



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 31st Legislature
Second Session

Standing Committee
on
Private Bills

Bill Pr. 1, The Ranchmen's Club Ordinance Amendment Act, 2026
Bill Pr. 2, Prairie Bible Institute Amendment Act, 2026

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
8 a.m.

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Standing Committee on Private Bills

Johnson, Jennifer, Lacombe-Ponoka (UC), Chair
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UC), Deputy Chair
Armstrong-Homeniuk, Jackie, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UC)
Bouchard, Eric, Calgary-Lougheed (UC)
Ceci, Joe, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)
Deol, Jasvir, Edmonton-Meadows (NDP)
Dyck, Nolan B., Grande Prairie (UC)
Hayter, Julia K.U., Calgary-Edgemont (NDP)
Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UC)
Sawyer, Tara, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UC)*
Sigurdson, Lori, Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)
Vacant

* substitution for Jackie Lovely

Bill Pr. 1 Sponsor

Ceci, Joe, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)

Bill Pr. 2 Sponsor

Sawyer, Tara, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UC)

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Standing Committee on Private Bills

Participants

- Pr. 1, The Ranchmen’s Club Ordinance Amendment Act, 2026PB-38
Tyler Shandro, The Ranchmen's Club
- Pr. 2, Prairie Bible Institute Amendment Act, 2026PB-40
Kevin Foth, Academic Dean and Professor of Old Testament, Prairie College
Mark Jonah, Provost and Professor of Worship and Music, Prairie College
Mark Maxwell, President, Prairie College

8 a.m.

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

[Mrs. Johnson in the chair]

The Chair: Welcome members, staff, and guests. It is 8 o'clock, so we'll get started. Welcome to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

My name is Jennifer Johnson, MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka and chair of this committee. I'd ask that members and those joining the committee at the table introduce themselves for the record, and then we will go to those online. Starting on my right, please.

Mr. Cyr: Scott Cyr, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul.

Mr. Dyck: Nolan Dyck, MLA for Grande Prairie.

Member Ceci: Joe Ceci, Calgary-Buffalo.

Mrs. Sawyer: Tara Sawyer, MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. Good morning.

Ms Sigurdson: Lori Sigurdson, Edmonton-Riverview.

Mr. Deol: Good morning, everyone. Jasvir Deol, Edmonton-Meadows. Thank you.

Ms Govindarajan: Good morning. Vani Govindarajan, Parliamentary Counsel.

Ms Robert: Good morning. Nancy Robert, clerk of *Journals* and committees.

Ms Rempel: Good morning. Jody Rempel, committee clerk.

The Chair: And those online.

Mr. Bouchard: Good morning, everyone. I'm Eric Bouchard, MLA for Calgary-Lougheed.

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Good morning, everyone. Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

The Chair: Thank you. For the record I will note the following substitution: Mrs. Sawyer is substituting for Ms Lovely.

A few housekeeping items before we get to the business at hand. Please note the microphones are operated by *Hansard*, so members do not need to turn them on and off. Members participating remotely, please ensure you are prepared to speak or vote when called upon, and videoconferencing participants are encouraged to have their cameras on if possible when speaking. Committee proceedings are being live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. Please set your cellphones and other devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

I'll draw everyone's attention to the draft meeting agenda. Would anyone like to propose any amendments? Online? Seeing none, would anyone make a motion to approve the agenda, please? I see Mrs. Sawyer. To approve, all in favour? Online? Any opposed online? Okay. Carried.

We also have a set of minutes from our last meeting. Would anyone like to propose any amendments to those minutes? Online? Would a member then move a motion to approve those minutes? Mrs. Sawyer. Everyone needs a little more coffee. That is carried.

Petitions on two private bills are being heard today. Copies of those bills are available online, and pursuant to Standing Order 104 Parliamentary Counsel's report on the bills was distributed to members last week.

I'll give a quick outline of the next steps in the process that we are going to be following today. The petitioners and, when appropriate, any other interested parties appear before the committee. All individuals giving evidence on the record must be sworn in by our Parliamentary Counsel. Petitioners have been advised that they have up to 10 minutes for their opening remarks. Following each presentation from the petitioners, committee members and Parliamentary Counsel are provided the opportunity to ask questions. Please ensure you have asked all the information you need to be prepared to make a recommendation regarding each of the bills before us today.

Once hearings on both of the bills have been completed, the committee will deliberate on the bills consecutively, and then for each private bill the committee will need to make one of the three following recommendations: that the bill proceed as is; two, that it proceed with amendments; or finally, that it not proceed. Once the committee has made its recommendations, I will report on behalf of the committee to the Assembly. The Assembly will consider our recommendations, and then for any private bills that proceed to second reading, the process is the same as any other bill in the House.

Are there any questions about this process before our first petitioner joins us? Online?

Our first bill is Bill Pr. 1, The Ranchmen's Club Ordinance Amendment Act, 2026. Hon. members, at our meeting on March 24 the committee received an overview of the petition for Bill Pr. 1, The Ranchmen's Club Ordinance Amendment Act, 2026, from Parliamentary Counsel, and the petition was found to be in compliance with standing orders 90 to 94. On March 24 the chair reported to the Assembly on the petition pursuant to Standing Order 99. The bill was subsequently introduced in the Assembly on March 26 by the hon. Ms. Sigurdson on behalf of the bill's sponsor, the hon. Member Ceci. Then, in accordance with Standing Order 100, the bill was automatically referred to the committee after its introduction.

I'll now ask that the presenters for Bill Pr. 1 be invited to join us, and I will ask Parliamentary Counsel to please swear them in.

[Mr. Shandro was sworn in]

The Chair: Good morning and welcome. I will confirm for the record that you have been sworn in.

Just a couple of notes before we begin the hearing. Your microphones are operated by *Hansard*, so you will not need to operate them. If you do have a phone with you, would you mind please putting it on silent.

First, I'm going to start by having our committee members introduce themselves. We'll go around the table and do that once more.

Mr. Cyr: Scott Cyr, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul.

Mr. Dyck: Nolan Dyck, MLA for Grande Prairie.

Mrs. Sawyer: Tara Sawyer, MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

Ms Hayter: Julia Hayter, MLA for Calgary-Edgemont.

Member Ceci: Joe Ceci, Calgary-Buffalo. The Ranchmen's Club is in Calgary-Buffalo.

Ms Sigurdson: Good morning. Lori Sigurdson, Edmonton-Riverview.

Mr. Deol: Good morning. Jasvir Deol, Edmonton-Meadows.

Ms Govindarajan: Vani Govindarajan, Parliamentary Counsel.

Ms Robert: Good morning. Nancy Robert, clerk of *Journals* and committees.

Ms Rempel: Good morning. Jody Rempel, committee clerk.

The Chair: And online.

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville. Good morning.

Mr. Bouchard: Good morning. MLA Eric Bouchard from Calgary-Lougheed.

The Chair: Thank you.

I'll have you introduce yourself, and then I'm going to turn it over to you. Please introduce yourself and begin your presentation. You have up to 10 minutes for your opening remarks.

Pr. 1, The Ranchmen's Club Ordinance Amendment Act, 2026

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm Tyler Shandro, a former member of the Assembly, and I'm here before you as a member of the committee of management for the Ranchmen's Club and their solicitor in this matter. We're doing shared time, right? No. I'm just joking.

I am here on behalf of the Ranchmen's Club. The Ranchmen's Club is one of the oldest and most prestigious private clubs in Alberta. It was created in 1891. It currently has 1,100 members or thereabout. It has a building in Calgary-Buffalo, in the Beltline. It's on 13th Avenue S.W. between 6th Street and 7th Street. When they were created in 1891, it was before the province existed, so it was created through a statute – it was called an ordinance – by the North-West Territories Legislative Assembly, and that piece of legislation included, for whatever reason, a clause that limited their borrowing powers to \$25,000. At the time in 1891 they used that money that they borrowed to access a couple of railcars near the CP Rail line, and they did that until 1912.

This is why we know that the Legislative Assembly of Alberta has jurisdiction to amend this legislation: because it was already amended once before, after the province was created. In 1910 the ordinance was amended for that clause, and it increased that cap from \$25,000 to \$75,000. They used that increase in borrowing powers to purchase the property that they're currently at in Calgary, and they built the club. Nothing really happened then from 1912, when that was purchased and developed, until 1980.

8:10

In 1980 they sold a portion of the land and built a condominium next door and then used that to be able to expand the size of the club. If anybody is familiar with the club, it would be like where the billiards room is and the second and third floors above that. They expanded the size of the club, but since 1980 they haven't done anything else because they don't have the ability to borrow. Eleven hundred members makes it difficult to be able to do renovations, for example a kitchen renovation, and to keep the club modernized. So the proposal that we have for the Legislative Assembly and Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor is to remove the cap of \$75,000 for them to borrow.

I'd also say that other nonprofits don't have those types of limitations, like in the Societies Act. Even in the template bylaws that service Alberta provides a new society, that doesn't even have a cap on borrowing powers. Federal nonprofit incorporation legislation doesn't have it. The Companies Act doesn't have it for nonprofit companies. We would submit that it would be up to the

board members – well, committee management, they call it – to be able to decide if and when they borrow money.

I'm pleased, Madam Chair, to take any questions that the committee might have for me.

The Chair: I will open the floor to questions from committee members. I'll note that once members have completed their questioning, Parliamentary Counsel may have supplementary questions. Anyone? Member Ceci.

Member Ceci: Yeah. Thank you. Thank you for your presentation, Mr. Shandro. Parliamentary Counsel has provided us with a note that was helpful in reviewing this application. I guess, on the record can you confirm if there were any objections to this change?

Mr. Shandro: No, there were no objections received. Thank you to Parliamentary Counsel for helping me. As someone who never served as a private member, I needed help going through the Standing Orders. To comply, yes, we had the two advertisements in the *Calgary Herald*, and no objections were received. We've also had several consultations with the members, and there have been no concerns from the members either.

Member Ceci: Great. Well, thank you very much for that, and I have no further questions.

The Chair: Anyone online?

Mr. Dyck: I have one question, Chair.

The Chair: You do have one? Oh, sorry. I thought you said you didn't.

Mr. Dyck: Well, thanks for being here this morning. Pleasure to see you. I only have one question. I didn't read through the whole act, but there's no backstop for any loan guarantees from the province in the act, correct?

Mr. Shandro: That's correct. No, not at all.

Mr. Dyck: Perfect. That's my only question. Thank you.

The Chair: Member Ceci?

Member Ceci: Sorry. Maybe just to let you know that at the appropriate time I'd like to move the motion.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Mr. Deol: Just, you know, a question for my own knowledge. Like, I just wanted to know: why do you think this was unique to this organization, that they had a cap on how much they could borrow in Alberta?

Mr. Shandro: I'm trying to put myself in the shoes of a brand new Legislative Assembly that hadn't existed for that long and probably didn't have a lot of experience in creating new entities back in 1891. I mean, you know, 21 years before this was Rupert's Land, right? They didn't have a lot of experience and probably didn't have a lot of entities that were incorporated at all other than corporations like rail lines and stuff like that and law firms. I think for a nonprofit to exist and to be created by legislation was new and novel for them, and I guess they thought: how do we protect the members? I think they were trying to be proactive in protecting the members, but now the members are the ones seeking to have this removed.

Mr. Deol: Thank you.

The Chair: Are there any questions online? Anyone else?

Mr. Cyr: I might have a question myself. Thank you for being here, sir, and thank you for your service to this great province we're in. I would say that when it comes to, I guess, removing a limit like this that was obviously put in for protection, the accountability and transparency of this is an important part that I think all of us maybe want to consider when we're moving this forward. Can you walk us through how the committee – it's a committee?

Mr. Shandro: Yeah. The board of directors.

Mr. Cyr: Board of directors, then. How would the board of directors go through a process of, I guess, getting a loan, and what transparency would be used for the members to understand the debt they're about to take on?

Mr. Shandro: There's no plan to incur any debt right now, but there'd be two different ways in which there would be accountability. First would be in the annual general meetings. Any time that there has been a new capital plan, the committee management has gone to the members at the AGMs. There was a kitchen renovation in which there was a special general meeting. They do get the permission from the members to proceed in those ways.

It's not different than any other nonprofit, whether it's in the Companies Act in part 9 or the Societies Act. Any nonprofit entity always has that accountability to the members when they pass a budget, when there's a big capital plan, making sure the capital plans are approved by the membership, and then in the monthly directors' meetings having those debates and making sure that those directors, who are elected by the members, would stay accountable to the members.

Mr. Cyr: Yeah, that's good.
A follow-up?

The Chair: Mm-hmm.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you for that. Now, I'm not familiar with this, I guess, way of creating an entity within Alberta. Again, it's beyond where Alberta even existed. Do we put this through an auditor? Like, what process do you have for transparency? Do we file something with Revenue Canada? Is this just no filings? Essentially, are you using accredited accountants to go through your financial statements?

Mr. Shandro: Yeah. There's a controller internally, and there are external accountants as well. There's nothing that's filed with the CRA because there's no charitable status that they have. There are no tax receipts. There's no requirement to have any filings with the Canada Revenue Agency. But the members do obtain financial statements at the annual general meeting that include the work of the internal in-house controllers as well as the external accountants.

The Chair: Anything else?

Mr. Cyr: Well, thank you for that. Again, I know that everybody wants to grow and thrive, and you're probably at capacity with the number of members you've got, with the facility you've got, so I understand that it's important to really see, I guess, our ranchers be able to advocate in their own way. Thank you again for this. I really do appreciate your time.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you.

The Chair: Any other questions from members? Online?

If there are no other questions from members, I will turn it to Parliamentary Counsel to see if there are any questions that we should be bringing up.

Ms Govindarajan: Nothing further.

The Chair: Nothing else? Okay.

Well, this will conclude, then, the hearing for Bill Pr. 1. I'd like to thank you for your submission here today. You are free to leave if you have other commitments. However, the waiting room is available to you if you would like to stick around for the remainder of the proceedings today. Thank you for coming.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, members.

The Chair: Hon. members, at our meeting on March 24 the committee received an overview of the petition for Bill Pr. 2, Prairie Bible Institute Amendment Act, 2026, from Parliamentary Counsel, and the petition was found to be in compliance with standing orders 90 to 94. On March 24 the chair reported to the Assembly on the petition pursuant to Standing Order 99. The bill was subsequently introduced in the Assembly on March 26 by the bill's sponsor, Mrs. Sawyer. Then, in accordance with Standing Order 100, the bill was automatically referred to the committee after its introduction.

8:20

I'll now ask the presenters for Bill Pr. 2 to be invited to join us, and I'll ask Parliamentary Counsel to swear them in so we can proceed with the hearing. I believe they've gone to do that.

[Dr. Foth, Dr. Jonah, and Mr. Maxwell were sworn in]

The Chair: Well, good morning and welcome. I will confirm for the record that you have been sworn in, and I have just a couple of notes before we begin our hearing. Your microphones are operated by *Hansard*, so you don't need to operate them. If you do have a phone with you, please put it on silent.

I'll start by having our committee members introduce themselves, and we'll go around the table.

Mr. Cyr: Scott Cyr, Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul.

Mr. Dyck: Nolan Dyck, MLA for Grande Prairie.

Mrs. Sawyer: Tara Sawyer, MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, where Prairie resides. Welcome, gentlemen.

Ms Hayter: Julia Hayter, the MLA for Calgary-Edgemont.

Member Ceci: Joe Ceci, the MLA for Calgary-Buffalo.

Ms Sigurdson: I'm Lori Sigurdson, the MLA for Edmonton-Riverview.

Mr. Deol: Jasvir Deol, MLA for Edmonton-Meadows.

Ms Govindarajan: Vani Govindarajan, Parliamentary Counsel.

Ms Robert: Good morning. Nancy Robert, clerk of *Journals* and committees.

Ms Rempel: Good morning. Jody Rempel, committee clerk.

The Chair: I'm Jennifer Johnson, MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka.

I will turn the floor over now – oh, and online.

Mr. Bouchard: Good morning, everyone. I'm MLA Eric Bouchard for Calgary-Lougheed.

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Good morning, everyone. Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

The Chair: Thank you.

Now I will turn the floor over to our presenters. Please introduce yourselves, and you can begin your presentation. You have up to 10 minutes.

Pr. 2, Prairie Bible Institute Amendment Act, 2026

Dr. Jonah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My name is Mark Jonah, and I'm provost at Prairie College, located in the town of Three Hills. With me today is our president, Mark Maxwell, and our academic dean, Kevin Foth. Prairie was founded in 1922, starting in a farmhouse, and Prairie has grown to be a place where students come to learn and prepare to meet the greatest needs of the world. Since its inception over 17,000 graduates have spanned the globe, bringing help and serving the communities where they live. Incorporated in an act of the Legislative Assembly in 1946, Prairie students come from across Alberta, across the western provinces, across eastern Canada, and we even have some international students.

Prairie is also accredited with the Association for Biblical Higher Education, which accredits schools both in the United States and Canada. Since our first accreditation in 1997 Prairie has been in good standing with the ABHE and then approved for continued standing on each of our reaccreditation evaluations. ABHE is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and is the accrediting organization for 21 schools of higher education here in Canada. As an academic institution Prairie College seeks to demonstrate good citizenship in the arena of advanced education in Alberta.

Prairie enjoys an excellent partnership with Red Deer Polytechnic in offering their licensed practical nurse program. On our campus, additionally, professional medical associates have taught the primary care paramedic program for over 10 years, and there is a partnership in our Prairie Aviation Training Centre. It's a partnership between Prairie College and Mission Aviation Fellowship Canada. It has become a model for aviation training in Alberta and has been recognized across Canada.

Prairie also prepares students with a world-wide perspective in our globe trek program, which students can take in any four-year part of their program although it's primarily part of our intercultural studies program. Students travel for one month to multiple continents. Then they separate six months individually in a location in the world where they work and serve in an area of their interest, and then they join up again for one more month of travel. Past students have worked in media design and translation in Spain, in seeking to preserve coral reefs in the Philippines, working with immigrants in Italy, and in orphans' homes in Manila.

In March of 2022 Prairie applied to the province to offer a bachelor of education degree, and for the past four years we have walked through the process under the guidance of the Campus Alberta Quality Council through the organizational review and the program review. In February this year we received approval from the Ministry of Advanced Education for implementation on July 1.

One of the conditions outstanding is an amendment to the Prairie Bible Institute Act. Currently the act grants Prairie permission to grant degrees in divinity. As a bachelor of education degree is outside the divinity degree designation, the bill is seeking approval from the Legislative Assembly to amend Prairie's establishing

enactment to provide ministry-approved degrees. The bill before you is an amendment of the 1946 act. The proposed amendment refers to section 7.1 of the act. You will note that we are requesting an amendment to be able to grant degrees in accordance with the Post-secondary Learning Act. This change will allow us to offer a bachelor of education degree for which we have received conditional approval. The amendment is the next step in the process of being able to enrol students. You will also note that we are asking to be able to deliver certificates and diplomas.

Please note in your package a letter of support for this legislative change from the Hon. Myles McDougall, Minister of Advanced Education. We are also very appreciative of the interest and support we have received from our MLA, Tara Sawyer. She is sponsoring our bill. And I wish to thank Vani for her excellent guidance in this process and answering my many questions. Most certainly, thank you to each of you on this committee for the time and attention that you are giving to this bill.

We welcome your questions.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

At this time I will open the floor to members for any questions that they may have.

Member Ceci: Thank you very much for your presentation. I don't have the thing in your package you talked about from Minister McDougall. What's the date on that? Can you tell me?

Dr. Jonah: I can once I pull it out of my briefcase.

Member Ceci: Anybody?

Mr. Maxwell: I'm going to go from memory. I think it's February 6. No; that might be the approval letter that we got.

Dr. Jonah: You're close. Add a 20 to that. It's February 26.

Member Ceci: February 26. Can you summarize just what it says?

Dr. Jonah: I can read it for you. It's short.

Dear Dr. Jonah:

Thank you for your continued collaboration with Advanced Education and the Campus Alberta Quality Council . . . on Prairie College's proposed Bachelor of Education program. I appreciate the significant work that has gone into advancing the proposal through Alberta's quality-assurance processes.

I understand that the CAQC recently provided conditional approval of your Bachelor of Education program and that Prairie College is also pursuing amendments to An Act to Incorporate Prairie Bible Institute to obtain the authority required to offer Minister-approved degree programs under the Post-Secondary Learning Act. I support Prairie College's efforts to pursue the required legislative amendments.

Once the proposed amendments have been introduced in the Legislative Assembly and referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills, Parliamentary Counsel will share them with Advanced Education for review. Staff from my department will then provide comments from a post-secondary policy and regulatory perspective.

My department will continue to engage with you as the legislative amendments proceed. I look forward to the next steps in the process.

Sincerely,

Honourable Myles McDougall

Member Ceci: Thank you very much, Mark.

The Chair: We do have some clarity from Parliamentary Counsel on this as well.

Member Ceci: That would be helpful. Yeah.

8:30

Ms Govindarajan: Yes. The letter was included in the application materials as the last page of the statutory declaration relating to notice. A letter was sent to them separately; our office sent a letter to the Ministry of Advanced Education requesting comment on the bill, but we did not receive a reply as of the time of this meeting.

Member Ceci: Okay. So they didn't comment on your letter, but they did give a letter to this group.

Ms Govindarajan: There was such a letter included in the package. That's all I can speak to.

Ms Robert: The committee was provided that letter with the application.

Member Ceci: Yeah. Thank you.

Has there been any objections, that you can tell me about, to your application to your ordinance?

Dr. Jonah: No. We have received none.

Member Ceci: All my questions.

The Chair: Thank you.

Member Sawyer.

Mrs. Sawyer: Thank you very much for being here. You touched on a bit of the history that your institution has when it comes to educating in other areas. I have a couple of questions for you. I know you've been working hard on this, and I know you've got interest from people, especially when we look at how we're looking to fill more teachers in education. You'll fall under the Post-secondary Learning Act. You'll have to align with the provincial system. Can you maybe talk to how you will ensure that you're in compliance with the approval process with your instruction?

Dr. Foth: Yes. Through the Post-secondary Learning Act the Campus Alberta Quality Council oversees the initial approval process of programs. We've been working with them since 2022 on ensuring that the program that we intend to offer aligns with the CAQC requirements. That has gone through the process first of institutional approval and then through programmatic approval, most recently through a site visit with a program review committee made of peers from other institutions in Alberta. Part of that process is the approval of the degree and how we're going to offer that through those policies. They have agreed that we have demonstrated that we are able to offer that degree in accordance with that Post-secondary Learning Act.

Then the second piece of the CAQC is the quality assurance. There's ongoing reporting that we'll be responsible for, which will fall to the academic dean and then our director of institutional assessment, on ensuring that we have all of the requirements that we have to continue that program to the standards of the Post-secondary Learning Act.

Mrs. Sawyer: Thank you.

Madam Chair, may I ask another question?

The Chair: Yes. Go ahead.

Mrs. Sawyer: Thank you. Given the various different degrees you're already providing, you know, on the divinity side, and you touched on EMS and the nursing, and I know how popular your pilot program has become, one thing I wanted to ask you is: when

it comes to infrastructure to be able to support offering this degree, could you maybe touch on where you sit that way?

Mr. Maxwell: Want me to take that?

Dr. Jonah: Sure.

Mr. Maxwell: We get a lot of donations from our alumni and, you know, general supporters. We are a registered charity, so people get a charitable receipt for their donations. In the last year we took in \$28 million or so in revenue, of which \$20 million was donations and \$8 million was tuition and fees. Those are all public numbers. They're available. Those are round numbers, but they'll be close.

The \$20 million we spent immediately on a \$22 million residence. Someone in Three Hills calls it not a bad hotel with air conditioning and in-floor heating and windows that open and all kinds of really, really good stuff. It's only been open one year. That's an illustration to say that when we need to do infrastructure expansion and support, we go to our constituency and ask them if they'll help us, and if they think it's worth it, they will step in.

Evidence of the last one is showing up in the next one, our aviation program, which has one hangar in it, a good-sized hangar. It is full. I mean, like, it's moving Tetris blocks to get the planes all in there at night. In fact, I think we now have one or two planes that are being housed in other hangars beside us. This year we're planning to build another hangar and a classroom building out at the airport.

That will be about a \$10.5 million build. The funding for that, I think we're around \$6 million raised. We have a line of credit that we could use for the rest of that if we need to, but we think that once we start building, which we think will be May or June, we'll be able to get the rest of that in. We hope that it's fully funded by donations by the time the building is finished. All illustrations of how we get capital.

Mrs. Sawyer: Can I keep going?

The Chair: Yeah.

Mrs. Sawyer: Sorry. I'm hogging the questions, but I know the thought you've put into this. I'm trying to give you an opportunity to share all the work you're doing. To that end, should this amendment go through, you'll be able to offer broader programs.

Mr. Maxwell: Yes, ma'am.

Mrs. Sawyer: So I'd love for you to share, if you could, what programs you're perhaps thinking of beyond theology that you might potentially be able to offer because you'll be able to give these types of degrees.

Dr. Foth: Yeah, I can speak to that. The first program that we are pursuing is this bachelor of education. We've been working to ensure that we have all of the quality standards and that we have approvals from everyone who is involved in this, including Alberta Education and Childcare, which is one of the conditions for our approval as well. We have talked about a number of different programs that we would consider, including expanding nursing to eventually go through the process of the CAQC and ministry approval for a bachelor of nursing program. We've also talked about a bachelor of psychology program.

At this point our main focus is making sure that we have the bachelor of education ready to go and that we have an excellent program delivering excellent graduates and excellent teachers into the Alberta education system. We'll be considering after this what

our strategic priorities are in seeking additional programs through the CAQC approval to expand our offerings from the college.

The Chair: Was there a question on the opposition side? Member Hayter? No. Okay.

Member Sawyer.

Mrs. Sawyer: Yeah. Sorry, I do want to ask one more. You are situated in Three Hills, a very tight community, I know. Can you speak to some of the support the community has towards you with this endeavour, like, the feedback you're getting from the town, because it will certainly impact having more students being able to come into a rural community and hopefully stay.

Dr. Jonah: Absolutely. What we've noticed with our other programs is that there is interest in students in Alberta who live in a rural area to study in a rural area. That's what they enjoy. That's where they intend to be, and they really want to come to a place where they can study that is still rural in nature.

We haven't been able to market or advertise the program yet because we don't have final approval on it, but we have taken a list of people who are interested, and we said: well, when we begin to enrol, we will be able to let you know by e-mail. Right now there are 73 persons on that e-mail list waiting for us to have approval so that we can let them know so that they can enrol. We think there's high interest.

Mr. Maxwell: How many are you planning in the first year?

Dr. Jonah: Well, we had thought we could have 18, but maybe with 73 we might have to consider opening the door a bit more. We have already hired our first faculty member for the program. She has received her doctor of education, and for the last 10 to 13 years – I can't remember the number exactly – she's taught in the Alberta public school system. She's a grade 5 teacher, I believe, down in High River. We hire well-qualified faculty who have terminal degrees in their field, and we're very excited for her to come and to be the first person.

8:40

Dr. Foth: May I also add that we have a good relationship with the town. We recently had the mayor and one of the council members touring our facilities at Prairie, of ways that we can partner with the hospital there as well. A number of alumni live in the town, so there's strong support from the town overall. We also have already talked with both of the schools, Prairie Christian Academy as well as Three Hills school, for placements and partnerships that can be ongoing, so those conversations will continue, and there's excitement from those institutions as well.

Mr. Maxwell: May I add as well?

The Chair: Yes, of course.

Mr. Maxwell: In addition to all of this, the town and we are in a conversation about managing the airport for the town, so it's a way of – what we want to try and avoid is downloading, where we pick up all the costs. We're going to try and run that in a way that works well for the public and looks after our school that's there, which is the biggest consumer of the airport. It's premature to call it in-place. We think it will probably be in place in three months: an agreement where we'll run the airport for the public.

The Chair: Member Dyck.

Mr. Dyck: Excellent. Well, pleasure to see you here, gentlemen. Just for a little bit of context, I grew up in Bow Island. I grew up with James Fraser, who I believe is on your staff. As well, I grew up with the Hirschs, who I understand had some notoriety at Prairie during their period of time as well.

Mr. Maxwell: A bunch of ne'er-do-wells, I think.

Mr. Dyck: Yeah. Exactly. So it is a pleasure to see you guys here. I attended and also worked at PRBI, kind of your baby sister school way up north, so I have some context of the school as well. Thanks for what you do. Greatly appreciate your work in the faith world.

I just have two questions. In regard to faith, is your programming still mainly faith-driven throughout? I have one other question, too, after that, but I'd love a little context on how that's going for you.

Dr. Jonah: Sure. In every four-year program at Prairie students study the entire canon. We have four Old Testament courses and three New Testament courses. Every four-year degree, as I mentioned, gets all those seven. If you're only there for two years, you get a subset of that, and one year, a subset of that. Within our bachelor of education, those seven courses exist. It's called a religious studies minor that we have in there, but our intention is to hold to that for all our degree programs and still meet the qualifications that are necessary under the Post-secondary Learning Act, so that's our intention, and that's what we're doing.

Mr. Dyck: I appreciate that. I just have a quick question on 7.1(b) here. It looks like you guys are expanding into master's and doctorate degrees here potentially as well. Where's the direction? Sorry if I missed that, if that was in your opening remarks, but I'd love to hear just a little bit more on where you guys are heading in that regard.

Dr. Foth: The approval of this amendment will open up a lot of opportunities for Prairie to expand into areas that we haven't explored yet. We currently, under our divinity charter, offer two master's programs. This is something that we already have some infrastructure for. It's definitely in our strategic goals in terms of how we expand these to offer different programs to include graduate degrees, master's degrees at some point, but we'll begin with what we do best in the undergraduate area as we grow our faculty and grow our student body and continue to do these things well.

Mr. Dyck: Excellent. Well, looking forward to hopefully seeing that success for you guys here, too. Once again, thank you for coming in.

The Chair: Are there any other questions? Online?

I have one. I'm curious, and you may have said this, so I apologize if I missed it. If this is successful and we are able to legislate this, when are you ready to start your education degree?

Dr. Jonah: We would love to begin it in September of this year.

The Chair: And you're ready to go?

Dr. Jonah: We have our instructor. We have the classroom. It needs to be renovated, but we have a place for it to be and we have an office for the instructor that's right next to the classroom, so we're excited. We're ready to go.

The Chair: I heard you have the resources within your alumni, of which I am one as well, that I mentioned to Mark. I spent seven years at Prairie, growing up in the local town of Carbon. I'm delighted to see you here as well, and I thank you for your time.

Are there any questions from Parliamentary Counsel that we should be considering?

Ms Govindarajan: I just have one, Madam Chair. Prairie Bible Institute is the institution named in the act, but I see that Prairie College is used a lot in documents and in your presentation. Can you confirm or elaborate for the committee the relationship between the two or the use of the two names, please?

Mr. Maxwell: Absolutely. Our legal name is Prairie Bible Institute. Our charity name is Prairie Bible Institute. Those are two different things. We're in business as Prairie College, which is the legal way of putting it, in business as, and that's a registered trade name. The question might be a little more specific: why? Are we hiding our faith? We see ourselves as sending people all over the world. There are some fantastic countries in the world where a label like Prairie Bible Institute makes it difficult to get visas. We want to send people there to help, whether it's fixing coral reefs or with orphanages or whatever it is that they do. That's why we adopted the trade name.

Secondly, on the faith side, we're kind of big-tent Christians. We don't hang to any single denomination, but we also know it defines our lane. We know it's a smaller part of the market, which is something I love about Alberta. We're a fantastic pluralistic, engaging with multiple fronts, and we'll be trying to step into this one small lane and offer that as something excellent to be offered as an alternative to the public schools. We're not going to threaten the public schools, but we hope we offer a nice complement to them.

I skipped past your name thing. Here's another question that might come from it. Could we, down the road, change completely to Prairie Bible Institute? Could do. No plans to. That's the best I can do on that one.

The Chair: All right. Well, this will conclude the hearing for Bill Pr. 2. Thank you for your submission and for your attendance here today. You are free to leave if you have other commitments. The waiting room is open if you would like to stay and to watch the remainder of our proceedings today. Again, thank you for being here.

All right. We're into deliberations and recommendations for Bill Pr. 1. Let's back up to The Ranchmen's Club Ordinance Amendment Act, 2026. The committee must recommend that the bill proceed, proceed with amendments, or not proceed.

I will now open the floor for discussion. Member Ceci.

Member Ceci: Thank you, Madam Chair. First, I want to address something MLA Cyr brought up, and I think it's a good question. You know, will they go crazy with this change and just borrow as much money as they want to to – I don't know – put a tower on top of their club or something like that? I know I'm paraphrasing, Scott. I think they're really responsible. They've been there for 120 years or whatever, not in that spot, but – they have 1,100 members. These are members that come from mostly Calgary, probably, and southern Alberta. They have responsibly directed the club for a long, long time, and I think they'll continue to do that in the future. They have all of the appropriate protocols, checks and balances in place that any corporation or nonprofit or society has, and they will, I'm sure, live up to those.

With that said, I know that other people might have discussion, but I'd like to put on the floor for consideration that I, Calgary-Buffalo, move the motion that

the Standing Committee on Private Bills recommend to the Assembly that Bill Pr. 1, the Ranchmen's Club Ordinance Amendment Act, 2026, proceed.

8:50

The Chair: Is there any discussion on that?

Mr. Cyr: I would like to add something.

The Chair: Yes.

Mr. Cyr: Thank you. I just want to clarify that my question was about the process of transparency and accountability. It wasn't that I had worries about, I guess, building massive skyscrapers there. I know that for my area I've got nothing but respect for my local ranchers.

I would, I guess, support your motion personally because I see that this is a lot of good work that they're doing, and I would hope that my colleagues would also support your motion, sir.

The Chair: Any other discussion?

We will vote on the motion that the Standing Committee on Private Bills recommend to the Assembly that Bill Pr. 1, The Ranchmen's Club Ordinance Amendment Act, 2026, proceed. All those in favour, say aye. Those online? Any opposed?

That is carried.

Having finished our deliberations on Bill Pr. 1, we should consider a report to the Assembly. The committee should consider a motion directing staff to prepare the committee's report for presentation to the Assembly this afternoon. Does somebody want to move that motion? Moved by Member Hayter that

the Standing Committee on Private Bills direct the Legislative Assembly Office to prepare a draft report on the committee's review of Pr. 1, The Ranchmen's Club Ordinance Amendment Act, 2026, which includes the committee's recommendations and to authorize the chair to approve the committee's final report to the Assembly.

We have not voted on that. All those in favour, please say aye. Online? Any opposed?

That is carried.

Moving on, let's go to Bill Pr. 2, Prairie Bible Institute Amendment Act, 2026. As mentioned, the committee must ultimately decide whether the bill should proceed, proceed with amendments, or not proceed.

I will open the floor to discussion.

Mrs. Sawyer: Madam Chair, I guess, obviously, I sponsored the bill, so you know I'm in heavy support of it. This is an institution that is well grounded in the community. It's been there for a long time. It's very well respected. It is following the guidelines in order to be able to provide instruction. To allow them this ability to be able to do not only just degrees in education but the masters and the doctorates I think is a key piece for an institution that plans to be there for a very long time and is looking to continue to expand. Yeah. I would hope that I could have the support of the committee to accept.

Do I move?

The Chair: If you would like to.

Mrs. Sawyer: Okay. Well, in that case, I'd like to move that the Standing Committee on Private Bills recommend that Bill Pr. 2, the Prairie Bible Institute Amendment Act, 2026, proceed to the Legislative Assembly.

The Chair: Is there any more discussion on that?

All those in favour, say aye. Online? Any opposed?

That motion is carried.

Hon. members, as the committee has finished its deliberations on Bill Pr. 2, we should provide direction on preparing the report. The committee should consider a motion directing staff to prepare the committee's report for presentation to the Assembly this afternoon. Would somebody like to move that motion? Member Sawyer. Moved by Member Sawyer that

the Standing Committee on Private Bills direct the Legislative Assembly Office to prepare a draft report on the committee's review of Bill Pr. 2, Prairie Bible Institute Amendment Act, 2026,

which includes the committee's recommendations and authorize the chair to approve the committee's final report to the Assembly.

All those in favour, please say aye. Online? Any opposed?

That motion is carried.

Wonderful. Is there any other business for discussion today?

The next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

We need a motion to adjourn. Member Dyck. Moved by Member Dyck that the April 14, 2026, meeting of Private Bills be adjourned.

All those in favour? Online? Any opposed? That motion is carried.

Thank you, members.

[The committee adjourned at 8:55 a.m.]

