within our province.

It will also support critical updates to power market rules and transmission policies that will restore the balance between affordability and reliability in our electricity system through the restructured energy market, or REM. This includes an enhanced day-ahead reliability market, which will allow us to more accurately predict how much electricity will be needed to meet the coming demand. It also encourages more efficient use of the transmission infrastructure by maximizing the use of transmission lines already in service and only building new power plants where it makes the most sense. These changes will protect Albertans from rising fees on their utility bills, ensure cost certainty for investors, and prioritize reliability.

I know there were some proposed amendments and a number of questions brought up in the Committee of the Whole. I have tried to address some of them as we went through that committee process, but I'm happy to address some perhaps outstanding questions right now.

The members opposite have claimed that the rate of last resort, or the ROLR, formerly the regulated rate option, came with hidden charges and that these charges would impact affordability. The members are referring to the consumer awareness surcharge, which is clearly stated on utility bills. This surcharge amounts to one-tenth of one cent. Contrast this with the hundreds of dollars the NDP cost Albertans personally through the carbon tax and the reckless coal phase-out. This minuscule charge helps make sure that newcomers or the young person setting up their utilities for the first time are informed about their electricity options.

[Mr. van Dijken in the chair]

Our efforts have been successful, with tens of thousands of Albertans keeping more of their hard-earned dollars in their pockets by moving off the ROLR to a more affordable and competitive option. This one-tenth of one cent charge is saving thousands of Albertans hundreds of dollars each year on their utility bills. Mr. Speaker, the default rate was never meant to be the lowest rate, but it is meant to provide stability and predictability for Albertans who may not be able to access competitive options, including because of their location. It has and will continue to achieve this for Albertans no matter where they live.

3:10

Mr. Speaker, there were also questions around the idea that the oversight of the Alberta Utilities Commission, or the AUC, is being bypassed by this bill, and that cannot be further from the truth. In fact, the executive director of the AESO, Alberta Electric System Operator, has said this: stakeholders will be able to take their concerns to the AUC after the interim period ends, and when

they do, discussions and debates will be based on actual data and evidence, not forecasts and assumptions.

The Member for Calgary-Glenmore said that investors were experiencing confusion and have concerns about the restructured energy market. What the member failed to consider is that hundreds of hours of extensive engagement that the AESO has undertaken on these technical redesigns have informed the changes of the REM. Our government heard that feedback, and that's why we refined the REM to address those very industry concerns. The industry has been appreciative of those changes. For example, the president of Enmax and their CEO, Mark Poweska, has said:

Refining the proposed Restructured Energy Market enables the evolution required in the market while achieving the reliability we need from Alberta's grid. We look forward to working with the AESO and to continued collaboration over the coming months as REM details are finalized.

Just this week AltaLink, a major stakeholder within the Alberta market, put out a news release that said:

We support the Government of Alberta's changes to align transmission policy with today's electricity grid, including implementation of solutions to optimize the existing system and maximize its value before building new transmission lines...

The updated direction sets a clear path for responsible transmission growth while prioritizing reliable and affordable service to our customers.

Mr. Speaker, this demonstrates that some of the largest stakeholders in Alberta and in our industry have the confidence to support our government and the changes that we're making. Our government is doing our due diligence to get the restructured energy market right.

Mr. Speaker, we're also doing our due diligence when it comes to hydrogen blending. I want to note that our government is working with the Canadian Standards Association to determine the best blending percentage. At present that is a low-volume blending of 5 per cent, but by enabling this, we open the doors to further innovation and choice for Albertans. Alberta is already emerging as a world leader in hydrogen, and we have the right resources, expertise, and business-friendly environment. By enabling hydrogen blending, we're not only propelling our province forward; we're helping the world safely and responsibly transition hard-to-decarbonize industries. I hope that provides some further clarity.

Whether it's heat or electricity, utilities are not a luxury. Albertans should always have the confidence that their lights will turn on and that they'll have the heat during our harshest winters and the energy needed to cool their homes during the hottest days of summer. They should have confidence that the power grid is set up to meet growing demand so that their children and grandchildren will have the utilities they need to thrive and chase bright, successful futures. This bill lays the foundation to make all of that possible. This bill puts Albertans and their well-being first. By clearing the way for energy innovation and improving the affordability and reliability of our electricity system, we're making important changes that will power prosperity in our province for generations to come.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I hereby move third reading of Bill 52, the Energy and Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, and I would ask that all members of this Chamber support its passing.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Any others wishing to speak to Bill 52, Energy and Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 2025? I will recognize the Member for Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Haji: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to rise and speak to the third reading of Bill 52, the Energy and Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 2025. Albertans deserve a stable, reliable electricity system and a cleaner energy future with innovative

solutions like clean hydrogen. With today's cost-of-living crisis families and businesses need predictability. They need affordability in our energy system.

I want to begin by recognizing that this bill is likely driven by a desire to modernize Alberta's electricity system and respond to the changing market. I believe many in the Assembly share the same objective, and I want to acknowledge the effort that has gone into crafting this legislation. But while the intention behind Bill 52 may be commendable, I must respectfully share that it misses the mark on what matters most to Albertans today. It is affordability.

The minister pointed out now that the intention of the bill was never affordability; it was more about sustainability and it was more about predictability. But, Mr. Speaker, I have to underline that the key challenge that Albertans face today is affordability. We are hearing from constituents about the cost of living. One of the most persistent concerns that we hear, whether from seniors on fixed income, whether it is young families that are raising their children or small-business owners, is the rising cost of electricity.

Mr. Speaker, facts are facts. In 2024 Albertans paid the highest electricity bills in the country. That's a reality we cannot ignore. Unfortunately, Bill 52 does not contain any provisions that would bring an immediate or even longer term relief to the struggling families. This is an opportunity where the government should take leadership and bring in affordability measures that will address the rising cost of electricity for families. The bill focuses on structural governance changes while the issues that most directly affect Albertans today in their monthly utility bills remain unaddressed in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, one of the groups most deeply affected by our current system in terms of cost of living and cost of electricity is Albertans who are economically struggling to navigate the electricity market. Due to the existing policies many of these Albertans pay up to 30 per cent more than the market rate for electricity. They are often left on the rate of last resort. It's not by choice, but it is because of the barriers that they face, that include credit checks, lack of digital access, or housing instability. These are factors that create many, close to or over 400,000, Albertans to stay on the rate of last resort, a rate that is 30 per cent higher than what almost all members of this House are paying.

I brought forward an amendment that would have asked a simple question: should a low-income Albertan pay more for electricity than any member in the Assembly? If so, why? Why should they pay 30 per cent more than we pay? It is a circumstantial situation, and this is where government policies come and address those Albertans who are struggling with those problems. The intent behind my amendment was basically in good faith, an effort to bring a greater equity into our electricity pricing model. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it did not receive the support of the government members. Therefore, Albertans who are struggling to navigate the system have to remain paying their last-resort option, which is they have to pay higher than we pay.

Mr. Speaker, we have talked a lot in the House that this province is an outlier for so many unfavourable policy circumstances, and one of them is that Alberta is the only province that does not offer a specific electricity affordability program for those who are financially struggling. The minister could have incorporated in Bill 52 a way of addressing those who cannot afford it, and that could have been, like, an income test where they have to pay equitably, as we pay. But the bill misses the point, and it doesn't address the pressing needs of those Albertans who are financially struggling or are having difficulties to navigate the system.

3:20

Other jurisdictions have recognized that protecting vulnerable residents is not only a matter of policy; it is a matter of principle.

Bill 52 could have been an opportunity to address that gap. It could have included a framework to develop a rate class, but instead it includes a surcharge that will ask those who are struggling to pay more. The minister is minimizing that and calling it very, very, very minimal, but that means a lot for those who cannot afford it.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the affordability, I would like to raise another important concern related to the governance and public accountability that Bill 52 is attempting to do. The bill amends the Electric Utilities Act to grant the minister significant powers, particularly in relation to the restructuring electricity market, while reducing the role of the Utilities Commission. The AUC has long been a respected independent body tasked with ensuring decisions about our electricity market are based on evidence, are based on public interest, and are based on transparency.

Again, I brought an amendment forward to ensure that even as we evolve our market structure, we do not lose sight of the importance of public oversight. The intent of the amendment was to keep the review mechanisms that are in place such as the stakeholder consultations and the commission's review. The amendment would have made any major rule changes to go through a transparent and accountable process. Unfortunately, that amendment, too, was voted down by government members.

Mr. Speaker, I share the goal of building a reliable, sustainable, and efficient electricity system for Alberta, but any such system must also be centred on fairness. It must also be centred on accountability, and it also must be centred on public oversight. It must ensure that the needs of those vulnerable Albertans are not sidelined. Bill 52 makes significant structural changes but does not meet the moment when it comes to affordability. It does not meet the moment when it comes to fairness, and it does not meet the moment when it comes to the public trust.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge my colleagues in the Assembly to reconsider their support for this bill as it is. Bill 52 does not pair the modernization with a good intent. It misses the compassion that those who are struggling need to hear today. It does not protect consumers, particularly those most at risk. It does not ensure that public oversight remains a guiding principle of our energy system. We need to use this opportunity not just to restructure the market but also to renew our commitment to the people we serve. Therefore, I ask all my colleagues to vote against this bill as it's presented.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-McClung to speak.

Mr. Dach: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A pleasure to rise this afternoon to speak about the risks that I find have been not well documented or spoken about during debate on the introduction of hydrogen into our natural gas system, in particular. That's the issue I wanted to delve into once again today.

I had mentioned in the House earlier that during my real estate career there was an introduction of a plastic pipe that was heralded as a low-cost replacement to replace copper plumbing in residential construction, polybutylene. Of course, from 1978 to 1995 was a heyday for this plastic piping, but what happened as a result of the installation into thousands and thousands of homes of poly-B, or polybutylene plastic piping, for plumbing purposes was that it was found to deteriorate and crack. The chlorine that is in many of the water supplies to purify the water actually reacted with the plastics and formed cracks, particularly at junction points of the polybutylene plastic plumbing pipe. There were failures, and of course failures in plastic piping which carry water mean leaks and extensive damage to properties where this poly-B was installed.

Consequently, after a number of years, 15 to 20 years or more, of having polybutylene installed, it was banned because it was so damaging. Obviously, there was a failure in the procedures leading up to the approval of polybutylene in terms of its insulation for purposes of plumbing in residential construction, and I don't want to see the same thing replicated, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to introducing hydrogen blended with natural gas in our polyethylene pipelines. There is a growing body of evidence that is concluding that much more work needs to be done to determine the long-term effects of even low percentages of hydrogen at lower pressures in polyethylene pipelines.

What we want to avoid is what happened with the disastrous implementation of polybutylene as a plastic piping for carrying water in residential construction to the point where it actually had to be banned and gone back to other materials which were better studied before they actually got put into the marketplace. The same thing needs to happen with our polyethylene pipelines when we're introducing a blend of natural gas with hydrogen. Now, I understand and completely know that we've been looking at over five years of this pilot project in Fort Saskatchewan where a 5 per cent blend of hydrogen with natural gas has been undertaken, yet it's not lengthy enough to determine whether or not cracking and fracturing will become a significant problem in the transmission of this blended natural gas and hydrogen mix.

The issue is not a small one, Mr. Speaker. We're talking about transmission of this gas into thousands of miles potentially of Alberta pipelines, and the research is incomplete. I'm not blowing smoke here. If you look at such sites as the information that I'll quote from now from the Clean Energy Group, where they've instituted research on it and gathering research from other sources, they respond in writing and talk about the potential dangers of blending hydrogen and natural gas in pipelines. It goes on to state that the

plastic (polyethylene) pipelines are a more recent addition to gas infrastructure. While they are not impacted by HE, hydrogen can permeate through polyethylene at a rate six to seven times higher than methane, the main component in natural gas, increasing the risk of hydrogen accumulation and ignition outside of the pipeline. Hydrogen also permeates through the elastomeric sealing used in distribution systems at an even higher rate.

Besides increasing the likelihood of fracture through HE, hydrogen can also accelerate the degradation of iron and steel through a passive process known as lattice dilation.

And they source this research.

So the jury is still out on the dangers and the risks to our pipeline infrastructure by using blends of hydrogen and natural gas even at low rates and low pressures. You start introducing and experimenting with a higher percentage of hydrogen mixed with natural gas at higher pressures, and the evidence becomes less and less clear as to what the risk might elevate to.

3:30

I'm saying that it's absolutely critically important that this government really invest in research and determine that this is a safe type of thing to be running through our natural gas pipelines over the long term because there is a body of evidence that should not be ignored by this government or any other government that's contemplating, globally, the transmission of natural gas mixed with hydrogen in our transmission network.

It's a huge economic undertaking, Mr. Speaker. We all understand the potential economic benefits of using existing infrastructure to transmit this blend of gas, but there are risks involved that are really being increasingly brought to light, and it would be wrong of the government not to take the literature seriously, that is certainly growing to show that the polyethylene pipelines can suffer fracturing

from the transmission of the blended hydrogen and natural gas mix in those pipelines.

It's an issue that hasn't been spoken about a lot in this Legislature. I wanted to bring it to the forefront. I would like the public to be aware that there is a risk to our transmission system. I really understand that the owners of these pipelines want to maintain the integrity of their pipeline, so I'm hoping that those shareholders who are invested in those pipelines are very much aware of what's going on as a potential risk to their pipelines and their investment should these pipelines start to fail five to 10 years from now. Then what happens? You've got a pipeline that you can't transmit natural gas in, never mind a blend of gas, and then you also potentially have to start investing in new infrastructure to transmit a blend of natural gas and hydrogen that initially the public was told would be satisfactorily and safely transmitted in a pipeline that already exists, a polyethylene pipeline.

I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker, that this issue has not gotten enough public attention. I hope to see research done in Alberta because we are certainly capable of it, and I would like to see us perform the research and maybe be a leader in that research before we get past the point of no return with introducing a massive transmission of natural gas blended with hydrogen into our much wider transmission system, putting that infrastructure at risk.

You know, the government across talks about being a business-oriented government. Well, we are, too, Mr. Speaker. I'm very concerned about the investment that people globally have made into our pipeline infrastructure. It's billions and billions of dollars, and we're potentially sidestepping a risk that should be more seriously taken into consideration when making investments. Let's hope that this government takes this risk seriously, works together with industry and the shareholders, who rightfully should be asking questions about potential pipeline fracturing, and that we see perhaps made-in-Alberta, verifiable research that in a very neutral way determines whether or not there is a need for the level of concern that some are expressing in the literature about the risk of this transmission of blended hydrogen and natural gas, particularly if indeed the ratios are increased or the pressures are increased and over an extended period of time these pipelines do in fact begin to fail.

I mean, the cost to people to retrofit their house to get rid of the polybutylene plastic pipe when it started to fail in the '70s, '80s, and '90s after they've installed it to replace copper plumbing or in newly constructed homes where it was used and heralded as a cheaper way of plumbing a house, those costs pale in comparison to the unbelievable number of billions of dollars that might be at risk. If indeed we find that this polyethylene pipeline transmission system in Alberta and throughout wherever it's installed and wherever we run this blend of hydrogen and natural gas starts failing, then investors and these pipeline companies are going to be asking big questions, saying: "Why didn't you tell us about this? Why didn't we know more about the potential risk of running this blend of natural gas and hydrogen in these pipelines? Why now are we faced with the prospect of building new transmission out of new materials that do resist the corrosion and the cracking that we now find is happening with the transmission?"

Fair warning: the literature is there. It's on the Internet, and it's open to the minister and all public officials as well as the investors to ask the questions necessary so we don't end up with the same problem that we had with polybutylene when it got banned and prohibited after being heralded as a solution that was low cost and viable.

With that, I hope that the issue is raised, and I'll continue to pursue it and look forward to the government taking it seriously.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any other members wishing to speak?

If not, the hon. Minister of Affordability and Utilities to close debate.

Mr. Neudorf: Waive.

[Motion carried; Bill 52 read a third time]

Bill 40 Professional Governance Act

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education.

Mrs. Sawhney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise and move third reading of Bill 40, the Professional Governance Act.

In Canada professional regulatory organizations, or PROs, are tasked with regulating their respective professions and ensuring a high standard of practice in protection of the public interest. By regulating these professionals, we are able to trust that the professional is accountable, that their work is competent, and that the ultimate service provided to everyday Albertans is reliable. It's no surprise, Mr. Speaker, that the regulation of these professionals is incredibly important.

Alberta's PROs, who are tasked with this important work of regulating these professionals, have a critical role. That is why in Alberta, much like in other provinces, our government oversees professional governance organizations which ensure standards of competence and ethics and regulate these professions overall.

When I moved to second reading of Bill 40 a number of weeks ago, I spoke to how regulated professionals and the PROs that regulate them are fundamental to the smooth functioning of our society, even if their work and impact may not always be immediately evident. Mr. Speaker, the best work is often the work that you never notice. When you drive over a bridge or turn on a light or send your child to a new school, do you stop and wonder if it is safe, well planned, and up to standard? Most of us don't, and that's a good thing. It means we live in a society where we can trust those things to work and to be reliable. But that trust doesn't happen by chance. It's built on a foundation of professional oversight, on the knowledge that behind every plant, every inspection, every technical decision is a professional who is qualified, competent, and held to a standard by a PRO.

Professional regulatory organizations are the quiet backbone of public safety and trust. They don't just support professionals. They protect Albertans. They ensure that the people doing this essential work have the qualifications, the ethics, and the accountability that Albertans expect and deserve.

That's why the Professional Governance Act matters, Mr. Speaker, because the work we don't see is too important to take for granted. If passed, this bill will promote high standards of competence, conduct, and ethics. Bill 40 would ensure professional regulatory organizations have flexibility and improved regulatory tools, leading to positive outcomes for both professional regulatory organizations and everyday Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta Advanced Education is currently responsible for 22 professional regulatory organizations, which are governed by nine different pieces of legislation and 28 supporting regulations. This has led to inconsistencies across these organizations in the way they support their members and, ultimately, the way they serve Albertans. This includes misaligned functions and authorities, questions of what is covered in legislation versus regulation versus bylaws, and various reporting requirements. Many of these pieces of legislation are also outdated, especially when it comes to recognizing the use of modern communication and technology.

3:40

If passed, the Professional Governance Act would consolidate and streamline Advanced Education's professional governance legislation from these nine separate acts into a single, consistent piece of legislation. Namely, this bill would consolidate the Agrology Profession Act, the Architects Act, the Chartered Professional Accountants Act, the Consulting Engineers of Alberta Act, the Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act, the Land Surveyors Act, the Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act, the Regulated Forestry Management Profession Act, and the Veterinary Profession Act.

The Professional Governance Act would also increase clarity and transparency by providing clarity on the purpose of professional regulatory organizations and their authorities, powers, and functions; providing consistency on the distribution of provisions between various levels of legislation, including acts, regulations, and bylaws; providing clear requirements for reporting and transparency; providing clear requirements for accountability, offences and penalties, and information privacy and disclosure; and ensuring that members have access to an Ombudsman in the event of disputes.

Mr. Speaker, from electronic signatures and records to the delivery of electronic notices and virtual meetings, there have been so many advancements over the past few years and decades that are simply not accounted for in some of the existing legislation. Bill 40 would bring professional regulatory legislation into the 21st century, cutting red tape and enabling PROs to function in an effective and efficient manner as they serve Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, the changes put forward in this legislation are examples of good governance. The Professional Governance Act supports positive outcomes for Albertans and for professional regulatory organizations and for their members. This legislation promotes high standards of competence, conduct, and ethics, as I've mentioned many times before, and it would reduce unnecessary government oversight. This bill would increase the professional regulatory organization's ability to be flexible, to be responsible, and to be accessible to their members. In addition, this legislation would provide improved regulatory tools, resulting in better service to their members and to Albertans. The Professional Governance Act would also enhance fairness, transparency, and accountability by implementing a modernized framework for complaints, discipline, and appeals.

Additionally, through specific regulations each professional regulatory organization can ensure that their unique requirements are addressed within the broader umbrella of the act. We will continue working directly with professional regulatory organizations as we develop regulations to ensure that these needs are indeed reflected, and we will ensure a smooth transition for them through regular communication, templates for bylaws, code of conduct and ethics, and practice standards and guidelines. We would also provide support and extended timelines to ensure professional regulatory organizations can effectively make this transition. That's a very important point to note.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill. After a thorough and consistent consultation with professional regulatory organizations the proposed Professional Governance Act would modernize governance of these organizations to the benefit of all Albertans. This is a step to continue protecting the public interest and providing the best possible service to Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to move third reading of this bill. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the Assembly to support Bill 40, the Professional Governance Act.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you.

Are there any other members wishing to comment? The Member for Edmonton-North West.

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an opportunity to speak here in third reading to Bill 40, and I appreciate that. I did appreciate the minister's comments around the rationale for Bill 40, to help modernize and professionalize the regulation of professional governance here in the province of Alberta, and by and large the 22 affected organizations seem to be in agreement with that. That's a good start when you're making legislation. You know, I did speak to a couple like the veterinary professionals association. They were hoping that maybe they could have a bit more of their own legislation, but maybe we could work something like that into regulation. That might be something to think about with the veterinarians. You want to keep everybody happy.

The other issue, of course, was the place where I did make an amendment, which was very, very narrowly defeated, I must say, Mr. Speaker. I thought the debate was intense. The minister missed that, but it was good debate, for sure. It was around putting some parameters of how many appointments a government can make onto any given professional association board. I think that it would be the prerogative and send a good message from the government to these organizations to make sure that they are not appointing more than half of the board members to any given organization. I know that for many of these that's not an issue. Of course, you have the society of professional shorthand association and so forth. I mean, many of these are run as voluntary organizations and, you know, depend on the goodwill of people to do it off the side of their desks.

For us to make sure that they have the autonomy to be able to do their job and the support to do their job as well, I think, is the responsibility of the government, especially with these new regulations. We have to give people time and space to accommodate for these new regulations and make sure that there are not undue financial burdens placed on all of these organizations to comply with the new bill or the new act. It will become an act.

I think that that is a good idea, to not reach into these organizations too much. I mean, this is just a framework. It's not to tell them how to do their jobs. Of course, as the minister pointed out in her preamble, we depend on all these professional associations to keep us safe, to build buildings that are safe, to make sure that, you know, we're working with human ecology, professional engineers, geoscientists, land surveyors – you name it, right? – that they're doing their job and they have the professional latitude to make sure that job is being done in the best kind of way. What we can provide here and what Bill 40 I think helps to provide is just a framework of governance to make things easier. We want to make sure that if we are imposing new regulations, it's not onerous but, rather, is enabling somehow. By and large, I think Bill 40 does achieve that goal.

There is a word of caution, though, that I must underline, Mr. Speaker. That is, of course, this is 22 different organizations. It does not include medical associations for nurses or licensed practical nurses or doctors. There's a whole range of medical professional associations. And it does not include legal associations, the Alberta Law Society and so forth. Those organizations have an alert put up on things like Bill 40 because, of course, they have been imposed on or even attacked by this UCP government at various times, and they don't need the long arm of political interference into their professional associations.

You know, while Bill 40 is relatively benign, those other organizations are watching like a hawk because they don't want

Bill 40 to become a platform for an attack on their professional associations, right? The Law Society, in particular, is a good example. There are a number of UCP MLAs and former ministers that were up on charges and reviewed by the Law Society. Then the Law Society, in turn, felt the heat of the political arm of this UCP Party reach in and chastise them for doing their job. Let's not use Bill 40 as a launching platform for political attacks on the Alberta Medical Association or the nurses or licensed practical nurses – I always have to mention that one, of course – and other organizations like that.

3:50

With that as a warning and my other part of my speech as an endorsement, I do suggest that MLAs consider voting in support of this bill. Yeah, I can do that. You know, I can say those words. It feels good. I hope that all of the affected organizations feel empowered to continue on doing the great jobs that they do to help build Alberta to make it a better place for everyone to work and live.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

Ms Goehring: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise this afternoon to speak to Bill 40, the Professional Governance Act. I want to start by saying that I'm grateful that this piece of legislation is being implemented. I know it was previously brought forward in 2022, and there were some significant concerns about the piece of legislation that was brought forward at that time. Albertans were talking about overreach being one of the main concerns, so when we look through this piece of legislation and the significant impact that it's going to have on many professions across the province, it's nice to see a piece of legislation that we can support in this House. Specifically, approximately 75,000 professionals across 22 nonprofit health PROs will be affected by this. That's a lot of people that are being impacted.

I think when we're listening to what the government is talking about, you know – they're saying things like they're trying to boost the economy – they're trying to tie this piece of legislation into achieving that. I'm not sure that that's really effective. I can't see the link between the two, especially when we're watching this government completely destroy public health care, not fund education, talking about separating. Those are things that create investment into our province and into our economy, and we have a government that's doing some piece of legislation to support professionals, which is needed, but when they're trying to tie it into enhancing the economy, it's a stretch.

You know, I talk to so many people that have either lived here or are considering living here when it comes to the Canadian Armed Forces, and one of the things that many members across the military are talking about is just the instability of what living in Alberta means. They're nervous about a posting to this province because there's this talk of separating and there's this talk of not being part of Canada, which is exactly what the Canadian Armed Forces stands for.

While this piece of legislation supports many, many professions, which I wholeheartedly support, I think that if they just take this as their one thing that they did to grow the economy, it's not going to be good, Mr. Speaker. There are so many concerns that are coming to us on this side of the House, and I know that other members are being included in that. Albertans are struggling, and I think that this piece of legislation is a good step towards some sort of efficiencies, making sure that there are modern governance practices. I wish that that would be applied to other pieces of legislation that Albertans

are talking about: health care, education, just general cost of living. I think that there's a lot that can be done to enhance new investment in the province and to really encourage economic growth.

We talk about wanting to have the best minds in the province coming here, right? When they look at the big picture of what it means to live in Alberta right now, it's not a very stable place to be. It's got a government that is talking about separating, and despite the majority of Albertans being opposed to that, despite Indigenous communities coming out saying the importance of treaty, that's all being disregarded. That in itself creates an unstable economic environment in this province.

This piece of legislation is a good step, but I hope that they're not relying on this to truly change the economic landscape that they've created. I can't imagine that a CEO is going to be able to sell to their employees: "Come to Alberta. Bring your family. Bring your kids. You're not going to have a doctor. Probably not going to have somewhere to live. Your kids' classrooms are going to be completely overrun. The teachers aren't supported." It's not a good sell, Mr. Speaker, when you're trying to draw people to come and invest in our province.

The professional side of this legislation is absolutely needed. It's been so outdated, and it needed to be updated. I commend the minister for her work on that, in doing what needs to be done. However . . . [interjections] You know, I hear chirping across. If they want to talk about the economy in meaningful ways, I would welcome that debate, Mr. Speaker, but instead they're going to chirp and try and defend their stance on, ultimately, destroying health care, education, and just general trust in government. It's embarrassing that this is the place that people look up to, yet we have a government that is just completely doing corrupt behaviours. I'm grateful to be able to stand in this place and talk about what Albertans are talking about and bring voice to their concerns.

I think that when it comes to this piece of legislation, I can say that I do support it and that I would like to see it go forward, but I would like to see more, Mr. Speaker.

With that, I will cede my time. Thank you.

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

Member Irwin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just really fast, I just wanted to get on the record here. I, too, was intrigued by the heckling from the members opposite, who I've not heard join debate on this matter. That is intriguing. But, you know, I want to echo the comments of both Edmonton-North West and Edmonton-Castle Downs pointing out that, yes, in fact, we are supporting this bill with a few reservations.

Actually, part of the reason why I wanted to stand up before we recess for the weekend is that just this morning I actually visited with two different school groups, one in my riding, Delton school, and the other a school that my nephew attends in Calgary. It was really nice to welcome my nephew. I wish he could have been here in the Chamber. [interjections] Yeah. It was too bad. I was hoping he'd be in the Chamber, but they didn't get in for question period. I wanted to give him a shout-out. Silas, it was so nice to see you earlier in the Legislature. I hadn't seen him in the Legislature since he was tiny, when I was first sworn in in 2019, and he's my only nephew.

Anyways, I tell you all this because one of the questions the students asked me was, like: do you ever agree with the government? I love talking to students, being a former social studies teacher. I said: "You know what? There are actually some bills that we do support." I'd like to get on the record to say that Bill 40, the Professional Governance Act, is one of those bills – there you go – but, again, echoing the concerns around some of the organizations who feel that they haven't

been fully consulted. I'm hopeful. This minister has been listening and paying attention to our concerns in third reading as well as in committee, so I'm hopeful that she'll take some of that back and address some of it in the regulations.

I have so much more I'd love to say on this, but I know folks do want to go home to their families and, in my case, my cat.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the time.

The Acting Speaker: Any others wishing to speak?

The hon. Minister of Advanced Education to close debate.

Mrs. Sawhney: Waived.

The Acting Speaker: That's been waived.

[Motion carried; Bill 40 read a third time]

4:00

Bill 39 Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

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

Mr. Horner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to move third reading of Bill 39, the Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025.

I want to thank all members who rose to speak to this important bill in second reading and provided their thoughts on it. Mr. Speaker, Budget 2025 helps Alberta meet the challenge of a turbulent economic and political environment by making responsible decisions to fund the priorities of today, making record investments in education and health care to accommodate our rapidly growing population, and managing uncertainties in trade and security by focusing on diplomacy and the economy. This bill, in particular, would help us meet those challenges by implementing key measures, that I outlined in my Budget Address.

Things seem to be changing rapidly these days. The political and economic landscape we face is vastly different than what we saw even a few months ago. It's vital that we take the necessary steps to provide a solid economic and fiscal foundation to keep this province and its people strong and prosperous. These legislative amendments would ensure Albertans continue to see the advantages of our low-tax environment with a new 8 per cent tax bracket. That's a tax cut that would put more than a billion dollars back into the pockets of Albertans, providing some relief at a time when it's sorely needed.

Amendments would also update the fiscal rules so that the government has the flexibility to focus on improving Alberta's overall net financial position rather than being solely focused on debt repayment. These proposed amendments would allow government to allocate 50 per cent of surplus cash toward repaying maturing debt or investing in the heritage fund rather than using it all for debt repayment. It gives you the choice. It's a change that would ensure we can make the right decisions to better Alberta's position.

These are just a couple of the key measures to provide some relief to Albertans and find efficiencies that respond to the pressures we face today while also building a stronger fiscal picture for tomorrow. I encourage all members of the House to support it today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Any members wishing to speak? The Member for St. Albert.

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise and speak to Bill 39, Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, in third reading, I believe. A couple of things. If you look at page 11 –

actually, there are two page 11s in this; I think it's a typo – 11 and 12. It talks about income and employment supports. It talks about the changes that they're making. If you just look at the changes, they're not really a big deal. I mean, there are some charts that they're changing, there are some numbers that they're changing. But, really, the purpose of this change is to usher in a new program.

We heard the minister in I think it was February – I don't recall the date. The minister stood up and told Albertans: "Good news. You're going to get to work. Because AISH was so limiting, we're going to create this new program. It's going to be awesome. You're going to get to work, keep more of your income. It'll be great." What I can guarantee you, Mr. Speaker, is that they're not doing this to give people more money. They're not doing this to spend more money.

What this is is that they're creating a vehicle for this new program called ADAP – that's the acronym – Alberta disability assistance program, or whatever it's called. What it will be is that they'll decide who their people are to figure out, when you apply for AISH: do you go to AISH, or do you go to this new program, ADAP? They're going to decide who makes those decisions. They're actually right now, behind the scenes, going through and looking at all of the people that are on AISH. Now, I think there are some that are, you know, pretty clear that they just are unable to work, and there are some I think that will just go by very quickly. But they are looking at everybody on AISH.

The thing that bothers me is that – there are some things that I agree with. I do believe that given the opportunity, people with disabilities really do want to work. I think it's a human right to want to be able to work and work in a job that respects you, where you can earn enough to support yourself, that makes you feel good. We all know what it feels like to do a good job, to do a job that you like. I think there are many, many people that would like to do it.

The problem is that this government has not done the work to be able to open up a program like this and be successful. Now, they'll say: well, we've got lots of time; it's not going to happen until July of next year. Well, I can guarantee you that undoing the unemployment issues that people with disabilities face is going to take a heck of a lot more time than a year. We do not currently have successful pathways to employment. And, I'm sorry, but slapping \$82 million onto a labour program and saying, "Yeah, they'll just get the training, and then they'll get jobs, and it'll be great," when their own government target is 65 per cent success after doing the training in terms of getting employment, I would say that's mediocre at best. Anyway, there need to be a whole lot more pathways to employment for this program to ever work successfully. Now, we're talking pushing 80,000 people on AISH, and every single year there are thousands more people applying. The reality, Mr. Speaker, is that we know – there's some debate between is it 1 in 4 or 1 in 5? One in four or 1 in 5 people in Alberta have a disability. Some are profoundly serious, and some are minor. Some don't last all that long, thankfully.

Disabilities is the largest minority group on the planet. Sadly, it is the one minority group that all of us have the possibility that we might join one day. There are a lot of people with disabilities. There are a lot of people with disabilities that cannot support themselves financially, so they're required to go on AISH.

Now, I'll tell you that is not a life that anybody wants. That is legislated poverty. If anybody in this Chamber thinks that you could successfully live, for more than a month, on \$1,901 a month, I encourage you to share that with this House. It's hard. We know what rents are like, and we know that the cost of living is higher for people with disabilities. We know that just their equipment cost alone is incredibly high.

I want to go back to this new program. Again, that's what this legislation does. It opens up the path for this new program to come into

existence. In February we saw the minister stand up and say: “Yeah. This is great. This great new program of ADAP, people are going to work. People with disabilities are going to work.” Never mind that they have zero successful track record doing that. None. Nada. In the six years that this government has been governing, they have made zero gains in terms of employment for people with disabilities. Sure. Do they fund a couple of programs here and there? Yeah, they do. Like the Rotary project with Inclusion Alberta, I think over the last 20 years they’ve helped about 800 Albertans get employed, which is terrific. These are people with pretty serious developmental disabilities, very often, but it worked.

I’m talking about pathways for thousands and thousands of disabled people to be employed because those are the kinds of numbers we’ll be facing, and this government has not done the work. I’m sorry; slapping \$82 million into a program that is not very successful right now – and it’s not just for people with disabilities. It’s actually for new Canadians. It’s for women. It’s for marginalized people, and it’s for people with disabilities.

Now, let me say that I do think that there is a different kind of skill set when you are looking to support someone to find meaningful employment because it takes some really good training – right? – when you’re teaching someone how to interview, how to follow up, how to interact with your colleagues, how to find the bus route, how to take the bus, all of these things, not to mention the lack of accessibility.

Now, in 2023 this government’s hand-picked disability advocate wrote a really good report. I would encourage you all to look at it. Unfortunately, this government chose to hide it, but we tabled it here so you can get it. It was a really great report, and it talked about: what is the benefit for Albertans and for this province to pass comprehensive accessibility legislation? There’s a great financial case to be made for this.

Americans. We’ll talk about Americans. Sure. Let’s go there. The Americans with Disabilities Act has been in place for decades. We’re able to see the changes, the benefit to the American economy, so we know that it works. We know that reducing barriers works.

Mr. Speaker, what confuses me is that this government is so hell bent on creating this new pathway or new program for employment for people with disabilities, but they’re not willing to remove the actual barriers that are preventing them from finding these jobs.

Accessibility legislation, in case we’re not clear, is not building codes. It’s not safety standards. It’s not design guides. It’s not anything like that. Those things are necessary, and we’ve been doing that for a long time. Those things must be updated regularly, but they are guides. They are not legislation.

Accessibility legislation looks at far more than the built environment. It looks at information and technology. It looks at communication. It looks at procurement. I think this government could take some lessons on procurement. Maybe accessibility legislation would help, you know, stay away from the corruption, try to focus on what’s good for Albertans.

Accessibility legislation also looks at employment, Mr. Speaker, because we know that it’s more than just ramps that keeps people with disabilities from being employed. So there’s that with this piece of legislation, why I will not be supporting this legislation.

Now, the other thing that I’d like to mention is that we are in a time right now that is really uncertain. There are a lot of things that are unsettled. We know that we have very high unemployment in Alberta. We also know that inflation is serious here in Alberta, so what does this government do? Take away \$200 from people that are trying to live on \$1,901 a month with a disability. Now, it’s tough for a person without a disability to live on under \$2,000 a month; it’s almost impossible when you add a disability, but that’s what this government is doing. They’re clawing back \$200, and they’re bragging that AISH is generous.

4:10

Like, they’re bragging about it. They’re actually bragging about it. I don’t even get that. In the same breath they’re saying: “Yeah. Our MLAs need \$2,200 a month just for their housing because, you know, inflation, cost of living. They can’t afford it.” AISH recipients: you get nothing. You get nothing. You’re taking back \$200 from people with profound disabilities.

Now, I’ve heard people over here say: “You know what? Well, maybe there are too many people on AISH. Maybe there’s a lot of fraud.” If you suspect fraud, report it. But I will tell you that I have watched people apply for AISH. I have watched them go through this process. I have heard the appeals. I’ve been in the room. It is difficult, and people that are successful are profoundly disabled, that means they’re permanently disabled. They have had to demonstrate that they cannot financially support themselves, permanently. It’s not a sporadic thing. It’s permanent.

And this government has taken away \$200. Like, come on. It costs you nothing just to let them keep it. I would urge this government – the benefit doesn’t start till July. Far be it from me to tell you something that will actually make you a little bit more popular, but it will.

Member Irwin: You could do the right thing.

Ms Renaud: Just do the right thing and reverse this ridiculously bad, bad decision. I know it puts more money in your coffers, but it hurts so many people.

You know what? These are the people that end up going to the food bank. These are the ones that live rough. These are the ones that couch surf. These are the ones that are homeless. These are the ones that get left behind, and they’re in all of our communities. I would say for the members that are not from big cities that this is even worse outside of the big cities because thankfully the big cities have a few more safety nets than smaller communities. But I hear from hundreds of people every single week, and they are hurting. Most of them are from outside of the big cities, and they’re saying: I don’t even have the money to get to a centre to get to the food bank to get food. So people are often having to even move from their communities, and I would suggest when we keep small communities whole, we make them stronger.

I encourage this government – and I know that we’re debating on Bill 39, Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, but I would say please, please, please reverse this decision to claw back \$200. I guarantee you that alleviating a little bit of poverty for tens of thousands of people will actually make a difference. It really will. There will be fewer trips to the food bank. You will have fewer homeless people. It’ll be worth it. Do the right thing.

We all know people with disabilities in our lives, in our communities. Talk to them if you’re not sure. You don’t have to believe me. If you’re not sure, go and talk to them yourselves. Ask them: “What is your budget like? How much do you pay for rent?” I bet you they pay between 75 per cent and 85 per cent of \$1,901 for rent. That leaves them between \$200 and \$400 for food, for transportation, for anything else, for medication, for equipment. Do you have any idea how much replacing a battery on a wheelchair costs? Do you have any idea about how much a headrest costs? We have a friend of ours that was here the other day and left his headrest in a washroom, and we were just looking at prices of what that costs to replace. You know, people lose stuff. People cannot afford it. Not to mention that it creates all kinds of problems with safety.

Now, one last thing I want to say about this is that people with disabilities are often very high-risk individuals to begin with because they don’t perhaps have the same ability to get themselves out of issues that other people do. Very often they’re forced into risky

situations, particularly around housing, because they don't have options. They can't afford to live on their own. You can't with \$1,900. I mean, you just can't, so you have to have a roommate or a relationship of some kind that helps you. And very often people stay with roommates or in relationships far too long because they don't have any options. They don't have the money for a deposit on an apartment. They barely have the money for a bus pass. So we are creating really high-risk situations for tens of thousands of disabled people.

I'm not talking about a little disability, I'm not talking about something, you know, that you learn to live with or you accommodate yourself or you can work out in your own job with the support of an employer. I'm talking about people that are profoundly, permanently disabled. That means they cannot financially support themselves.

Now, do I think the federal government did them a great service by giving them \$200? No. I think \$200 fell well, well short of where they should have been, but it's better than nothing. People with disabilities will tell you it's better than nothing. Groups have been working for decades to get this. They passed accessibility legislation in 2019, and this is a direct result of that. It's to alleviate the deep poverty of disabled people, and this government is the only one in this country that is taking it away from disabled people.

I am urging you to do something that will actually help all of you. I know it will. You can take credit for it. You can walk around and say: look at us; look how generous we are. Just do it. You will prevent a lot of problems. I suggest that you will prevent a lot of harm and you will prevent a lot of really bad situations from getting worse.

I do not support this piece of legislation because I know that it paves the way for a new program that is really about reducing the bottom line of AISH. Now, they're not going to cut the core benefit of AISH. They'll create a new program to move people off AISH, and there will be a lower core benefit. They'll say, "Well, it's great though. They're going to work," but they've failed to do the work with pathways to employment.

Now, they failed to tell us actually anything about the new ADAP program. This is actually what they had at their presser. You can find it on the government's own website, government of Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services Alberta disability assistance program. This is it. That's all people got. It's a little case study: receives AISH benefits, arrow, receives ADAP benefits; unemployed, wants to work, arrow, receives employment supports; employers reluctant to hire, simulated work site placement leads to permanent employment; remains unemployed and dependent on AISH, has higher income and is more financially independent. That's it. That is it, Mr. Speaker. That's it.

That's not okay. You have terrified tens of thousands of people, and this government likes to say: well, opposition is fearmongering. We don't have to. You've scared them yourselves, and then you took away \$200, and then you refused to pass accessibility legislation and hid your own disability advocate's report.

I would suggest that this government is not interested in making life better for all people, just some people: connected people, friends, insiders. You'll hear them say it regularly: "We will take nothing from this opposition. We will take nothing from that." It's not from me; it's from tens of thousands of people with disabilities saying: please. Please let them keep the \$200 the federal government meant for them. It wasn't meant for the government coffers. It was meant for people that earn under \$23,000 a year, working-age people between 18 to 64. That's what it's for. It's not for the government coffers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this government to do the right thing. I will not support this piece of legislation. I will not support the creation of this program. I will not stop talking about the need for accessibility

legislation. I will never stop advocating for people with disabilities, and I encourage this government to reverse this very bad decision. Do yourselves a favour. You're sucking wind right now because Albertans don't trust this government. They think this government is corrupt.

Mr. Nally: Have you seen the polls? We can table them if you'd like.

Ms Renaud: Would you like to stand up?

Mr. Nally: No. I'll just table the polls.

The Acting Speaker: Through the chair, please. Order.

Ms Renaud: Mr. Speaker, members chipping over here about: we'll just table the polls. I actually don't care about the polls. I'm talking about people with disabilities, and I'm talking about \$200. This isn't about my job. This is about \$200 for people with disabilities. You can take your polls. Do whatever you want with them. I'm talking about people with disabilities. I am urging this government to do the right thing and reverse this very bad decision.

I will not support this piece of legislation. My caucus will not support this. We understand the right thing to do, and we urge you to do the right thing.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Any other members? The Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Mr. Schmidt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I offer my comments on Bill 39, Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, I want to extend my heartfelt thank you to my friend from St. Albert for her continued passionate advocacy for people with disabilities. A few weeks ago I was listening to conservative political commentator David Frum reflecting on the legacy of now former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. While he was talking about Justin Trudeau's legacy, he made the comment that people who seek elected office do so for either one of two reasons. They're either trying to be somebody, or they're trying to do something.

4:20

My friend from St. Albert for the last 10 years has been crystal clear about why she wants to be in this job, and that is to do something to make the lives of disabled Albertans better. I respect her tremendously, and I'm so grateful that she has been so consistent in her advocacy for disabled Albertans. I thank her for that work. I strongly believe that Albertans would be very well served if all of us were as laser focused on our purpose for being here as the Member for St. Albert. I deeply appreciate her comments this afternoon.

While the compliment train is rolling, Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the Finance minister not for this bill but for kindly including me in his introduction of J.C. Charyk Hanna school when they were here to visit yesterday. I didn't know they were visiting. He made me aware beforehand, and he kindly included the fact that I'm a proud alumnus of J.C. Charyk Hanna school, and I appreciate that. Thanks to the Finance minister for that.

Unfortunately, I have to stand and oppose this bill in large part because of the changes that it's making to the Legal Profession Act, Mr. Speaker. You know, this bill is making significant changes to legal aid funding and grants from the Alberta Law Foundation, increasing the amount of the contribution that the Alberta Law Foundation is expected to give to support Legal Aid from 25 per cent of the interest that it collects on money held in trust to 50 per cent, and that's to cover the shortfall in government funding that the government is cutting from the budget.

You know, access to justice is a fundamental foundation of the democratic system, and I've been incredibly concerned about the erosion of the rule of law in our neighbour to the south. We have seen many stories coming from the United States about permanent residents in that country who are being disappeared with no due process and no legal recourse, people literally kidnapped while they're walking the streets and flown to foreign prisons without a trial being held before a judge or even being able to talk to a lawyer. They have no due process whatsoever. I am grateful that right now in Canada we don't seem to have those kinds of things happening, as far as I know. At least they're not making the news.

I very much cherish the fact that citizens and permanent residents still have the right to due process, but in order to meaningfully exercise that right, Mr. Speaker, they also need to have access to legal expertise so that they can understand and meaningfully participate in that due process. I'm really afraid that the cuts to Legal Aid and the changes to how the Alberta Law Foundation's trust monies are administered will seriously erode people's access to justice.

A few years ago, Mr. Speaker, I had a fellow come into my office because he was in some serious legal trouble. He was a permanent resident of Canada. He had recently immigrated from, I believe, the Ivory Coast, and during his time here he had been charged and convicted of a crime and sentenced to prison. He had served his time, but because he had been sentenced to prison, he had his children taken away from him by Children's Services and he was facing deportation. I have no comment whatsoever on the merits of the case. I don't know if he deserved to have his children taken away, and I have no idea if he deserved to be deported. I do know that as a permanent resident of this country he had the same right to due process that any of us would enjoy, but because he was an immigrant from Ivory Coast, he faced significant barriers to being able to meaningfully participate in that due process.

First of all, he did not speak English as a first language. I believe his first language was French, although I can't be a hundred per cent sure of that. But he did not speak English well enough to understand the laws that he was subject to, and he needed to retain the services of people who could not only explain to him the legal technicalities of his case but also explain it to him in a language that he could understand. This was a significant expense, Mr. Speaker, that he simply could not afford.

He required legal advice on a number of different topics. He required legal advice on criminal law, he required legal advice on family law, and he required legal advice on immigration law, three very different areas of law all wrapped up into one case. This man really had to rely on the kindness of strangers in his case because at that time Legal Aid and all of these charitable foundations were overtaxed and couldn't provide him with the services that he needed. So members of the community stepped up and helped him out as best they could, but it was imperfect, Mr. Speaker. I really fear that that man didn't receive a fair hearing because he didn't have access to the legal services that many of us here in this Chamber could afford and are able to access simply because we speak English.

When I see that the minister is going to give himself the power through this bill to personally approve grants that the Alberta Law Foundation hands out in any amount over \$250,000, this gives me great concern. I know I've referred many constituents in my office to the Edmonton Community Legal Centre. Right on their website, if you go to their website right now, they have a warning to everybody who's looking at their website about the cuts that the government is making to them and the impact that will have. I think they estimated that approximately 40,000 people access their services. We can't meaningfully give people access to due process if we continue to cut the services that are meant to make that access meaningful, Mr. Speaker.

For those reasons I oppose this bill, and I encourage all members to vote against it. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Any other members wishing to speak?

The hon. President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance to close debate. Waived that.

[Motion carried; Bill 39 read a third time]

The Acting Speaker: The Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Amery: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I now move that the Assembly be adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, May 12, 2025.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:29 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, May 8, 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 Sitzings.

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.*), 1334-41 (*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.*), 2191-94 (*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.*), 2194-97 (*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) (\$) (Horner)

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

Second Reading — 1940-46 (*Nov. 6, 2024 aft.*), 2198-201 (*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.*), 2201-05 (*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 — 2205-10 (*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 — 2050 (*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.*), 2976 (*Apr. 17, 2025 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 3061-70 (*Apr. 29, 2025 eve.*), 3219-20 (*May 6, 2025 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 3283-87 (*May 7, 2025 eve., passed*)

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.*), 2796-804 (*Apr. 8, 2025 aft.*), 2867-68 (*Apr. 10, 2025 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 3220-26 (*May 6, 2025 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 3287-89 (*May 7, 2025 eve., passed on division*)

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

First Reading — 2478 (*Mar. 10, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 2692-98 (*Mar. 25, 2025 aft.*), 3046-49 (*Apr. 29, 2025 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 3231-35 (*May 6, 2025 eve., passed; amendments agreed to*)
Third Reading — 3322-25 (*May 8, 2025 aft., passed*)

Bill 40 — Professional Governance Act (Sawhney)

First Reading — 2499 (*Mar. 11, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 2724-29 (*Mar. 26, 2025 aft.*), 3022 (*Apr. 28, 2025 eve., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 3112-17 (*Apr. 30, 2025 eve.*), 3178-82 (*May 5, 2025 eve., passed*)
Third Reading — 3319-22 (*May 8, 2025 aft., passed*)

Bill 41 — Wildlife Amendment Act, 2025 (Loewen)

First Reading — 2511 (*Mar. 12, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 2841-48 (*Apr. 9, 2025 aft.*), 2924 (*Apr. 15, 2025 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 3105-12 (*Apr. 30, 2025 eve.*), 3175-78 (*May 5, 2025 eve., passed*)
Third Reading — 3261-63 (*May 7, 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*)
Second Reading — 2913-18 (*Apr. 15, 2025 aft.*), 2976 (*Apr. 17, 2025 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 3071-73 (*Apr. 29, 2025 eve.*), 3182-85 (*May 5, 2025 eve., passed; amendments agreed to*)
Third Reading — 3195-96 (*May 5, 2025 eve., passed*)

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

First Reading — 2597 (*Mar. 19, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 2804-11 (*Apr. 8, 2025 aft.*), 3022-25 (*Apr. 28, 2025 eve., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 3191-94 (*May 5, 2025 eve., passed*)

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

First Reading — 2613 (*Mar. 20, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 2830-34 (*Apr. 9, 2025 aft.*), 3049-54 (*Apr. 29, 2025 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 3135-41 (*May 1, 2025 aft.*), 3269-75 (*May 7, 2025 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 47 — Automobile Insurance Act (Horner)

First Reading — 2629 (*Mar. 24, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 2811-16 (*Apr. 8, 2025 aft.*), 2924-28 (*Apr. 15, 2025 aft.*), 2952-59 (*Apr. 16, 2025 aft.*), 3087-93 (*Apr. 30, 2025 aft., passed on division*)
Committee of the Whole — 3227 (*May 6, 2025 aft.*), 3329-31 (*May 6, 2025 eve.*), 3279 (*May 7, 2025 eve., adjourned*)

Bill 48 — iGaming Alberta Act (Nally)

First Reading — 2711 (*Mar. 26, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 2834-41 (*Apr. 9, 2025 aft.*), 2952 (*Apr. 16, 2025 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 3038-46 (*Apr. 29, 2025 aft.*), 3281-83 (*May 7, 2025 eve., passed*)
Third Reading — 3289-91 (*May 7, 2025 eve., passed*)

Bill 49* — Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (Ellis)

First Reading — 2762 (*Apr. 7, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 2862-67 (*Apr. 10, 2025 aft.*), 2919-24 (*Apr. 15, 2025 aft.*), 2972-76 (*Apr. 17, 2025 aft.*), 3117-21 (*Apr. 30, 2025 eve., passed on division*)
Committee of the Whole — 3185-91 (*May 5, 2025 eve., adjourned; amendments agreed to*)

Bill 50 — Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (McIver)

First Reading — 2787 (*Apr. 8, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 2939-52 (*Apr. 16, 2025 aft.*), 2976-81 (*Apr. 17, 2025 aft.*), 3093-100 (*Apr. 30, 2025 aft., passed on division*)
Committee of the Whole — 3264-69 (*May 7, 2025 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 51 — Education Amendment Act, 2025 (Nicolaidis)

First Reading — 2787 (*Apr. 8, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 3011-16 (*Apr. 28, 2025 eve.*), (*Apr. 30, 2025 eve., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 3275-78 (*May 7, 2025 aft., passed*)

Bill 52 — Energy and Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (Neudorf)

First Reading — 2859 (*Apr. 10, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 3016-22 (*Apr. 28, 2025 eve.*), 3100-03 (*Apr. 30, 2025 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 3214-19 (*May 6, 2025 aft.*), 3229-31 (*May 6, 2025 eve., passed*)
Third Reading — 3316-19 (*May 8, 2025 aft., passed*)

Bill 53 — Compassionate Intervention Act (Williams)

First Reading — 2910 (*Apr. 15, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 3055-61 (*Apr. 29, 2025 eve.*), 3141-43 (*May 1, 2025 aft., passed*)
Committee of the Whole — 3210-14 (*May 6, 2025 aft.*), 3279-80 (*May 7, 2025 eve., passed*)

Bill 54 — Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (Amery)

First Reading — 3037 (*Apr. 29, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 3235-40 (*May 6, 2025 eve.*), 3291-96 (*May 7, 2025 eve., passed on division*)

Bill 55 — Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (LaGrange)

First Reading — 3134 (*May 1, 2025 aft., passed*)
Second Reading — 3240-48 (*May 6, 2025 eve.*), 3296-3301 (*May 7, 2025 eve., adjourned*)

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 proclamation; 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.), 2764-70 (Apr. 7, 2025 aft., defeated on division)

Bill 209 — Reconciliation Implementation Act (Arcand-Paul)

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

Second Reading — 2770-76 (Apr. 7, 2025 aft.), 2883-90 (Apr. 14, 2025 aft., defeated on division)

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

First Reading — 2350 (Dec. 4, 2024 aft., passed)

Second Reading — 2890-93 (Apr. 14, 2025 aft., adjourned), 2995-3006 (Apr. 28, 2025 aft., defeated on division)

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

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

Second Reading — 3006-07 (Apr. 28, 2025 aft.), 3159-68 (May 5, 2025 aft., defeated on division)

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 — 2741 *(Mar. 27, 2025 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills)*

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

First Reading — 2741 *(Mar. 27, 2025 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills)*

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