



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Monday afternoon, April 9, 2018

Day 13

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 29th Legislature

Fourth Session

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Jabbour, Deborah C., Peace River (NDP), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Westhead, Cameron, Banff-Cochrane (NDP),
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Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)
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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Monday, April 9, 2018

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Good afternoon.

I wonder if we could pray or contemplate, each in our own way. As our nation mourns the death of so many fellow Canadians, let each of us think about our loved ones, our children, our grandchildren, who may have all travelled on a bus to play the game they love. We share the crippling pain felt by the families affected by this tragedy. Let this incident yet again remind us about what is really important. Please may we observe a moment of silence.

Hon. members, ladies and gentlemen, we will now be led in the singing of our national anthem by Mr. R.J. Chambers. I would invite all to participate in the language of their choice.

Hon. Members:

O Canada, our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

The Speaker: Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

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

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today on behalf of my colleague the MLA for Edmonton-Riverview and Minister of Seniors and Housing to introduce to you and through you students from Malmo elementary school. They're accompanied today by their teacher, Theresa Bonar. I would ask them now to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-St. Albert.

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise on behalf of the Member for St. Albert and introduce to you and through you 50 students and chaperones from Albert Lacombe school in St. Albert. The students today are accompanied by their teachers, Miss Leis, Miss Kaplar, and Mrs. Michael, along with their chaperones, Mrs. Shankaruk, Mrs. Carlson, and Mrs. Sylyski. If they could please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, any other school groups?

Seeing and hearing none, the hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly my constituency assistant, Niel Parker, and my outreach officer, Azure Johnson. We all know the vital role they play in serving the public, especially when we are not able to be in our offices. I admire their

dedication, professionalism, tact, and charm. Please welcome Niel and Azure with the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Mr. Yao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For more than 110 years Rotary International has taken action on sustainable projects. As Rotarians we're always working to better our world. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the members of the district 5370 Rotary board: Frank Reitz of Fort McMurray – please stand as I say your names – Kathy Strobl of the Whyte Avenue branch, and Laura Morie of Westlock. I ask you all to please stand and receive the warm applause of our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize members of the Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta seated in the members' gallery. Their association is often referred to as PARA. They are here annually to meet with elected officials. Today's focus will be on how a provincial pharmacare strategy would support the provision of excellent patient-centred care in the province of Alberta. I look forward to meeting with them later today. I now invite Dr. Michael Martyna, PARA president, as well as Dr. Michele Foster, vice-president leadership and engagement, along with staff and all members of PARA to rise and receive the warm welcome of our Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the entire Assembly three young-adult community organizers from Canadian Roots Exchange. Specifically, they're from the youth reconciliation initiative, a program that puts youth in a position of leadership with regard to reconciliation. They foster discussions between indigenous and nonindigenous youth about topics surrounding decolonization and reconciliation, when we create a more just province for all. I ask that they please rise as I call out their names: Aura Leddy, Brittany Whitford, and Hyungu Kang. I ask all members to provide them the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Associate Minister of Health.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you visitors from a great business in my riding of Calgary-Acadia. I'll ask that they rise as I introduce them and remain standing: Abdulfatah Sabouni, Husny Hadry, Walid Balsha of Aleppo Savon; and Sam Nammoura and Saima Jamal of the Calgary Immigrant Support Society. Abdulfatah was forced to flee his home and family soap business in Syria a few years ago. Now he and his family call Calgary home. He and his business partners have created new jobs by bringing Aleppo Savon to Calgary with the same passion, ethical practices, tradition, and family pride to create wonderful soaps. I have to say that they are high-quality, excellent products. To the Aleppo Savon team: we love your products, and we look forward to watching your business grow. Please join me in extending the warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-MacKay-Nose Hill.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to the rest of the members of the Assembly Saima Jamal, an activist and inspirational humanitarian who's furthering her work by joining the Alberta Party caucus in the capacity of outreach officer, and her partner in the Calgary Immigrant Support Society, Sam Nammoura, who was recently a finalist in the immigrants of distinction awards in Calgary. I'd like everyone to please extend to them the warm welcome of the Assembly.

1:40 Ministerial Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Humboldt Broncos Bus Crash

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans and all Canadians are reeling from the horrific Humboldt Broncos crash, that claimed 15 lives. The pain of this loss is staggering. It transcends this Legislature, this province, and this country. It is far from just us who rise today to pay our respects and to mourn. It is a safe bet that the name "Humboldt Broncos" is being uttered in every coffee shop, community club, schoolyard, and place of worship across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and beyond because, really, there is not an Albertan who doesn't in some way see themselves and their loved ones in this tragedy. I know that I hug my kids tighter, and I'm sure that that goes for a lot of us. After all, our children, our families, and our communities are what unite all of us.

This is about families who have lost children and loved ones, and it's about communities who have lost bright young stars and dedicated leaders, and it is about the connections between kids, coaches, families, fans, and everyone who ever volunteered in their community. Those connections make us neighbours, they make us friends, and they make us Canadians. They fill us with pride, with hope, and with optimism. They bring us together now to hold one another and comfort one another in the face of tragedy, to lift one another up when the weight of that tragedy is upon us, and to remember forever and always the beautiful group of people that we lost.

We grieve for the 10 incredible young men who were at the beginning of their careers and their lives: Adam Herold, Conner Lukan, Evan Thomas, Jaxon Joseph, Jacob Leicht, Logan Boulet, Logan Hunter, Logan Schatz, Parker Tobin, Stephen Wack. They all ranged in age from 17 to 21, so young. That crash claimed their potential in sport, in their communities, and in achieving their ambitions and their dreams. It is a tragedy whose scope is beyond comprehension.

Just last week all members of this Chamber had the honour of meeting many of Alberta's Winter Olympians and the honour of congratulating them. They sat up in that gallery. We looked up to them and we applauded. Many of those athletes know well what it's like to be on a bus criss-crossing the prairies. It's an essential part of sport in Canada, and those Olympians were products of organizations like the Humboldt Broncos, organizations that cultivate and encourage the best of the best and strong, community-minded Canadians.

Members of this House today turn our attention to the communities of Slave Lake, Spruce Grove, Lethbridge, Peace River, Edmonton, Stony Plain, and, most tragically, St. Albert, each and every part of Alberta where the memories of those lost and the suffering of those injured is more than a name. It's a memory of a young boy growing up down the street, a smiling face at a local fair, a big brother that was looked up to. This loss reverberates in a million ways through all the lives touched by these bright, unforgettable lights.

We also grieve for the loss of Head Coach Darcy Haugan and Assistant Coach Mark Cross. Their leadership and their passion to inspire is now lost to this and future generations of hockey players, coaches, and community members. Darcy Haugan's hometown of Peace River is in mourning. We grieve for statistician Brody Hinz, a dedicated, loyal, and much-appreciated team volunteer and member. We grieve for Tyler Bieber, the Broncos' play-by-play broadcaster. He was 29, not much older than the players. We grieve for bus driver Glen Doerksen, a dedicated family man who is remembered by the women and men who transport our kids from game to game and tournament to tournament.

At yesterday's vigil in Humboldt, when the puck was supposed to be dropped, roses were dropped instead. Families, communities, hockey greats, and government representatives from all levels and all over the country came together, united in mourning and in remembrance. Sheldon Kennedy was at the vigil along with other survivors of the 1986 bus crash that took the lives of four members of the Swift Current Broncos and injured 24 others. It was a strong and welcome statement of solidarity. It was also a stark reminder that countless teams on countless buses travel our roads every year in pursuit of their sport. It is a core part of life on our prairies.

As we mourn those who were lost last week, we stand with the survivors: families, friends, and those who are recovering from injury. We thank and honour all the first responders and medical personnel, those who were on the horrific scene and those who are caring for the survivors and families now. When we see a glimpse of the crash scene, we are reminded of the level of responsibility and sacrifice that those first responders and medical professionals meet and take on on a daily basis and how, some days, they are faced with tragedies that stand out and will never be forgotten. We thank them, and we stand with them, and we will do all we can to comfort and support them through all of the sleepless nights that will surely follow.

Mr. Speaker, for everyone who has been touched by this tragedy, the grief it has generated will not dissipate any time soon. Let us remember that as this grief is processed over weeks, months, and years, we must be kind to one another, we must be compassionate, and we must be the best of who we are as neighbours, Albertans, and Canadians. To all of those struggling through this tragedy: if you need help, please ask for help. We are here for you. I know I speak for all Albertans and especially for everyone in this Assembly when I say that we share your pain, and we, of course, are committed to ensuring that we help in whatever way we can.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank the hon. the Premier for those beautiful and heartfelt words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with the Premier and all members in expressing our profound sadness in the wake of Friday's tragedy involving the Humboldt Broncos junior hockey team. At times like these, words do not suffice. There is nothing that we can say adequately to express our grief for the loss of these 15 souls, our condolences to their families, and our solidarity with the community of Humboldt, the province of Saskatchewan, and the network of hometowns across the prairies that have lost one of their own. The outpouring of love and support that has come from across Canada and indeed around the world has, however, been nothing but astonishing, and I hope that it has brought all of those grieving this tremendous loss some small measure of comfort. We also, as the Premier has done, acknowledge the heroism of the police, paramedics, and medical personnel for their compassion and professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, I grew up in a small Saskatchewan junior hockey town, and I can tell you that in these towns the local team is the

heartbeat of the community. So often, cheering these boys on is what brings together friends and neighbours and creates a broader family, knits together a community. We cannot imagine how the community of Humboldt is suffering as it comes to grips with the bleak events of the last 72 hours.

Mr. Speaker, as the Premier has said, the team bus figures so prominently in our collective experience as Canadians and, I think, especially in remoter parts of our country: the prairies, northern Ontario, and elsewhere. All across the country, parents put their kids on buses just like the one that was carrying the Broncos to game 5 of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League semifinal series against the Nipawin Hawks. Generations of Canadian kids have grown up on these buses, travelling thousands of kilometres to get to the next game or the next competition or the next performance. I know that most members of this Chamber have spent significant amounts of time travelling vast distances on buses just like that. This is why this tragedy is so unspeakable and hits so close to home for so many Albertans. That bus could have been any bus on any highway, carrying any one of us.

1:50

But in the midst of such darkness and heartache, stories of hope have begun to emerge, like the news that Logan Boulet, a 21-year-old Broncos player from Lethbridge, had just recently signed his organ donor card and that this act of bravery will save the lives of at least six people.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the Premier in remembering the names of each of those who were lost and, with each of these names, to express our condolences to their loved ones: Darcy Haugan, Mark Cross, Brody Hinz, Tyler Bieber, Glen Doerksen, Parker Tobin, Logan Schatz, Jaxon Joseph, Adam Herold, Stephen Wack, Logan Hunter, Connor Lukan, Evan Thomas, Jacob Leicht, and Logan Boulet. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them.

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully request unanimous consent from the House to allow a member from the Alberta Party to provide a response to the Premier's ministerial statement.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: The hon. leader of the Alberta Party.

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, one of the ties that binds this nation together is the love and passion that we have for the game of hockey, but I would suggest that one of the strongest ties that binds this nation is how Canadians come together during a time of tragedy, as we saw these past 72 hours. It makes me extremely proud to be a Canadian, a former hockey player, a member in this Chamber. On behalf of the Alberta Party we want to send our deepest condolences to the families and the communities affected by this tragedy and to the Humboldt Broncos and our prayer for them, for these families and communities, that they would find peace and comfort during this time.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View. Was that a part – I'm just getting the note – of unanimous consent?

Mr. Mason: We didn't get a request, Mr. Speaker, but if the hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View wishes to speak, I would request unanimous consent to allow him to do so.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the Legislature. As a father and now a grandfather of a passionate 15-year-old hockey player I must express my deepest sympathies to these players, families, friends, and the community in this heartbreaking tragedy. The injury, loss of life, and grief caused by this crash cannot be expressed in words. I find myself, with many Canadians, struggling to process this profound loss of these great young men and their team staff.

However, amidst the sorrow there is a positive glimmer. Vast geography and separate lives have not dulled our empathy across this country and, in fact, across the world, for this tragedy. All Canadians and many around the world have expressed their support directly or indirectly for this tragedy and offered further support. As a nation we have not simply mourned the loss; we have risen to the occasion and provided support to victims and families. From fundraising campaigns to Canadians giving their airplane seats to grieving family members to Canadians opening their homes to those needing lodging, Canadians are doing all they can do.

For any Albertan – that is, most of us – struggling with the emotional response to this crash, let us reach out to one another, share the grief with friends, family, and, if necessary, a professional.

God bless us all.

The Speaker: I'll need to clarify from the table if the original motion included other members. I haven't had a chance to check that.

Mr. Mason: It was my intention, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

The Speaker: Anyone who wishes to speak?

Mr. Mason: No. Any one of the independents.

The Speaker: The Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Dr. Starke: Mr. Speaker, thank you, and thank you to my colleagues for affording me this opportunity to just add a few brief comments to what has already very eloquently been said by colleagues. Ever since first news broke Friday evening of this terrible tragedy on this lonely piece of Saskatchewan highway, I was reminded of the years that I coached speed skating, because while there's been a lot of talk about hockey this weekend and, certainly, we tend to focus on hockey, it's not just hockey. There are teams of speed skaters and volleyball players and bands and dancers and young people who travel the vast reaches of our country to pursue their dreams and their joys.

At the beginning of each speed skating season with my athletes, Mr. Speaker, I would always ask them the question: what's the thing you like most about speed skating? And the answer always came back the same: the bus trip. It had nothing to do with speed skating. It had to do with those hours that they spent on the one trip a year that our club chartered a bus to go to an out-of-town competition. It was those hours where those lifelong friendships were shared. Many times I clambered aboard that bus with the other athletes and said goodbye to parents who were leaving them, and there was always this trust. There was always this feeling that we would get there safely. Most of the time, the vast majority of the time, of course, that's exactly what happened, but tragically on Friday night that's not what happened.

Mr. Speaker, because we have that shared experience as Canadians, because so many of us have spent those hours on those buses with teams of athletes, with teams of artists, with teams of young people pursuing their dreams, that is why this is such a shared experience and why the collective grief over this experience has become so widespread and so profound. To all of the family

members of the Humboldt Broncos that were affected by this: my deepest condolences. And, of course, my thanks to the first responders for their professionalism and their courage in the face of such unspeakable horrors. As a country and as a nation, together with the community of Humboldt, we will heal going forward. That is part of our resolve as Canadians, and I have every confidence that we will remain Humboldt strong and strong for the Humboldt Broncos.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition.

Federal Response to Pipeline Opposition

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a terrible day for Alberta's economy with the announcement of the suspension of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. It is clear now that the Premier's close ally Prime Minister Trudeau has done nothing to ensure the construction of this pipeline and respect for the rule of law. Will the hon. Premier now join with me in calling on the federal government to invoke section 92(10)(c) of the Constitution to declare the Trans Mountain pipeline as being for the common advantage, thereby overriding any legal delay tactics by the government of British Columbia?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What we will do and have done is to call on the federal government to essentially follow the lead of Alberta. The federal government has greater authority, in fact, than Alberta, but ultimately the strategies that they can use fall into one of three buckets. They can put economic pressure, fiscal pressure, on the province of B.C. They can assert their jurisdiction either legislatively or through the courts. They can support investor certainty, as we talked about doing yesterday. All three of those will assist, and we are calling on . . .

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Kenney: I thank the Premier for her answer, but in terms of the federal government asserting its jurisdiction, that's precisely what I'm asking the Premier to agree with me on, to do so by the invocation of the national interest power under section 92(10)(c) of the Constitution. I wish you would be explicit about this. Will the Premier join me in calling on the federal government to get ahead of one of the B.C. delay tactics by, instead, having a direct federal reference to the Supreme Court of Canada on the matter that the B.C. Premier proposes to hold at the B.C. Court of Appeal?

2:00

Ms Notley: Well, again, Mr. Speaker, these are issues that have already been well under discussion with the federal government as well as the B.C. government as well as the proponent. That is, absolutely, one tool that could potentially add certainty to the matter. As I've said before, there are different tools, all of which are focused on ensuring certainty so that the investors move forward with construction, and we are going to continue to advocate that all of those tools be used and, in fact, that the work that is under way be accelerated.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, we've been proposing tools that the federal government could use that this government has refused to endorse.

Here's another one, Mr. Speaker. The Trudeau Liberals are punishing Saskatchewan because it refuses, in turn, to punish its citizens with a carbon tax. The federal government is withholding transfers from Saskatchewan as a result. Will the Premier join with me in calling on the federal government to withhold transfer payments from the Horgan NDP in Victoria unless they begin to respect the rule of law and the Constitution of Canada?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, when it comes to the funds that would be transferred as a result of participation in the pan-Canadian framework, we've already made that request to the federal government, and I believe that it is under consideration. So that's fine.

As I've said before, there are a range of tools which the federal government needs to strategically deploy, many of which they are already working on. Our view – and I think we probably agree with the members opposite – is that those tools need to be accelerated, and we are going to do everything we can to make sure that they are, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Second main question.

Trans Mountain Pipeline Construction Suspension

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier has one of those tools in her own hand. The federal government says that they want Alberta to have this carbon tax that's hurting Alberta consumers, and the deal was that they'd get a pipeline built. They're doing precisely nothing to ensure that that happens. Will the Premier join with me in saying to Justin Trudeau that Alberta's carbon tax will be repealed unless he gets that pipeline built?

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, our participation in the pan-Canadian framework, which essentially begins in 2021, is conditional on that pipeline being built, and the Prime Minister and the federal government are fully aware of that. But cancelling our climate leadership plan here in Alberta is not the path to getting the pipeline built. That, instead, is emulating the same failed tactics of the members opposite that didn't get a pipeline built for over a decade. We must demonstrate to all Canadians that we can build the economy and protect the environment.

Mr. Kenney: It doesn't matter how often she says it, it's still not true, Mr. Speaker. Four pipelines built would be 1.7 million additional barrels per day under the Harper government.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier spoke last night about the possibility of public participation in the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion to ensure its construction by reducing the risk for the shareholders, the risk of which is the result of a failure of governments in this Canada to ensure the rule of law. Will she join with me in stating that Alberta will not participate financially in that pipeline unless the federal government does so as well?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Yes. First of all, Mr. Speaker, just to be clear, because we need to start every question with a clarification, no pipeline to tidewater was completed under the previous Conservative government. Just to be clear there.

On the second issue, Mr. Speaker, what we will do is that we will do everything we can to get this pipeline built, and we will not put a desire to position ourselves against the federal government over and above the need to get the pipeline built. To be clear, we will do whatever it takes, and we will not box ourselves in in the way the member suggests.

Mr. Kenney: She's still giving her ally Justin Trudeau a blank cheque, Mr. Speaker, to weasel out of any meaningful action.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Premier declared victory. When the government of British Columbia brought in yet another delay tactic, she lifted our symbolic wine boycott on British Columbia, and just last week, based on one court decision of many to come, she did a victory lap. Why has the Premier repeatedly declared victory when, in fact, the enemies of our economic progress have succeeded in suspending the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion?

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, what we have not done is cheered for the pipeline to fail, and we will not do that. In fact, we will remain as determined as we always have been to get this pipeline built. The fact of the matter is that we have won 14 out of 14 cases, and I feel very confident that we will win more. But what we've also done is give notice that there will be significant economic consequences to the province of B.C. and potentially other parts of the country if this matter does not go forward. We will not back down before we get this pipeline built. We stand up for the interests of Albertans.

The Speaker: Third main question.

Provincial Response to Pipeline Opposition

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. This government has been fumbling the ball since day one. They gave Justin Trudeau his carbon tax without any actual commitment to action. They did nothing to protest the federal veto of Northern Gateway, which was approved by the last government. They did nothing to protest Trudeau's killing of Energy East. They did nothing to protest Barack Obama's veto of Keystone XL. When the B.C. NDP came to power with the promise to do everything to stop Trans Mountain, they criticized me for suggesting a fight-back strategy, and now we see nothing but more empty rhetoric. When are we going to see more than words? When will we see real, meaningful action from this Premier to fight for our province's vital economic interests?

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, given the member opposite's record over 10 years of not getting a pipeline to tidewater, I think that, quite honestly, the accusation of words and nothing else, no action, is one that would actually be appropriately applied across the way. Words that are said more loudly, with more anger and more drama, don't actually change the situation one little bit. What does is the piece of legislation that we will be giving notice of this week, what does is the kind of engagement that we've already been involved in, and what does is the approval that's already under way. We will get this pipeline built.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, Albertans have lost confidence in this government's ability to actually defend our economic interests. This Premier mocked and ridiculed the suggestion of turning off the taps to B.C. last summer until making that her policy recently. This Premier imposed a wine boycott but then reversed it because she said that she'd won the war with her B.C. allies in the New Democrat government in Victoria. Even last week she said that there was a decisive victory even though Kinder Morgan has been warning about yesterday's decision for months. Why has the Premier been

so consistently wrong on this essential question about our economic future?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I said before, what our government has done is that we have worked to put economic pressure on B.C. We have done that through a number of strategies. We have succeeded in doing that, and we have clearly gotten their attention. I know the member opposite is unhappy to talk about it, but we have also won 14 out of 14 cases in front of the courts where Alberta has taken a very clear position. Now we have indicated, as a result of discussions that, frankly, have been under way for some time now, that we are prepared to provide support and security to investors to make sure that the job gets done.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, it's clear from that answer that this government still doesn't get it. It doesn't matter how many legal victories there are. The tactic, the strategy of the B.C. New Democrats, the New Democrats in Burnaby, the New Democrats in Vancouver, the New Democrats federally is death by delay. It is creating investor uncertainty, and that's what they got yesterday when the market spoke with the suspension of this project. Again, what specifically is this Premier calling on Justin Trudeau to do? Is she willing actually for the first time to stand up in this place and criticize him for his inaction?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, what would create investor uncertainty would be cancelling the climate leadership plan and the hundreds of millions of dollars and, indeed, billions of dollars that industry has made plans around. So just to be clear, if investor uncertainty is something the member opposite is worried about, he ought to stop creating it.

Now, that being said, what our government has done and will do and is very clear to the federal government about is that they must put economic pressure onto B.C., they must assert their jurisdiction either legislatively or judicially, and they must come to the table to reduce the risk for investors, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like most Albertans, I want to see this pipeline completed, but, Premier, here we are. Everyone has been warning you, but your government continued to boast about getting a pipeline to tidewater, and now we're two months away from the whole thing being scrapped.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

I know you're well intended, Premier, but intention without action is delusion. What is this government going to do different between now and May 31 to make sure that this pipeline doesn't get scrapped altogether?

2:10

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. First of all, let me just reiterate that what the government will not do is cheer for the pipeline's defeat by declaring it over, like the members opposite have done. Quite frankly, it is not over. We will get it done. As I've said before, what we are going to do here in Alberta is that we are going to exert economic and fiscal pressure, we are going to continue to assert the rights of the federal government in the courts, and we are going to support and reduce investor uncertainty.

The Deputy Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Fraser: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Without this pipeline the path to balance is gone before we even get finished with estimates and this government's fiscal credibility along with it. With that in mind, to the Premier. The Premier yesterday floated the idea that the province would buy an equity stake in the pipeline expansion and use that stake to make sure that the pipeline goes ahead. What assurances do Albertans have that any deal on the Trans Mountain project is in their interests and not your own political prospects?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm not sure where the member opposite has been, but I think that there's a clear consensus among everyone but, perhaps, the Alberta Party that the completion of this pipeline is in the best interests of all Canadians, not just Albertans but all Canadians, including British Columbians. It will create jobs, it will allow us to diversify our markets, it will build our economy, and it will ensure that we are a better place for more investment internationally. I think we are all quite clear on what the benefits are.

Mr. Fraser: Madam Speaker, for the record the Alberta Party caucus wants this project to be completed. We do believe that it's in the best interests of Albertans and Canadians. But, Premier, it comes down to leadership. Federally all we've seen is flash and no substance. Clearly, we haven't had a hundred per cent effective action from your government either because here we are. Your plan has Albertans on the hook once again for a pipeline that's supposedly in the national best interest. Will you call on the federal government to backstop this project with federal money so that they actually have some skin in the game?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I think the member opposite might want to begin backpedalling on the "supposedly in the national best interest" statement because I'm pretty sure most Albertans are going to be a bit troubled that he's not convinced that that is the case.

That being said, Madam Speaker, as I have said, we have already been very clear with the federal government. We've already been working with the federal government, and we will continue to do that on a number of fronts, including ensuring that instability and a lack of certainty are removed with respect to the investors in this pipeline.

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

Oil and Gas Pipelines to the West Coast

Ms Kazim: Thank you, Madam Speaker. At community association events in my riding I heard from constituents who were concerned about pipeline approvals. One of the projects that constituents were concerned about was the Shell-Coastal GasLink project, which would export liquefied natural gas from the B.C. coast. Given that this project would allow natural gas producers in Alberta and B.C. to more readily access markets in Asia and around the world, to the Minister of Energy: does this government support the Coastal GasLink project?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, our government absolutely supports further development of liquefied

natural gas. In fact, our Energy Diversification Advisory Committee report underscored the benefits, not just to Alberta and B.C. but to Canada, of advancing LNG projects. The committee noted that methane would be a good source of supply, which is good for the Montney region up where I live. Ethane would be good here for petrochemical development, and LNG would be good for Alberta's economy in using up some of that gas. You know what else is good for our economy? A pipeline to tidewater.

The Deputy Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Kazim: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As part of the GasLink project the B.C. government has announced that LNG facilities would be exempt from their carbon levy. On the other hand, they adamantly oppose the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline. To the same minister: can you please comment on the B.C. government's discrepancy in their approach to carbon levies and Alberta tidewater access?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again, we absolutely support the development of Canadian LNG resources, but what we don't support and will take action against is the environmental hypocrisy of B.C. speaking out of both sides of their mouth. In fact, they believe that they can develop resources which are good for Canada, but they stand against our Trans Mountain pipeline, and that's not acceptable. It's inconsistent and, frankly, very un-Canadian. You know, we are going to do what we need to do to get that pipeline built, and legislation we'll be introducing shortly will show . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Kazim: Thank you, Madam Speaker. To the same minister: how are we working to ensure that Alberta's oil and gas resources make it to market through projects like the Trans Mountain pipeline?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, we've made it clear from day one that we will get that pipeline built. Tens of thousands of jobs depend on it. Billions of dollars of investment depend on it. We need better schools and roads and hospitals, and that all depends on getting this pipeline built. We've already won 14 out of 14. We're batting a thousand in our court challenges with B.C. We're going to continue. We're following the path, certainly, that Peter Lougheed, our previous Premier, many years ago took when he was under attack in his government. We're going to be introducing legislation shortly which will inflict pain on British Columbia.

Provincial Response to Pipeline Opposition (continued)

Mr. Fildebrandt: Colleagues, the news last night of the impending cancellation of the Trans Mountain pipeline is a national disaster. It is a national disaster for sane economic policy, it is a national disaster for balanced economic and environmental stewardship, it is a national disaster for investor confidence, but most importantly, my friends, it is a disaster for national unity. We are being treated as a mere colony. If this pipeline does not get built, would the Premier agree that at this point the federal government has done more harm than good?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, I've made clear many times that we will get this pipeline built. We've won a series of challenges in the court, as I mentioned, 14 out of 14. We're battling a thousand. We continue to be confident that we will win future challenges should they exist. But we do agree that it's time the feds step up, and they need to defend Alberta as in the past they've defended Ontario with the auto sector and Quebec with the aerospace sector. Alberta energy companies need the feds, and we need them right now.

Mr. Fildebrandt: This is no longer about economics or even resource development. This is about our very ability to function as a normal, unified, first-world country. Even if this pipeline gets built, it will have come at the cost of Energy East and will have come after half a decade of costly lawsuits and investor uncertainty. It will now have to come at the cost of taxpayers having to take an equity stake in a project that just a week ago had all of the private-sector investment that it needed, and it will likely come at the cost of armed guards at work sites. Premier, at what point are we going to stop asking nicely?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I mentioned, we continue to fight in the courts, and soon we will be introducing legislation to limit resources being exported to B.C. They've made some decisions, and we're going to inflict pain on those economic decisions so they understand what they've done.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Albertans pay vastly more to the federal government than we get back, and in return too often all we receive for our contribution to Confederation is jealousy, scorn, and obstruction. If the federal government won't protect our ability to trade across provincial boundaries like a normal country, then many Albertans will ask themselves why they have a federal government at all. Premier, in the event that this pipeline does not get built, do you believe that it will be necessary to negotiate new constitutional protections for Alberta?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, Premier Horgan believes he can harass this project without economic consequences, but he's wrong. We're calling on the feds to stand up and stand up quickly. We are prepared to do, as we said, what it takes to get this pipeline built. If this means more tools or investments, we are going to be looking at that. One thing I want to say is: do not count Alberta out.

2:20

Mr. Panda: Madam Speaker, Kinder Morgan gave us precisely 52 days to remove the roadblocks for the construction of the Trans Mountain expansion. This means that our Premier's pending legislation to turn off the taps to B.C. must have greater impact than the B.C. wine ban. Will the Premier prioritize utilizing a hundred per cent of the existing Trans Mountain pipeline space by shipping bitumen instead of diesel and gasoline?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, as I mentioned, in the coming days we will be introducing legislation which will have much more detail on what we will be doing to restrict product going to B.C. We continue to be ready for any

further court challenges. We're working with companies. Never underestimate our resolve to get this pipeline built.

Mr. Panda: Given that the B.C. NDP openly campaigned last year on using every tool in their tool box to stop the Trans Mountain expansion, will our Minister of Energy prevent B.C.'s natural gas and coal from crossing the border into Alberta, denying B.C. the royalties, or will the Minister of Energy direct the Alberta Electric System Operator to halt all imports of electricity over the B.C. intertie? Which option are you going to use first?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As we've said many times, we're going to use every tool in our tool box to fight the decisions B.C. is making. As I mentioned, in the forthcoming days there will be legislation dropped – and I hope you will be supporting that – to restrict resources to B.C., to inflict economic pain upon them so that they realize what their decisions mean.

Mr. Panda: Madam Speaker, given the economic pain the minister is promising to cause to B.C. and given that section 136 of the Traffic Safety Act allows the inspection of all commercial vehicles, will the NDP government immediately enact full and thorough inspections of a hundred percent of B.C. commercial vehicles entering or exiting Alberta to ensure they're in full compliance with Alberta traffic safety laws?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I've said many times, we have an advisory committee that we're in discussions with on possibilities. Every decision we make will be weighed against benefit to Alberta, pain to B.C. At the end of the day, as I mentioned, there'll be more to come in the coming days about our legislation, but again, despite what we have in our tool box, we're calling on the federal government, who have a lot of tools in their tool box, to stand up and to stand up now.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Airdrie.

Carbon Levy and Pipeline Approvals

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This government claimed that their carbon tax would give us social licence for pipelines. I quote the Minister of Economic Development and Trade from two years ago. "We've . . . introduced the most robust climate leadership plan in the country that we will get the social licence to get pipelines approved and our product to tidewater." The Trans Mountain pipeline project is barely hanging on. Energy East and Northern Gateway have already been cancelled. Minister, will you finally admit that the carbon tax is not giving us social licence on pipelines?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister of environment.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I think that I will answer the question not in my own words but in the words of Ian Anderson, the president of Kinder Morgan pipelines, who said about the climate leadership plan: I think the Alberta climate change plan was a huge step forward; it was a huge benefit to me and us, and we've seen that on the ground.

Mrs. Pitt: Madam Speaker, Kinder Morgan was just quoted yesterday as cancelling future pipeline expenditures.

Regardless, given that the Minister of Finance claimed, and I quote, that the climate leadership plan that we have put forward is

far-reaching, that it will improve Alberta, that it will give us social licence, end quote, and given that this NDP government is out of touch with everyday Albertans and that their carbon tax is not improving Albertans' lives – it has made everything more expensive, and this government is still increasing the carbon tax – Minister, by your government's own admission your friend Justin Trudeau isn't doing enough for Trans Mountain, so when are you going to stop going along with their carbon tax?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister of environment.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. On carbon pricing, Ian Anderson, who is the president of Kinder Morgan pipelines, said:

We're encouraged to see this positive step forward and commend the hard work of all involved. The collaboration of industry, the Government of Alberta, First Nations leaders and environmental groups helps pave a path forward and provides important clarity to policy and direction for the entire industry.

It is Ian Anderson and Kinder Morgan with which the hon. member has a quarrel, not us.

Mrs. Pitt: Madam Speaker, there is a lot of confusion coming from the minister, because Kinder Morgan just yesterday said that they have suspended nonessential spending on the pipeline. I don't know what this minister is referring to.

Now, given also that Kinder Morgan pointed out today that there are other pipeline projects where it can invest money and efforts – but this project is vital to our province and our economy, and we need it to proceed – Minister, Albertans want to know when your carbon tax will give us certainty.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I refer the member back to the words of the representative from Kinder Morgan, who said that the climate leadership plan "provides important clarity to policy and direction for the entire industry." The fact of the matter is that this pipeline will be built, and it secured its approvals based on the existence of the climate leadership plan. Those approvals were not in place by the previous government, and that tidewater access has been secured through the existence of the climate plan.

Provincial Response to Pipeline Opposition

(continued)

Mr. Nixon: Madam Speaker, the Energy minister said earlier today in response to a question that the NDP are batting a thousand on pipelines when, in fact, they are one hit away from losing this pipeline. That's a fact. Can the Energy minister stop using bad sports metaphors, stand up, and tell us the clear tools that she can use to help get this pipeline built and what tools she's going to use first and when she's going to use them to actually get this pipeline built?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, Albertans have told us to do whatever it takes to get the pipeline built, and that's exactly what we're doing. Frankly, we're calling on the federal government as well to do their part. We'll make, as I mentioned, B.C. feel the economic pain. We're introducing legislation in the coming days that will allow us to restrict product. We're fighting in court. Again, we have a perfect round, 14 out of 14 so far. In fact, the courts threw out the last attempt. They weren't even going to hear the arguments. We potentially could take a public position on the pipeline . . .

Mr. Nixon: Madam Speaker, this government is in denial. This pipeline was suspended. The work on this pipeline was suspended yesterday. The time for rhetoric is over. They're in denial. They need to stand up, tell us clearly what they're going to do to get this pipeline to work. Albertans: of course they want action taken. We've been talking about it in this Chamber. So what action is this government going to take right now to get this pipeline built?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, we're also calling on the federal government to do their part. They can do all of these things as well. They should impose economic pain on B.C. as well. They should be taking a lead in fighting in the courts, and they, too, can be investors in the Trans Mountain pipeline. We're calling on them to step up. They need to step up now, just as they did in previous times in Ontario and Quebec. It's now Alberta's turn, and they need to step up. They need to step up now.

Mr. Nixon: Madam Speaker, we've been telling the government forever that the federal government needs to stand up. The question, though, is: what is this provincial NDP government going to do to make the federal government stand up to the plate? Standing in this House over and over and saying the same thing is not going to help, so what will this minister do to make sure that her ally Justin Trudeau will take action to get this pipeline built?

Ms Hoffman: You know what, Madam Speaker? I wish that we didn't have to. We had 10 years with conservatives in this Chamber, 10 years with conservatives in Ottawa, and they failed to get a pipeline to tidewater. But you know what? On this side of the House we're working strategically. We will impose the natural consequences. You want to make life hard on Albertans? We can certainly do the same for British Columbians. We don't want to, but we're willing to do that, and because it's in the national interest we have the means to do so. That's why we'll be tabling a bill in the coming days, and we'll be very happy to discuss that and, hopefully, get unanimous support from this House to make sure we get this pipeline built. Don't you dare count Alberta out.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

2:30 Long-term Care Facility Construction in Wetaskiwin

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My constituency of Wetaskiwin-Camrose is quickly growing and, therefore, in need of various infrastructure projects. In 2015 our government committed funding for a long-term care facility in the constituency that had remained unfunded for decades under the previous government. Can the Minister of Health please provide my constituents with an update on the status of this facility?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I was very proud to announce funding for the Wetaskiwin project, which will bring badly needed dementia care spaces to the central zone. I'll be happy to stand with the member at the doors this summer when we open the facility. We see what happens when government prioritizes cuts over care. We had a choice. The members opposite keep calling for cuts. On this side of the House we're building. We're building safer communities and safer spaces for people living with dementia.

The Deputy Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again to the Minister of Health: can you please provide my constituents with details about this facility, which will help free up acute-care beds in the general hospital? How many beds are expected, and what services will be provided?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The facility will have 82 dementia care spaces, supportive living for dementia, and there will also be additional suites for those who are living independently. This is one of the kinds of projects that enables couples to continue to stay together even when their care needs change. Full-time care and additional nursing support will be available to meet the needs of the residents, and it also has amenities in the home, including fresh food that will be prepared on-site. I'm very excited for this project and to bring this space to Wetaskiwin.

Mr. Hinkley: To the same minister: how will the community be made aware that this project is funded by taxpayers?

Ms Hoffman: When we approved the project, we committed funding of \$3.65 million through an ASLI grant, Madam Speaker. We are counting on the member to help us celebrate the good work in the community that this government is doing in partnership with him as a member of our government. Projects such as these are just the beginning of our government's plans to build 2,000 new long-term care and dementia spaces in the province. The members in the Official Opposition and other oppositions have no such plans. They plan to drastically cut services, returning to the days of Ralph Klein. We saw an 88 per cent reduction in the number of long-term care spaces. That's their plan: cuts. On this side we're building, and we're protecting our seniors.

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

Provincial Response to Pipeline Opposition *(continued)*

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Now, a few minutes ago the environment minister claimed that they're just so close to getting the pipeline built because of the carbon tax. Apparently, she was using last week's speaking notes because as of this weekend the company building it put tools down and said that it's over until either her government or the federal government does something. What's it going to be, or might it be both?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister of environment.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. We are doing three things. We are using our legal means, we are backing this pipeline and ensuring investor certainty, and we are introducing legislation in the coming days that will allow us to restrict our product. Now, I do not often agree with the members opposite, but on one thing we do, and that is that the federal government needs to step up. There have been a lot of words from the federal government, but they have the same tools as we have. They, in fact, have broader tools than we have, and it is time for them to use them.

The Deputy Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. McIver: Thank you. When they're desperate, they sound more like our leader.

Now, the Energy minister also said that she scored 14 goals, and I congratulate her for that. But I've got a news flash for that minister. Given that they're a goal behind at least because Kinder

Morgan decided to put tools down yesterday – they're not in the lead with 14 goals; the other team has got more – Minister, what are you going to do to change the score to get ahead so that we can get the shovels going again?

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister of environment.

Ms Phillips: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are confident that we will continue to win in court, we are confident that we will be able to move forward with ensuring investor certainty, and we are confident that the people of British Columbia will listen when Alberta brings in legislation to restrict product. But it is time for the federal government to act. It is time for the federal government to stand up and ensure that we are acting as a nation, not a series of self-interested villages. It is time to get this pipeline built.

The Deputy Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. McIver: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that the minister is now taking our side more and more with every answer she gives and given that the Energy minister is behind even though she said that she scored 14 goals and given that we're where we are now because of the combination of the Alberta government and the federal government, that have sat where people sit rather than getting action on this pipeline, what will the government do to actually get the federal government moving? And please don't beg. Make it something serious.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll tell you what we won't do. We won't be taking leadership lessons from a caucus of people who are going to hide from a vote on women's reproductive rights. We will not do that. You know what else we won't do? We won't hide from taking climate action because that's what Albertans and Canadians expect. You know what else we won't do? Brutal and ideological cuts to front-line services. You know what we will do? We will ensure that the federal government steps up to get this pipeline built.

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

Provincial Spending

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. At Finance estimates we learned a few things. To paraphrase the minister, Alberta's government, not including Health and Education, is, quote, the smallest public service bureaucracy in the country. Unquote. Unfortunately, that's not how it works. When we look at the facts, Alberta has the most expensive public sector per capita outside of Newfoundland. To the minister: what is your plan to address Alberta's efficiency gap, or will you just continue to forget to include most of your own government in your calculations?

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much. I'm very happy to respond to the accusations by the member opposite by putting some facts on the table, and that includes: please refer to the CIHI data, which shows very clearly that Alberta does have the leanest in terms of supervisor to front-line worker ratios in our country. We, of course, want to find opportunities to continue to find more efficiencies, but

you can't fire every single person who is helping to run the system and expect it to get better; you can't blow up hospitals and expect the system to get better; you can't propose cuts that would hurt the people of Alberta and expect it to get better. On this side of the House we're protecting the front lines, and that is something we're very proud of.

Mr. Barnes: Given that the Minister of Finance says that a key component of his government's path to balance is controlling spending growth and given that the best predictor of future behaviour is past behaviour – and that's where again this minister falls flat – and given that since taking office in 2015, the minister has tabled three budgets and has overspent his expense target by nearly a billion dollars on average each time, to the minister: why should Albertans trust you that this time you're serious about controlling your wild spending?

Mr. Ceci: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think they should trust me over the member over there. I've tabled four budgets, not three. So if you can't count the number of budgets and it's fewer than this hand, then you've got some issues. We have bent the cost curve on operational spending far better than that side did, and we're going to continue to do it going forward.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, a debt of \$96 billion by 2023. His legacy is a debt of \$96 billion by 2023. That will mean that every man, woman, and child in Alberta will each owe \$23,000, or put another way, each family of four will owe over a hundred thousand dollars and \$3,000 in annual interest expense. To the minister: \$96 billion in debt that you have no intention of paying back. Albertans are terrified. What kind of damage are you doing to our economy and to our children's future?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much. Well, the damage is 4.5 per cent GDP growth in Alberta in 2017, and we will lead, among the leaders in the nation, again in 2018 and 2019. You know, the debt I'm leaving is that 20 new schools in 2018 will be built; hospitals, the Calgary cancer centre, the new Edmonton hospital; transportation throughout the province. Those are pretty good things to leave Albertans for the future.

Power Purchase Arrangements and the Balancing Pool

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, in mid-March the Energy minister informed this House that there would be no impact to Albertans when asked about the cost of the power purchase agreements. Then on March 26 we learned in the NDP budget that the losses to the Balancing Pool are \$1.96 billion at least. That's the kind of impact that hurts Albertans around the supper table or families just trying to get their kids to soccer practice. To the Minister of Energy: why did you say one thing when your own budget documents reveal another? Which one is correct?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, we are focused on changing a system of electricity in Alberta that was broken by the previous government many years ago under deregulation. We've committed to Albertans that we're going to replace our grid with 30 per cent renewable electricity by 2030. The remainder will be about 70 per cent natural gas. In this transition we've done a number of things to make sure that prices are stable and predictable and that we have a secure grid moving forward.

2:40

The Speaker: Let's try and contain the dialogue back and forth on each side.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, given that the minister had said that there would be no impact to taxpayers but now, in fact, we know that only part of the total loss to Albertans is \$1.96 billion, I have another question. What are the total losses, all the costs associated with this NDP-made debacle, including all legal fees, announcements, any other associated costs with this mess that the NDP has created?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, the whole way that the Balancing Pool system worked, in fact, until we began to change it, was on spikes and unpredictability in the system. If we hadn't acted, consumers would be facing much higher charges on their bills because of backroom deals that were made many years ago by the previous governments. Instead, their charges are 78 per cent lower than what they would have been had we not acted. We're talking about an average of about . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, given that I asked about the total number of losses that this minister's decisions have cost Albertans and given that, clearly, the minister chose not to answer or doesn't know the answer, I wonder if someone in the government is willing to contact the Auditor General and ask for some assistance in this matter so that all Albertans can know the full cost and impact of their poor decision-making, or perhaps I should contact the Auditor General.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, we took action to protect regular Albertans from price spikes, as I mentioned, which was a feature of the previous system. That side, the Conservative side, would go back to a broken system that continues to cost Albertans lots of money. That side, the Conservative side, continues to defend the backroom deals that were a feature of the deregulation. On this side we're not taking that. We're negotiating responsibly and giving the Balancing Pool the tools they need, and we're creating a system that's going to be stable and predictable for years to come.

Federal Response to Pipeline Opposition (continued)

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago I asked the Premier if she would join with me on calling Prime Minister Trudeau to consider suspending certain transfers to the B.C. New Democrat government given their failure to respect the Constitution and the rule of law. I'd like to ask the Premier or the minister whether she has asked for transfers to be suspended simply with respect to the pan-Canadian climate framework or federal transfers to the B.C. government more generally?

The Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and to the member for the important question. We certainly understand that British Columbia has a position. They have in turn created some uncertainty and challenges for this province, and in terms of natural consequences the natural consequence would be that we find ways

to do the same to them. We also call upon the federal government to find ways to ensure that the national interest is the priority. That, certainly, is one of the tools that we've discussed with them. We will continue to have respectful discussions with them, come up with the right action because we know that this project is in the national interest. The feds know it, and they need to act with us.

Mr. Kenney: Well, Mr. Speaker, I guess I thank the minister for the non answer, but could somebody in the government please tell us whether they believe that the federal government should withhold transfers to the B.C. government to send a message about their violation of our Constitution: from transfers generally, from infrastructure transfers, or simply from the \$30 million involved in the pan-Canadian climate framework?

Ms Hoffman: I was happy to answer the question the first time, and I will again. Mr. Speaker, we have three different tools at our disposal. One is making sure that we take a public interest, should it come to that, in the pipeline. Two is making sure that we are interveners in fighting for this court case as we move forward. In 14 out of 14 court cases we have been successful. Three is about doing some reciprocal financial responsibilities on the province of British Columbia. All three of those tools are available to the government of Canada, and we call on them to consider using them as well.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, just two days ago the Trudeau government signed a \$4.1 billion agreement with the Horgan New Democrats for infrastructure funding notwithstanding the Victoria government's violation of our Constitution and the rule of law. Will this government join with me in asking the federal government to suspend that transfer unless and until B.C. actually respects the rule of law and our Constitution?

Ms Hoffman: We have talked about the tools that are at our disposal, Mr. Speaker. Those same tools on a different scale are also available to the federal government. We do call on the federal government and have called on the federal government to employ those tools as well. We know that this project is in the national interest. We know that it's in British Columbians' interest, Albertans' interest, and all of our interest. That's why, the federal government, we've called on them for months to step up, do the right thing, and take action on this. We will continue to do our part to get this pipeline built, and we call on the feds to do the same.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-St. Albert.

Indigenous Offenders

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Across Canada and here in Alberta we know that indigenous incarceration rates are disproportionately high. To the Minister of Justice: how is this government working to proactively address the root causes of crime and support rehabilitation for indigenous inmates?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. The number of indigenous people who are incarcerated in provincial facilities is disproportionately high. This is an issue which continues to exist across Canada. We know that this is a problem with complex drivers, and it requires a comprehensive and co-ordinated response across all levels of government. To help address this issue and ensure that offenders don't reoffend, we must ensure that we continue to fund adequate health supports, adequate housing supports, and many other supports throughout government.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When an indigenous person is convicted of an offence in our court system, to the same minister: what tools do the courts have to take into consideration the unique and historical circumstances during sentencing?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. One of the tools the courts have at their disposal are Gladue reports, which are an important resource that courts can draw on to consider the circumstances of an indigenous offender. I'm pleased to note that 91 per cent of our Gladue reports are completed within six weeks as allocated by the courts, and that number continues to go up.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: what culturally appropriate programs and supports are in correctional facilities for incarcerated indigenous people?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have seven aboriginal program co-ordinators in Alberta who work in both adult and young offender centres. Some of those program topics include domestic violence, loss and grief, indigenous parenting, indigenous wellness, art programs, and cultural awareness. We also have spiritual ceremonies that are offered, including smudging, pipe ceremonies, elder one-on-one sessions, sweat lodge ceremonies, drumming, and healing talk circles. It's important that we continue to support these programs so that we can ensure that we're not seeing the recidivism rates.

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

Carbon Levy and Police Service Expenses

Mr. Ellis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Police services are dealing with a double fiscal hit with the legalization of marijuana and the perennial increases to the carbon tax. The minister has said that police need to be out on the streets and the roads of Alberta, yet increasing costs hamper that goal. While the province cannot stop the legalization of marijuana, it can stop collecting the carbon tax. Minister, are you not concerned about the way this tax is eroding the ability of police to protect Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member has noted, we aren't able to change the legalization of cannabis, but moving forward we continue to work with our police partners. Every time we've had conversations where they have asked us for tools to increase their efficiency, we have worked with them on that. Certainly, we've introduced a bill to ensure that rather than writing warrants for minor C-Train tickets, they're out on the roads. We have recently introduced funding to ensure that there are more civilian officers within the RCMP to get officers back out on the roads. We'll continue to do that work.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, given that the carbon tax has added 6.7 cents to the cost of gas to fill the tanks of police vehicles and we do not know where those tax hikes are eventually going to end and given that out of necessity police have to run their vehicles for most

of their shifts if they are to be out on the roads protecting the public, Minister, your government is forcing police services to pay the carbon tax rather than hire more officers to respond to emergencies. Why are you letting this happen?

2:50

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We're obviously deeply committed to ensuring that we have RCMP officers and police officers in municipalities throughout our province. I might point out that if the hon. member is so concerned about costs going to police, perhaps their side ought not to have voted against the supplemental estimates that sent an additional \$18 million to the RCMP.

Mr. Ellis: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that a freedom of information request to the Calgary Police Service indicated that the carbon tax will cost \$422,000 in 2018 and given that that's the equivalent of three specialized detectives that the Calgary police would like to hire for their sex crimes unit, which has high caseloads currently, Minister, will you ask the Finance minister to exempt police services from this hurtful carbon tax so they can focus on protecting people rather than cutting budgets?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that our police partners have been absolutely clear about is the fact that there are many problems facing Alberta society these days that cannot be solved with enforcement alone. As our understanding continues to move forward, our police partners have asked us to ensure that we're continuing to invest in housing supports, in mental health supports, in all sorts of supports that would be cut if the hon. members opposite were in government.

The Speaker: Hon. members, in 30 seconds we'll continue with Members' Statements.

Members' Statements

Vimy Ridge Day

Ms Goehring: Mr. Speaker, 101 years ago today Canadian Armed Forces waged Canada's most celebrated war victory, the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The capture of this German stronghold near Vimy, France, cost Canadians dearly; 3,598 lives were lost, and 7,000 were wounded.

In this defining battle the Canadian Corps distinguished themselves by employing state-of-the-art techniques, including donor-to-patient blood transfusions. It was the first time all four divisions fought together. They came to be regarded as an exceptional force by both Allied and German military commanders. Some 45,000 Albertans served overseas in World War I, the highest percentage of any province.

Among Albertans tending to the wounded during the First World War was a remarkable woman, Roberta MacAdams. She left her career as a dietitian in Alberta to join the war effort and became the Canadian Army Medical Corps' only dietitian. From the Ontario military hospital in Orpington, England, she oversaw the production of more than 6,000 meals per day for patients and staff.

While the war waged overseas, women claimed a victory in Alberta. In 1916 the Alberta equal suffrage act extended the vote to women. A year later the Alberta Military Representation Act passed. It gave Alberta soldiers and military nurses overseas a separate constituency.

After being convinced to run in the Alberta 1917 election, Roberta MacAdams won. She and Louise McKinney became Alberta's first elected women. MacAdams' World War I experience influenced her so deeply that her first piece of legislation was an Act to Incorporate the Great War Next-of-Kin Association.

Much has changed since that day on Vimy Ridge, but two characteristics remain the same. Our Canadian Armed Forces are distinguished world-wide, and inspired by pioneers like Roberta MacAdams, Albertans come together to care for each other.

Thank you.

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

Vimy Ridge Day

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to commemorate Vimy Ridge Day, which marks the beginning of the Battle of Vimy Ridge on April 9, 1917. On that day 101 years ago four divisions of Canadian soldiers coming together for the first time as a united fighting force were ordered to do something that no other allied force had accomplished in the First World War. They were ordered to take Vimy Ridge, and take Vimy they did, but not before 10,000 of their brothers in arms were killed or wounded in action. But that's not the real story of this battle. The real lessons of Vimy Ridge are about courage, honour, and resilience in the face of adversity.

Most of us here today were blessed to grow up far removed from the life-and-death struggles of war, but we know that battles come in many forms, and every generation faces new struggles. The ability to remain resilient in the face of adversity is not a gift; it is a skill, a skill that must be learned.

Today, on Vimy Ridge Day, I rise to offer my personal thanks to those who teach these vital life lessons, from the schools who participate in programs like No Stone Left Alone to the Royal Canadian Legion volunteers who organize Remembrance Day events, to the Vimy Foundation, whose mission is to preserve and promote Canada's First World War legacy, to all the Canadian Forces veterans who offer a personal perspective to today's youth.

When we embrace our veterans' legacy, we commit ourselves to ensuring our society remains strong and free. We do so confident in the knowledge that, when necessary, every single one of us is capable of summoning courage, living with honour, and acting with resilience in the face of great adversity. Time marches on, but to me there are no more important lessons we can pass on to the next generation.

On this Vimy Ridge Day let us rededicate ourselves to fulfilling that most sacred duty for the next 100 years. We will remember them.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the U of A, Augustana campus in Camrose . . .

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. member, I'd like to recognize the Government House Leader first.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would respectfully request unanimous consent of the House to continue with the Routine until it's concluded.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: I'm sorry, hon. member.

Reconciliation between Indigenous and Nonindigenous Peoples

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the U of A Augustana campus in Camrose and instructors Megan Caldwell, Daniel Sims, and Trina Harrison for offering the truth and reconciliation course building capacity for reconciliation. I was fortunate to be one of their students during the past year.

I am proud to say that our government is implementing many of the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which we studied. We recognize that the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples is the framework for reconciliation. We are committed to addressing the number of children in care. We are supporting and funding indigenous language programs. We are consulting thoroughly on matters pertaining to First Nations. We are revising the Alberta K to 12 curriculum to better reflect the history and legacy of indigenous peoples in this province.

This includes a major program of crosscultural teacher training. As an example of how well this can work, Ermineskin junior high in Maskwacis has hosted two schools, one from Lacombe and one from Camrose, for full-day cultural enrichment activities. STAR Catholic, one of my school divisions, has taken progressive actions supporting cultural sensitivity for teachers.

Throughout this past year our government has helped indigenous communities and organizations cut greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy bills, and create jobs through our indigenous climate leadership programming. We have signed significant protocol agreements with the Treaty 8 First Nations and with the Blackfoot Confederacy.

Personally, I have a private member's bill in the works to fulfill call to action 17, "to enable residential school Survivors and their families to reclaim names changed [and taken away] by the residential school system," and acknowledge the indigenous languages of Alberta. This is an exciting time in Alberta's history for both indigenous and nonindigenous peoples. Together we can create our future. [Remarks in Cree]

Rotary District 5370

Mr. Yao: Mr. Speaker, for more than 110 years Rotary's People of Action have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, they are always working to better our world. As we near the two-year anniversary of the wildfire that devastated Fort McMurray, we cannot reflect without acknowledging the contributions that individuals and organizations have made.

Rotary District 5370 encompasses most of central and northern Alberta as well as parts of Saskatchewan, B.C., and the Northwest Territories. Fort McMurray fire relief has become one of the largest fundraising projects in Rotary history. Donations poured in from all over Canada and the U.S. and as far away as the Caribbean and the United Kingdom. When all was said and done, the foundation had collected \$1 million for the relief fund that is providing much-needed programming to my community.

Charitable foundation president, past District Governor Julius Buski said it best: it's heartening to see such an outpouring of care and concern at a time of crisis. The Fort McMurray public school district was able to hire a mental health therapist to work with students recovering from the wildfires. Stepping Stones Youth Services was able to add an outreach worker to identify youth at risk on the streets. L'école St. Paul was able to replace all the library books destroyed during the fire.

3:00

Mr. Speaker, while we know all of the great work that Rotary International has done, the generosity shown to my community during this time of crisis bolstered my respect for Rotarians. We as Canadians can live in comfort knowing that we have caring and giving organizations such as Rotary in our neighbourhoods. On behalf of my community I'd like to thank the Rotary District 5370 Charitable Foundation and all those who contributed to the charity fund.

Thank you, and God bless.

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

UFA Centennial

Mrs. Littlewood: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you've driven anywhere in Alberta, you've likely seen a UFA, the big orange store awning, the sign, and the orange gas pumps. But when you step in the door, you see everything they do: ag retail business, oil and gas, seed sales, building and fencing supplies. Better yet, you meet folks like Darrin, who manages the Fort Saskatchewan location, has 31 years with UFA, and likely knows your name.

This April 13 marks the 100th year of the United Farmers of Alberta incorporation. With a history that long, they have had significant influence on our province, including at one time forming government. Early days of political work saw the UFA elect two of their female members to our Legislative Assembly: Louise McKinney in 1917 and in 1921 Irene Parlby, two of our Famous Five.

Mr. Speaker, in 1918 farmers and ranchers faced increasing operating costs due to politics, an oil boom, a land rush, and World War I. The UFA realized that the most effective way for co-operatives to purchase goods would be to act as a central purchaser. This meant that UFA needed to evolve from an advocacy group to a business. Alberta Premier Charles Stewart's administration introduced Bill 9, and on April 13, after receiving royal assent, the UFA was able to officially do business. Pooling orders, farmers and ranchers were able to negotiate prices and save money by purchasing the capacity of an entire railcar.

Mr. Speaker, there are few businesses still around that made up the foundation of Alberta, and it speaks volumes that they are co-operatives. In UFA's own words: "In a co-operative, members own, control and benefit from the co-operative." Jobs stay local, community investment of over a million dollars a year stays local, profits remain local, and decision-making is local, member owned and member driven because members get a vote. That is economic democracy, and a strong democracy is at the heart of a strong Alberta now and into the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Darcy Haugan

Mr. Cooper: From September 27, 1975, to April 6, 2018, was the time that Darcy Haugan, the former head coach of the Humboldt Broncos, had on Earth, 15,532 days, or 42 years, six months, and 10 days. Mr. Speaker, a life well lived. Though it ended in the most horrific and tragic of circumstances, it is the living that I know Darcy would want us to focus on, the dash between 1975 and 2018.

Darcy was a man of character and integrity, fuelled by his passion and faith in Jesus Christ and his love for his family. I was speaking with Darcy's sister last night and asked her: what are the things that you want the world to know about him? She said: he was a hero, not because of any single heroic act but because of the hundreds

and hundreds of daily selfless acts of putting the needs of others ahead of his own and encouraging them to be their best; he loved those boys that played for him so much, not just on the ice but off the ice as well. On the back of his pickup truck it read: character builds success. He lived that saying, Mr. Speaker, and today so many young men from all across our country live it as well because of Darcy Haugan.

Darcy loved his wife, Christina, and his boys, Carson, 12, and Jackson, 9. He led by example, displaying character in everything he did. Darcy's legacy will live on in the lives of those young boys. They are leaders in their own right. Friday night Carson prayed: Dear God, we don't know why this happened, but we're still going to trust you, and I know, God, that dad would want us to. Such wisdom.

Darcy Haugan: a life well lived. Darcy made the most of his dash, the 15,000-plus days that he had on Earth. I hope that we will use our dash to be just a little more like Darcy Haugan.

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As chair of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices and in accordance with section 4(5) of the Election Act I would like to table five copies of the following report: Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the December 14, 2017 By-election in Calgary-Lougheed. I would note that this report also includes a summary of the use of new equipment and procedures tested in the by-election and recommendations for legislative amendments. Electronic copies of this report will be provided to members.

Notices of Motions

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 42 I'm rising to provide notice that at the appropriate time later this afternoon I intend on moving the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of British Columbia to put the country first and to cease its attempts to harass the Kinder Morgan project. And be it further resolved that the Legislative Assembly support the government of Alberta's efforts to demand concrete steps from the federal government to enforce its decision that the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion is in the national interest and ensure it is constructed in a timely fashion.

The Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to provide notice that at the appropriate time I will move the following motion today:

Pursuant to Standing Order 30 be it resolved that the ordinary business of the Legislative Assembly be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance; namely, the need to discuss the failure to ensure the construction of the Trans Mountain expansion project given the recent announcement by Kinder Morgan to suspend nonessential spending on the pipeline until May 31, 2018.

I have the appropriate signed motion here for Your Honour.

Introduction of Bills

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

Bill 6

Gaming and Liquor Statutes Amendment Act, 2018

Ms Ganley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege for me to rise today and introduce first reading of Bill 6, amendments to the Gaming and Liquor Act.

Mr. Speaker, our province continues to prepare Alberta for legalized cannabis this summer by putting in place elements of a system that will keep the safety and security of Albertans at the forefront. These amendments build on legislation passed last fall. They are practical changes that will modernize the Gaming and Liquor Act and better prepare the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission for its expanded mandate that will include cannabis. We continue to work to establish a system with rules that effectively and clearly protect Albertans.

I ask that we move first reading of Bill 6. Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 6 read a first time]

Emergency Debate

The Speaker: Hon. members, I believe we have two notices on the table, one of them being under Standing Order 30, and one being under Standing Order 42.

I would call upon the Leader of the Official Opposition.

3:10 Trans Mountain Pipeline Construction Suspension

Mr. Kenney: Thank you. Pursuant to Standing Order 30(1) this morning at 9:15 I provided your office with written notice of this proposed emergency motion. As you know, in the sixth edition of *Beauchesne*, section 390, urgency means

“‘urgency of debate’, when the ordinary opportunities provided by the rules of the House do not permit the subject to be brought on early enough and the public interest demands that discussion take place immediately.”

Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of a matter that this Chamber has dealt with in the last three years, if not in recent Alberta history, that is more urgently in the public interest.

The Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project itself directly represents a capital investment of \$7.4 billion, an estimated 15,000 construction jobs, and 37,000 direct and indirect and induced jobs per year of operations. But more than that, Mr. Speaker, given the federal veto of the Northern Gateway pipeline, given the federal government's successful effort to kill the proposed Energy East pipeline route through regulatory changes through the National Energy Board, and given the continued delays in the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline to the United States Gulf coast, we are now left with only one viable direct coastal pipeline, that proposed by Kinder Morgan, the Trans Mountain expansion.

Mr. Speaker, right now we as Canadians are exporting our crude oil to the American market at roughly \$35 per barrel. The Americans are exporting their crude to global markets at over \$60 a barrel. That differential represents over the long term potentially hundreds of billions of dollars of value for the Alberta economy and tens of billions of dollars of energy rents and other revenues for the Alberta treasury.

Just yesterday – yesterday – Kinder Morgan Canada announced the suspension of any nonessential spending on this project as they review it between now and May 31. This is eerily familiar to the decision of TransCanada PipeLines to suspend their application for Energy East on September 7 of 2017, which resulted in the subsequent October 2017 decision to cancel that project.

Mr. Speaker, if Kinder Morgan's concerns, its profound concerns, about the elevated risk for shareholders proves to be true, if they conclude that they cannot get . . .

Mr. Mason: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Point of order.

Point of Order

Standing Order 30 Motions

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the hon. member, Standing Order 30 permits debate on matters relative to the urgency of debate and not on the matter itself – that is section 30(2) of the standing orders – and I believe the hon. member is straying into debate on the matter he wishes to debate should this be accepted.

The Speaker: Hon. member, do you have another point of order?

Mr. Nixon: No. I'm responding to the point of order. The Government House Leader is in fact correct that it's important that we discuss the urgency when we're using Standing Order 30. Where I disagree with the Government House Leader is that the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition is discussing the urgency. He's clearly articulating the urgent need of this situation with this pipeline through B.C. and the actions, particularly of this weekend, in regard to Kinder Morgan having to stop construction on that project. That is the urgency. He's in the process of establishing that urgency. I see, Mr. Speaker, that you were listening to him eagerly, which I think is great. I think the Government House Leader should pay attention to the Leader of the Opposition, and he would understand the urgency of the problem if he did.

The Speaker: Well, hon. members, I do hope the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition will get to the matter soon. I tend to agree with the Government House Leader.

Please proceed, I will suggest, accordingly.

Debate Continued

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I was addressing the urgency of the matter. The matter is so urgent that the hon. the Premier yesterday held an emergency news conference at 4:45 on a Sunday evening, cancelled her planned trip to New York City, and described this as an emergency herself. So I believe even the government – I don't believe. I know the government has publicly acknowledged that this is an emergent situation requiring the emergent attention of members of this place and action by relevant governments.

We are bringing this forward at the earliest opportunity following the emergency decision by Kinder Morgan, seeking an opportunity for all members to enter into debate on this issue. It is not only an emergency in terms of the time frame but could not be of more profound consequence for the Alberta economy and the public business with which we deal in this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that if this does not qualify as a subject matter for emergency debate under section 390 of *Beauchesne*, then nothing will ever qualify as a subject matter for emergency debate.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that there is here a prima facie case that this motion deserves the emergency attention of the Legislative Assembly, and I hope that you will rule accordingly.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.
The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, I'd like to address the question of whether or not this qualifies under Standing Order 30. First of all, I do believe that all members of the Assembly are in agreement that Kinder Morgan's statement yesterday was extremely regrettable, that it will have impacts that will be felt throughout the province and, indeed, the entire country. I agree that this is a very urgent matter that warrants significant discussion by members of this Chamber. So we are prepared to set aside regular business in order to debate the matter.

However, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that Standing Order 30 is the most appropriate avenue. Today during Notices of Motions my colleague the hon. Minister of Energy provided notice of a government motion dealing with this matter. I strongly believe that a debate and, more importantly, a vote on this important matter is of significant consequence. As members know, no vote takes place at the conclusion of debate on a Standing Order 30 application.

To quote from *Beauchesne*'s, paragraph 390:

"Urgency" within this rule does not apply to the matter itself, but means "urgency of debate" . . .

This is the most important part, I think, Mr. Speaker.

. . . when the ordinary opportunities provided by the rules of the House do not permit the subject to be brought on early enough and the public interest demands that discussion take place immediately."

House of Commons Procedure and Practice makes the point at page 693, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. member, I'm going to need the quote, the first one, prior to the one you're about to mention.

Mr. Mason: Yes.

The Speaker: What was that number?

Mr. Mason: This is *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* at page 693, Mr. Speaker. It says:

The Standing Orders give . . . discretion to the Speaker in deciding if a matter should be brought before the House for urgent consideration, [and] certain criteria must be weighed. The Speaker determines whether a matter is related to a genuine emergency that could not be brought before the House within a reasonable time by other means.

That is a component – a key, essential component – of the definition of urgency of debate. Not only does it have to be an urgent matter; it has to be a matter for which there is no other opportunity that is afforded to discuss the matter.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would submit that my hon. colleague the Minister of Energy has introduced a government motion under Standing Order 42 that deals with this matter, in fact, in a way that I believe is more positive and will benefit the provincial position much more than the Standing Order 30 that has been suggested by the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition. Therefore, another opportunity to debate this matter has been afforded by the government in the notice of motion that we provided under Standing Order 42.

Mr. Speaker, it's my contention that because there is another avenue during which the matter can be debated – notably, the motion to which I have referred – this matter does not fit the procedural requirement to be considered under Standing Order 30, and I would respectfully request that you rule so.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

3:20

The Speaker: Hon. members, a Standing Order 30 application provides that "the Member may briefly state the arguments in favour of the request for leave and the Speaker may allow such debate as he . . . considers relevant to the question of urgency." It is the role

of the chair to rule on whether or not the request for leave is, in fact, in order, as both members have outlined. Hon. members, the chair is prepared to rule on whether the request for leave for this motion to proceed is in order under Standing Order 30(2).

The Leader of the Official Opposition has met the requirement for providing at least two hours' notice to the Speaker's office by providing the required notice at 9:14 this morning. The motion reads as follows:

Pursuant to Standing Order 30 be it resolved that the ordinary business of the Legislative Assembly be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance; namely, the need to discuss the failure to ensure the construction of the Trans Mountain expansion project given the recent announcement by Kinder Morgan to suspend nonessential spending on the pipeline until May 31, 2018.

The relevant parliamentary authorities on this subject are pages 695 to 704 of the *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, third edition, and *Beauchesne's* 387 to 390.

We are now in the Fourth Session of this Legislature. Most if not all members have had the opportunity to hear previous applications under Standing Order 30. The role of the Speaker in dealing with these requests is to determine whether or not the member should be granted leave to move the member's motion to adjourn the ordinary business of the Assembly to discuss a matter of urgent public importance.

The oil and gas industry plays a vital role in Alberta's economy. Yesterday's announcement by Kinder Morgan presents another hurdle in the progress of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. Hon. Government House Leader, I recognize that, under Standing Order 42, in fact, it is the government's intention to bring the matter forward for discussion. The dilemma I have with the argument you're making, however, is that it is subject to a unanimous vote of the House, and that makes it difficult for me to agree with the points.

It seems to me that on this matter there's a general consensus about the importance of this matter, but in this particular instance I feel the need to proceed. It would be difficult to find that the request to adjourn the business today would not be in order given the importance of the oil and gas industry to Albertans and to the Alberta economy. Accordingly, the chair finds that the request for leave is in order.

In accordance with the procedure set out in Standing Order 30, members will now be given the opportunity to voice their support or opposition to the motion. The rules governing the procedure once the chair finds the request for leave to be in order are as follows. Standing Order 30 requires that the question be put to a vote of the Assembly. If there are any objections to the question, then the chair will ask those members who support the motion to rise in their places. If 15 or more members rise, the debate will proceed, and each member who wishes to speak will have 10 minutes to do so until all who wish to speak have done so or until the normal hour of adjournment. If at least five members rise but fewer than 15, the question of whether the member has leave to move adjournment of the ordinary business is put immediately, determined by division. If fewer members arise, the debate will not proceed.

Could I take one moment for the sake of the House and consult with the table officer.

Hon. members, shall the debate on the urgent matter proceed? All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Hon. Members: Aye.

The Speaker: Those opposed, please say no.

Some Hon. Members: No.

[Several members rose]

The Speaker: We exceed the 15 members, and I think we proceed to debate on the matter.

The opposition leader.

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the wisdom of your ruling in this respect. What's my time limit here? Can I get clarity? I think the Clerk indicates 10.

The Speaker: Ten minutes.

Mr. Kenney: Thank you. It takes me 10 minutes to clear my throat. I'll do my best.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your recognition of the urgency of this matter. As I said yesterday, Canada is broken if this pipeline project is killed. Canada was founded on the promise of an economic union. That was the motive reason behind Confederation 151 years ago. When the Fathers of Confederation from the founding four colonies gathered at Charlottetown and Quebec City, their primary, overriding goal was to create a free trade zone that would strike down economically destructive tariffs and barriers between the various colonies of British North America. Their dream, their vision became this great dominion in 1867 and then expanded with the creation of the other provinces, including Alberta in 1905.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

When this province was carved out of the Northwest Territories, it was with the promise for the hard-working, industrious people of Alberta – the merchants, the farmers, the miners, and the trappers – to benefit from the ability to sell their products throughout the Dominion of Canada. Essential in the agreement of Confederation was, under section 92, the definition of federal jurisdiction over interprovincial infrastructure, which was further clarified in subsequent amendments, which effectively means today that the federal government has unqualified jurisdictional authority over the regulation of interprovincial pipelines.

Now, Madam Speaker, we know that here in Alberta we are blessed to be the custodians of the world's third-largest accessible oil reserves. Those reserves, if they were to be commodified at current global Brent prices, would have a notional market value of over \$11 trillion. Eleven trillion dollars. For a country that has over \$1 trillion of cumulative public debt and unfunded liabilities, imagine what trillions of dollars of future wealth could do to help us maintain our standard of living, to pay for our future pension obligations, for our unfunded health obligations, for the quality of life that we dream of for future generations.

3:30

Madam Speaker, in recent decades the remarkably brilliant and innovative industry headquartered in Alberta which has turned that raw resource into wealth, into royalties, into jobs, into businesses, into vibrant communities has managed to increase our production of oil and gas by orders of magnitude. Just a few years ago we were producing merely roughly 800,000 barrels per day of Canadian crude. By next year we're on track, I believe, for 1.6 million barrels per day of production, and some projections have us on track with current capital investments and the current rate of exploration for some 3 million barrels per day within a few years. So that is more than a tripling of our production capacity. But that production is only valuable if we can sell it and if we can sell it to global markets at global prices. As I said earlier, less than 5 per cent of Canadian crude is exported to countries other than the United States.

Energy, by the way, Madam Speaker, is by far Canada's largest export product, by multiple orders, actually, Alberta's largest export product. Well, 95 per cent of that which is exported is exported to one buyer only, the United States, so we have what is

called a huge price discount. Now, some people have quantified this as costing us some \$20 million a day. Imagine if that situation should continue year upon year upon year. We would be stranding, we would be assuming an opportunity cost of eventually hundreds of billions of dollars, and the Alberta treasury would be losing tens of billions of dollars in potential revenue. That is why the market has for the past decade been pursuing possible coastal pipelines.

Now, there's been an expansion of continental pipelines within North America, as mentioned in question period, in the past 12 years. We've seen the permitting and completion of four major pipelines within Canada and North America, that did double our capacity to ship oil.

Then, Madam Speaker, Enbridge proposed the Northern Gateway pipeline to Kitimat, the B.C. northern coast, but that project, which was approved by the federal cabinet to which I belonged, was subsequently vetoed by the NDP's close ally Justin Trudeau. Then the same ally of the NDP, Prime Minister Trudeau, killed the Energy East pipeline, proposed by TCPL, which would have achieved the dream of energy independence for Canada. They did so by getting the National Energy Board to change the rules of the game midstream, as reflected in the August 23, 2017, interpretive bulletin of the National Energy Board requiring that TCPL assess its project based on up- and downstream emissions. Then, of course, there have been delays on the Keystone XL pipeline to the U.S. Gulf coast, primarily because of President Obama's seven-year delay and ultimate veto, which this government did not protest.

Madam Speaker, now we find ourselves in a situation where the only remaining approved pipeline that could be built in a reasonable period of time and get us a fair global price for our products is the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, but yesterday that company announced a suspension of future investments. Now, this should not come as news because on November 14 Kinder Morgan in an application to the NEB for an omnibus permit said that "faced with unreasonable regulatory risks due to a lack of clear processes to secure necessary permits . . . it may become untenable for Trans Mountain's shareholders . . . to proceed."

Then on December 4 Steven Kean, the CEO of Kinder Morgan, said, "Unfortunately, the scope and pace of the permits and approvals received does not allow for significant additional construction to begin." And then on February 7 Ian Anderson, the chair of Kinder Morgan, said: investor patience is a whole different matter; it's not lost on us that there are still obstacles. Then on February 21 Kimberly Dang from Kinder Morgan U.S. said: we're going to spend at a reduced level from a full-throttle push towards completion until we have more clarity and we're sure that we can compete with what we started. Then yesterday, Madam Speaker, Mr. Kean said: a company cannot litigate its way to an in-service pipeline.

So we've seen this coming. I've been predicting this, Madam Speaker. This is the result of the death-by-delay strategy of the New Democrats in B.C. – the New Democrats in Vancouver, the New Democrats in Coquitlam, the New Democrats in Burnaby – and their New Democrat allies on the political left across the country. Yesterday is exactly what they wanted.

We cannot let this stand, Madam Speaker, which is why for nine months I have been calling on this government to have a real fight-back strategy. To begin with, I called last July for symbolic measures like the wine boycott. I called for safety inspections of B.C. product passing through Alberta. I said that we should be prepared to consider tolling B.C. gas that goes through Alberta pipelines to U.S. markets if they seek to block this energy pipeline and violate that Constitution to which I refer. I've said that we should be prepared to do what Peter Lougheed did in 1980 in being

prepared to turn off the taps of the shipments of oil that currently fuel the Lower Mainland economy.

But the government first mocked and ridiculed every one of those suggestions, then reluctantly began rhetorically repeating this message, brought in a wine boycott, that they then promptly repealed when they declared victory even following a . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Any other members wishing to speak? The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to speak about our most important industry and about our government's actions to deter attempts by the B.C. government to interfere with the Trans Mountain pipeline as well as our efforts to demand concrete steps from the federal government to enforce its decision on the project and to get this pipeline built.

You know, I'm always happy to talk about this industry. It's an industry I love very much. I say this both as the Energy minister, of course, but also as the MLA for Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley, which I am proud to represent. It's a region that is one of the heartbeats of Alberta's energy sector. I have many ties to this industry that run deep, including countless family members, friends, and neighbours who depend on this industry, and when I say neighbours, I really mean the people of northwestern Alberta, which also includes northeastern B.C. Many folks on the B.C. side of the border work in the sector in Alberta, on our side, and we have a common understanding of the value of oil and gas in our communities. That's yet another reason why the B.C. government's actions are so hypocritical. To oppose the growth of one of the province's energy sectors while trying to grow their own with LNG is particularly hypocritical.

That's why we're here, to have an important conversation about supporting this government's actions in this dispute with the B.C. government as well as our government's actions toward the federal government and to take concrete steps to ensure that the Trans Mountain pipeline project does get completed. We've been clear all along, Madam Speaker, and Albertans have been clear as well: this pipeline must get built. This is about tens of thousands of jobs for hard-working families, it's about billions of dollars in investment in our economy, and it's ultimately about having a better life, with better schools, roads, hospitals, which we owed a lot in previous times to our gas and oil sector.

We've come a long way. In fact, we've done more to promote pipelines and deliver results in three years than the Conservatives did in 44. Enbridge's line 3 pipeline is well under construction. Keystone XL has the commercial support to proceed, which took a major boost from our government and Premier Rachel Notley. Through our efforts on Trans Mountain we are closer than ever to breaking the land lock and finally getting top dollar for our resources in world markets. It's clear that our government has been fighting to get this long-overdue pipeline built and approved.

On the flip side, we have a Conservative leader that's more interested in grandstanding and promoting himself than getting pipelines built. This Conservative leader claims to be a pipeline champion, but where was his advocacy when he was in Ottawa? During his 20 years in the House of Commons he barely spoke about the projects he now takes credit for. He even had the audacity to go to Ottawa not too long ago and tell a room full of Doug Ford's friends that Ontario is the heart of Canada's economy. Would he tell that to hard-working people in the oil sands? What about the shale gas drillers up my way in the Peace Country? What about downtown Calgary? The heart of Canada's economy is right here in Alberta, and that's why our government will do whatever it takes

– whatever it takes – to support our industry and the hard-working people of this province.

3:40

When it comes to the legal disputes over this pipeline, I think Alberta will have a good shot at cracking the Blue Jays' lineup because we're batting a thousand so far, 14 out of 14 important and decisive legal challenges. The courts threw out B.C.'s last case without even hearing it, not to mention that the last time the B.C. government tried to overstep its legal and constitutional authority, we took bold action, and they backed down. When the city of Burnaby tried to block the Trans Mountain pipeline in court, we intervened, and we won, and we're confident we will continue to win. Let's not forget that if it wasn't for our climate leadership plan, there would be no approved pipeline to the coast to fight for.

But, that said, it's time for the federal government to step up. It's time for them to follow our lead. It's time for the federal government to defend Alberta. It's time for Ottawa to go to bat for working people of western Canada. During the auto crisis Ottawa intervened to help the workers in Ontario with concrete action. When the aerospace industry needed a bailout, Ottawa stepped in for those workers in Quebec and took concrete action. Now the energy industry needs the feds to have their back, and we call on them now to act: we need you to act, and we need you to act quickly and decisively. The federal approval of a pipeline project must be more than just the paper it's written on.

That's not all we have to say, Madam Speaker. To the west of us Premier Horgan believes he can harass the project without economic consequences for British Columbia. On that, he could not be more wrong. Albertans have told us to do whatever it takes to get this pipeline built, and we are doing just that. We will make B.C. feel the economic pain for its decisions. We're introducing legislation in the coming days that will allow us to restrict the flow of refined product into B.C. Invoking this would be similar to the bold action taken by Premier Peter Lougheed when our energy industry was under attack in the past. We are not hesitating to do this again if the B.C. government continues on its present course. It's important that B.C. and the country know that we will do whatever it takes to make sure our constitutional rights are respected as partners in our Confederation.

Further to that, Madam Speaker, we're prepared to do whatever it takes to get this pipeline built. You know, the B.C. government thinks they can harass investors and managers of Kinder Morgan. They think they can harass them into giving up and killing this project. They are wrong on that front as well. The Premier said it well yesterday: "The government of B.C. feels they can mess with Texas... [but] they cannot mess with Alberta." If we have to, Alberta is prepared to take a public position in this pipeline. That means Alberta is prepared to be an investor, and if we do take that step, I don't think we have to say that we will be a significantly more determined investor. Never count Alberta out.

I've been asked before if I'm angry. Am I disappointed that this project isn't completed yet? You know what the answer is, Madam Speaker? Above all, I am more determined than ever. This has done nothing but strengthen my resolve and the resolve of this government. We will get this pipeline built.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Mr. Nixon: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the Leader of the Official Opposition for bringing forward this motion today to give us an opportunity to speak on behalf of our

constituents on such an important issue, I would argue probably one of the most important issues that our province is facing right now.

It was interesting for me to hear the comments from the Energy minister just a few moments ago in talking about this motion and talking about the situation that's taking place with Kinder Morgan and pipelines in our province. I would submit to you, Madam Speaker, that the presentation by the hon. Energy minister is exactly the reason why we needed this emergency debate. It is pretty clear to me, in listening to the comments from the Energy minister today and also hearing similar comments in question period today, that this NDP government clearly has no clue what they are doing. They are in denial about the serious situation that we're facing. They continue to bring forward half measures at best, and I think that's even being generous, because I think they're not bringing forward any measures at all to be able to take this forward.

You know, the opposition – the Leader of the Opposition, opposition MLAs, and the opposition caucus as a whole – has been bringing forward this issue and the concern about where we could end up with this government for a couple of years, saying that, unfortunately, we thought that we were going to end up exactly where we ended up yesterday, with this project basically hanging on by a thread, and that the NDP colleagues of the members across the way were going to continue to kill this project by delaying it. Over and over we brought that forward, and all that happened for the first part of that was that we were ridiculed and made fun of by the NDP government, the Leader of the Opposition in particular but all of us. There are lists. There's not enough time to go through all the comments, Madam Speaker, but as you know, we have quoted those comments many times from the Premier and our NDP colleagues across the way essentially making fun of us or belittling us for saying that this was going to be a problem.

Then, Madam Speaker, we got through Christmastime and into the early new year, and the opposition started asking to be able to come back to the Legislature as soon as possible so that we could debate this very issue because we felt that it was a problem. In February Kinder Morgan indicated that this was the direction that they were going to end up in, that this is where they were probably going to end up having to be because there was no stability for their investors. They did that, I believe, on February 21. On February 22 the Premier then removed her symbolic wine ban, the day after Kinder Morgan first gave us a warning that this is where we were headed, and continued to ridicule the opposition for asking for an emergency debate in this place.

Then, all of a sudden, when we came back to this Chamber for the first time, in fact, the very first sitting day after the throne speech, this government finally brought forward a motion in this Assembly, a government motion asking for the unanimous support of this House to make a clear, symbolic symbol to the government in B.C. and the government in Ottawa that we won't accept this behaviour anymore. So they came drastically over to our side of the argument, which is great, and passed that motion, and then they did nothing.

We brought up an amendment at that time saying that this is not enough, that we need clear action. The members across the way voted that amendment down. They voted it down, brought forward a symbolic motion from this Assembly, and then did nothing else again for several weeks. At the time that I spoke on that amendment – I was the one who moved the amendment to the government motion, Madam Speaker – I said that Albertans can't afford to wait anymore, that it's not enough for us to pass this motion. I said that several weeks ago, that we have to take concrete action provincially and expect our federal government, in particular the Premier's close ally Justin Trudeau, to take action on this file. The government

voted down the amendment, left this place with a symbolic motion from all of us – I was happy to vote for it – and then did nothing.

Then we fast-forward to now, Madam Speaker, and we all saw Sunday afternoon the terrible news that this project is now hanging on by a thread, just like we predicted.

You know, the Energy minister and the Deputy Premier often stand up and say that we are rooting against this project. We're not rooting against this project; we're rooting for this project. But we're telling the government, because it's our job, that you have a problem. You have a problem, which means that Albertans have a problem, and we need to take action to be able to save this project. But they don't take any action. They continue to come back to this place. In fact, today they tried yet again to bring forward a motion that was symbolic and very, very similar to the last motion that was passed by this Chamber. They continue to ask this side of the House to give them a blank cheque on this issue though they have shown no capability and no serious action to be able to deal with it.

That's why this is an emergency. This government is in charge right now. They want to talk about the CPC pipeline record and spin that. That's ridiculous. What Albertans want to hear about right now is what this government is going to do right now. Throughout question period today ministers and the Premier stood up and said that they were going to use every tool in the tool box, and then when this side of the House asks simple questions about what those tools are, when they can expect those tools to be used, and how that will work, they just stand up and grandstand again and say that we'll use every tool in the tool box. Well, why would we as an opposition trust that? I would submit to you, Madam Speaker, that we would be irresponsible to continue to trust that given this government's actions on this file.

We know that the Premier in the past has met with the Premier of B.C. and that the Premier of B.C.'s own words are that the Premier of our province did not even try to persuade him on pipelines. We know that as early as yesterday the Premier was still saying compliments to Justin Trudeau, her close ally, on how he has handled this pipeline issue, still standing up for him despite the fact that he has completely abandoned what he said that he would do on this issue. He has refused to take concrete action as the Prime Minister of Canada to defend the constitutional rights of this province, he has refused to point out the national interest of this important project, all while this government sits there on their hands, over and over bringing symbolic motions to this place.

3:50

This is an emergency, Madam Speaker. Action must be taken now. It should have been taken months ago, when it was first brought up by people on this side of the House. The reality is, though, that that ship has sailed, so now the government must take action, not continue to come back to this place and tell us that they're going to use every tool in the tool box. What tools are they going to use? The hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed has brought forward many concrete ideas. Sadly, that side of the House, the government side of the House, continues to disregard them and sometimes even makes fun of the hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed for bringing forward those ideas. Well, at least he's bringing forward ideas. At least he's bringing forward concrete steps that we can take right now to stand up for our rights as a province, to stand up to Justin Trudeau in Ottawa, to stand up to the B.C. government and say: this is wrong, what you're doing.

Instead, what we're getting from our government, what Albertans are getting from the current government of the day are just words over and over and over. Last week in this Chamber ministers and the Premier stood up over and over and declared victory yet again for this pipeline. Victory for this pipeline. Then we went home to

our constituencies for the weekend, and we found out that there is no victory, Madam Speaker. There's no victory. In fact, we are almost about to lose this project. The Minister of Energy stood up in this House and had the nerve to say today that they're batting a thousand on this issue. They're losing on this issue. It would be comical if it wasn't for the consequences that are happening to Albertans as a result of the incompetence of this government on this file, to stand up in this House and continue to say that you have this under control when you don't, to stand up and say that you have declared victory when there is no victory.

Why will this government not take concrete action to stand up for this province? Why will they not go down to B.C. and say to their close NDP colleagues, whether it be to the Burnaby town council, the NDP mayor for Burnaby, the NDP government, the NDP opposition inside Ottawa, or their close, close ally Justin Trudeau – why will they not go and take concrete action against those governments for Alberta? Why will they continue to come to this place and say that everything's okay when it's not?

That's why this is an emergency. Albertans cannot afford for this government to continue to delay and delay and delay taking action on this important file. Albertans expect this government to do something about it. I can tell you that we hear about it every day. They expect this government to do it. They don't trust this government. You know, I don't care about the consequences to this government politically. I think this government politically has destroyed itself already. But I do care about the consequences for the people of Alberta.

With my last 30 seconds, Madam Speaker, I will call on the government to do the right thing, finally, for the people of Alberta, do what they were supposed to be doing the whole time: stand up for this pipeline, take concrete action on behalf of the people of Alberta, and make sure Justin Trudeau and Mr. Horgan inside B.C. know that this is unacceptable and that we as Albertans won't put up with it anymore.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister of environment.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this motion on this pressing matter that is indeed in the national interest. As has been indicated, there are several tools at Alberta's disposal. We can and we will make B.C. feel economic pain to reciprocate where they are hurting our economy and indeed their own economy and indeed the economy of all of Canada with this ongoing belligerence and harassment of a project that has been determined to be in the national interest. We will introduce a bill in the coming days that allows us more tools on that in order to restrict energy flows. There are other tools in our tool box, and unlike the tools of the province of British Columbia, ours are real.

That leads me to the second course of action that this province can and is taking, and that is asserting appropriate jurisdiction and asserting the national significance of this pipeline project in the courts and using other legal means to do so. As has been indicated, we have been successful in those assertions so far, and we will continue to make that case where appropriate, Madam Speaker.

Third, we will take a public position in this pipeline, Madam Speaker. We will invest in this project to give our industry confidence, and we will ensure that this pipeline gets built. We will not tie ourselves to the actions of other levels of government when it comes to making the appropriate investment to get this project built, because it is in Alberta's interest. Our government has determined that that is the right thing to do for the people of this province and indeed the people of Canada.

The fact of the matter is, Madam Speaker, that the federal government can and should do all of these things as well. They should impose economic pain on B.C., they should take the lead on fighting in the courts, and they, too, can invest in the Trans Mountain expansion project to ensure that the national interest is upheld. We continue to call on them to do so, and I for one am beginning to lose my patience. I believe that it is time for the federal government to stand up. I know that all of my colleagues on this side of the House share that view. It is time for western Canadian working people to benefit from the same kinds of interventions that the Ontario auto industry has benefited from, that the Quebec aerospace sector has benefited from. It is time for national leadership. Nothing else will do at this point. It's time for more than talk. It is time to in fact emulate the province of Alberta when it comes to action.

Our climate leadership plan will cut emissions drastically. We have taken action on climate leadership, Madam Speaker, a projected 30 per cent reduction by 2030, in a province where we were told for a generation that it could not be done, to take climate change seriously. This government took on the biggest challenge of our generation, and we will succeed. Ignoring climate change and letting emissions increase would have brought us above 300 megatonnes by 2030. That is despite the federal targets articulated by the government that the hon. member opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, sat in. He sat on his hands on climate change, just as he did on pipeline approvals. That is despite their targets, that they articulated but then did nothing to achieve. I am sensing a theme here with respect to the federal government. Instead, with our \$1.4 billion investment into innovation, recycling the funds from the climate leadership plan, investments that the members opposite would cancel, we may go as low as 222 megatonnes, and that will keep dropping.

Our carbon competitiveness regulation, that the members opposite have pledged to repeal, will cut emissions by 50 million tonnes by 2030. Our investments in energy efficiency, that the members opposite have pledged to repeal, have not only saved Albertans money; they've avoided 3 million tonnes of GHGs. Over the life of the products and programs that we've put in place already, Albertans are going to save \$300 million. That is money that the members opposite, the Conservatives opposite, with their lack of action on climate, would reach into Albertans' pockets and take from them.

Madam Speaker, we moved forward with the climate leadership plan because we knew that it would secure us market access for our products by securing us pipeline approvals in the first instance. Why was that so important to the people of this province? Because we were in the midst of a recession that hurt Alberta families. We were relying on one product, one market, one price. Successive Conservative governments, both federal and provincial, drove us into that economic dead end, and it ended up in so much suffering for families across this province, in resource communities and elsewhere.

With the pipeline approvals and the climate leadership plan we are finding ways to diversify the economy, Madam Speaker. We've got those pipeline approvals in place. We are also taking action on the petrochemicals diversification program, the partial upgrading program, the renewable energy program so that Alberta can be an energy province in every meaning of that word and we can get full value for our products across the value chain.

4:00

Madam Speaker, I made reference earlier to comments from Kinder Morgan on the subject of climate leadership. The fact of the matter is that the investor certainty that is provided by a thoughtful

and cautious carbon pricing framework is exactly what the industry in this province is looking for. On carbon pricing, for example, I will quote Kinder Morgan Canada president Ian Anderson.

We're encouraged to see this positive step forward and commend the hard work of all involved. The collaboration of industry, the Government of Alberta, First Nations leaders and environmental groups helps pave a path forward and provides important clarity to policy and direction for the entire industry.

Madam Speaker, it's exactly that kind of investor confidence that we have been able to achieve.

Who else understands that the environment and the economy go hand in hand? Certainly, the president of Kinder Morgan Canada does. Who else? Who else is actually doing something to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while growing our economy? Here are some names. Steve Williams, CEO of Suncor, in a statement when we made our climate leadership announcements:

Today we reach a milestone in ensuring Alberta's valuable resource is accompanied by leading carbon policy. It's time that Alberta is seen as a climate, energy and innovation leader.

Murray Edwards of CNRL: Alberta wins at today's announcement. This is November 22, 2015. It's a "significant step forward for Alberta" and for the industry. The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers:

Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan provides direction that will allow the oil and natural gas industry to grow, further enhance its environmental performance... and is expected to improve market access to allow Canadian oil to reach more markets.

We agree, Madam Speaker. In this context the provincial government has taken action on climate leadership, on getting full value for our resources, on accessing markets. Our industry has taken leadership. All of those folks that are shipping bitumen in the Trans Mountain pipeline? Those are companies like Suncor and Cenovus, who have endorsed the climate leadership plan. They understand that environment and economy go hand in hand, and they also understand that action is needed, as we understand, and we agree. We agree that the national interest is in taking action on climate while also taking action on getting a better price for our energy products.

It is time for everyone else who has sat on their hands and not taken action. It is time for the federal government to step up. It is time for the folks across the way to finally admit that climate leadership goes together with accessing a better price for our existing energy resources and stop cheering for Alberta to fail and start cheering for the fact that the environment and the economy go together in the 21st century, and it's up to all Albertans to make that a reality.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I share the frustrations of the members opposite. I am tired of words from the federal government, and they need to use the tools in their tool box. B.C. may believe that they can mess with investors in Texas, but they did not count on how tough this government is and, in particular, how tough the Premier of Alberta is. We will get this pipeline built, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and speak to this very important issue, to speak for my constituents up in northeastern Alberta, you know, especially the oil and gas industry, Lac La Biche, St. Paul, Elk Point, even Glendon, Bonnyville, Cold Lake. We've got a lot of First Nations up there.

I was very interested in hearing how often the member opposite used the word "action" because I understand that the two books that

sit on Premier Horgan's desk are *An Action a Day* and the Leap Manifesto, so she may be helping him along to encourage the Horgan government in opposing this pipeline.

You know, when I talk about the folks up in northeastern Alberta, I'd like to talk about the taxpayer-funded advertisement that's on the radio lately about telling everybody how wonderful it is here in Alberta. Well, you're not talking to the folks up in my area. We could go and talk to companies like Shamrock Valley in Elk Point or Primco Dene or Seven Lakes or the Region One Aboriginal Business Association up in Lac La Biche. We've got people up there that are working for a lot less, those that are working. Companies are doing their best to redistribute jobs and cut back hours and job-share. Some companies are going to seven days on and seven days off so that they can run two full crews and give everybody at least a little bit of money to help them pay their bills.

You know, when oil prices first fell, the major oil companies up in the area – MEG Energy, Husky, CNRL, and Esso – all went out to their contractors and said: look, we need to tighten up our belts a little bit to get us through this recession. They took a number of cuts, those companies, and they had to pass it back on to the employees. This is why this pipeline is so important. We've seen the increase in oil and gas prices, especially oil, but we now have this bottleneck. It doesn't matter whether the price of oil gets up to \$70 a barrel. If you can't sell it, if you can't get it down the pipeline, it doesn't mean a whole lot. So we really do need this important pipeline. That's why this is an emergency all over, for this province especially but also for all of Canada.

Now, when the price of oil dropped, all these companies actually sat down at the table with CNRL, Esso, and Husky and said: okay; we're going to cut back our rates. Especially, I want to talk specifically about the fluid haulers. A lot of these guys are independents. There are a few bigger operators in the area, but a lot of the other ones are independents. They're at the stage right now where they are ready to hand their keys in because they can't make their payments. The rates have cut so low. The price of fuel has gone up. The carbon tax is kicking them in the butt as well, and they're having a hard time making ends meet.

Now, years back, when guys would get into this situation, some of the bigger players would, you know, quite happily buy out their trucks for them and take up their routes, put them on at an hourly rate just so that they wouldn't lose everything and they could keep on going. But the situation we're at now is that even the bigger players have cut back so much that they can't afford to buy out these smaller guys. They're coming to them hat in hand, saying: can you take over my truck and put me to work? And the guys are saying: "Sorry. We can't do it. We're actually cutting back on our trucks as well." We're in quite a bit of a different situation here.

That's why we really need to get rid of this bottleneck. We've got a lot of wells that are being shut in right now. Tank farms are at capacity. We need to get a lot more movement. I mean, it's going to be a while down the road getting this pipeline going and getting the oil flowing down, but we have to concentrate on pressuring not only the B.C. government but the federal government as well to step up and get this over.

I want to get back to, you know, our relationship with British Columbia. Years back when the pine beetle epidemic first hit, I don't recall whether Alberta shut our borders to B.C. lumber. I don't think so. I think we actually sent biologists over there to help them try and discover what the problem was and how to deal with it. So I'm really dismayed that this NDP government in British Columbia has taken this stance when it comes to our Alberta oil. We need to, again, work with the B.C. government and the federal government and get this blockade, which is basically what it is, a blockade to our industry, off the books.

We need to support our companies here in any way we can, and if that means quashing a ridiculous carbon tax to help them through this tough time, maybe that's what we need to do as a provincial government. We're always talking about what the federal government can do and what the B.C. government can do. What about what our own government can do? Stand up for our Alberta companies and cancel the carbon tax. That would really be helpful.

Like I said, in northeastern Alberta we've got a lot of companies, a lot of communities that depend on oil. We've got Cold Lake First Nation. We've got Métis settlements up there, Kikino, Buffalo Lake. They all have a lot of private companies that are working in the oil field. They all depend on it. I mentioned the Region One Aboriginal Business Association. I'm sure that if somebody from the government went and talked to them about how fluffy and wonderful things here in Alberta are, they're going to get a little bit different story than the advertisement that we hear on 630 CHED and other radio stations.

Again, do we want to get into a fight with British Columbia? Well, I wouldn't like to see that. I think it's probably going to come to that. You know, one of the things that we could do is ship in the oil lines. In the pipelines that we do have, we ship a combination of raw bitumen and refined products. Maybe we can just restrict that to raw bitumen. I know that between 50 and 60 per cent of the refined products that British Columbia uses come through that pipeline from Alberta, so that may be one way to penalize them if it comes to that. People have talked about stopping trucks at the border. Do we really want to see that happen? I don't think so, but I guess that's something that we could look at.

4:10

In the meantime I think we need to do whatever we can to support our industry here while this all takes place and comes to fruition and do whatever we can. Like I said, I think a really good place to start with that would be to cancel the carbon tax and give some of these folks a break.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mr. Feehan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I much appreciate the opportunity to talk about this very important matter before us here in the House, a matter that's not only important to us here but, of course, to people throughout the province of Alberta and indeed throughout the country of Canada. I think it is important that we make sure that we frame this conversation in a way that makes sense. In the beginning I think there are some things that we can agree on, and that is, first of all, that probably without exception in the House we all believe that the Kinder Morgan pipeline must get built. It must get built now, and it must get built with the full support of the country of Canada, including all of its provinces. We have a good starting place there.

In addition, we all agree that this government and the federal government must take action to ensure that happens, and indeed we are. We have introduced a motion into the House. We'll be introducing a new bill subsequently that will allow us to take new action in order to ensure that the province of British Columbia acts in accordance with the rule of law and acts as a member of this great country that we call Canada and not as an independent body that somehow is not attached to the rest of us. We know that we're taking strong action here in the province of Alberta, and we have already worked very well behind the scenes to ensure that things are in place for us to take the best action and have indicated that to the province of British Columbia.

We also, I think, agree that the federal government needs to step up. It is with surprise that I find myself agreeing with the members opposite in this House in my level of frustration with the federal government and their lack of what I would say is required leadership in order to move us on. We in this House are calling for the Prime Minister and the federal government ministers to step up, to take action, to be adamant, to be clear, and to enforce the rule of law in this country. So good starting place. Lots of stuff for us all to agree on.

But I'm also standing here as the Minister of Indigenous Relations, and I want to bring into this conversation a voice from the indigenous people in the province of Alberta. This is a place where, I'm afraid, we're going to diverge on this side of the House from the comments being made on the other side of the House. In fact, the previous speaker just made comments about quashing the carbon tax and, you know, going against the very thing that I think that we need to ensure that we are doing if we are truly to stand on firm ground when we demand and when we expect that the Kinder Morgan be built and be built for the betterment of all Canadians. That is something that I think you've heard me say in this House before, that the indigenous people are clearly behind the Kinder Morgan build.

In fact, I have a couple of letters that I'd like to read a few pieces from to reinforce that. For example, Chief Ron Kreutzer from Fort McMurray No. 468 First Nation says:

The Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline is essential to the viability of the economic engine of Canada, the Alberta Oilsands. Fort McMurray #468 First Nation relies heavily on the responsible development of the Oilsands to provide the necessary economics to be a self-sufficient Nation for the next seven generations.

Clearly, this nation is in favour of the Kinder Morgan pipeline.

As well, I have a letter here – and I will submit these letters to the House when the opportunity arises – from Chief Arthur Rain, who is the chief of Paul Band First Nation, just west of the city of Edmonton, indicating:

Paul First Nation submits that the development of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project supports the sustainable growth of First Nation Communities who choose to engage and capitalize on the many benefits put forth by Kinder Morgan Canada Inc. as well as the multiple levels of government which support the project.

We as a Nation have assessed the environmental impact of this project and also share the concerns of our British Columbia First Nation Communities. That said, we are confident that Kinder Morgan Canada Inc. also shares our concerns and will work diligently to protect our environment and manage this project with minimal impact; after all it is their environment as well.

So, again, clearly in favour of the Kinder Morgan project. In fact, I've spoken to many chiefs around the province and have received widespread support, from as far north as I can go in this province to as far south as I can go, for the Kinder Morgan project. However, you'll notice the last line of Chief Arthur Rain's note. He said that he is confident that Kinder Morgan will take care of the environment, finishing his note with "after all it is their environment as well."

Thus, we are at the point where our side differs substantially from the opposition. The First Nations people remind me on a regular basis that moccasins come in pairs, that it makes no sense to have a moccasin on your left foot and then allow your right foot to drag through the snow or drag through the mud. You need to have a moccasin on each foot. As a result, any attempt to separate economic development such as the Kinder Morgan from responsible maintenance and care of the environment is foolishness. It's the

kind of foolishness that is demonstrated by a young child who slips on one shoe and then runs out into the backyard only to find himself knee deep in mud. This is the kind of foolishness that we need to address.

The only way for us to ensure that we are taking a morally responsible stance with regard to Kinder Morgan and to make sure that we are defending Kinder Morgan in the way it needs to be defended is to be able to stand in this House, to stand in this province, and to stand in this country and make the declaration that while we are in favour of the economic development potential not only for all of Alberta and all of Canada but, more specifically, for the indigenous communities in this province, we must do so from the moral position that we will not allow the building of the Kinder Morgan to become devastating to our environment, to put us in a place where we cannot care for the world that we intend to pass on to our children.

As a result, we have a number of other statements about how important it is that we have a carbon levy in this province, that we act in a responsible way to take care of the environment. Rather than getting rid of it in order to support Kinder Morgan, as was just previously suggested, the indigenous community is very clear that the only place that you can stand solidly in order to support Kinder Morgan is a place in which you are taking care of the environment and ensuring that you are wearing a moccasin on both feet.

For example, Grand Chief Rupert Meneen from Treaty 8 indicated that indigenous peoples are seeing the effects of climate change first-hand.

We need to address climate change right now and Alberta is making important strides towards addressing this pressing need. These programs are an important step in ensuring Indigenous peoples are involved in matters, like climate change, that directly affect our lives.

Full support for our carbon levy and for our indigenous climate leadership program that is funded wholly from the carbon levy. I'm afraid that Grand Chief Meneen will be in danger of losing all of his support for all of his environmental programs should the wishes of the opposition come forward and result in the cancellation of the carbon levy, a complete contradiction to what it is that the indigenous people are asking in this province.

4:20

Another interesting quote is from Audrey Poitras, the president of the Métis Nation of Alberta. She indicates:

We are pleased that Alberta is investing in Indigenous peoples to address climate change in our communities. The programs announced by Alberta today are one step in supporting those most impacted by climate change and setting the foundation for empowered communities leading climate-change initiatives.

You see how she very carefully ties two things together, that they consistently do in the indigenous community, economic development for empowering communities based on the full commitment to climate change initiatives that take care of the environment. This is the kind of complex, thoughtful, multigenerational thinking that comes out of the indigenous community naturally and routinely, and this is the kind of thinking that we need to ensure that we are invested in in this province in order to ensure that we can take a proper stance in committing ourselves to projects such as the Kinder Morgan.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The Alberta Party supports pipelines. They are the safest, most environmentally responsible means of transporting oil. The Kinder Morgan pipeline

is good for Alberta, it is good for B.C., it is good for Canada, and it is good for the environment because by getting more Alberta crude to market, we displace more barrels of higher carbon crude that come from other jurisdictions, most notably Venezuela and Nigeria.

This is a fact that Alberta's NDP have not bothered to make known to our friends in British Columbia or to the rest of the world. It is one of the many, many, many ways that the Alberta NDP have let down the people of Alberta on this file and so many others, which is why the Alberta Party and I are incredibly frustrated. The NDP have been whistling past the graveyard while a vocal minority of people have started marshalling their forces against this project, and this goes back years. This is not a recent thing. This goes back years. This Alberta NDP government has done on the Kinder Morgan file what they do on everything else. They've crossed their fingers and simply hoped that everything goes well. Well, it hasn't gone well, Madam Speaker. It hasn't gone well.

When I think about the situation with Kinder Morgan, I think about what happens in other parts of this country. When Bombardier proposes to build a factory in Quebec to build airplanes or snowmobiles, well, no one says anything. The factory gets proposed, the factory gets built, and things go into production. When a car factory in southern Ontario is proposed, it is seen only as a good thing. Oh, but there probably is some federal and provincial subsidy money that ends up going to those factories as well. They're celebrated for the jobs they create, for the economic activity they're creating.

But what do the products in those factories consume? How do you make those products go? How do you make an airplane fly? How do you make a snowmobile go? What do you pour into the gas tank of a car? It's oil and gas. These are the things, this dissonance, this disconnect between the supply side, which is what we're focusing on here, and the demand side. It seems okay that we can build these things in eastern Canada, but the province that produces the oil and gas to make these things go: well, we're apparently the ones who are to blame for all the problems. That is not to mention the obvious and gross hypocrisy from provinces that would dump millions of litres of raw sewage off of Montreal or Victoria, who claim to care about the environment but will only fight against Alberta's projects, projects that are to the benefit of their neighbours and, clearly, in the national interest.

So it is profoundly frustrating, and it is shameful that Alberta's NDP have let it get to this point. It is on this government that we have been allowed to get to this point. It is on you. You could have done more. You should have done more, and you didn't, and here we are. Now they're proposing to backstop the pipeline with Alberta taxpayer dollars. Pretty remarkable. They don't seem to be very good negotiators because in any negotiation I've been in, the first thing you do is not to offer money. But here we are. We seem to be through the looking glass on this.

One school of thought is that one of the reasons the NDP may want to take an equity stake in this pipeline is to have standing in court to sue the government when the pipeline fails, to sue the government of B.C. for damages when the pipeline fails. Well, that presumes that the pipeline is going to fail. It makes me wonder if they know something that the rest of Alberta doesn't know.

If we're going to put Alberta taxpayer money into this project, we should absolutely demand that the federal government make an equal or greater investment in the project as well so that the federal government can finally, once and for all, put their money where their mouth is. All we've heard from the federal government are empty platitudes, words. No action, just words. I like the words that they're saying; I just don't believe them. We need the NDP government here in Alberta to stand up for the province of Alberta, to lean hard on the federal government to do their job to make sure

this pipeline gets built, and to, heaven forbid, actually follow the rule of law.

This project was vetted and reviewed over and over and over again. Stakeholders were consulted. Indigenous peoples were consulted all along the route. People have been consulted. The environmental impacts have been studied. The spill response has been considered for the coastal waters off of B.C. And I'll note that the pipeline, that's been in operation for 62 years, has had no spills in the Pacific Ocean. Those tankers have been travelling through those waters without GPS, without double-hulled tankers, without the technology that we have available to us today with no incidents. So the simple fact is that the risks to the marine environment in B.C. are negligible.

The people of British Columbia have been told that the risks are imminent, that the minute this pipeline goes into production, that's it for the fishery, that's it for tourism because disaster will abound. Well, it simply isn't true, Madam Speaker. It is simply not true. But this government has not been near forceful enough in making that factual case to the people in British Columbia, not talking about how we are aligned with the people of British Columbia in their desire to address climate change, that this pipeline will help address climate change by reducing the carbon footprint of crude oil that is consumed by the growing demand around the world. Those are the cases that need to be made.

You know, the minister of environment in her comments said that this project is in the national interest, but at the same time they won't compel the federal government. They won't lean on the federal government to ensure that if Alberta is going to be making an investment in the pipeline that the federal government makes an investment in the pipeline. Well, if this project is in the national interest, the federal government should also step up, put their money where their mouth is. Not just empty rhetoric: put their money where their mouth is and take a stake in this project.

It also raises another troubling question. Does this mean that any energy project in this province, of any size, is going to require government intervention, going to require a government investment? Well, maybe that's what this NDP government has wanted all along. Maybe they want the government to be investing in Crown corporations and developing oil and gas and not allowing the private sector to do what it does best, that is to invest, not creating an attractive investment plan, actively pushing away investment because they want a government-first model. Is that actually what's going on here? Because that is a substantial risk that I see. In the banking world they call it moral hazard. It's the too-big-to-fail problem. Why would private investors put their money up when the government is going to do it for them? That's a huge concern of mine, Madam Speaker.

Now, I believe that Alberta needs to do whatever is necessary to see this pipeline put into operation. Unfortunately, the NDP have put us as a province in a position where we may have no choice but to invest in this pipeline. If that's the way it needs to be, then so be it because it is absolutely in the interests of the province of Alberta to see this pipeline built.

Let me be as clear as I can be. The Alberta Party wants the Kinder Morgan pipeline to succeed because it is in the interests of not only the people of Alberta, but it's also in the financial interests of the people of British Columbia and in the interests of the environment and in the interests of our entire country. That is a case that has not been made strongly enough. The Alberta Party wants to see this pipeline succeed, but we also want to see the Alberta NDP stand up to the federal government and especially stand up to their comrades in the British Columbia NDP. They have not done enough to advocate for this pipeline. It must get built, but if it does eventually

get built, it will be done in spite of what the Alberta NDP have done, not because of.

Thank you.

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

4:30

Mr. Malkinson: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. You know, here we are today with an emergency debate on “the need to discuss the failure to ensure the construction of the Trans Mountain expansion project.” Failure to ensure the construction of the Trans Mountain project: well, I disagree with that. We have taken concrete action to ensure that this project will go through. What are some of those actions? Fourteen out of 14 wins when it comes to court challenges. We’ve been willing to invest in the pipeline if needed. We have put down a hard cap when it comes to oil sands emissions, so we’re taking concrete environmental action to get this pipeline built. We’ve banned B.C. wine, and we have been clear that we are willing to do it again should it be needed. Our Premier as well has been clear that if B.C. continues to harass our projects, B.C. will feel economic pain. I would call that action.

When it comes to the environment, Madam Speaker, this new pipeline, the Trans Mountain pipeline, when built, will add 590,000 barrels per day of capacity to get our product to new markets in Asia and beyond. That works out to approximately 826 railcars a day. So to those in B.C. and elsewhere who would see this pipeline fail: how much extra emissions would those 826 railcars a day add to our air, that we all breathe? How would it be if those railcars have to go along the Fraser valley, hung off the side of mountains? How safe is that? That is not to say that I don’t trust the railways and their maintenance; I’m sure they’re very good at it. But the safer way to get our product to market is through this pipeline. Let me say that again. Pipelines are the safest option to get our oil to market.

Now, there are those who sell bottom-shelf books from Toronto: the opposition is secretly hoping that their views will win for political reasons. In fact, the former Wildrose even admitted that it was their worst-case political scenario if our pipelines got built to tidewater. These authors push an economic unicorn version of diversification that’s, frankly, snake oil, Madam Speaker. If I want snake oil, I’ll buy local from the local UCP office. You know, they take offence often when we call them out on this, when we say that killing the carbon tax would in fact hurt our options to get this pipeline built to market.

You know what? We do need diversity, but we cannot diversify a ghost town by shutting down our oil and gas industry overnight. That is not the way to move forward. That would put hundreds and thousands of Albertans out of work. That is not the way forward, and that is most definitely what we are not doing on this side of the House. To those who are concerned about the environment who say, “Hey, you should perhaps diversify the economy,” I say, “Have you not been paying attention?” We have diversified our economy and taken concrete steps to do that, in fact, Madam Speaker.

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

With Bill 1 we had incentives for partial upgrading of our oil industry right here in Alberta, creating good, well-paying jobs for Albertans in Calgary and Edmonton and beyond. In fact, in our Bill 2 we had the Alberta investor tax credit to provide investment for Alberta businesses, whatever new and exciting innovation they may be working on. We had the capital investment tax credit, which, I know, Seven Generations Energy, which is based in Calgary, used for a new processing facility in the Montney-Kakwa River area. And, of course, there’s our new interactive digital media tax credit, which will allow us to be competitive with B.C. I have seen what

that tax credit has done in B.C. to encourage the new media industry, whether it comes to games, programming, or other such diversification and IT investments.

Then, of course, there are our green energy projects. You know, Madam Speaker, of course, we’re really good at building stuff here. I’ve seen, from when I sold diesel generators to oil and gas drilling rigs, the great work that those did. With green energy we have the cheapest renewable energy project price of anywhere in Canada, and that was thanks to the hard work of our Energy minister to do that. We’re going to be having another renewable energy auction in the near future, where I expect we will continue to see the cheapest prices for renewable energy of anywhere else in Canada, and that is because we are taking the right path forward. We are taking a bold path forward to diversify our economy and to diversify our energy sources here in Alberta. When we do that, Alberta wins, and we win with more jobs for Albertans.

You know, Madam Speaker, I deeply believe in our province and the people in it. I deeply believe in our ingenuity and the new and exciting technical advancements that those ingenious Albertans will come up with. Each rig, each service truck, railcar, wind plant, new valve, vessel, whether it be games, programming, and new tech, each of these means businesses and jobs for my constituents in Calgary-Currie, in Calgary, in Alberta, and beyond.

We’ve been clear that we need Ottawa to step up. An approval for a project in Canada must be worth more than the paper it is written on. You know, I often hear the criticism in the House today that we’ve done nothing. Particularly, the Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre says that we’ve taken half measures. Well, I do not agree, Madam Speaker. The opposition likes to cheer against us, saying that investment is leaving this province. Again, I disagree. The constituents in Calgary-Currie see the expansions and the investments in the oil and gas sector right here: a \$2 billion expansion by JACOS; Cenovus and CNRL are increasing production. I could go on.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

But I want to talk about even a local company whose vice-president, George, is based and lives in Calgary-Currie. Gen III Oil company, for those of us who drive the QE II, is retrofitting the Bowden oil refinery to take recycled oil and turn it into new products. It’s only the third plant like that in Canada. While doing it, he is taking advantage of our investor tax credits right here in Alberta.

To conclude, Madam Speaker, we are taking concrete action. We have a perfect record when it comes to court challenges, 14 out of 14 wins. I say to the people of B.C. that we are willing to take a public position, increasing investor confidence in this pipeline, and we ask Prime Minister Trudeau and the federal government to do the same. Lastly, because here in Alberta the residents of Calgary-Currie, the residents of Calgary, and the residents of Alberta will not accept B.C. continuing to harass our economic interests, B.C. can be assured that if they should continue to do that, we will make B.C. feel economic pain.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I’m very honoured to be able to speak to this today. I have so many things I want to say. I’m going to start at one particular point. I want to speak about the national interest. There are so many things we can speak about national interest. We can speak about the dollars, we can speak about the essential nature of what this means for the national

interest in the hundreds of billions of dollars. For the average person you say the word “billion,” and it kind of flies over their heads; it certainly does over mine.

But if you look at it from the point of view of national interest, what does that mean? That means families and jobs and protecting the vulnerable and prosperity and national unity. That’s what pipelines represent for me. I look at it from the perspective of so many different things but also our responsibility for excellent resource development, something that we are proud of.

4:40

I think the most frustrating part of this discussion for me is that, you know, we’ve been at this for three years. I’m very, very happy to see the government MLAs get on board with this because I have all sorts of quotes all over here. I’ve been researching all day things that have been said in the past and all of that, and we can talk about that.

One of the things that resonates most with me, especially because this was just close to when we were first elected, having been a proud Albertan, having been born here: my father is in the oil and gas industry – he’s a chemical engineer – so I grew up with all these guys, wonderful, wonderful salt-of-the-earth people. I remember watching the Premier on TV calling us embarrassing cousins. I remember thinking to myself: who is she talking about? I thought, after that passed: okay; that’s not going to happen again. We know there have been lots of other things. There have been so many attacks on Albertans, direct attacks, direct attacks on one of my constituents, who owned Bears Den, direct attacks on, like, actual Albertans, people who are living in this province, making a living, creating jobs for people. And those are not just the only two times. I mean, it just keeps coming up again and again.

I need to reiterate something. When the climate action plan came out and the carbon tax, the Premier was on her way to the United Nations to talk about climate action plans. They needed to be ready. They needed to have something to present. But I think the worst part of that and the most frustrating thing for me is that never once in any of the discussions or anything that I read ever in those things did the Premier or the environment minister stand up for Alberta and say: “No, no, no. You can’t call us dirty oil. We are responsible resource developers in Canada. We’re the greenest and cleanest, the best by far. In fact, if you actually want to change the environmental footprint in the world, you should only be producing in Canada.” Where was that? I mean, I was newly elected at that point in time, and I understood that.

Where was the language going against the European Union and other countries that are actually oil developers that are actively working against our own industry, helping to keep us landlocked here? Where was our Premier at that time and our Minister of Energy and our minister of environment, saying: “Oh, no. Actually, Canada is the best in the world. You should be following our example.” Instead, I mean, heaven only knows how much prosperity we’ve lost by the delays in the pipelines and the cancellations of others.

But more than that, think about this, Madam Speaker. How much carbon leakage has happened? How much has been produced in other countries that don’t produce as ethically as we do, that don’t care about the environment as much as we do? That is a direct result of this government and their friends in Ottawa. They can take complete responsibility for that.

Where other governments may have faltered, where we have failed in the past is absolutely no reason for this government to be able to stand on their chairs and yell that we’re no good at what we do. You start with the argument of: we are the best, and how do we get better? You start with the argument that nobody else produces

better in the world than we do – ethically produces – and our quality of air and life and prosperity here, and then you go to what we can do better. You start with the fact that we have a population of people here who are tolerant and kind and loving and understanding and care about their environment. You start there, and then you go to what you can do better. These are the things that leadership does.

You do not take the people whom you represent and literally throw them under the bus in order to manifest a climate action plan that is ideologically driven and does not change the environmental footprint here in this province. It is not changing behaviour. It is not changing. Especially in our rural communities our folks still have to drive to work, they still have to drive their combines, they still have to do all of those things that are miles away compared to people who are in the cities. They’re just paying more for it.

I wanted to talk for a moment about one particular issue that’s been brought up, especially yesterday, about the public position. The minister of environment just went on the record saying: we are going to put public dollars into this, and we’re going to support this pipeline. Okay. Well, the interesting thing about that is: okay; because what choice do we have now? I’m curious how we got to that position when they’re privately funded. The pipeline companies were going to put all of that money there – \$8 billion, \$10 billion, whatever it was – with the go-ahead of government, with the acknowledgement of the First Nations, making sure that everybody was working together.

We had private-sector investment until yesterday. Yesterday everything changed, and now the government is saying: we’re going to rally, and we’re going to put public dollars in it. Well, I really don’t know what choice we have at this point to save this pipeline, and now guess who’s on the hook for that. The taxpayer.

Congratulations, folks. Congratulations. You just took something that was private sector, Madam Speaker, fully funded by the industry, and now you’ve put it on the backs of the taxpayer. And the taxpayer – do you know what? – they’re going to look at this, and they’re going to say: “We don’t have a choice. What else can we do?” It’s been fumbled so badly by the NDP and by the federal governments that now the only people that can save us are our taxpayers, who are already suffering, I might add.

I mean, if the pipeline can actually get built, that would be amazing, because at least these folks will see this return on their investment. But in the meantime there is a whole load of hurt that is already happening to our citizens, and now we expect them to ante up with dollars for pipelines that would have been funded outside of the public sector until yesterday. I would really love somebody to explain to me how that is a win on our side.

I’m going to be going back to my constituents and writing articles going: “Well, congratulations. You’re going to have a stake in the pipeline because you’ve got to buy it back now. In order to be able to get the prosperity that you deserve and that you own and that people have been fighting for for you, you have to now buy it back. Not only by social licence – no, no, no – and the carbon tax is not enough. Nope. Now you also have to put your tax dollars into it because the government messed up.”

How is that a success, Madam Speaker? I don’t get it, yet at the same time I’m completely handcuffed by the situation because personally I don’t know what else we can do. If we don’t invest at this point in time, they’re going to pull out. Do you blame them? As the leader has said, this is a death by a thousand delays.

Another thing I wanted to bring up is that we had Ms Berman and Ms Mahon on the oil sands advisory group. I was reading back into my notes, and I thought this was entirely compelling. I remember the Premier saying that Ms Mahon and Ms Berman were only brought onto the OSAG panel to just talk about the oil sands. But did you know, Madam Speaker, that they were fund raising against

pipelines while they were here? Not only that, they were fighting against site C, which, as I understand, may be a big factor in all of this because the government has been making deals for hydro. On top of that, while they were doing that, they were actively saying outside of this House that there was no reason for them to support . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Member for Stony Plain, followed by Calgary-Mountain View.

Ms Babcock: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I come from a pipeline family. Growing up, I watched my dad work all across Canada making sure all Canadians could benefit from our Albertan products. We followed the TransCanada pipeline to Ontario. We learned about shutdowns at Sheerness, Genesee, and Fort McMurray. We watched pipelines being built, wrapped, and put in the ground as far north as Fort St. John in B.C.

Madam Speaker, I also remember the recession of the '80s and again in the '90s. The boom and the bust of the oil economy affected every Albertan, none more so than the families dependent on the industry: long wait times when I broke my arm, class sizes that just got bigger, and the incredible stress on families. This, of course, was not made any easier on these families by the devastating cuts to health care and education during the Klein years, when we as a province accumulated an 88,000 nurse deficit, which our health care system is still trying to recover from today.

My father lost his job in 2014 like many others in the oil patch because the previous government refused to put any serious thought into diversifying our economy, and despite having both federal and provincial Conservative governments for years, the pipelines the opposition is touting, not a single one gets our product to diversified markets.

4:50

Albertans will continue to stand united behind our oil and gas industry in the need to see a new pipeline that gets our Alberta products to the coast, which is long overdue, and the people I talked to in Stony Plain are tired of getting a discount price for our resources.

Madam Speaker, on November 3, 2017, I was invited to help officially open Wabamun Common in the village of Wabamun. Patrick Hanrahan from Kinder Morgan, Jack Latham, representing the Wabamun and district seniors' society, and I all joined Mayor Charlene Smylie for the ceremonial ribbon cutting. Mr. Hanrahan presented Mayor Smylie with a cheque for \$125,000 as part of the Trans Mountain pipeline legacy project, the Wabamun seniors also presented a cheque as part of their \$28,000 commitment to the project, and the remaining costs of about \$167,000 were being funded by a grant through the MSI funding.

Wabamun Common Project is a very exciting project for our community. It will tie our downtown core together and will improve the look and feel of the heart of Wabamun. It will be a welcome addition to our fabulous visitor amenities and it meets many of the goals put forward in the Municipal Development Plan (2010).

said Charlene Smylie, the mayor of the village of Wabamun.

Along with the removal of a number of overhead power lines and addition of trees and greenery, the Common will improve public parking and pedestrian access into our busy Senior Centre. The most exciting part is the addition of the public square which can host street musicians, artists and local events such as our Christmas Light Up. We greatly appreciate the funding support of Trans Mountain, the Wabamun Seniors Society, and the Province of Alberta.

Trans Mountain is supporting communities in my riding. They have contracted for a laydown yard in Enoch Cree Nation as well. This will help Enoch build a new light and medium industrial area, which will attract other industries to their space. The new jobs on the line support the local economy in many of my communities. Workers need hotels to sleep in and food to eat while they're away from their families. The Trans Mountain expansion project was proposed in response to requests from oil companies to help them reach new markets by expanding the capacity of North America's only pipeline with access to the west coast.

On this side of the House we will continue to fight for our pipelines, hard-working Albertans, and communities being supported, like those in Stony Plain. We know that the safest way to transport our product is through pipelines, the best way to access new markets is through pipelines, and the best way for our grain producers to be supported is for us to move our oil through pipelines, because, Madam Speaker, our grain producers need to move their products on the rail lines, and right now the capacity is being used for transportation of oil. So to support our farmers, one of our other top industries here in Alberta, we need to support our oil moving through Trans Mountain, and we're calling on the federal government to follow our lead.

The legislation that we will be introducing in the coming days will allow us to restrict product being shipped. We stand on our record with respect to the 14 out of 14 court cases we have won in regard to Trans Mountain, we will take a public position on the pipeline if necessary, we will invest in Trans Mountain to give our industry and investors confidence that this project will be built, but it's time the federal government steps up and defends Alberta and the working people here in western Canada in the way they have for other industries, like the Ontario auto industry and the aerospace sector in Quebec. The federal approval must be worth more than the paper it's written on. These shippers have made significant 15- and 20-year commitments that add up to roughly 80 per cent of the capacity of the expanded Trans Mountain pipeline.

Madam Speaker, our plan is working. There is so much good news in the energy industry. We're diversifying our energy economy, and we're creating good jobs. For example, Crescent Point Energy just announced that it's buying a huge stake in Alberta's east Duvernay, 142,000 hectares of drilling rights. They chose to invest here in Alberta because the climate we have enabled as a government gives them confidence in their investment.

ConocoPhillips is selling land in Texas and buying up thousands of acres of land in the Montney shale play here in northern Alberta. Suncor recently filed an application for a massive new oil sands project, that could create hundreds of good jobs and billions of dollars of new investment here in Alberta. Chevron is increasing spending in the oil patch, investing up to a billion dollars on the Duvernay shale basin. Cenovus and CNRL increased production last year. CNRL is now considering adding a 40,000-barrel-a-day expansion at Horizon. Last fall we celebrated a \$2 billion oil sands expansion project by JACOS, which means good jobs for Albertans. Things are looking up. Earnings are up, investment is up, and drilling is up here in Alberta.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to read from an article. I'll table this tomorrow. It's called We're in Crisis Mode Now: Energy Sector Fears Investor Exodus as Trans Mountain Pipeline Stalls.

Major Canadian oil companies fear an investor exodus as Kinder Morgan Inc. signals there are less risky pipeline projects it can invest in than the troubled \$7.4-billion Trans Mountain project through British Columbia.

Kinder Morgan Inc. announced late Sunday that it would suspend all non-essential work on the pipeline until the federal government intervenes in the spat that has pit B.C. against

Alberta and Saskatchewan. The company said it needs certainty the project will not face endless delays from B.C. in order to proceed and gave an end-of-May deadline.

The announcement immediately sent shockwaves through the domestic oilpatch.

"If we don't understand that we're in crisis mode now, we've got to get there pretty quickly," Canadian Energy Pipeline Association president and CEO Chris Bloomer said Monday of the pipeline fight.

Bloomer also repeated warnings from the Royal Bank of Canada last week that capital is fleeing Canada "in real time," and said reputational damage from this pipeline fight will only exacerbate the situation.

"The bottom line on the energy sector is that it relies on capital. These are huge projects that rely on being able to source, at a reasonable cost, capital. These companies need to have shareholders, they need to have lenders," Bloomer said.

Kinder Morgan Canada Ltd.'s shares fell 13 per cent on the Toronto Stock Exchange Monday to the news its parent company was pausing spending on the project and threatening to redeploy capital elsewhere. The S&P TSX Capped Energy Index fell 0.3 per cent on the day, taking its year-to-date decline to 5.4 per cent.

"We expect to continue investing but it has become clear that this particular investment may become untenable for a private party to undertake," Kinder Morgan Inc. president and CEO Steve Kean said on a conference call.

Kean said \$1.1 billion had been spent on the \$7.4 billion project to expand the delivery of crude oil from Alberta to the B.C. coast so far. The company had previously said it was spending \$30 million per month, but will now scale that spending back.

"We're going into a very high spend. We don't want to kick the can down the road until we have another \$2 billion in the project," Kean said.

Energy companies and industry groups warned the delays are hurting local companies.

"The project is critical to Canada and the future of its oil and gas industry, which contributes billions of dollars to the national economy each year and is one of the country's single largest job creators," Cenovus Energy Inc. president and CEO Alex Pourbaix said in a release.

"If the rule of law is not upheld and this project is allowed to fail, it will have a chilling effect on investment not just in British Columbia, but across the entire country," he said.

Oilsands producers like Cenovus signed up to ship oil through the expanded Trans Mountain pipeline and have struggled to attract investors because Canadian crude barrels trade at a discount to U.S. oil and because Canada's existing export pipelines are full.

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers forecasts Canadian oil production will grow from just under 4 million barrels per day to 5.1 million bpd by 2030, outstripping available pipeline capacity.

"We are already seeing . . ."

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, before we proceed with debate, I've had a number of requests to seek unanimous consent on a matter. I don't believe we have a precedent in this House for this matter. However, we still have another hour of debate and everybody feels a need to be energized. The situation is that we did not call Orders of the Day before proceeding into the emergency debate; therefore, we technically cannot bring coffee or soft drinks into the House unless by unanimous consent we choose to waive that process. [interjection] I can see that everybody really needs some coffee.

Mr. Mason: This is a matter of urgent and pressing concern.

The Deputy Speaker: Given that it's a matter of urgent and pressing concern, I will seek unanimous consent to waive that process. I will ask one question: is anyone opposed? All right.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Deputy Speaker: You may enjoy your coffee and soft drinks.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

5:00

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Go ahead. Get your coffee, if you need it. You'll need it after you hear me. Popcorn, too.

The Liberal caucus has supported the need for this secondary pipeline to the west coast to enable Asian markets for our oil, but given the dimensions of this issue I feel compelled as maybe one of the senior people here to inject a note of caution in this debate, especially with the government's eager entry into financial partnership. When I hear words from the Premier, quote, that we will do whatever it takes to build this pipeline, end quote, I get worried. Pipelines are clearly the safest way to transmit fossil fuels. There will continue to be a need for fossil fuels for decades to come. The climate initiatives that this government has taken are indeed progress and allow some degree of acceptance across the planet as well as in Alberta for the continued development of the oil sands, but an important balance is needed to respect current and future generations with respect to jobs and the economy.

I also feel very strongly on the need for the federal government to step up and do its part here and not allow this to unravel into a serious division across this country that begins to fester on a number of different fronts quite apart from the oil and gas sector.

The minister and the Premier today have stated that this government will do whatever it takes to build this pipeline. End quote. This troubles me in a province where there is global uncertainty about the full costs of extracting bitumen. We already have close to \$60 billion of debt, where projected royalties are less than \$2 billion in the next year from bitumen, where there is indeed in this province a continuing growth of greenhouse gases despite a commitment to reduce greenhouse gases by 2 per cent each year. There are the increasing liabilities in the oil sands for cleanup costs, which this government says that it's negotiating with the companies to get a security deposit to ensure that Albertans will not be on the hook for the cleanup costs. So I'm calling for some caution in this enthusiastic proposal to jump on the pipeline bandwagon with what appears to be a blank cheque.

Anyone listening to the enthusiastic support on the other side would perhaps be forgiven for bringing up visions of the Gainers fiasco in the '80s, NovAtel, magnesium Canada in High River, the Lloydminster upgrader, tremendous costs to the public with no returns on the investment, all of which appeared to be good investments at the time, touting all the benefits, as this government continues to do, including, of course, the unspoken political benefits of getting this pipeline. The absolute dependency of this government on getting this pipeline through at the risk of losing the next election raises some questions about the ingenuity here. I must caution this government to become a little less zealous about using whatever public money is needed. Albertans must be consulted before taking on yet more debt.

Albertans deserve a full cost accounting of what we are currently doing in the oil sands. That was the nature of my amendment in the last debate, that we had a week or so ago. Pipelines, yes, but not at any cost. Surely, we have to think about long-term implications for not only the industry but our children and future generations.

Madam Speaker, I needed to raise those questions. I expect that if this government is going to make deals with pipeline companies,

they will be completely transparent with us in the Legislature and with Albertans in general, that we will understand the full risks, the nature of the relationship, the full costs, and that they will listen to Albertans about what risks they're prepared to take, considering all the uncertainties around this very important decision and the important national interests at stake here. Albertans deserve to be right at the table before any ratification of investments in pipelines, especially in relation to bitumen.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Children's Services.

Ms Larivee: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm really thankful for the opportunity to stand and speak on behalf of this caucus and why the Trans Mountain pipeline means so much. You know, I think that the members across the floor often like to imply that the members on this side of the House don't understand the industry, aren't a part of it, aren't impacted by it, and really aren't actually genuinely supportive of the Trans Mountain pipeline, so I wanted a chance to stand and make it clear that that is absolutely not so. Obviously, other members of this caucus have spoken passionately about their own connection to the industry, but I wanted to have the opportunity to do the same.

You know, first of all, just to talk in general about something that I think most of us all know but is worth reiterating, is how important the Trans Mountain pipeline is to this entire country. Madam Speaker, most people in B.C. understand that. It's really unfortunate that the leadership in B.C., Premier Horgan and his team, are making this choice given the fact that the people of B.C. understand how important this is to workers, how important it is for jobs for Canadians, how important it is for the Canadian economy.

But, Madam Speaker, this isn't just about all of Canada or even all of Alberta, to me. This means so much to the riding of Lesser Slave Lake. I mean, coming from the community that I do, the well-being of the communities that I serve is very deeply rooted in the well-being of the oil and gas industry. You know, the importance of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion to the people that I represent can't be overstated. In fact, for years my own well-being and the well-being of my family financially was dependent upon the work of the service truck that was sitting in the driveway. I certainly have long had deep connections to that, as do many of my friends and my family and the people that I serve within the community.

Obviously, the number of jobs that the oil and gas industry brings to this province is tremendous. The number of dollars that it brings to our economy is tremendous. Getting this pipeline built is essential to ensuring the health and well-being of that industry. The billions of dollars that it will bring into the economy right across this country: those dollars will end up in the pockets of people like the people that I serve. It will make sure that they have jobs and make sure that they can continue to take care of their families. So, Madam Speaker, I'm tremendously passionate and invested in making sure that this pipeline expansion is successful because, truthfully, the oil and gas industry is the heart of the economy across this country.

Madam Speaker, it's not just for the jobs and the economy but also because it is the safest way to move oil, and I'm not the only one who has spoken about that in the House today. You know, I have a railway running not very far from my house, and I certainly would much prefer that grain run in those cars, grain that needs to leave farmers' fields and get to market, instead of oil having to be in those cars, not only because it's the best thing for the economy but also because I live in fear of what transporting oil in rail cars means and the safety issues that that poses to people in our

communities here across this province and within the province of B.C. Those are the messages that we've been sharing with the country, with the people in B.C. since having been elected and as we've talked about the importance of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion.

I'm so proud of the leadership that Premier Notley has shown in this, and our own Minister of Energy as well, in terms of speaking up on behalf of the industry. Certainly, I think we all in this House know that Canadians in general have never understood how important the industry is to this entire country. I think there has been an opportunity to speak to that for a very, very long time. We've been busy doing it for the last three years, but there is a history far longer than three years as to why Canadians have not understood the importance of the oil industry to this country. Again, I've been very proud to watch as our Premier has spoken on behalf of the industry across this continent.

5:10

What I've not been proud to see is watching over and over again the opposition gleefully cheering for the demise of this pipeline expansion because it mattered enough to them politically that they were just hoping to see this side fail. Madam Speaker, instead, we will continue – continue – to invest in Albertans and continue to invest in doing everything we need to do to move this forward one victory at a time, moving steadily forward. You know, any kind of war is won one battle at a time, so we keep on, as opportunities come forward, continuing to fight for the pipeline on behalf of Albertans. We will continue to win. Albertans are counting on us to make sure that happens, and we will not let them down.

As has been made very clear, we will not hesitate to use every tool we have at our disposal to do so, obviously, including ensuring that we move forward with serious economic consequences for B.C. You know, Madam Speaker, as I said, the average person in B.C. wants this pipeline to happen as much as we do, but we need to make sure that the leadership of B.C. understands the full implications of the decisions that they are making right now and the choices that they are making.

We will do whatever it takes, including investing in the pipeline. Madam Speaker, the opposition would like to think that investing in that pipeline would be a bad thing, but I certainly see that if we had that opportunity, that would be an investment in Albertans, an investment in jobs, an investment in the economic future of this province and making sure that there was an investor in that who was deeply committed to the success going forward.

Madam Speaker, I've spoken about this government and the choices that we are making and will continue to make as we go forward. I think we are all very clear – but I will say it again – that it is time for the federal government to step up to the plate on this one. The working people of Alberta need them to defend Alberta, to defend the energy industry, to finally recognize and acknowledge and step up and tell all Canadians, the people of B.C. and right across this country, how essential the energy industry is to this whole country and how important the Trans Mountain expansion is to ensuring the viability of that industry.

You know, as our Premier said, the federal approval of this project must be worth more than the paper it's written on, Madam Speaker, so we are all calling on the federal government to prove just that, that it was not just a check mark on a piece of paper, that it was an approval of our federal government to support a project that is essential to the well-being of this country. It is time for the federal government to stand up for this country and for the economy of this country. This is not just about Alberta; it's about ensuring the well-being of all of us.

Regardless of the federal government and the steps that they take, we will continue to do whatever it takes. I think it has been stated very clearly, but I will say it again. This pipeline will be built.

The Deputy Speaker: I will recognize the hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

Mr. Fildebrandt: Thank you, Madam Speaker, although I do look forward to hearing the Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner very soon.

I want to thank all members on all sides of the House for their comments so far. I think that a lot of this debate has been mostly productive, but it's so easy to fall into the usual partisanship in this place. We have very different opinions. You know, I think the government is generally wrong about even the time of day, and they would tend to think the same about what I have to say, but there are a few things we have in common, and we should do our very best to focus on them. Not that I will entirely, but I will do my best.

Last week I had a sort of meet-and-greet for constituents in Strathmore at the Roadhouse, and I had some constituents I actually hadn't met before come up to me. The husband of this very young family works in the oil patch. He's the kind of guy that you could just tell is proud to be a part of the patch, and he kind of represents that ticket to a life that a lot of us here don't truly appreciate. The oil patch isn't just suits in downtown Calgary. It's young men and women, sometimes, who didn't come from a fortunate background, and this was their ticket up. All too often you see it blown on three snowmobiles and a Ford F-350, but it's their ticket forward. It's their ticket up the economic and social ladders. You could tell that he was just proud. He just has got no time for those who think that it's somehow wrong to be in the oil patch.

His wife – they've got a very young child, about four or five years old at most – stays at home, and she has a small business that she runs called Low Class Oil Trash. They make a lot of really interesting swag for people to wear from the oil patch and oil patch families. They made me a nice custom sweater. It was a really nice gift.

That's on the Strathmore side. In Brooks we've got OPHOP, Oil People Helping Oil People, a grassroots group of really good people who've tried to come together and find support for people, oil patch families, during the downturn. They're not as busy right now as they were before, which is great news, but they are oil country proud.

A lot of people look down on it. You know, some people, left-coast types, look down on it as evil. Some people even in Alberta might look down on it as beneath them. But this is the ticket up the economic and social ladders for so many people.

Now, people change their minds on issues, and I mean this genuinely. People on both sides of this House have changed their minds on issues since we were elected. I have changed my mind on some issues, I know that many members in the UCP have changed their minds on some issues, and I know that members of the government have changed their minds on some issues. That's a good thing. It demonstrates maturity. It demonstrates evolution. We stick to our principles. I still think you guys are nuts, but you've stuck generally to your principles on the values of the NDP.

But some of the NDP's positions on the oil sands and pipelines have changed, and that's a good thing. I actually commend you for that. I'm not going to rib you about it, and if some of you are looking at me – and I actually applaud you. This is a good thing. Now, I've changed my mind. Social issues have moved into the top hundred issues for me now. We evolve, and this is a good sign. Of course, we're going to rib each other if you've changed your mind. It's a fine line between a flip-flop and an honest change of perspective,

but I'm going to give members of the government side of the House here the benefit of the doubt and say that it was an honest change in perspective.

Now, the anti oil sands activists, though, people who have changed their minds, though, have wielded a double-edged sword. For a long time many people who were the against the sands and development and pipelines in Alberta said that Alberta had a bad environmental record, and they handed our opponents a tool. They handed them a sword to hurt us with. Even though opinions have changed, we're now getting the other side of the blade. It's a double-edged sword, and it's hurting us now, but we are all ostensibly on the same side.

I have to say that the minister who spoke just before me – I have to take issue with some things. You know, she said that the opposition wants the government to fail. I have to say that I believe, for the most part, in people's good intentions here. I don't believe that the NDP imposed the carbon tax as some evil socialist tax plan although there's a part of me that might think so. But, for the most part, I believe that it was a genuine effort on their part to win social licence from pipeline opponents. I believe it's failed. I believe it was always going to fail, but from their perspective I think it was a genuine attempt to win those folks over.

Just as I'm willing to accept your best of intentions on what was meant by that carbon tax to earn social licence, I'd ask that you would also accept that probably every member of the opposition, in all parties and independents, wants these pipelines to get built. We do not want the government to fail even if we think that your plan is not well thought out. We should accept the good intentions, and we should accept the best of intentions stated by people here. I think we would go some way in serving all of our constituents better if we did.

5:20

Now back to the part where I actually have to really criticize you, but I'll try to do it in the best, most constructive way possible. The carbon tax and the vast so-called climate leadership plan, with a host of regulations and new laws, were intended to win social licence. The Premier believed that only Nixon could go to China, and she was Nixon. Because she came largely from that movement – she had worked as a senior staffer for the B.C. NDP; she knew these people well; they were friends and colleagues, fellow-travellers in the NDP nationally – she believed that she could be Nixon going to China and win them over if she did these things. I genuinely believe that she thought she could. Maybe she still can. I really think the chances of that are becoming slim to none. She, I think, is in genuine shock and disappointment right now – and I feel for her – that her efforts to win social licence from fellow-travellers, at least from the past, have not worked.

What have the carbon tax and the whole array of new regulations and laws against our oil industry done? Global temperatures have changed by zero as a result. Radicals converted from antipipeline to pro pipeline: zero. Pipelines built to date: zero. Respect earned from opponents in other parts of the country: zero.

When Alberta entered Confederation, we didn't do so as the four original provinces. We were not one of the established colonies in British North America. We did not come as Upper or Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick. We did not have a chance to negotiate for the best possible deal. We came first from Rupert's Land into the North-Western Territory, and then we were constituted as a province. There was no negotiation with the federal government. We were simply granted status. We moved from an official colony to, effectively, a colony with a few Members of Parliament.

But in many ways I believe we are still treated as a colony. For one, we don't have the numbers to be the most electorally important

part of the country, but we are still the fourth-largest province and growing. We have 4 million people in this province but a Constitution which was designed to advantage the provinces that negotiated their way in: the four original provinces, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and British Columbia. It advantages those provinces that negotiated their way into Confederation. With 4 million people, we have just six Senators. Atlantic Canada, with half our population, has 30. Now, that is an institutional problem with Alberta's place in Confederation. Any federation in the world, any real federation . . . [Mr. Fildebrandt's speaking time expired]

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: I'll recognize Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, followed by Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Mr. Piquette: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's my privilege to rise in the House today to give the viewpoint of Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater on this very, very important debate. In fact, I think this is debate that you're going to be finding in Canadian federalism textbooks for many, many years hence. [interjection] That's correct. So I'm speaking mindful of that, that one day someone might be writing their dissertation based on part of what we're saying today. We're speaking for the record.

But, of course, we're also speaking for something that's of critical importance to, I think, all of our constituents. This is something that definitely I've heard loud and clear from the residents of the riding that I have the privilege to represent. What's kind of unique about this is the level of consensus that I'm seeing, you know, from different people: from farmers, from ironworkers, from shopkeepers, and definitely from drivers, and the list goes on. How many times I've had people come up to me and let me know just how much they appreciate our Premier standing up for Alberta and give their best wishes to make sure that this happens: I mean, I could not but support this with such a level of concern and need for it.

Why do people see this as so important for Alberta? Well, I mean, I think that we're all aware that this has been a long-standing issue for our province, how to be able to develop and deal with the discount that we're forced to take on bitumen. It's ebbed and flowed, depending on global markets, but it's a problem that really hasn't resolved itself yet, and it's a problem that's only going to be getting worse with more and more American tight oil coming on stream. You know, the old model of shipping our bitumen south is just not going to work for us anymore unless we're willing to take this sort of deep discount.

What does that deep discount mean? Well, of course, it moves the profitability factor of new fields, which means we're going to be slowing down a lot of investment. There'll be a lot of stranded resources up there. Of course, what does it mean for us as a province in terms of, you know, money to support our health care, money to support our schools, money to keep our roads intact? And on it goes. I guess I don't want to belabour that point. I think we're all in agreement with that.

What do we have to do here? Well, somehow or other we need to get the B.C. government to wake up. They need to wake up, you know, to understand that actions have consequences and that one of those consequences is that if you're going to work to saw off the branch of the tree that you yourself happen to be sitting on, those consequences might end up being fairly drastic.

I think that sometimes some of the politicians in B.C. are suffering from a point of view kind of similar to what George Orwell talks about in *The Road to Wigan Pier*, which is a story that he wrote back in the interwar years, how a lot of British politicians at that point were very much hesitant to get involved in Europe.

There was a very, very strong pacifist movement. George Orwell made this quip. He called it one-eyed pacifism. One-eyed pacifism is a type of pacifism that a country can have when they have a really strong navy and they think that they're not going to be facing any negative consequences because of their action.

I think that there are too many in B.C. that have sort of a one-eyed environmentalism in the sense that they haven't really thought through the consequences their actions have. They haven't really looked closely at this pipeline. They believed the first story that they got about it – unfortunately, some of these stories went out quite a long time ago; as one of the other members alluded to, this isn't a new issue – and that was the story that it's dirty oil, that Alberta is an irresponsible producer, that we can't be trusted, and that as a consequence, you know, if they allow this expansion to go through, we're going to be poisoning their coastlines and probably laughing at it, too, right? I mean, that's just sort of the idea sort of in the background.

Of course, that's fundamentally untrue. It's never been true and even less so considering the robust climate action plan we put in place and all the other great work we've done to make Alberta even more of a global leader in safe oil. Sometimes people need to get a little reminder just to sort of help focus their thinking.

5:30

I think that it is time, you know, assuming that the federal government – and I'll talk about that a bit later – doesn't step in and step in in a big way, that we kind of give these people an idea that: yeah, actually, you are still pretty heavily implicated in the resource economy, and you are just as dependent on this resource as the rest of us. I think that if we take some actions that way, where they can see what the actual economic costs of decisions are, they might look at those decisions a little more carefully. I think that when they do so, they will see that, as many of the members have brought up already this afternoon, this is a very responsible project. In fact, there would be fewer risks involved for pollution than with the status quo. I mean, railcars as a way to transport bitumen are definitely not the preferred way to do it.

I've been recently reminded about that myself in that just this past fall we had a derailment in Sturgeon county of some of these tanker cars. You know, our rail lines go pretty close to neighbourhoods. I mean, there's a risk that's involved with that. It's a type of risk that we wouldn't be facing had we had more pipeline capacity, so that is definitely something that needs to be taken into account. I think that anything we can do to help people out there revisit their preconceptions and their misconceptions is all to the good.

Now, do I think that this is the preferred way to go about things? Of course not, and I think it was totally legitimate that, you know, we worked so hard to dispel a lot of those misconceptions previously. Hard we did work, and I think we did win a lot of goodwill in B.C. I think that in big parts of the community we have changed the conversation. There are responsible people across the country that have rethought our industry and are working in our favour.

I just want to go back for a moment to some of the comments that the Member for Calgary-Elbow made, where he criticized us for basically sitting on our hands and doing nothing in order to advance this project. I was a bit nonplussed by his statements because, of course, it's been very clear, you know, from the approval that if we hadn't actually put in a robust climate change plan, we wouldn't have the approval in the first place. We wouldn't even be having this discussion right now because the project would have long been dead in the water. So it's the actions we've taken to date that have brought us to where we are today, which is where we still have, I think, an excellent chance of getting this through. I'd say better than

that because I think we're going to make sure that this happens. This wouldn't have happened without a lot of the work that we've done. I think that should be important to put on the record.

Just speaking to the relevance of the federal government, I think that for the federal government it's about more than a pipeline. It's about more than the share of the resource revenue that they're going to be getting by this going through. I think it speaks to their fundamental relevance as a national government. I mean, the point of federalism is that we do have a central power that is able to actually resolve these types of situations for us. Otherwise, I mean, Confederation becomes pretty problematic, especially for provinces like Alberta, where we're landlocked and we desperately need to have access to coasts in order to succeed.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Mr. Hunter: Madam Speaker, thank you for recognizing me and allowing me an opportunity to be able to stand in support of this motion by our hon. leader. The question that I have is: how did we get here? How did we get to this point where it's a five-alarm fire and now the government is scrambling? This is truly what's happening.

You know, as I looked at the last election, the Premier sells hope and change like nobody I've ever seen. You've got to take your hat off to her for winning that election. The problem is being able to actually deliver on that hope and change. The value of this whole concept of hope and change is: can you deliver? Can you actually deliver the goods and win the next election? Unfortunately, what we've seen, Madam Speaker, is anything but that. We've seen polling numbers completely dive for the NDP, and it's an indication that they are not delivering on the promises that they made to Albertans.

Now, in regard to this issue of Kinder Morgan I've been listening to a lot of talk, and I've heard from the government side the statement, "We will do whatever it takes to get this pipeline built" so many times that I've committed it to memory. I'm sure that the minister would agree that a laser-focused message from her and her members is critical, yet Albertans, pipeline companies, and investors see anything but a crystal clear message. The message, at best, is ambivalent.

I'm going to just give them a little hint – and I've given this hint before – that if they want to create a crystal clear message to investors, to Albertans, to people in B.C., to even the Prime Minister of Canada, they need to change their constitution. I'm once again going to submit this as a very important point for the NDP to be able to help everybody believe, because really what's at stake here is their credibility. Are they for a pipeline? Are they not for a pipeline? Are they for oil and gas? Aren't they for oil and gas?

Look, I've brought this up at least three times, so I haven't actually given them fair warning about this issue. Let me just read this to you again. This is found, again, in the Alberta NDP's constitution, appendix C. "Meeting human material needs must not use more of Earth's resources than can be renewed within each generation." The problem with that statement, Madam Speaker, is that it sends a message to anybody in the oil and gas sector that we are not open for business in Alberta, that we will not condone any kind of action that will burn fossil fuels. That's exactly what that says.

Now, if they were truly, as I'm going to quote once again the minister and many of the other people on that side have said: we will do whatever it takes to get this pipeline built – all they have to do, one very simple thing, is just to change that part of their constitution to clear up some of the misconceptions that, obviously,

that message is sending. But perhaps that's the reason why former people that they have appointed to government boards are now chaining themselves to pipeline projects in B.C. or being arrested in B.C.

This is, again, another very difficult thing for the NDP. This is the problem they're facing. They've tied the success of the climate action plan, its ability to buy social licence, to the success of building the Kinder Morgan pipeline. Now, because they've done that, over the past few weeks, as the reality of the situation has started to sink in, you can almost see a desperation on their faces because they have completely tied their success, of being able to sell to Albertans, because we're in an election year, Madam Speaker, that they are going to be able to provide jobs, get this economy roaring again, to the success of the Kinder Morgan pipeline being built. If it doesn't get built now, their whole credibility goes out the door, and now we're starting to see a complete panic on the other side that it's not going to happen.

Then we keep on hearing: we will get it built. Look, you can say those words – and I absolutely do hold that it could be built – but the words are not going to get it built. What's going to get it built is credibility by this government. That's what's going to get it built. But they've lost their credibility, and now they're trying to make up for that loss of credibility. We have investment – according to the Conference Board of Canada \$36 billion fled in the first two years of this government being in. Why did they do that? Why did they leave? They left because they don't trust that the NDP aren't going to change the rules. Unfortunately, the federal Liberal government is following suit, and this is why Energy East was cancelled.

5:40

When businesses come in to take a look at whether they want to invest in a jurisdiction, they go in and they say: these are the playing rules; as we play the game, we hope that the umpire is going to keep the rules the same. Unfortunately, the umpire has changed the rules, and we lost Energy East. We're in the same situation now. Because the NDP did not campaign on a carbon tax and because of the uncertainty that that has cast into the market, the markets have said: we're not investing here. This isn't the first time that this has happened in a province. We've seen the same thing happen in B.C. We've seen the same thing happen in Ontario. We've seen the same thing happen in every province that has given a chance to the NDP, Manitoba as well.

Now, it's good to see the NDP government finally starting to get animated about this, but it's an indictment against them because a true leader wouldn't have waited until it's a five-alarm fire before taking action. Once it's a five-alarm fire, the risk of burning down the house is very, very high, Madam Speaker. A true leader would have acted on the issue when it was a one-alarm fire, and they would have acted decisively. Unfortunately, rather than acting decisively, this government continued to belittle our leader about the ideas which they are now embracing, belittled the leader when it was actually time to get it done. Because of that, this thing has completely blown out of proportion to a five-alarm fire, and we're now in a situation where we're now talking about trade wars. We're now talking about corporate handouts.

This pipeline was going to be fully funded by the private sector. That's a great situation to be in. It's a complete hundred per cent benefit to Albertans and to the government, yet they've messed that up. Again, this is an issue of credibility, and because the credibility issue is in front of the electorate in the next election, the NDP is starting to panic.

The other point that needs to be pointed out: you know, I don't think the NDP actually recognizes the gravity of the situation. On the one hand, the NDP is going into an election, and they need to

get this built; on the other hand, the federal Liberals are also going into an election next year, and they don't feel like this is a vote-rich environment for them. I think that Justin Trudeau is sitting around 11 per cent in this province whereas they have a vote-rich opportunity in B.C. No wonder Justin Trudeau is sitting on his hands and not doing anything. This is a political issue for him.

But my recommendation to the government is that you need to take that off of the table. You need to make sure that the federal government realizes that the pain of losing this pipeline, the pain of actually hurting Alberta's economy, is going to be way worse than the pain of losing some of the fringe voters in B.C. This is the messaging that the NDP government needs to start saying and speaking ad nauseam so that the federal Liberals recognize that this is going to be a big problem for them. This isn't just a problem for B.C.; this is a problem for the federal Liberals as well.

Madam Speaker, I hope that this government is serious, that they have had a change of heart, and that they're willing to actually make solid, concrete action to get this done.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Shaw, followed by Calgary-Hays.

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know what? I'm this bizarre person. I'm going to tell you why I'm this bizarre person. I'm this bizarre person because I'm one of the few people in this House who can say that he was born and raised Calgarian. I'm one of the few people, maybe one of the only people, who can say: I'm a second-generation Calgarian [interjections] Fourth, I guess. Anyways, I digress.

The thing that's unique about this is that not a lot of people have seen the evolution that has come of Calgary over that time. When my father was born, there were a little over 100,000 people living in that city. When I was born, there were a little over 600,000. We are now at 1.3 million and counting, and that success is driven by the success of our resource development and our petroleum producers.

Now, with that being said, I want to provide some clarity for the Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner. I can tell you, you know, that my first campaign was in 1986. My mom was pregnant, with me in her womb, and I can tell you one thing, that she was a strong supporter of resource development, as are all the members of the NDP caucus here in this House. I can tell you another thing, that historically our party has been a strong supporter of resource development. My great-grandmother, who served on the Swift Current EDA within the Saskatchewan CCF, was a strong supporter of pipelines and resource development, as was my great-uncle, who served as an MLA with that party and was a strong supporter of sustainable resource development and pipelines in that province. I reiterate this point, that it is in our nature to do so, and to be frank, I would not sit here as a member of the Alberta NDP in this House if they did not support pipeline development.

Now, going back to 2015, I heard many things at the doorsteps. While I won't dig deep into them, whether they were schools, the cancer centre, the ring road, et cetera, one of the key things that I heard at the doorstep from many of my constituents was about supporting resource development, about supporting pipeline development because it is the bread and butter on which we live in Calgary. I heard many key points, but one of the things that I heard was the need to get Trans Mountain built, the means to get that pipeline done and get the deal started. And one of the key things I heard from a person who lived in Midnapore. This resident in Midnapore was very involved with an oil and gas company, and he said: the federal government has messed up the Northern Gateway

so much that I know that project is not going to move forward; that is why we need to build Trans Mountain.

Now, we have that focus. We have that focus to get that approval. To be frank, while I do hear some heckling coming from the opposition bench, and I will digress, the fact of the matter is – and there are a couple of things that I will speak of here. Obviously, it's the focus of my constituents, but the other thing is talking about the national interest. We see tremendous generosity that comes from our petroleum producers and our oil and gas companies, our engineering companies. I have the fortune of having the Fluor office in my constituency, and their success is one of those in which we see them give back to the community in tremendous ways. It was remarkable to see them at the Hull homes area to build a greenhouse for the youth that are currently residing in that area.

It's that sense of community. It's that sense that we see whenever the cards are down and we're dealing with each struggle, and one of the first to jump up is the oil and gas sector. I had tears rolling down my eyes when I heard the story of Suncor and how, at the end of the day, they were one of the first to jump up there and give their runway space, house people when we had the Fort McMurray fires. They're the ones who give back first, and it is important and it is in the national interest for us to take care of them because they were taking care of people from all walks of life, from all over this country. To be frank, we're very interdependent.

You know, I reflect on the stories that happened when we had the automotive industry crash. One of the things I heard that was remarkable was that Ford didn't take a bailout, but Ford didn't criticize those who did take the bailout. The reason why they didn't was because they realized how interdependent the automotive sector was because there were specific companies that made parts for cars for all three brands. They recognized that if one car company went out of business, that company that makes that part might suffer as well and they might not get the best demand.

The thing that we need to recognize as a country is that we have amazing technology based here in Alberta. We have amazing technology from across the country. We have amazing companies that do work in multiple sectors. I know many an individual who works for a tailings pond company. They do work in northern Alberta for the oil sands. But do you know where they also do work? They do it in British Columbia for mining. I can only envision that if they had struggles in the oil sand projects, if their work was starting to dry up, would they still have the capacity to do that tremendous work in northern B.C. in the most safe and sustainable way possible and do it with the most affordable mechanism while continuing to employ Canadians?

5:50

Now, I've been very fortunate in my life to have a chance to really travel across this country. When I was a student, I had the chance to go to Ottawa. One of the first things that was said to me when I was in Ontario studying in postsecondary was: "Why are you here? Alberta is the heart of Canada's economy. Everyone leaves Ontario to go and work in Alberta." Sadly, the one thing I said was, "Well, tuition is cheaper out here" – at the time it was; it's not anymore – "but I will be back." And I was back.

I've had the chance to be in many provinces. I've been to Manitoba and chatted with an individual who works for a real estate firm. That firm has property here in Calgary. They are dependent on the success of our oil and gas sector and on this pipeline being approved to be successful.

I met a person from Quebec, and between two beers we had a remarkable conversation. This individual used to be a sovereigntist. He used to support separatism until one day he came to Alberta and saw how remarkable this province was and how open and

welcoming it was and how much he was able to succeed in his travels. He had only been back in Quebec for a couple of weeks, just to visit family, but he is one of those individuals that comes and supports our oil and gas sector.

The reality is – and the Premier has reiterated it – that every school, every hospital, every road can be attributed to the support that we give to our oil and gas sector because when it's successful, Canada is successful.

Now, I've had an opportunity to go to B.C. as well and talk to many individuals there. The fact of the matter is that the overall consensus that I'm getting from people in B.C. – I was in Victoria at the time – is that they support this pipeline development and that there are fringes out there that are working on misinformation and are really working hard to try to derail this. We right now are working against a strong voice, and we will continue to work hard to get this pipeline built. We have seen that with our court cases, with the 14 out of 14 that we have won.

The fact of the matter is that we need the federal government to step up. The fact of the matter is that we need them to utilize the tools that they have and their ability to get this pipeline built. The one thing that I want to continue to see, the one thing I want my kids to see, my constituents' kids to see is the ongoing growth and success of our resource development. It is what has made Calgary such an amazing city to live in. It is what has given me some amazing benefits. It is what made me successful when I was a business operator. It is what has made multiple members of my family successful as they have worked within that sector. You're hard-pressed to find anyone in this province, anyone, to be frank, in this country who doesn't owe the sustainable resource development that we have in this province for their success as well.

I feel very fortunate to be part of a government that has a strong focus, that has historically had a strong focus and history of supporting resource and pipeline development. As long as I sit in this chair and I stand in this place, I will continue to stand up for pipeline development, to stand up for diversification of our economy, and to stand up for my constituents and Albertans.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this emergency debate. I keep a clock in my phone. It's a countdown clock, and right now it says 413 days, 2 hours, 5 minutes, and 14 seconds, and that's until the next election. That's important. That's the next time Albertans get to choose a different government if they want to. I don't know who they're going to elect then, but here's what I do know. We don't have that long to wait to get a good effort to get this pipeline built. That I'm really sure of, which is why it's important to have this debate today to push the current government to actually do their job, take some action, push their very close personal friend Justin Trudeau to do his part to get something done.

You know what? I think maybe they're starting to wake up to that reality. We actually heard just a few minutes ago the Environment minister say, "I... am beginning to lose my patience." Well, Madam Speaker, the minister should have lost her patience months ago. Months ago. She should have finished losing her patience months ago, not just start to lose it today. That indeed is indicative of the lack of action and the lack of priority and the lack of urgency that this government is putting into getting this pipeline built.

You know, it's also a good thing that we've got the new leader of our party because the government is actually starting to wake up because of that. As he arrived, there's been a pattern. You know what? Our new leader makes a suggestion. The government dodges

and denies that it's a good idea. Then they move into ridiculing his idea, after which point they move into adopting the exact idea that he has proposed, trying to take credit for it and then sitting on their hands and hoping nobody notices. Then he comes up with another idea, and they start dodging and denying, moving into ridiculing, and then they go on to adopting the exact idea and trying to take credit for it, after which point they sit on their hands again, and nothing happens.

Now, they say that they are wanting to push the federal government, but they will not criticize Justin Trudeau. They won't. I wish they would stand up for Albertans instead. They will not criticize the one person that could actually make this go away by actually exerting the authority that the Prime Minister and the federal government have. And the Prime Minister has a majority. Our folks across the aisle will not say a word to offend that Prime Minister, although right now that would be doing their job. That would be the most important thing that they could do to get that person's attention that could actually get this pipeline built, yet our friends in the NDP government refuse to offend their good friend Justin Trudeau in favour of letting Albertans' most important economic issue, perhaps in the history of Alberta's existence, languish instead of offending their close personal friend. That is a big problem.

You know what? They have after the fact taken some of our leader's advice. They put the wine ban in place. Of course, they cancelled it at the very first opportunity. You know what? They've won some court hearings. I'll give them credit for that, 14 for 14. You heard them say it all day long today. But they will not realize they're losing. If you score 14 goals and the other team scores 15 or more, you're losing. They haven't got it through their heads. They're taking victory laps.

The other thing that finally, I think, helped them wake up is the fact that Kinder Morgan pretty much put this thing on life support on the weekend. Now they're waving their arms up. They're going to have an emergency cabinet meeting tomorrow. You know what? They should have had emergency cabinet meetings every week on this thing for months now. They haven't actually paid attention to what's going on.

You know what? Now they're actually talking about cutting off energy to B.C., something that our leader suggested a long time ago. Again, they went through the process: they dodged, they denied, they ridiculed, and now they're thinking about adopting it and taking credit for it.

Well, you know what, Madam Speaker? If they want to get re-elected in 413 days, 2 hours, 1 minute and 13 seconds, they should actually start adopting all of our leader's ideas because that will make them a lot harder to beat in the next election. You know, they might even have a chance if they would take more of our leader's ideas because those seem to be the only good ones that they've had so far, although they've done their very best to deny those ideas. When they finally come around to accepting them, Albertans then say: wow; they're doing a good job. And do you know what they force us to do? We say: wow; they got that one right.

My advice for the government in the 30 seconds or so I've got left is: "You know what? If you actually listened to more advice from our leader, stop denying it, do it in the first place, maybe Albertans would start to take this government seriously. Maybe we'll get a pipeline built before we've got to wait another 413 days for a new government, which is too long for Albertans. You shouldn't make them wait that long."

The Deputy Speaker: I hesitate to interrupt, hon. member, but pursuant to Standing Order 4(2) the House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 1:30.

Legislative policy committees will convene this evening and tomorrow morning for consideration of main estimates. This evening Resource Stewardship will consider the estimates for Energy in the Rocky Mountain Room, and Alberta's Economic Future will consider the estimates for Culture and Tourism in the Parkland Room.

Tomorrow morning Alberta's Economic Future will consider the estimates for Labour in the Parkland Room, and Resource Stewardship will again consider the estimates for Energy in the Rocky Mountain Room.

[The Assembly adjourned at 6 p.m.]

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For inquiries contact:

Managing Editor

Alberta Hansard

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875