



Province of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, November 22, 2018

Day 52

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 29th Legislature

Fourth Session

Wanner, Hon. Robert E., Medicine Hat (NDP), Speaker

Jabbour, Deborah C., Peace River (NDP), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees

Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP), Deputy Chair of Committees

Aheer, Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Rocky View (UCP),

Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition

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Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (UCP)

Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (NDP)

Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)

Bilous, Hon. Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)

Carlier, Hon. Oneil, Whitecourt-St. Anne (NDP)

Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (NDP)

Ceci, Hon. Joe, Calgary-Fort (NDP)

Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP),

Alberta Party Opposition House Leader

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Cooper, Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP)

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Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)

Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (NDP)

Dreeshen, Devin, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UCP)

Drever, Deborah, Calgary-Bow (NDP)

Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UCP)

Eggen, Hon. David, Edmonton-Calder (NDP)

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Goodridge, Laila, Fort McMurray-Conklin (UCP)

Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)

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Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (UCP)

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Woollard, Denise, Edmonton-Mill Creek (NDP)

Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)

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New Democratic: 53 United Conservative: 26 Alberta Party: 3 Alberta Liberal: 1 Freedom Conservative: 1 Independent: 2 Progressive Conservative: 1

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 22, 2018

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Good afternoon.

Hon. members, as our friends and neighbours south of our border take a pause for Thanksgiving, let us reflect on the close relationship that our two nations sustain with each other. Let us not forget that reaching out to work in partnership with others only serves to make all of us better.

Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

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

Mr. Shepherd: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you 17 students from Oliver school. They're accompanied today by their teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Severson. I offer them my sincere apologies for missing the opportunity to take a photo with them earlier, but I'm very happy to have them here at the Legislature. I ask that they rise and receive the warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the rest of the members of the Assembly the Wildwood K to 9 school from Wildwood, Alberta. Wildwood is located 115 kilometres west of Edmonton, and the community is a 110-year-old Albertan farming community, originally established by black Canadian farmers. The school now has a total of 105 students and advertises itself as a small school with big ideas. They are accompanied by teacher Mrs. Gayle Kowalchuk and chaperone Mr. Curtis Schendel. I'd like everyone here today to extend to these students and staff the warm welcome of the Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

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

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly students from Harvest Baptist academy. The students are accompanied by their principal, Mr. Michael Reilly, as well as Ms Gail Schedlosky, one of their TAs. I would ask that they rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Hon. members, are there any other school groups here today?
Seeing and hearing none, the hon. Member for Peace River.

Ms Jabbour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce on your behalf some very special guests this afternoon, Jessica Dion and Deacon and Robert Barclay. Jessica will be a familiar face to many as she has worked in the LAO since the spring of 2014, first as a paralegal and administrative specialist with Parliamentary Counsel and since May of 2016 as executive assistant to the Clerk. Jessica's tireless work ethic and unwavering positivity have made her an esteemed teammate in the organization. I especially appreciated her help to me personally when I recently hosted the Canadian Women Parliamentarians. For many years Jessica has

also been a key and dedicated volunteer at the Edmonton Folk Music Festival and looks forward to it every year.

With Jessica is her nephew Deacon Barclay, who is 12 years old and in grade 7 at William E. Hay secondary campus in Stettler. Deacon is also looking forward to joining his aunt and kokum in volunteering at the Edmonton Folk Fest. The family is very proud of his eagerness to contribute to the community. Deacon's father, Jessica's brother Robert Barclay, is also with us. He has been with Finning for 18 years, currently as a heavy equipment technician. Jessica continues to be inspired and motivated by her brother's courage in fighting adversity. Jessica, Deacon, and Robert are in the Speaker's gallery. They are standing, so please give them the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: May I also echo the welcome.

The hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am so pleased today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly several fantastic councillors from the beautiful Rocky View county. I would ask that they rise as I say their names: Councillor Kim McKylor, division 2; Deputy Reeve Al Schule, division 4; Reeve Greg Boehlke, division 6, and his beautiful wife, Lynne Boehlke; and Councillor Daniel Henn, division 7. I'm so proud to work with these fantastic, hard-working folks who make life better for Albertans. Please give them the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Bow.

Drever: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you four guests from Calgary and one all the way from Chile. Olga Barceló and Henry Wearmouth are students at Mount Royal University. They're involved in the MRU New Democrats Club and the New Democratic Youth of Alberta, and they are both also student interns for Advanced Education and Education. Olga's cousin Gonzalo Barceló is visiting from Chile to learn English. He's a lawyer and has been involved in different student movements in Chile in recent years. I'd also like to recognize Olga's mother, also named Olga, and father, Claudio Barceló, who arrived in Canada over 40 years ago. Olga was a United Nations sponsored refugee, and now they own and operate a business at the Calgary airport. And they are all very much NDP supporters. I would like to thank my guests for joining us here today, and I'd like to ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Shaw.

Mr. Sucha: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm excited to rise – happy Grey Cup, everyone – to introduce several guests who are here to witness the Calgary Stampeders win the big game on Sunday. I'd ask that they please rise as I say their name. Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy is from Ottawa, Ontario. Joshua Smith is a podcast host from Hamilton, Ontario. I have Ryan Rollier from Calgary, and Jessica Strickland, Jen Hill, Dave Hill, Deb Strickland, and Vince Rulé, who are all from Calgary. To note as well, last Grey Cup Deb and Vince got engaged. Vince is a Redblacks fan, and Deb is a Stamps fan, so hopefully that engagement lasts after Sunday. I'd ask that the House give them a warm welcome. Go, Stamps, go.

The Speaker: Hon. member, I hope you noticed that there was actually a green sweater up there as well.

The hon. President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly 10 communications and public engagement interns seated in the members' gallery. They are Shawna King, Afton Doe, Luis Flores, Deanna Miyauchi, Samson Swan, Kristina Stocks, Kandice Kew, Rebecca Isbister, Meagan Houle, and Marina Bryan. These are talented individuals who have come from a variety of backgrounds. They started with the Alberta public service in July and are gaining practical hands-on experience in their chosen field of communications. I ask that they please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

The hon. Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is National Housing Day, a day that shines a light on the importance of safe, affordable housing and the great people and organizations that work tirelessly to provide the right housing at the right time with the right supports. On behalf of my colleague the Minister of Seniors and Housing I'm honoured to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Legislature leaders in the housing community. Please stand as I read your name: Mark Hoosein, chief operating officer, Capital Region Housing; Raymond Swonek, chief executive officer, Greater Edmonton Foundation Seniors Housing; Irene Martin-Lindsay, executive director, Alberta Seniors Communities and Housing Association; Nancy Laing, executive director, Leduc Regional Housing Foundation; Anne Stevenson, president, Right at Home Housing Society; and Kevin Capowski, executive director, CMHC, Heartland Housing Foundation. They have already risen, so I ask my colleagues to give them a warm welcome.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Are there any other introductions, hon. members? The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

1:40

Mr. Carlier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you would indulge me, I have two introductions. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the rest of the members of the Assembly the Whitecourt Classical Conversations group from Whitecourt, Alberta. They are a home-school group with a classical education focus that meet once a week. Their group of eight- to 16-year-olds have been learning about the Alberta political system and how it functions. I would like everyone here today to extend these students and their families the warm welcome of the Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Mr. Carlier: Mr. Speaker, for my second introduction I'd like to introduce an incredible young man. Evan Jamieson has recently been selected as the youth representative for 4-H in Alberta. This summer Evan was a recipient of the 4-H Alberta Premier's award. This means that he will now spend the next year attending events across the country attesting to how amazing 4-H is. He has a passion for livestock judging and volunteers at many of the summer camps offered by 4-H. He now attends the University of Calgary, where he is studying marketing. Evan is here with his parents, Neil and Laurie, and his siblings Logan and Jordynn. I would now ask my guests to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Welcome.

Members' Statements

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

National Housing Day

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize National Housing Day, a time to reflect on the challenges too many Canadians face in finding a safe and affordable place to live. Today is an opportunity to recognize how essential housing is. Having a place to call home is the foundation for a brighter future. All Albertans should have a safe, permanent, and affordable place to call home regardless of their income.

I am proud to be part of a government that recognizes this and which is working to provide people across the province with quality, affordable housing. This government has taken action by investing \$1.2 billion in housing. While the members across the aisle are proposing massive tax cuts for the wealthy, this government is building and renewing over 4,100 new affordable housing units.

This government also created Alberta's first provincial affordable housing strategy. The strategy goes beyond the bricks and mortar of housing. It prioritizes people. It ensures that affordable housing focuses on their well-being, providing them with the tools that they need to succeed. I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to putting people first and helping families.

Mr. Speaker, today is an occasion to raise awareness of the importance of housing, to recognize all the work that is under way in Alberta and all the work that still needs to be done. I am proud to say that this government is declaring today National Housing Day in Alberta. This declaration reflects our government's commitment to Albertans' housing needs. I know this government will keep working with housing providers and Albertans to make sure everybody has a safe and affordable place to call home.

Thank you.

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

Holodomor Memorial Day

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This Saturday Canadians will remember one of the greatest crimes of the 20th century, the deliberate starvation of millions of Ukrainian men, women, and children in the famine and genocide of 1932-33. Those deaths resulted from the murderous policies of Joseph Stalin's Communist regime, which sought to crush Ukrainian resistance to collectivization by confiscating food and sealing off targeted regions. It remains one of the worst crimes against humanity ever perpetrated.

A decade ago our leader played a role in Canada becoming one of the first nations in the world to recognize the Ukrainian famine of 1932-33 as an act of genocide. Parliament unanimously passed a bill establishing the fourth Saturday in November as Ukrainian Famine and Genocide Memorial Day, or Holodomor, and he announced the government of Canada's official recognition of the genocidal nature of the Holodomor in the presence of then Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko during the 75th anniversary commemorations of the Holodomor on Parliament Hill.

Memory of the Holodomor was officially repressed by the Soviet Union, as it is to this day in the Russian Federation. Many in the western media knowingly co-operated in the shameful – shameful – cover-up of this crime. We should never forget how truth was sacrificed for political reasons in this campaign of lies. That is in part why Holodomor commemoration and education is so

important. We must recover the memory of this unspeakable crime and prayerfully remember the millions of victims. For them, let us recall the words of the Byzantine liturgy for the dead. [Remarks in Russian] Memory eternal.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

School Playgrounds

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Play is key to the physical, mental, intellectual, and social well-being of children, but right now in Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill there are almost 2,000 students that are attending schools without playgrounds. The parent associations at Kenneth D. Taylor, Our Lady of Grace, St. Hubert, and St. Bede schools have been doing a phenomenal job of raising money and planning new playgrounds for the schools their children attend. Kenneth D. Taylor and Our Lady of Grace are new schools, and the students there have never had a playground. While we've all heard that this is because the previous government denied playground funding to schools, that doesn't make any difference to kids missing out on the chance to improve their gross motor skills and their mental health at recess.

St. Hubert had their playground torn down two years ago because the structures were deemed unsafe, and St. Bede lost theirs for the same reason last summer. The St. Hubert Parent Council has been working tirelessly to raise money and are now about \$8,000 away from their very modest \$90,000 goal while St. Bede's parent council has already raised \$30,000. I can only imagine how much fitter the Grit Fit kids at Our Lady of Grace will be when they can incorporate playground equipment into their program.

A good playground costs about \$250,000, and this is an excellent investment in our future. Young people who are physically active can learn better and can manage their emotions better. They form stronger bonds with their peers and benefit from stronger social ties. B.C. recently took over funding of playgrounds from parents, recognizing that some communities have an advantage over others when it comes to fundraising. The money there is divided between new, accessible playgrounds and old structures that pose a risk. Kenneth D. Taylor school is holding a Christmas craft fair on Saturday. It's in Evanston, and it's to raise money for the playground, and I encourage everybody in Calgary to support their efforts. All students in Alberta should have access to playground equipment while they're at school.

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

Opioid Use

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thirty-four overdoses, three dead, and all in the first three weeks of November, all on the Blood reserve. Children are losing their parents, friends are losing friends, and the community is overwhelmed. The opioid epidemic is pushing the Blood tribe, EMS, police, and the administration to the breaking point. But, sadly, they're not alone. There are no typical opioid addicts. On average, more than one Albertan dies every day from an overdose. It is a crisis, and it is about time that we started treating it like the emergency that it is.

Declaring a province-wide public health emergency seems to be an obvious step, and I call again on the Minister of Health to do so immediately, to help the people on the Blood reserve and all over Alberta. A public health emergency is far more than just symbolic. It would give the government and front-line personnel in health care and elsewhere new tools, and it also likely results in federal

funding, like B.C. found when they declared their public health emergency.

I'm glad to see that the supervised consumption sites have started operating around the province, and I encourage the provincial government to continue to roll these out. But I have to note that the UCP, and in particular their leader, has strongly opposed these even in the face of overwhelming evidence that they work. Earlier this year the Leader of the Opposition said, quote: helping addicts to inject poison into their bodies is not a solution to the problem of addiction. That is shocking, regressive, outdated, and damaging. As one person said on social media: if we applied this twisted logic to driving, we'd take seat belts and airbags out of cars because people would be driving too fast.

Finally, we need to recognize that not all addicts are street involved. Addiction treatment must be available through our family doctors and emergency rooms, and we need to expand treatment facilities throughout the province. We also need to expand opioid replacement therapy. This crisis is not going away fast enough. Albertans are dying, and we need action today.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek.

Guru Nanak

Ms Woollard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the privilege today to speak about Guru Nanak, the first Sikh guru, or teacher. His teachings laid the foundation upon which the Sikh religion was formed. Guru Nanak travelled across South Asia and the Middle East to spread his teachings, advocating the existence of one God and teaching his followers that every human being can reach out to God through meditation and other pious practices. The Sikh faith emphasizes the importance of leading a spiritual life by serving others and leading an honest life. Some of the key practices of Sikhism are meditation and the recitation of Gurbani, the hymns composed by the gurus. The religion advocates overall justice and equality, and it urges its followers to serve mankind.

1:50

Guru Nanak's preachings came at a time when there were religious conflicts, but his teachings contributed to peace among the religious groups. He condemned slavery and racial discrimination and advocated justice and gender and social equality. Guru Nanak emphasized the importance of equality of people and contributed greatly to the empowerment of women in India, appealing to his followers to respect women and treat them as their equals. He taught that the Creator is deeply involved in what man is trying to achieve on Earth. He taught his ideals by serving as a living example to others on attaining salvation while focusing on the importance of family and community.

Finally, we have a wonderful memorial to Guru Nanak Dev Ji here in Edmonton at the University of Alberta hospital. On the fourth floor of the Mazankowski Heart Institute is the Guru Nanak Healing Garden, a 4,000-square-foot indoor garden space, a place of sunlight, quiet, and contemplation.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Statement by the Speaker

Accepting a Member's Word

The Speaker: Hon. members, before we start the clock, I'd like to offer a brief clarification. Yesterday several requests for clarifications were made under Standing Order 13(2) with respect to how disagreements as to facts are to be handled, particularly

following my interventions. I want to be clear that it is not unparliamentary to say that a statement made by another member is incorrect, untrue, or false. What is not permitted is a suggestion that a member has intentionally misrepresented the truth or lied. You'll find the reference to this rule in paragraph 494 of *Beauchesne's*, sixth edition. Yesterday, in my desire to encourage members to be mindful of their tone in this place, I may have unintentionally caused confusion to members as to how this rule will be applied. I hope this further clarification resolves any remaining confusion. Like all of you, experience gives wisdom.

Oral Question Period

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

Carbon Levy

Mr. Nixon: Well, Mr. Speaker, this morning the Premier announced that drillers are now exempt from the carbon tax. I guess that's good news. At least the government is finally acknowledging that their carbon tax is damaging and that it is not getting pipelines built. The question then becomes: now that the government has acknowledged that, why are everyday Albertans still paying that carbon tax, why are small-business owners still paying that carbon tax, why are other job creators still paying that carbon tax, why are farmers still paying that carbon tax, why are charities still paying that carbon tax, and why are municipalities still paying that carbon tax? The list goes on and on. Why is that still being put on the people of Alberta when we now know without a doubt that it is a failure?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the members opposite earlier this week voted to encourage Canada to withdraw from the Paris climate accord, apparently because they don't think that climate change is an issue that we need to take action on. Experts around the world know that pricing carbon is, in fact, the most effective way to bring about a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. In Alberta we have a made-in-Alberta plan. Part of that plan right from day one – the members opposite, I'm sure, are aware of it – focused on protecting trade-exposed industries, and this was part of that.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, that is a ridiculous comment from the Premier. In fact, during that debate this side of the House was clear that we thought that emissions had to be dealt with, but we were clear that her tax that she had brought on the people of Alberta, one, would not be high enough to be able to do that – that's why we don't think you should use a carbon tax – and, two, was just basically a tax grab.

But the point is – and I'll go back to my original question, that the Premier does not seem to want to answer. Now that she has removed the carbon tax from drillers, acknowledging that her tax is not getting social licence and pipelines built, acknowledging that it's damaging, why is she punishing everyday Albertans with her carbon tax? Why does she continue to go down this policy direction and hurt the very people that she represents?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the member opposite knows, when we brought in a plan to price carbon, we did that with a progressive plan that included rebates to ensure that low- and middle-income families were protected as we move forward on this. I appreciate that members opposite disagree with the Nobel prize winning economists who say that, in fact, pricing carbon is the best way to address emissions. Of course, the members opposite have offered up absolutely no plans to address emissions. In fact, this is a matter that Albertans deserve leadership on.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, again the Premier is putting words into our mouths. Nobody said that we disagree with that. Also, let me be clear about my earlier comments. I'm not saying that we want a higher carbon tax. My point is that they know their carbon tax can't even reduce emissions.

My question, though, to the Premier, who continues to dodge the question, is: why is she hurting the people she's representing, why is she hurting charities, why is she hurting the most vulnerable, why is she hurting fixed-income seniors, why is she causing trouble for our municipalities, and why does this Premier continue to go down this road when again today she's acknowledged, by removing the carbon tax from drillers, that her policy is a failure, is not getting pipelines built, and is hurting our economy?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Notwithstanding many of the challenges that we know our oil and gas industry is facing right now, the fact of the matter is that since we brought in the climate leadership plan, Alberta has led economic growth in this country, a year ago and this year, so in fact it hasn't had quite the impact that the members opposite suggest. We have put in a rebate system. We have put in grants to assist many of the organizations the member opposite refers to to bring down these emissions. But there is a cost in doing nothing, and the members opposite . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Support for Business

Mr. Barnes: Yesterday the federal Finance minister issued his fall economic update. It left a lot to be desired. While it did include capital cost writedowns, it failed to mention any plan for Alberta: nothing on the differential, nothing to speed up pipeline construction, nothing to make equalization payments fair, nothing to reduce the regulatory burden, and nothing to liberate free enterprise in our province, deep in recession. To the Premier: are you worried that your advocacy has been undermined by the mixed message your environment minister is sending on pipelines?

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much for the question. Mr. Speaker, our advocacy has resulted in the accelerated capital cost allowance being put in place for Alberta's oil and gas industry. Now, they didn't go as far as we wanted, but we have not been shy about speaking up for the needs of this province, including the oil and gas sector, and we'll continue to do that.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, the NDP's managed decline of the Alberta economy has seen business after business flee for Texas. Sadly, this has resulted in well over 180,000 jobs lost, including more today. Sixty billion dollars of investment have already bolted, and more will follow. This has also resulted in Alberta families losing billions of their retirement savings as Alberta companies plummet in value. To the Premier: what are you doing to reduce

regulation, attract investment, and make Alberta the free-enterprise capital that it was for decades?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact, our economy is leading the country. It led the country last year in growth and will lead the country this year in growth. A number of programs our government has brought in: three different tax credit programs, that the business community asked for, in order to level the playing field. We've seen significant investments by a number of companies, including Imperial, that just announced a few weeks ago a \$3.6 billion investment, using technology that Alberta Innovates helped to develop, to reduce their water usage by 25 per cent. There are a host of other companies like Amazon and Google that are investing here in Alberta.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, the NDP's friend and ally Justin Trudeau's fall economic update was bad news for Alberta families and communities, offering only empty words, a ballooning deficit, and doubling down on their commitment to do nothing to get the pipeline built. To the Premier: will you admit that your big-spending ways, failed social licence, our province quickly heading to a hundred billion in debt and billions more in annual interest expense have done nothing but destroy wealth, destroy jobs, and left Alberta families and communities much worse off?

2:00

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding that much of the introduction there is not things that I can agree with, I do think that I can agree with the member opposite today about the level of frustration that all Albertans feel with respect to the fiscal update that we just witnessed. This morning I was in Calgary speaking with oil well drillers, and I understand that there are thousands of people in the streets of Calgary right now expressing their frustration. I have to say that I am with them. I feel their pain, and we agree with them. The differential is hurting Albertans, and it's hurting Canadians. We're working furiously to find solutions.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.
The Member for Chestermere-Rocky View.

Northern Gateway Pipeline Project Cancellation

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers we would not be in today's oil differential situation if the Northern Gateway pipeline had not been cancelled. On June 17, 2013, the environment minister personally appeared at the National Energy Board hearing to argue against the approval of Northern Gateway. I just have a simple question.

Mr. Mason: Point of order.

Mrs. Aheer: To the Premier: after you were sworn in, did your government allow the Trudeau Liberals to cancel Northern Gateway because your environment minister recommended it?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we first took government, Northern Gateway was already dead because the previous federal government and the previous Conservative government did not do their job. They did not follow the process,

and they did not engage. The Leader of the Official Opposition was at the cabinet table when that process was done, so the question has to be asked to that leader, not to this side of the government. On this side we're standing up for energy, for pipeline access, and all the important jobs that come with it.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NDP environment minister was photographed attending a June 16, 2013, protest against Northern Gateway. In fact, proud Leapers Naomi Klein and Avi Lewis, cofounders and coauthors of the anti-Alberta, anti oil and gas Leap Manifesto, endorsed this minister, saying, she "is exactly the kind of person anyone [would] want in elected politics." To the minister of environment: do you still think that it was right to cancel a 525,000-barrels-per-day pipeline for Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister of environment has been defending working people in this province for years, and I stand behind her one hundred per cent. Let me say this. If you want to take a trip down memory lane, as recently as this summer the Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake bragged about his work to elect the President of the United States. That is the very same President of the United States who is today celebrating Saudi Arabia for driving down the price of oil and encouraging them to do it even more. So my question is: is this the new UCP . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.
Second supplemental.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The environment minister has actively worked against the Northern Gateway pipeline. She appeared at the national board to oppose it with the Alberta Federation of Labour.

Mr. Mason: Point of order.

Mrs. Aheer: This is a group that to this day, Mr. Speaker, continues to oppose Trans Mountain, Energy East, Keystone XL, and several other pipelines. To the minister of environment: will she now acknowledge that it was wrong to attend these protests and to work against Northern Gateway, and moreover will she apologize to Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Official Opposition was part of a government that oversaw the failure of Northern Gateway. Here's what the Federal Court of Appeal had to say about the quality of the work by the former Conservative government. This government's mistakes were "immense, massive in size and affecting so many diverse groups and geographic habitats in so many different ways." That is a level of incompetence that is really quite jaw-dropping. In the world of apologies my question is: do they have one to offer?

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Rural High-speed Internet

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We learned at RMA this week that rural municipalities are still being consulted about rural Internet and broadband service in Alberta and that government has not provided a budget or a desperately needed implementation plan.

This is just a discussion without timelines or commitments and with plans based on old assumptions and outdated technology. Why is the government working against the success of its own rural Internet strategy by not investing in high-speed connectivity now?

The Speaker: The Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the Ministry of Service Alberta is currently in the process of developing a rural broadband strategy, which will of course be ready early in the new year. I've had several great conversations with many counties during RMA, and they are excited about what we are going to have to offer. I'd just ask members of the Legislature to stay tuned on a rural broadband strategy.

Ms McPherson: The fact is that they promised for this fall.

Yesterday's federal fiscal update didn't include anything for Alberta's energy industry, one of the traditional economic drivers for rural Alberta, so rural municipalities have to innovate and focus on other economic development opportunities, and that takes having all the pieces in place to attract new business. One of the critical elements for attracting new business is high-speed Internet. The provincial government has consulted with rural Alberta about this issue for at least a decade. Why aren't you committed to investing in this critical piece of infrastructure for rural Alberta economic development?

The Speaker: The Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do agree with the member that connectivity and broadband are critically important. We know that. We've been working with municipalities. The Minister of Service Alberta is leading our government of Alberta response. I will tell the hon. member that a number of municipalities have received funding through our CARES programs to be engaging with different opportunities in broadband. There are examples of communities like Olds that have O-Net that have taken matters into their own hands. The municipalities know that they've got an incredible partner in our government and in our Minister of Service Alberta.

Ms McPherson: Clearwater county's resolution at RMA states that "connecting to the [government] of Alberta's fibre optic infrastructure backbone (the SuperNet) is cost-prohibitive to ISPs and municipalities." The CRTC has mandated broadband Internet as an essential service at speeds of up to 50 megabits per second for downloads and 10 megabits per second for uploads with an unlimited data allowance by 2021. Rural Alberta needs Internet speed and accessibility. When can they expect both from the publicly owned SuperNet?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, we're developing our rural broadband strategy. Also, I met with Clearwater county, you know, and I'm definitely excited about looking at the proposals that they're bringing forward. Our rural broadband strategy will be ready at the beginning of the new year, and of course as part of that we're working to make sure that Alberta's municipalities will have access to improved high-speed Internet access as well as federal funds. Also, a big part of that is making sure that our rural broadband strategy makes sure that our indigenous communities are not phased in last, that they're going to be a part of this new rural broadband strategy as well.

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

Reynolds-Alberta Museum Expansion Project

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Reynolds-Alberta Museum is an award-winning museum celebrating Alberta heritage, based in Wetaskiwin in my constituency. For years we have known that the Reynolds-Alberta Museum needed to expand its facilities for storage, restoration, and display of Alberta agriculture, transportation, and aviation artifacts. Can the Minister of Infrastructure tell us what will be included in the new facility?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Infrastructure.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. In Budget 2017 we allocated \$35 million over three years for the expansion of the Reynolds-Alberta Museum. We're very excited about this project. There are right now approximately 400 artifacts that are being stored outside. We obviously have to take care of that issue. The new facility is going to be pretty special. It's over 9,000 square metres and will include a museum-quality indoor stage, protection and preservation of historic objects, and safe access to objects for their relocation. It's going to be a great project.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

First supplemental.

Mr. Hinkley: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year in August the Minister of Infrastructure provided an update on the construction schedule of this important facility. Can the minister update the House on what phase of building the facility is in? Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd be happy to provide an update on our work on the Reynolds so far. Two design firms have been selected at this point. One of them is Alberta-based HFKS Architects. The design process is under way right now. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2019. The targeted completion date is 2021. It's going to take a little bit of time to do this. We're preparing right now to issue a construction management request for proposals, an RFP, and we'll be posting that RFP in the near future on the Alberta purchasing connection website for anyone who's interested.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

2:10

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you. That's very encouraging. It is great that this expansion project will move ahead through a community benefits agreement as it will consult local, hire local, and have the community as partners every step of the way. Can the minister tell us the status of this community benefits agreement pilot?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Jansen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, on September 19 our Premier announced a community benefits agreement pilot at the Building Trades convention, and we're pretty excited about this. We have spent some time out in the Wetaskiwin area, met with area leaders and indigenous leaders to talk about what that whole piece looks like. Now, one of the things that we're going to look at out there in that area is the local employment and skills development opportunities. We want to keep as much of that \$35 million in the area as possible. We'll be hosting a job fair. We'll be engaging youth to build leadership capacity. We've got lots of opportunities

out there for that, and we're going to be posting an RFP in the near future.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
The Member for Calgary-Greenway.

Energy Policies

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lately we have learned that some in this Legislature are pushing for the government to impose price and production controls on the energy sector. Price-fixing and production control are anti free enterprise and, quite frankly, anti-Alberta. We need to ensure that free-enterprise principles are upheld and that competition is allowed. Will the Premier side with free enterprise against those who want to establish supply management price-fixing on our energy industry?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, from day one we have fought for what matters in this province, which is our energy industry, the good jobs that it brings, and pipeline access. Right now the price differential that we see is an example of why we need market access, something that previous governments failed to get for us when times were good and they should have been working on it. We're working very hard right now to get that access because we're on the side of Albertans.

Mr. Gill: Given, Mr. Speaker, that as a conservative it is obvious to me that there should be no arbitrary government imposed or requested price- and production-fixing – that would be illegal collusion if voluntary or supply management socialism if required – and given that the Tories have supported both of these positions on different days this week alone, will the government clearly state that there should be no production limits on oil in Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, we're exploring our options. We've been in constant contact with the industry, who do not have one definitive position themselves. There are many who say, "Let's curtail production," some who say, "Let the market go as it is." We have an opposition who says one thing. We have another party who says another. That's why we've struck an energy advisory group, an envoy committee. They're going to be talking to all those folks and seeing what kind of options we may have.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that I wasn't surprised when the Premier called for the nationalization of the Keystone pipeline but I nearly spit out my coffee when I learned that my own party at that time was in bed with the NDP on this multibillion-dollar boondoggle and given that I recall that much of the Tory caucus didn't support this decision, Premier, will you finally admit that it was a bad decision to buy this pipeline?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms McCuaig-Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, what I would admit is that we had previous governments, including a Prime Minister from Calgary, we had an opposition leader who was from Calgary as well, who did not stand up for Alberta when they had a chance federally. Now we're paying the price. We don't have pipeline access to tidewater in Canada, and we need that because

we have a differential that's killing us. We need to work very hard on some options now to fix this mess that was given to us by previous governments. To be clear, on this side of the House we're on the side of the energy industry, on the side of Albertans, and the side of good jobs.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
The hon. Member for Calgary-East.

Mobile Home Site Regulations

Ms Luff: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a crisis happening in mobile-home parks across Alberta. Owning a mobile home used to be a great option for affordable housing, but due to outdated legislation this is no longer the case. Skyrocketing pad rents at a park in my riding has led to extreme stress for residents, many of them seniors on fixed incomes, and the practice of economic eviction is common, where individuals are singled out for rent increases and citations in order to force them to move, often leaving behind their home at a loss. I know the ministry has been aware of this issue for years now but has chosen to do nothing. To the Minister of Service Alberta: why are you dragging your feet when people are losing their homes?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, our government is always available to Albertans who need assistance. That is why I have actually heard directly from mobile-home tenants in Calgary-East, and of course my ministry has been monitoring the situation closely. I will point out, of course, that in cases where the provincial government is unable to intervene, these matters can be pursued through the municipality as well. I would encourage any member in a mobile-home park to come out and reach out to either Service Alberta or to their local municipality.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Ms Luff: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish the province would stop downloading the responsibility for this onto municipalities.

Given that mobile-home owners face issues such as increased pad rent, disrepair of pads and parks, and being blocked by owners when attempting to sell their homes and given that currently the only option available to settle disputes is in the courts and given that the AUMA recommended allowing mobile-home owners to be able to access the residential tenancy dispute resolution service in 2016, will the minister commit to amending the Mobile Home Sites Tenancies Act to allow residents to access the RTDRS?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, as you said, we're always looking at ways to support Albertans, including those who are in mobile-home parks. You know, when we took office, we had 44 years of Tory mismanagement to clean up, and that applied to every single ministry here. We have done a lot in three and a half years, and, yes, we are continuing to work for a second term, so we continue to fight hard because there is still more to do on this.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Ms Luff: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you that the residents in my park do not feel supported by this government. Given that the Mobile Home Sites Tenancies Act has not been reviewed in many years and given that it is clearly not serving the needs of mobile-

home owners, to the point where they are losing their homes, will the minister commit to a full review of this act as soon as possible?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we are always looking to help Albertans in any way we can. I would encourage any member to write to my ministry, because we are looking for ways to help Albertans. I am always open to looking at changes, and, with that, I would of course encourage all those members to reach out to us, because we are a government that's here to make life better for Albertans.

Pipeline Development

Mr. Dreeshen: Mr. Speaker, as the environment minister spent years as a Greenpeace activist and even helped write a book called *An Action a Day: Keeps Global Capitalism Away*, I even wonder if she won a Pulitzer for that because we've seen billions of global investment capital leave Alberta over the last few years. Now, what direction did the environment minister give her department and cabinet regarding Northern Gateway and Kinder Morgan? Did she offer them lessons from the book she helped write against global investment in Alberta?

Mr. Mason: Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order noted.

The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake seems a little curious about the past and wants to talk about the past but doesn't seem too keen to talk about his own past, just two years ago. But let's just take a little trip down memory lane, where he spent 10 months in the United States campaigning for the current President. Now let's go through some of his chronology. On February 7, 2016, he campaigned in Manchester, New Hampshire; on February 8 he was in New Hampshire again. On the 18th he was in South Carolina. Now, on the 23rd of February the member campaigned in Houston, Texas, and that's when his candidate said that he wanted to punch a protester in the face and said that Black Lives Matter activists should be roughed up.

The Speaker: Folks, I must have repeated it many times more than you wished to hear. Please avoid these personal comments.

First supplemental.

Mr. Dreeshen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I was door-knocking in Edmonton-West Henday last night with my good friend and colleague from Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, people would question at the door why the environment minister on Tuesday in question period would drift into tangents regarding oil pipeline questions. I'd like to just ask a very simple question again. Why is the NDP trying to redefine their record as proponents of pipelines when for so long they were protesters of pipelines? Can the government explain why they continue to push their failed social licence scheme on Albertans rather than just admit it hasn't worked to get pipelines built?

2:20

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, it is pretty rich, coming from that member, to be talking about this government's record, which is all he's allowed to ask questions

about, because of what this government, since it's been the government, has done to build the pipelines that this province needs, to deal with the differential, to make sure that our oil sector prospers, and that people are working, unlike the other side. We could talk about their past before they were in the Official Opposition, but that is irrelevant. What's relevant is . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Dreeshen: Well, Mr. Speaker, maybe to a third minister. Given that for over three and a half years the NDP claimed that their social licence scheme would get us new pipelines and it obviously didn't – all their social licence scheme resulted in was an oil price differential crisis in Alberta – now to the minister of environment: does the NDP have any ideas to get pipelines built, like create a business environment where our oil industry could flourish, or is it just carbon taxes, more regulation, and nationalization of the means of production, something like their good friend and ally Justin Trudeau has already done with Kinder Morgan?

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Mr. Bilous: Oh, Mr. Speaker, I think I need to take the hon. member out for coffee and just review history a little bit here. What I will say is that our government has done more to get a pipeline to tidewater than previous governments in the past 20 years. Now, the hon. member's leader was in Ottawa as a federal cabinet minister for 10 years and couldn't get a single pipeline to tidewater. We have done more: standing up for our energy industry, modernizing our royalty review, and making it more profitable for companies to continue drilling when wells start to tail off. We've also brought in supports for our drillers and . . .

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler.

Sharp Hills Wind Project

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Sharp Hills project, approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission for the Oyen area, will bring some of the largest turbines ever built into Canada. There will be 83 turbines. Each of them will stand 200 metres tall, which is taller than the Calgary Tower. Minister, these types of structures have never been tried in North America. In fact, it is my understanding that they're designed for ocean installation. Why was there not a requirement to test this type of technology here first?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Environment and Parks.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is true that the province of Alberta has opened up the most lucrative renewables market in Canada and one of the best opportunities on the continent, creating over the life of our program 7,000 jobs and several billion dollars' worth of new investment. The fact of the matter is that these particular turbines were approved through both AUC processes and our updated Environment and Parks wildlife directives.

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that local residents tell me that no impact studies on human effects are known on these types of structures and given that all studies will be postconstruction and given known issues with harmonic resonance on migratory and predatory bird kills in other wind farms, Minister,

are you comfortable making these 83 towers a world-wide experiment on Albertans' health?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To start off with, there have been comprehensive peer review studies of effects of adjacent wind turbines on human health, and none of those – none of those – have been found to have any evidence. So let's ground our questions in fact. Second of all, all of our renewable projects are backed by AUC approvals and Environment and Parks wildlife directives.

Mr. Strankman: Given, Mr. Speaker, that the AUC deemed this project to be a moderate risk to raptors and waterfowl in the area and given that the AUC's report indicates there may be some migratory disturbance, Minister, is the risk to migratory birds, raptors, waterfowl, bats, and the unknown effect on wetland amphibians in addition to the unknown effects these untested towers have on Albertans' health a sufficient trade-off for the project?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Phillips: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, there is no science to back the claim that the member has introduced into this House, that there are any effects on human health. That is simply not true. There is no scientific evidence to back that.

As concerns the wildlife directives, we updated all of those directives in anticipation of the fact that we would have new renewables investments, which we did. We know that no project is benign, but there are mitigation measures. We have ensured that our directives are the best on the continent.

Veterans' Licence Plate Eligibility

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, in April 2017 I asked the Minister of Service Alberta why my local constituent Neil Lowes and thousands of retired police officers from all across Alberta are being denied access to veterans' licence plates when the same plates are offered in many other provinces. To the minister: in the last 20 months since I first asked the question, have you reconsidered your position, or is the new minister just like the old minister?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member can see, I do not look like the old minister.

What I will say is that, of course, we are always open to consulting with Albertans on a variety of issues. As the member may be aware, we just introduced two new licence plates into Alberta supporting charitable causes, for both the Edmonton Oilers and the Calgary Flames. As a part of my ministry I would like to see more options for licence plates for Albertans and will definitely continue to work with the member on this.

Mr. Cooper: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that we do know that this minister has no problems making changes to the licence plate program – we've offered the same opportunity to Flames and Oilers fans, which is a good idea – I happen to know that my constituent, Mr. Lowes, came to my office yesterday and said: why is it that Flames fans can have access to plates but veterans of the RCMP can't have that same access?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, with our veterans' licence plates, any veteran who's served as a part of the Canadian Forces can get one of those plates. Some of the members that are veterans of our Canadian Forces also have had other careers with various police services, and those members can do that. Who is a veteran, for licence plate purposes, is worked out with the Legions in the province and throughout Canada. I will say that if he is a veteran who served in the military, he can get a plate.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Cooper: Well, Mr. Speaker, this is great news.

Given the fact that the Legion has already endorsed the use of veterans' plates for retired RCMP officers and given that the RCMP is already supportive of this plan, it seems to me that the only barrier is the minister. Can the minister please explain to us why retired police officers and retired RCMP officers that have served overseas can have access to these plates but those that have served at home don't have the same access?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Malkinson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I said in an earlier answer, we, of course, are aware of the issue, and I'm willing to continue to work with the member on this particular issue.

As the Minister of Service Alberta we have had many licence plate options, including the Flames, which have had great success. When it comes to licence plates, the Support Our Troops plates as well have been a very popular option, where Albertans who are not veterans can show their support for veterans by buying one of those Support Our Troops plates.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Flood Damage Mitigation

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been more than five years since the devastating floods struck southern Alberta. The constituency of Calgary-Elbow was hit especially hard. But in the past five years no significant flood mitigation has been built to protect my constituents or the core business district of downtown Calgary. To the Minister of Transportation. My constituents are extremely frustrated by the lack of progress on the Springbank off-stream reservoir. They haven't heard an update since the federal regulator asked your department for more information this summer. Is that project still on track to protect downtown Calgary by the spring of 2022?

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, we do keep in regular contact with the groups in Calgary that are fighting for flood protection, that were badly affected. We don't want to see that ever happen again. Calgary, of course, downtown Calgary in particular, is the nerve centre of the Alberta economy. There are hundreds, in fact thousands of homes that are at risk for flooding, and our project is dedicated to make sure that that doesn't happen. We are working through the regulatory process very systematically and rigorously because we do not want to be sent back to the starting post as we've seen in the case of the federal government . . .

2:30

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister. Thank you. Hon. member, you exceeded the time. I passed the motion. Please, when I acknowledge you, you'll stand but not before. Okay? Thank you.

First supplemental.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the next answer I would hope the minister could please give us an update on the timeline for this project. Given that this past summer the federal environment regulator asked your department to provide more information and given that part of their request was a call for further consultation with indigenous groups, again to the Minister of Transportation: when will your government provide a response to the regulator, and can you assure me that you are conducting extensive two-way consultations with all indigenous peoples impacted by this very important project?

The Speaker: Now, hon. minister.

Mr. Mason: Now, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Mason: I can assure the hon. member that we are working diligently through the hundreds of questions that we've been asked to answer as part of the regulatory process, and we intend to meet our self-imposed deadline of the end of this year to answer all of those questions. We are systematically meeting with indigenous groups that are affected or have a historical claim to this territory. We have reviewed the court decisions with respect to TMX to make sure we are in full compliance with respect to indigenous consultation requirements that the court has set, and we are confident that we are going to get this done, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
Second supplemental.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, another important aspect of managing flood risk is flood mapping. Given that the Minister of Municipal Affairs has been working with Environment to create new flood maps and given that the floodway development regulation is still a work-in-progress and given that developing this regulation without a full understanding of mitigated flows could devastate property values, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs: when can Albertans expect to see updated flood hazard maps, and will you commit to doing this in the right order, mitigate, then map, then regulate?

The Speaker: The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. S. Anderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I appreciate his advocacy on this issue. It has been a complicated and comprehensive review and mapping process, and we do feel that having in hand the most information possible to make this decision is the best way forward. To do this regulation, as the member stated, to have that there in the right way and the right process and the right order I think is what we want to do, and we intend to do that. We have put a lot of money into Calgary for mitigation in other aspects. AUMA and my department do a lot of work down there with the emergency management professionals. As I did state, we will get this done in the right order.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.
The Member for Airdrie.

Urban Crime Rates

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Crime rates are increasing right across this province. In fact, 7 out of 10 of the cities in Alberta have

seen the largest increase, with Edmonton ranking close to 13. We've seen an increase of over 71 per cent in break and enters in Edmonton. I would like to know if the minister has had any conversations with city officials at the city of Edmonton and what they've had to say.

The Speaker: The Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for the question. Protecting Albertans' safety and providing a fair and efficient system is one of the top priorities of this government. That's why we provide half a billion dollars to our forces across this province. That is why we have taken steps to hire additional officers. That is why we have taken steps to hire additional prosecutors. I want to assure all Albertans that we remain committed to providing all resources to our forces to make sure that . . .

The Speaker: First supplemental.

Mrs. Pitt: Okay, Mr. Speaker. Crime rates are going up in the city of Calgary as well. Break and enters are up 30 per cent, robberies are up 20 per cent, and vehicle thefts are up 16 per cent just in the last year. Albertans are concerned about their safety and security. Has the minister met with officials in the city of Calgary about this issue, and what have they had to say?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said, keeping our communities, keeping our cities safe is a top priority for our government. That is why we've worked with our police and all relevant partners to combat crime, and every year, as I said, we invest half a billion dollars. We have made improvements that will allow our officers to spend more time on the streets fighting crime instead of sitting at the desk and doing paperwork. That's why additional people were hired, so they can do that work and more officers will be on the ground to tackle crime.

Thank you.

Mrs. Pitt: Okay, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if the minister has been talking to anybody in our major cities about the rising crime rates. Minister, 12 to 15 cars are stolen in Edmonton each and every day, and many of them are never recovered. Thefts from vehicles are up 69 per cent under this NDP's watch. Minister, what is this government doing to help the victims of property crime?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will just list a few things that we have done. We have hired 59 additional RCMP officers, we have hired 20 new Crown prosecutors, 40 new RCMP civilian personnel, four new provincial court judges, 55 new court clerks, 30 new bail clerks, and the UCP has voted against all these improvements. It's rich coming from them that we have not done anything. We are working with our partners to address crime issues.

Provincial Fiscal Sustainability

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary budget office recently said that either permanent tax increases or spending reductions of 2.3 per cent of GDP, upward of \$7.5 billion, are needed for fiscal sustainability and responsibility in Alberta. Since then, the floor fell out of oil revenues. Keystone XL is delayed yet again, and the minister has assured that his up, up, up path to balance is just around the next corner. To the Minister of Finance:

when will the government acknowledge that its so-called path to balance is leading Albertans straight off the fiscal cliff?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Ceci: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The path to balance is something we talk about in the year 2023-2024, and we've already reduced the deficit by \$3 billion. We have already put effort into diversification so that we can see more revenue streams other than the oil and gas revenue stream, which since the end of 2014 has had a disastrous drop. We have been coming through the recession. We grew the most last year. We're going to continue moving forward and balance in 2023.

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Speaker, given that a strong, diversified economy is impossible if businesses lack the confidence to invest and create jobs and given that this government's approach to cost containment amounts to ordering a larger container of red ink and given that its incompetence on the pipeline – or should I say pipelines? – file is sadly and swiftly turning much-needed resource revenues into but a distant memory, again to the minister: does the government not recognize that the longer they ignore business fundamentals, the more damage they do to investor and business confidence in this province?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have seen is billions of dollars of new investment come into the province because our Premier and our government are building on the legacy of former Premier Peter Lougheed, investing in energy upgrading and value-added to a very critical sector. Earlier this week the Premier announced that we are doubling our second round of petrochemical upgrading, which can attract up to \$20 billion worth of activity. We know that we have the right fundamentals. Alberta continues to remain the best province in the country to invest, to do business, to raise a family. We have the lowest taxes, and we . . .

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Speaker, this minister is obviously not talking to the same people I am in downtown Calgary. Given that ignoring this problem will not make it go away and given that Albertans have no faith that this tax-and-spend government could bear to let up on either of those things, again to the minister. Please be honest with Albertans, Alberta businesses, and investors and tell them which taxes this government will be hiking to close the fiscal gap.

Mr. Ceci: Mr. Speaker, you know, we have no sales tax in Alberta. We have no payroll tax in Alberta, no health care premiums in Alberta. Alberta is a great place to do business, and that was the message that the Leader of the Opposition took to India when he was there. In fact, the leader in India said that Alberta is competitive, has low taxes, and low power prices. Why doesn't that member listen to his leader?

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

2:40

Energy Policies (continued)

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the minister of environment in 2013 when she was opposing Northern Gateway stated that, quote, we submit that there is no reliable evidence of the significant economic benefits from Northern Gateway, unquote, has this antipipeline opinion informed NDP policy on pipelines?

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, the opposition wants to make a great deal about actions that people took when they were not part of this government, when they were working for another employer. That has no relevance. This government is committed to finishing the pipeline to make sure we have access to tidewater. The hon. member's leader had 10 years in Ottawa to do exactly that, and he botched it. They made no progress in getting pipelines to tidewater, and the Supreme Court kicked out the Northern Gateway file because of the incompetence of that leader and his government.

The Speaker: Hon. member, again, on government policy.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It might have been because this minister was actively opposing pipelines.

Mr. Mason: Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order.

Mrs. Aheer: Why did the environment minister state in 2013 that there is no reliable evidence of a functioning free market to ensure the health of the business in the producers of western Canadian energy? Unquote. I was just curious, Mr. Speaker: in her capacity as the environment minister does she still agree with this antitrust activism? Yes or no?

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak on behalf of all members of this government that we have worked very hard to make sure that we have access for Alberta's petroleum resources to tidewater, and any suggestion to the contrary is completely false. It's clear, however, that the leader of that party, when he was a cabinet minister in Ottawa, absolutely failed to do that when he was in a position to do it. If he can't do it when he's a federal minister, he sure can't do it here.

The Speaker: Second supplemental.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, does the environment minister still believe that 525,000 barrels per day does not equate to economic benefit?

Mr. Mason: Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member persists in asking ministers on this side what their beliefs are, were, whatever, instead of accepting the fact that this government's actions prove that its intent has always been to get access to tidewater for Alberta's resources and that we worked resolutely, consistently throughout our mandate to do that, and that is what we're going to do in the second mandate as well.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I've had a request for unanimous consent to introduce some guests.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Introduction of Guests (continued)

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

Mr. Nielsen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly an English language learner class from Dickinsfield Amity House, a drop-in centre located in the heart of Edmonton-Decore. Today with us we have over 20 ELL students who come from all over the world and have decided to settle in the wonderful ridings of not only Edmonton-Decore but even Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview. Along with the students we also have Frieda Maaskant, Bertha Groot, Pat

Barnum, and they are joined by their outstanding teacher, Louisa Bruinsma, who has been an integral part of the success of this program. The Minister of Economic Development and Trade and I were also privileged enough to visit their classes last week to talk about the Legislature and our lives as MLAs. They were eager to learn how our government works and participated with great interest and enthusiasm during both our visits. Unfortunately, they weren't able to stay, but I would still ask if the House would provide the traditional warm welcome.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I'm not sure we need the 30. We will have 15 seconds.

Members' Statements

(continued)

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

Solar Energy Programs

Mr. Hinkley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year I spoke on the value of LED light bulbs and energy efficiency. The installation of energy-efficient products resulted in \$330 million in energy savings for Alberta families. Thousands of jobs were created, and Alberta's economy grew by almost half a billion dollars.

Today I want to talk about solar energy. Albertans save more than \$3 on every dollar invested in energy efficiency. Albertans have reduced emissions equivalent to taking three-quarters of a million cars off the road for a year. Millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions have been avoided.

Who is at the forefront of the solar economy? It's farmers, indigenous people, businesses, municipalities, and homeowners. Today twice as many farmers applied for solar panel energy programs than could be offered. Many farmers in my constituency wish they would have been doing so many years ago. Indigenous communities continue to expand their installations. Each of the four nations in my constituency is saving money and investing it in social programs, housing, and infrastructure. Municipalities are saving millions on rinks, recreation centres, administration buildings, and schools. Some 1,500 Alberta businesses, nonprofits, and institutions are investing in energy efficiency, saving money that can be invested in other areas. Alberta businesses are saving millions in energy costs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and being competitive in foreign markets.

Solar panels are becoming more efficient, and storage capabilities are improving, which is why I am so pleased that with the help of Energy Efficiency Alberta I was able to install solar panels on my home.

Exaggerations about the carbon levy costing \$5,000 per family have proven false. We can all do our part to increase energy efficiency, and the work of the climate leadership plan and today's announcement on community recreation generation programs make it that much easier.

Thank you.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

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

Loyola: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table five copies of the report of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship that summarizes the presentations received by the committee at its public meeting on October 23, 2018. Additional

copies of the report are available through the committee office and online.

Thank you very much.

Notices of Motions

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to give notice pursuant to Standing Order 34(3) that I'm advising the House that on the next available Monday Written Question 5 will be accepted and the written question will be dealt with. Additionally, motions for returns 13, 14, 15 and 16 will be accepted, and Motion for Return 17 will be dealt with.

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the five requisite copies of an article by Ricardo Acuña entitled *Albertans Hardly Noticed the Province Untangled an Administrative Mess that Plagued Those with Disabilities for Decades*, which was published in the *Vue* on November 14, 2018. The article outlines some of the government's fantastic work in improving and reforming AISH.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta's north is a resourceful region and plays a significant role in building a strong and resilient economy. Since 1963 the Northern Alberta Development Council has been championing the cause of Alberta's northern economies and communities, providing valuable advice. Pursuant to section 8 of the Northern Alberta Development Council Act I'd like to table five copies of the NADC 2017-18 annual report. I encourage all members to learn more about the activities and initiatives undertaken by the council over the past fiscal year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Calgary-Hays.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got four tablings. The first one is a news release from CN Rail, back from June 12, saying that they're investing \$320 million to expand and strengthen Alberta's rail infrastructure.

The next three are for my colleague from Chestermere-Rocky View. The first one is two endorsements from the founders of the Leap Manifesto, Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein, for the environment minister.

The second one is a copy of a brochure promoting an antipipeline rally as well as a tweet by the minister of the environment saying that she was heading to the rally.

The third one is a partial transcript of the Alberta Federation of Labour's oral argument against the Northern Gateway pipeline in which the minister of environment is introduced as well as an image of that event.

Thank you.

2:50

The Speaker: Any others, hon. members?

I think I had a tabling here, did I not? I have. I'm tabling today five copies of the 2017-2018 annual report of the Child and Youth

Advocate for the period April 1 to March 31, 2018, as per the Child and Youth Advocate Act.

Hon. members, we didn't hit the record of seven from yesterday, but we certainly got to four as I understand it. I believe the first point of order is from the Government House Leader. Is that correct?

Point of Order

Questions about a Previous Responsibility

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Several times today members opposite – in my first point of order I will reference the hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View – asked questions about the opinion of the environment minister and actions that she had taken before she was a member of the government, before she was an MLA, when she was an employee, in this case, of the Alberta Federation of Labour and speaking on their behalf. It's been clear – and we made this point of order yesterday, and we'll keep making this point of order as long as the opposition persists in attempting to ask questions about things that are not related to government policy.

Mr. Speaker, it's absolutely clear, as I said in answer to some of the questions, that this government has been very consistent with respect to its approach to the energy industry and its support of that industry and its advocacy for access to tidewater for the industry. Actions have been ongoing and consistent throughout the term of this government, yet the opposition persists in trying to find things in the past where other members had expressed opinions that have nothing to do with government policy. Of course, they don't have to look very far. They can look in the mirror, and they can see examples of where their own leader has adopted positions now that he is Leader of the Official Opposition that are at variance with his positions before he was elected or even at variance with his positions when he was a member of the Conservative caucus in Ottawa.

It's clear, and I just want to read a ruling by yourself, Mr. Speaker. Just as recently as, why, yesterday you stated the following:

Based upon the information, the guidelines that we're all familiar with, the government must have the administrative competence that is related to the point. Issues outside the influence of the government ought not to be considered. Read paragraph 409 of *Beauchesne's* and page 509 of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*. I do want to give as much latitude in asking questions and providing answers, but I would again ask that you ensure [that] the focus is clearly on government policy.

You've heard me say today a couple of times that indeed you ought to be staying away, all of the members in this place, from questions that are purely of a personal nature. I recognize that that is not entirely a science, but I think the expectation of myself and this House generally is that personal comments ought to not become a part of the question. They need [to] be focused on policy. In this particular instance I would think and I know that the opposition . . . will no doubt be conscious of that going into the future. In this particular instance there probably was a point of order, but I think the resolution is more on a go-forward basis.

Well, Mr. Speaker, here we are on a go-forward basis, and the opposition is still persisting in ignoring the track record of the government and trying to throw dust in the eyes of voters about what this government's actual record is. I consider that to be, you know, not the highest standard of probity and ethics, but certainly it is as well, in the way they're going about it, contrary to the rules

of question period. They're abusing question period in order to create a misconception upon the part of Albertans about what this government is doing. It's very clear, very transparent what their intent is, and I think it is beneath them and it is beneath this House.

The Speaker: The Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me first start off with: this side of the House is happy to talk about this government's record any time. It's a dismal record, and we're quite happy to highlight it.

A couple of things. First, the hon. Government House Leader points out that questions should be about government policy or something within the capacity of the administrative role or the competency of the government. He then references the hon. Member for Chestermere-Rocky View's question, which I believe is the point of order that we are on. Mr. Speaker, I have her notes. You have the benefit of the Blues, so you will know if she spoke outside of those notes in the question. I would not know. There's no way I can remember every word, obviously. But her first question was: "A simple question to the Premier. After you were sworn in, did your government allow the Trudeau Liberals to cancel Northern Gateway because your environment minister recommended it?" The cancellation of Northern Gateway is certainly something to do with this government. The environment minister is certainly something to do with this government. Certainly, it even references when they were sworn in. I'm certain the Government House Leader wouldn't try to say that when they were sworn in, they weren't the government.

The second question, when the next point of order was called, to the minister of environment: does she still think it was right to cancel a 525,000 barrel-per-day pipeline for Alberta? Mr. Speaker, as you know, because you granted just recently an emergency debate in this Assembly, I believe, actually, yesterday because of the great crisis that we're facing due to the differential crisis, the Northern Gateway has a significant impact on that crisis, both the fact that it was cancelled without a protest from this government – in fact, they supported it; there's lots of evidence on the record on that while they were in government and before they were in government and then went forward – and then, going forward, on how we're going to be able to solve the differential crisis. Of course, we're still going to be able to need pipelines, and Northern Gateway is a very relevant part of the conversation that we are currently facing.

I don't know if it is the intention of the Government House Leader to deal with the other separate questions and separate points of order, which I'm happy to deal with. I don't know if that's the intention. If not, I'll speak to the other questions. I'm not sure if . . .

The Speaker: I'm dealing with one.

Mr. Nixon: One at a time. Perfect. Well, then, in regard to those two, those are two clear questions to deal with government policy.

I will point out one other irony. In each of those questions the government then got up and spent their entire answer referring to the Leader of the Opposition in those questions, his past record inside the House of Commons, past policies, most of it, I would say, inaccurate. But that's fine. That's what they brought forward. So it is a little bit ironic that on one hand they say: we don't want to answer for our record and the things that we say, but we want everybody else in this Chamber to answer for them.

3:00

The Speaker: Hon. members, this is what I read from the Blues:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers we would not be in today's oil differential situation if the Northern Gateway pipeline had not been cancelled. On June 17, 2013, the environment minister personally appeared at the National Energy Board hearing to argue against the approval of Northern Gateway. I just have a simple question.

There was a point of order by the Government House Leader.

To the Premier: after you were sworn in, did your government allow the Trudeau Liberals to cancel Northern Gateway because your environment minister recommended it?

I believe that both sides of the House – I talked about it yesterday, and I'll talk about it again today – still reference their arguments around individual past action. In this particular instance I determined that there was a question that was in order, and it was a question that was specifically asked to the Premier.

Number 2. The Government House Leader.

Mr. Mason: I'll withdraw, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Give me a minute to read the Blues if I could.

Mr. Mason: Sure.

The Speaker: Number 2 is withdrawn.

Number 3. No?

Mr. Mason: I've lost track, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Yesterday I lost track.

How about number 4?

Mr. Mason: I didn't make a fourth.

The Speaker: My notes indicate it was the Government House Leader who raised the point of order. Withdrawn?

Mr. Mason: I'm done, Mr. Speaker. I have no more points of order to argue.

The Speaker: Okay.

Orders of the Day Government Motions

[Ms Sweet in the chair]

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Evening Sittings

36. Mr. Mason moved:
Be it resolved that, pursuant to Standing Order 4(1), commencing November 26, 2018, the Assembly shall meet on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings for consideration of government business for the duration of the Fourth Session of the 29th Legislature 2018 fall sitting unless the Government House Leader notifies the Assembly that there shall be no evening sitting that day by providing notice under Notices of Motions in the daily Routine or at any time prior to 6 p.m.

[Government Motion 36 carried]

Government Bills and Orders

Second Reading

Bill 26

An Act to Combat Poverty and Fight for Albertans with Disabilities

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to move second reading of Bill 26, An Act to Combat Poverty and Fight for Albertans with Disabilities.

This is a truly historic bill that, if passed, will index benefit rates to help a quarter of a million Albertans. This legislation fights poverty, protects people with disabilities' right to dignity, and brings greater stability to people's lives. It also corrects a fundamental and historic lack of fairness for persons with disabilities, low-income Albertans, and low-income seniors, whose supports seldom kept pace with inflation. This bill will forever change how social programs are delivered in this province, and we are very proud to bring it forward.

But I want to be clear that we have not done this alone. I want to recognize the two cosponsors of this legislation, the MLA for St. Albert and the MLA for Lethbridge-East. Both MLAs along with many of my colleagues have been strong advocates on these issues for a long time. Madam Speaker, I also want to thank the thousands of self-advocates, antipoverty advocates, seniors, persons with disabilities, families, and community leaders who have also advocated for these changes. Self-advocates and community leaders like Ian Young, Mark Chrichton, Mary Salvani, Sandra DeBruin, Leah McRorie, Amy Park, Les Landry, just to name a few; and groups like Disability Action Hall in Calgary, Vibrant Communities Calgary, EndPoverty Edmonton, Edmonton Social Planning Council, Inclusion Alberta, Public Interest Alberta, the Self Advocacy Federation, Momentum, the YWCA, the Calgary Housing Company, United Way, women's centres, just to name a few.

For many years these and many other individuals and groups have created petitions, organized town halls and meetings, made phone calls, and written letters calling for this change. To these advocates and leaders I want to say: your work has not been in vain. Unlike the previous government, our government heard you and is taking action. It is because of your commitment and dedication that our bill is here today. So thank you for continuing to push, for telling your stories, and for advocating for all Albertans. Please know that our government is with you and fighting for you.

Madam Speaker, AISH, services for low-income Albertans, and supports for seniors have been a priority for our government since day one. When times got tough, instead of making reckless cuts like the members opposite propose, we ensured that our public services were protected and strengthened. We added \$182 million in funding to AISH to ensure that Albertans who needed support could get it and weren't turned away. We have protected supports for seniors and invested in health care. We took action to fight poverty and help low-income families through our investment in the Alberta child benefit, a \$25 million increase to FCSS, an increase to the minimum wage, and a \$1.2 billion investment in affordable housing, and we are not done fighting. We have always committed to looking at the benefit levels, as the province's finances permit, and through this bill we are keeping that promise.

As our province is coming out of the worst recession in generations, we are taking action to make sure we are not leaving people behind. We are ensuring that this recovery reaches all

Albertans. For too long Albertans with disabilities, Albertans living on low incomes, and seniors have had to beg governments for increases to their supports as the cost of living rises. They have been subjected to politics, they have been asked to prove their need again and again, they have been blamed for the situation they find themselves in, and they have been stigmatized for being on social supports. I'm proud to say that this bill puts an end to all that.

This bill will establish new, increased rates for AISH and income support as of January 1. Most importantly, this bill will take politics out of decision-making by establishing annual indexing of benefits for AISH, income support, and seniors' benefits. This bill will support a quarter of a million Albertans who need assistance covering their basic needs like groceries and rent.

3:10

Madam Speaker, I do want to highlight that indexing will be protected in the act, which means that no government will be able to cut rates behind closed doors. This will stabilize and protect supports so that they are tied to the cost of living and will ensure predictability so that individuals and families can plan for their future.

Madam Speaker, this change is based on the advocacy of many Albertans, Albertans like Amber Cannon, an AISH recipient, who said, and I quote: this will help me eat breakfast in the morning. End quote. Or Mark Chrichton, who said, and I quote: indexing might mean having better food, paying all your bills, living a bit more comfortably. End quote. Or Ian Young, who said, and I quote: indexing will take away a bit of the desperation of managing in the face of yearly inflation; I'm glad to see that the Premier recognized this voice and acknowledged the need of Albertans on AISH; being heard is one thing; having your concerns addressed is gratifying. End quote. Amber, Mark, and Ian believe that all people deserve dignity and fairness, and I couldn't agree more.

That is why we are indexing these supports and doing what we are doing instead of doing what the opposition would want us to do, cuts and more cuts. And we all know that that is what they would do because they have said as much, like the MLA for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills, who said that the cuts are, quote, going to hurt; or the Member for Calgary-Hays, who criticized supports for people with disabilities when he said that government has, quote, a whole variety of giveaways from light bulbs to better health care for disabled persons; or the Leader of the Official Opposition, who said that the spending level should be in line with B.C., which means another \$500 cut per month to AISH. We think this is the wrong thing to do. We believe these 250,000 Albertans deserve better.

We believe that we need to put politics aside and do what is right for Albertans. That is why, in addition to indexing, we are proposing other changes. For instance, supplemental and personal benefits associated with these programs will also be indexed. Families with children will see added supports. The asset limit will be changed to ensure that Albertans don't need to jump through multiple hoops to get the supports they need. The asset limit for the AISH child allowance will increase from \$3,000 to \$100,000. In other words, once you qualify for AISH, you qualify for the child benefit, too. This will allow people to get access to supports for their children like the child care benefit or an emergency benefit for an unforeseen or individual-specific situation. The asset test for the AISH personal benefit will also increase from \$3,000 to \$5,000, so they don't have to deplete everything to get those benefits.

Madam Speaker, all of the changes in this bill follow a commitment of our government since day one: Nothing about Us without Us. We have heard from Albertans that these changes are needed and long overdue. We have heard their stories. We believe

their stories are real, their challenges are real, and their pain is real. I can tell you with absolute certainty that cuts are not what Albertans want. They want stability so they can live their lives and care for their families, they want action to fight poverty, they want investment in Albertans to support increased opportunity in our communities, and this is what this bill is about. This is why we are so proud to bring this forward.

But I also want to be very clear. We know that there is more work to do, and we are committed to undertaking that work. For instance, the AISH program, which was established in 1979, uses the term "severely handicapped." Quite frankly, Albertans no longer use this term. We will address their concern with the name of the program and work with them to replace this with a more suitable name. We will work with all concerned to look at the cohabitating partner policy and explore what type of income should be exempt and the exemption levels.

This bill is an important step forward, but there is more to do with the issues I outlined and other issues, and we will do that. We will continue listening to Albertans and work collaboratively with them to make life better for Albertans. Thank you once again to everyone who shared their feedback to make this bill possible.

I want to end my comments with a Nelson Mandela quote that was shared with me by Franco Savoia from Vibrant Communities Calgary. Quote: like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural; it is man-made, and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. End quote. Madam Speaker, we all have Albertans living in poverty in our communities and in our constituencies. As their representatives we can and must take action to end poverty, and we know Bill 26 is an important step in making this a reality.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I hope all my colleagues will speak in support of this bill and in support of all those thousands of Albertans whose lives will be positively impacted by this bill.

Thank you very much.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

I'll now recognize the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Mr. Hanson: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm very happy to rise today to speak to Bill 26, An Act to Combat Poverty and Fight for Albertans with Disabilities. Hopefully, the minister will be able to answer a couple of questions that I still have on it.

There are thousands of Albertans living on AISH, income supports, receiving seniors' benefits and other supports that have been long awaiting the indexing of their programs to CPI. You know, when I first read the bill and was looking at this speech, it reminded me of, I believe it was a year and a half ago or two years ago, when I tabled a letter in the Chamber that was brought to me by two seniors from Willingdon that drove all the way to my office in St. Paul to deliver a letter along with a quarter, which summed up the total increase to their seniors' benefit. Actually, it was a penny over, because they'd each received a 1 cent per month increase to their seniors' benefit, so they rounded it up to a quarter just to make it easier for me to bring it to the House.

I'm also reminded of the question that I had to the minister, I believe, during the spring session on the clawback formula. When it comes to AISH payments, the only ones that are really affected are seniors, who get clawed back because of their seniors' benefits. It's not the same as if there were a cohabiter that had a job that was bringing in that much money. They wouldn't be clawed back, but because it was a seniors' benefit, it would be. So if you could clarify that that has been changed in this bill, that would be really appreciated.

Also, interestingly enough, on Tuesday morning the leader of our party along with myself and a lot of our colleagues went down to tour Hope Mission in downtown Edmonton, and we stayed around there and helped serve lunch to a bunch of homeless people there. During the tour we talked about one of the old buildings that they use for housing the homeless there, the Jamieson building.

3:20

They have been given permission to tear down that building and build a new facility in two phases. The first phase is about \$15 million, and they're having a hard time raising the funds to get that done. The city of Edmonton isn't being very helpful. But at the same time we look at the recent announcement by the government of over \$1 billion to build the west line LRT. I just find it interesting that we seem to really have our priorities a little bit skewed when it comes to that. I'll go on with the rest. I just thought it was interesting that, you know, a small project of \$15 million can't be supported but building a west line LRT, where there's already access by bus service, taxi service, Uber, many forms of transportation to get you from the west end to downtown, benefits by over \$1 billion from the province.

As the cost of living increases year to year, making it more difficult for low-income Albertans to afford the necessities, we also see that life is becoming ever more expensive for Albertans under this NDP government. The NDP's carbon tax, which affects low-income families disproportionately, has made it more difficult for families to heat their homes in our frigid winters or to drive to work. It is not only the case that the cost of everything has gone up under this NDP government, but the ability to afford the necessities has also become more challenging. The NDP has driven away jobs and those who create jobs. Investment is fleeing due to the uncertain bureaucratic and burdened economic climate led by the NDP's increased regulatory red tape. It has become more and more difficult for Albertans to find jobs, so it is vastly more important in light of this to strengthen and improve supports to those who need them.

In the case of Bill 26 I'm happy to see that there will be a one-time, catch-up increase to financial support for recipients of AISH, something that has been mentioned to me many times in my office as well, and also to the Alberta seniors' benefit and supportive living and lodge subsidies. The government stated the cost of this initial increase but has not yet specified what this will be costing the government annually in the years to come. There needs to be transparency in what government is doing. It is our duty as legislators to hold the government to account. Albertans deserve to know what their government is doing and why. It is their money that the government is using to do it.

On this same issue of transparency, I understand that the changes that are coming to the support programs are not equal across the board. I would like for the government to elaborate on why they have decided to make greater increases to some programs than to others and what their rationale was. Again, I'll bring up the clawback to seniors when it comes to AISH. Can the government also elaborate on which stakeholders were consulted for the changes that were brought forward in this bill? It is crucial to ensure that proper consultation is done beforehand as we have seen what happens when the NDP does not consult.

Madam Speaker, we know that the NDP's detrimental and burdensome policies have made it more difficult on the already strained finances of low-income and vulnerable Albertans. Adding up the costs of everyday life, it has become more difficult to afford along with the cost of medications or other necessary goods. It may even be the case that this increase to AISH supports will not be enough to cover the costs that they will be incurring.

Another question I have about these increases: what will be the impact on AISH recipients in regard to their CPP and medications? Will that be clawed back due to the increases in the amount that they are receiving? I'm happy to see that the amount being paid out is increasing and that we are supporting those that need it most. However, while it is vital that we adequately provide support to those who need it, it is equally as important that we ensure we are allowing them to also help themselves and not doing anything to inhibit them from doing so.

I'm happy to see that the government is increasing the asset limits, which gives the opportunity for individuals receiving these limits to save more. Under these higher limits there is less cost to saving; otherwise put, this decreases the clawback rate of saving. This will help those who are trying to save up and potentially be able to graduate off financial supports. If their supports are not being clawed back as fast as they are able to save money thanks to this increased limit, then there is more reason to save.

Madam Speaker, this indexing to CPI will greatly benefit all support recipients who have been waiting for years for an adjusted amount that reflects today's cost-of-living increases. We've heard, devastatingly, from AISH advocates that some cannot even afford basic necessities. This is absolutely unacceptable. The supports are in place in order to ensure that this is never the case for anyone. The fact that this is still happening is unacceptable and must be addressed. Every Albertan, as a base, should be confident in their ability to afford personal hygiene products and other necessities. There is absolutely no one who should worry if this will be impossible for them. This is fundamentally why we have these programs in place. It makes me happy to see that this bill will help address this.

The increase in the supports that this bill addresses will go directly to the Albertans it seeks to help and where it will be of the most use. I'm glad that it's going directly to those who need it rather than into administrative costs. Beyond this increase in payments, we must also talk about additional supports that are necessary in order to have a far-reaching beneficial impact. These supports include mental health supports as we cannot group everyone's situation as one and treat them all the same. Strong mental health supports will greatly help Albertans with developmental disabilities and are vitally needed.

On the case of mental health, I brought forward many questions regarding the St. Therese health centre in St. Paul, which is the psychiatric hub for northeastern Alberta. One of the questions that was brought to the minister by one of the local mayors was the fact that people are brought into the facility from outside of the town of St. Paul, brought in sometimes by RCMP from Lac La Biche or Cold Lake, dropped off at the hospital. They spend four or five days there and get corrected, back onto their meds. But a lot of times these folks then are discharged by the hospital with no money, sometimes without identification, unable to find their own way home. The answer that we got, shockingly, from the minister was that that's a municipality's problem. So while we're addressing these issues, there are many, many more issues to consider.

There must also be support to enter and participate in the labour market. Due to the current lack of jobs available to Albertans due to NDP mismanagement, there must be structure in place to help those individuals with securing a job and give a hand up to those who are in poverty.

I'm so happy that there is an increase in the supports for the recipients of AISH, income supports, Alberta seniors' benefit, and supportive living and lodge subsidy and that this will help them in the race to keep up with the ever-increasing rising cost of living thanks to such policies as the carbon tax. This is why I will be supporting Bill 26.

Thank you very much.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the bill? The hon. Member for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills. I enjoyed his remarks today. I think they were right on the mark. I rise today to speak in support of Bill 26. I'm glad to see a piece of legislation of this kind here in the Assembly. I actually think it should have been here a long time ago, quite frankly. I would question what took 3.5 years for the minister to get this legislation to the Assembly, but I am glad to see it here today.

I, like other members in this Chamber, have heard from many people who are AISH recipients, heard about how tough it is to currently live under the current numbers. We've heard from AISH recipients who cannot afford basic necessities, as the hon. member just described, I mean, basic hygiene necessities and things along those lines. I think all of us can agree that we have to ensure that AISH recipients are able to at least have an appropriate standard of living. Not being able to buy hygiene products, quite frankly, is appalling, that they would be in a situation like that. Supporting employment for people with developmental disabilities also will have a far-reaching, positive impact. I'm glad to see that in this bill. As well, raising asset limits for individuals receiving financial supports is important because it will allow them to save and potentially graduate off financial supports in the future.

I think this piece of legislation is good. I'm glad to see it here. I will be happy to support it. We will have some questions that hopefully can be answered in Committee of the Whole by the minister, but we'll be happy to bring up some of them today. The hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills raised some of them already. One question we have, though. I understand that some programs, Madam Speaker, through you to the minister, have seen greater increases than others. Can the government please share how they determined the relative rate increase in each program and which stakeholders they consulted with on this?

3:30

The second question, Madam Speaker, that we'd be interested in hearing about: will recipients of AISH see their CPP medications clawed back because of these increases? I think that's a good question to make sure that we've got right while we're doing this legislation.

The third question that I would have. While increases to AISH are important, it's equally important that we provide AISH recipients with educational and employment opportunities in the hopes that one day they may obtain full-time employment and graduate out of AISH. Now, not everybody is going to be able to graduate out of AISH, but there are certain circumstances where that's possible, and I think it's important that we support people that are doing that. My question specifically, Madam Speaker, through you to the minister, is: what is the government doing to address the serious lack of employment opportunities for our disabled population?

Lastly, income support caseloads have continued to rise in recent years. For the category of people expected to work, caseloads rose from 29,111 in 2016 to 34,375 in 2017. That's a significant increase. This is due in large part to negligence on economic files by this government, which has led to massive unemployment and hardship in our province. Income supports are important, but what is really important, of course, Madam Speaker, is getting Albertans back to work. I think it's important that this government address how they will also deal with that issue.

With that support in mind and looking forward to some answers to questions and maybe some further conversation in Committee of the Whole when this piece of legislation gets there, I will also point out some of the irony that I see in this legislation coming from this government at this time. I'm glad it's here. I wish it had been here before. But as the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills pointed out in his speech, quite well I think, it is very ironic that this government continues to hurt the less fortunate in our province significantly through their regressive carbon tax, that they continue to make life more expensive for people that are in vulnerable situations, certainly for people on AISH, and life more expensive for fixed-income seniors, which, of course, are also part of this legislation and important to remember.

You know, I don't know how the government, with a straight face, could justify repeatedly over the last few years voting against removing the carbon tax from people in these types of circumstances at the very least. We're against the carbon tax. I want to make that clear. Before the members across the way ask what we would do, then, in this case, which they like to heckle about, I'll be very, very clear. We will remove the carbon tax, one hundred per cent, from everybody in Alberta. This government did choose to go with the carbon tax, but at the very least they probably should have supported the opposition's attempts to be able to provide people in these types of circumstances with exemptions.

It costs a lot of money, not only the direct cost, for people in a fixed-income situation like that to be able to pay for heat or electricity, gas when they drive, those types of situations. Actually, as you know, Madam Speaker, it ended up being a tax on everything. Everything in our society ended up with the tax on it, and it's increased for a couple of reasons. One is because most things in our society come by truck or train, and it costs gas to be able to get them there. Then, of course, places like the grocery store had to pay extra for heat and had to pay extra for getting their products to the store, so that, then, increased the costs for these people in these types of circumstances. But to not be able to even provide them some sort of exemption from that – which we tried.

Further to that, the nonprofit agencies. As the hon. minister knows – and I know he will agree – our nonprofit partners do significant work in working with people facing poverty in our province. I know the hon. minister actually worked for one of those nonprofit organizations, as did I, so he knows the importance of that role there. This side of the House tried to provide an exemption to those agencies to be able to help people in those situations, and that side of the House, the NDP, voted yet again to make life harder for those individuals.

I think it's important. The minister in his remarks talked about how he felt that we, being the United Conservative Party, may not be compassionate on this issue or something along those lines. I think he's mistaken. But I think what's really clear and is fair to point out is that this government has shown, with their voting record on this issue, that they are at least tone deaf to what people are experiencing. Now, I do know that one point they will often raise when we talk about this issue is the carbon tax rebates, which have been clawed back and definitely have not kept going with the increase in the carbon tax.

This bill also impacts seniors. I don't know if all the hon. members have gotten to that portion of this legislation. Under this government's watch, who have brought this bill forward, they allowed seniors' carbon tax rebates, which only cover the fixed side of the equation – as I was referring to earlier, Madam Speaker, of course, this is a tax on everything; it's raised the cost of everything in our society – to be clawed back 30 per cent, to 70 per cent, without a word of protest from the minister. I can tell you that I know that my colleagues and I and, I suspect, my colleagues in the

government caucus hear about that often when we're visiting with seniors in our communities.

While I think this is a good first start and we will look at some of the other questions that we have to see if we can possibly even make this legislation better or catch some stuff that the government may have missed, we definitely will continue to support it.

But I do think it's worth pointing out that the government should go all the way. They shouldn't go halfway and continue to allow their carbon tax and their policies to hurt the very people that they're trying to help within this legislation. Certainly, as we know from the Premier's announcement this morning, with the decision to remove the carbon tax from drillers, a decision I would support, that is confirmation that, one, the carbon tax is having a negative impact and, two, that it's not getting us pipelines or the social licence that was promised with that carbon tax. Certainly, if drillers or corporations should not be receiving or having to pay that carbon tax in the future, I would think that, at the very least, people that are on AISH and fixed-income seniors should not have to pay that carbon tax anymore going forward. Now, if this side of the House is fortunate enough to form government in a few more months, fortunately for them they won't have to for much longer.

But it is disappointing that the government continues to allow these people to feel pain and to have to suffer consequences as a result of the decisions that this government has made. I hope that they consider that as we're debating this bill.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, I will recognize the hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Dr. Starke: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and speak to Bill 26. I'd like to thank the hon. minister for bringing forward this piece of legislation. I think that it is always important that as legislators we look to do what needs to be done to take care of the most vulnerable in society. I'm pleased to note that the legislation extends beyond just the soon-to-be-renamed assured income for the severely handicapped. I'm glad to hear that that name is going to be altered. I think that it's important that the language we use is appropriate and that the language we use when we're working with and working co-operatively with those who require assistance from government be done in a compassionate way.

I'd also like to thank the minister for listing off many of the advocates that worked with him and his department in creating this legislation. I note, in fact, that he included the names of some people who have been very critical of him and his department, and I appreciate that, Minister. I think it's important that we listen to critical voices and that we acknowledge that they also add to the conversation. I think that's very healthy.

I want to give a little bit of background perspective, from my own perspective, on this file both as a representative MLA but also as a member of the previous government. I will tell you, Madam Speaker, that one of the initiatives and one of the measures that was taken by former Premier Alison Redford, that I, frankly, think is one of her shining moments, was when she increased the AISH benefit in the 2012 budget by \$400, from \$1,188 per month to \$1,588 per month. You know, there's a lot said about previous Premiers, and there's a lot said about previous ministers and certain portfolios and that sort of thing. Hindsight, of course, is always 20/20.

But I will say that, having just joined the government around the time that the 2012 budget was put in place – and there was a lot of

criticism of that budget from the Official Opposition of the day – this was a measure that, certainly, I heartily supported. To give you just some perspective, that increase to \$1,588 was a \$400 increase from the previous rate, which had last been adjusted in April 2009. There had been a three-year time period where there had been no adjustment.

3:40

There's one thing that this piece of legislation finally does address, and that is that there has not been an adjustment to the AISH benefit since 2012. It has been frozen at \$1,588. I fully acknowledge that it was the party that I was part of, the government that I was part of that made no adjustment for the first three years, but it was the current government that made no adjustment for the next three years. So I'm glad that this legislation makes an attempt to address that six-year time period. Really, it'll be seven years by the time the actual increase takes effect. But the increase in amount over that period of time is actually only about half of what it should be.

I will provide some evidence to that, and I will also be providing an amendment in committee stage that actually recommends that the basic AISH benefit be increased by more than what the current legislation calls for. I believe that if we're really trying to make sure that recipients are keeping up with inflation, which indexing it to CPI correctly does going forward, then we shouldn't lock in the fact that over the last six years there has been no adjustment. If we only increase it by \$97, which is what the current legislation provides for, we are locking in the fact that we won't have the benefit correctly adjusted.

I think there are a few other things that we do need to look at when we're looking at this legislation. One of the concerns I have expressed to me on a regular basis by constituents is that disability pension benefits are clawed back. If there is someone who contributed to a disability pension or a disability plan and was receiving a benefit from that plan, that is used to then reduce the amount of their AISH benefit. I'm not sure that that's entirely fair. If at the time that they were working or at the time that they were involved in employment, they contributed to a disability plan, they clearly will receive that benefit. But why should that then be turned around and clawed back from their AISH benefit? Certainly, that's something I have a great deal of difficulty explaining to my constituents that raise that as a concern, and I would appreciate having that discussion, perhaps at committee level, or perhaps the minister can address it during his comments on the closing of debate on second reading.

Another area that I will address today as well with regard to Bill 26 perhaps doesn't have to show up in the legislation, but I think it is something that we should very much at least look at – I know that the minister is very aware of this issue – and that is that an increasing number of recipients of AISH benefits are benefited greatly by the ownership of service dogs. We saw that even as recently as – now, this is a different health situation, but on Tuesday evening we saw the incredible situation where I met a service dog that was trained to detect high and low blood sugars. I mean, if you want to talk about an amazing level of training, it's to be able to train a dog to be able to detect high and low blood sugars for diabetes patients. But having a dog like that, I will tell you, Madam Speaker, is not an inexpensive proposition. The initial training and acquisition of such a dog and then the care of a dog like that is, you know, not an inexpensive proposition.

For many of our handicapped or for many of our recipients of benefits – I'm going to avoid the use of the word "handicapped" – for many of those recipients the service dog is an absolutely vital and critical part of their lives. That's whether that service dog

assists them with a specific physical handicap or whether it assists them with PTSD or whether it assists them in some other way. These dogs are as vital to them as medication. They are as vital to them for companionship and in a number of other ways.

I'm sure the minister knows where I'm heading with this, and again this is through some of my conversations with Mr. Les Landry, that he acknowledged in his opening remarks. These dogs are critical, and just as recipients of these benefits should not have to choose between purchasing personal hygiene items and food or paying their rent or paying their utilities, they certainly shouldn't have to make decisions with regard to how they care for these service dogs. They have to be fed. They have to have veterinary care. There are costs involved in pet ownership. These dogs are not just pets. These dogs are vitally important. So I'd like to see – and if it's not done in the course of the legislation, then certainly in the course of the regulations flowing out of the legislation – some provision for an allowance for those AISH recipients who have service dogs to assist them with whatever situation that they are in.

I think we have to look, as I said, at the disability insurance premium or the payouts and how those are clawed back, and I will raise some of these in the course of debate in the committee stage.

But I do want to say that this is a positive matter, and I do think that the indexing of these benefits, not just benefits under the AISH program but other benefits, to inflation is the right thing to do. It means that for people who require the assistance, that are dependent on that assistance, they are not going to be in a situation where even when our finances are challenged, we say: look, we just simply can't afford it. That was the answer that AISH recipients received for three years from the government I was part of, that's the answer they've received for three years from this government, and I think we can both share in the acknowledgement that that answer quite simply isn't good enough.

So I will be happy to support Bill 26. I will be bringing forward some amendments that I think would improve Bill 26, and I'm certainly hopeful that the minister will consider them favourably. In the meantime I think it is important that we as a Legislature and that we as a society indeed recognize that it is our obligation to make sure that the most vulnerable in our society are taken care of, that the most vulnerable in our society do not get left behind.

You know, I speak in terms of my own personal approach to the things that I deal with. Whether it was in my business practice or whether it was just as a community member or whether it was chairing our health foundation or my involvement in the Rotary Club, it was always a chance to look for those folks that otherwise might get left behind. We live in a prosperous and caring society, Madam Speaker, and there is absolutely no reason why people should get left behind or people should not be cared for. I know that there are instances where that happens, and I think, quite frankly, that those are the instances that we should try to root out and eliminate in as many ways as we can. I think Bill 26 is part of that, and I will be happy to support it.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, I will recognize the hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I would like to start by thanking the minister for the opportunity to sit down with him and understand the bill more clearly and have a conversation about this important bill. I really appreciate the time that he took.

The bill modifies AISH, income support, and the seniors' benefit, and what I really appreciate is that in the bill it standardizes the child benefit rates for AISH and income support. The way the legislation stands now, there's a variance between the different programs. Now for the first child a \$200 a month benefit in both of those programs, and subsequent children are \$100 a month. I think this is a really good idea. It makes things predictable for families, especially families who are facing difficult situations.

Some other good things that I like about the bill. The asset limit changes I think are reasonable. They take reasonable circumstances into consideration. I'm really, really grateful for indexing increases to CPI. I think that something that we've heard from nonprofits and schools and municipalities is how predictability is key to success, and I think that for people who rely on these programs, they need the same sort of predictability. They need to know that from year to year they'll be able to accommodate the increases that they'll see in their cost of living. So I'm really appreciative of that feature.

3:50

I really like that the seniors, people who have worked their whole lives, are getting their provincial benefits indexed as well, just like they are federally. People who rely on all of these programs are the least able to change their circumstances, so any kind of accommodation that we can make for changes that are outside of their control I think makes a lot of sense. It's the same for any person who finds themselves needing support from the government in some kind of an income support program.

Things that I think could make the bill a bit better. We'll be bringing up amendments in Committee of the Whole. Something that I've heard in my office is how people are treated when they're going to seek benefits, both with AISH and income support. I will be bringing forward an amendment to deal with a client bill of rights so that when people go to different programs for support, they have a good understanding of what to expect, what sort of treatment to expect, what kind of treatment is outside of acceptable standards, and what kind of recourse they might have if they experience something that discourages them from being able to seek help.

One other thing that I'd like to see in the bill is indexing the amount of income that AISH recipients can earn without a clawback. What we've seen over the last three years is that the minimum wage has increased, and what that has meant for AISH recipients is a net decrease in the number of hours that they could work to be able to supplement the income that they're getting from AISH. I would really like to see that income indexed as well so that it keeps pace and so that AISH recipients know they won't be penalized for having a part-time job.

I am really grateful for this bill. I think it's really important. One of my biggest concerns, though, is that it's taken a few years for it to come to the floor. I really wish that we had seen this two or three years ago for some of the reasons that we've already heard this afternoon. There hasn't been an increase to AISH since 2012. That's six years ago. For people that are relying on a very low amount of money to be able to get by every month, six years is a long, long time, and these are people that aren't necessarily in a circumstance where they can do much about their situation. To echo some of the sentiments that my colleague from Vermilion-Lloydminster shared earlier, these are people who we need to take care of. People who are unable to change their circumstances are people that are most deserving of our support.

So for these reasons, I'm looking forward to Committee of the Whole. For the most part, by and large, I really do support this bill.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, I will now recognize the Member for Lethbridge-East.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before I actually get to my comments, I just have a couple of comments to previous speakers.

The Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills mentioned the Jamieson centre. Now, the Jamieson centre strikes a chord with me because it needed to be replaced back in the 1990s when I was working in parole here in Edmonton. In fact, the former Premier not only wouldn't provide any supports; he actually attended the centre and threw money at the residents and told them to get a job. I felt it was important to make that note.

The second was actually kind of a question for the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster. I appreciate most of what you said. One of the things you mentioned was your response when people asked you about fixing it in the years from 2012 to '15. You said that your party's response was: we can't afford it. You said that answer wasn't good enough, and I agree. But why didn't you speak up? That's just something for you to think about.

Dr. Starke: I did. Just so you know, I did.

Ms Fitzpatrick: You did. Okay. Thank you.

I'm standing here today in support of this bill, and I do so on behalf of my constituents. I must support it because my constituents have been negatively affected by the former government's decisions in relation to this bill. I must support it because, upon the passing of this bill, it will be making Alberta a better place for my constituents and all Albertans to live. At its essence, this bill is rooted in our belief that as Alberta is coming out of the worst recession in generations, we will not – we will not – leave people behind. Our recovery needs to be a recovery for all Albertans. I believe that all Albertans deserve to live with dignity and have a chance to succeed, as the minister said.

My constituents with disabilities, seniors, and those needing income supports have told me and showed me how they have struggled to pay rent and to put food on the table. This legislation not only provides better supports today to help them to do just that; it ensures AISH clients and low-income Albertans won't need to fight to afford the basics tomorrow. It provides stability and certainty that as the cost of living increases, so will their benefit rates. The opposition leader in our Legislature has said we should match the B.C. level and, in fact, the minister referenced that. As well, he said that would cut AISH by \$500 a month. I say absolutely not, and our government agrees that we cannot and must not do that.

Do you remember in the spring of 2015 when the Premier before the last election presented a budget which showed cuts across the board? A current member of the Official Opposition has said in the last couple of months that his party will cut and it will hurt. Sounds like the replaying of a bad record, a bad scenario for Albertans and, in particular, for vulnerable Albertans who are finally seeing some relief in their lives with this bill.

Since being elected, many constituents have come to my office and spoken to me about each of these areas. Both those persons with disabilities and seniors and their advocates have told me over and over again that it should not just be increased but indexed with inflation so that they don't take two steps forward only to take one, two, or even three steps back. One of my constituents, Ben Rowley, an AISH recipient, said, and I quote: with cost-of-living increases I don't have to worry about getting poorer and poorer every day. Ben, I'm happy you gave me that, and now it's in *Hansard* forever.

Throughout the economic downturn our government has committed to maintaining benefits, and in fact we increased overall program funding for AISH, income support, and seniors' benefits to support increased demand for services. Our province has grown and so has the need for services, all services. Our government has also committed to revisiting rate increase indexation as the province's finances would allow. Every little bit counts and increases the quality of one's life. Having stability through indexation does add peace of mind, and that's what my constituents have told me.

Do we have more to do? Absolutely. But this is a huge beginning by setting in stone indexing with inflation. I have spoken to senior after senior both at the Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization in Lethbridge-West and Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre in Lethbridge-East, where, incidentally, I've been a member for a number of years. In speaking about this bill, I still have to speak a little bit about history. I will speak mostly about Nord-Bridge, where I have spent a considerable amount of time, and I will also speak from my perspective as a senior.

4:00

When I speak to anyone at Nord-Bridge, they tell me about the struggles of living on a fixed income and how it becomes more and more difficult to make ends meet. They talk to me about their hearing aids because I can relate. They talk to me about their income tax. I initially referred them to their MP but realized that to get something done, they needed to go see Harry or Laurie at Nord-Bridge, who are member volunteers who worked with over 1,300 people last year to address tax and tax-related issues, including seniors' supports, which require that one's income tax be filed each year to have access.

They also tell me how important it is to be able to come to Nord-Bridge and talk to me and my staff about their concerns, whether it's an issue of their power being turned off because they just can't make ends meet or just to tell me that they have a date for their knee surgery. They talk to me about their adult children who have special needs or disabilities of different sorts. They speak to me about being members of Nord-Bridge, where they have a place to come every day and be active, enjoy the jam session on Monday or play floor bowling on another day or just visit with friends.

When I ask any of the members what the focus is at Nord-Bridge, they may not be able to pinpoint exactly what that may be. However, if one were to ask Mike or Bob or Pat or Harry, they will tell you that it is prevention and support. It really speaks about the prevention of social isolation, the prevention of injury, the prevention of dementia by providing activities to stimulate one's mind. It speaks to inclusion and community, and they are very proud of that focus. It provides support.

I think this bill has taken huge first steps with indexation, and when Rodney spoke to me last week, he said that that is fantastic. Then he said that he had some ideas for future improvements. Rodney is never without an idea. Rodney, they have been shared. I know we have more work to do, and I will continue to support what this bill is doing and to advocate for future improvements as finances allow.

Now a quick highlight reel for this bill. There will be a one-time increase to AISH and income support to account for cost-of-living increases and then annual indexing with inflation going forward. As of January 1, 250,000 vulnerable Albertans receive increases in financial supports, annual indexing of Alberta seniors' benefits and related special needs assistance program, supplementary accommodation benefit, and seniors' lodge program, protection against negative inflation. Investment: \$46 million in 2018-19 and \$194 million in 2019-20.

All of those are reasons to support this bill, and I ask every one of my colleagues, everybody in this room, to support this bill. It makes a difference for every single Albertan.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)?

Mr. Nixon: Yes, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much. Thanks to the hon. Member for Lethbridge-East – I always get both sides of that town confused or the members, which side they represent – for her speech. I do want to clarify. In her speech she made some accusations against members of this side of the House, specifically implying that there would be a cut or that we have said that we would cut and that there would be a certain amount that people would lose on AISH or those similar things because of that. That, in fact, is not factual. The member is mistaken on that fact. That's okay. I understand that it was probably hard to adjust the talking points when it was found out that we were voting yes. Nevertheless, that is not factual.

But I am interested in the hon. member's remarks, particularly her remarks to the independent member from Vermilion-Lloydminster: you know, why didn't you stand up? Madam Speaker, I would ask the same question, then, under 29(2)(a) on comments and questions: why did this member not stand up as the government that she belongs to brought in a punishing carbon tax to hurt these very people? Why did she not stand up when it took three and a half years of people on AISH and seniors saying that this is a problem that has to be fixed? Why did she stand by idly waiting for that to happen and not make it clear that action needed to happen?

The fact is, Madam Speaker, that what that member and her colleagues want to forget and at the same time then point and accuse other members of this place of planning to do, you know, huge cuts, which is not true – that's not what this side of the House is intending. We've been clear on that, and we won't be campaigning on that. But while she and her colleagues are doing that, they want to just disregard and forget about the fact that constituents that they even represent are being hurt by the policy decisions of this government.

You know, I've been in Lethbridge a few times this year. I have met with homeless shelters in Lethbridge. I've met with social agencies in Lethbridge and nonprofit agencies in Lethbridge. The number one thing they bring up with us when we meet with them is how much the carbon tax is punishing the very people that they're trying to serve. Every time that I talk to former colleagues that work in the nonprofit sector with people facing poverty, they bring up the carbon tax. This side of the House stood inside this place and moved amendments several times in an attempt to try to help those populations, and that member and her colleagues voted against those amendments.

Food banks, which we have been bringing up here several times over the last several years through this process, have repeatedly and very publicly talked about the struggles they're having already because of the economic downturn, that this government has overseen and created in some cases and made worse, certainly, and said that what's happening with the carbon tax is making it harder for them to be able to serve people in vulnerable positions. That member: where was she and her colleagues when it came time to stand up for them at that time?

My point, Madam Speaker, is that it's a little rich to sit in here with a speech and make up random accusations of us intending to cut things which we're not going to. That's another reason why we're supporting this bill, because we think that, quite frankly, it's

been too long, as some other members have brought up. I'm shocked that it's taken this government this long to get a piece of legislation here to be able to start to address this issue. But it's a little rich to do that, to stand up and say, "We support this; those guys and gals over there are evil; they're going to cut everything" – not accurate – and then ignore the fact that that member and her colleagues have sat in this place repeatedly, over and over, voting for something that is actually hurting those populations. Completely attempting to ignore that fact is frustrating. It doesn't matter whether it's frustrating for me, but it's certainly frustrating for the people that it impacts.

I'm disappointed in that. I was very disappointed each and every time that the members of the government caucus stood on record . . .

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the bill? The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Madam Speaker. An opportunity to rise in support of Bill 26 today, and I just wanted to add my comments and some context to this. I've had a great opportunity during my life and career to work with many organizations in the nonprofit sector, from CUPS to Momentum food bank, UNICEF, Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, Chinese Service Association, Fresh Start, horizon drop-in centre, Calgary Homeless Foundation, Mustard Seed, Inn from the Cold, and the list goes on. I've had an opportunity to work with them either as a volunteer or in fundraising opportunities as well to help them to meet the needs of the vulnerable and, in some cases, Albertans that are in need of assistance over and above what we can provide as government. I certainly salute those organizations.

4:10

I've also been lucky enough to be brought up giving back to the community, volunteering in the community, and ensuring that we as Albertans, not just as the government but as individuals and as communities, support the individuals in our community. I've been lucky enough in my corporate career to also work for some companies that believe that when you do well, you must also do good, and that often when you do good, it actually helps you to do well. Those are some things that I think that I've learned in my career. Those two things can go hand in hand as we support the communities around us. We have the opportunity as working Albertans to support the vulnerable in our community by being responsible but also having a very close eye on the fact that we need to generate wealth to achieve that.

Madam Speaker, we've seen, through the actions of this government, a lot of negative impacts on organizations in my constituency: recreation facilities, places of worship, community centres, nonprofits, other individuals that are struggling, fixed-income households. I see that all the time. I see the recreation facilities coming up with their own programs to ensure that families that are going through difficult times can still attend hockey camps and be involved with sports in their community and have access to services.

I see that in the places of worship. In my own community the Deer Park United church, for example, is right beside a Calgary Housing Company facility. They do incredible work in supporting many of those families, the new immigrants there, who are working on very fixed incomes. That work is being impacted by the fact that they have carbon taxes on their facilities as well that are deeply impacting their ability to deliver those services to members of the community who are going through difficult times or coming here

and settling into a new situation, who may be on fixed income through AISH and other programs that have been in place.

Madam Speaker, I think that we have to understand here that there's recognition that although as Albertans we have a commitment to sustain and provide adequate funding and the supports necessary for vulnerable people and those that, through no fault of their own, need that kind of support, we also have the ability to fund that through fiscal responsibility, by taking care of those vulnerable people in our communities – and I applaud the increases here. I believe we need to ensure that those people that are on these incomes, AISH and other programs, do have the funding that they need to live a safe and comfortable life.

We went through it with one of my wife's cousins, where she was worried. I could tell – she is physically handicapped and blind and deaf and has various other disabilities – that she had concerns, worries about her budget and whether she was going to be able to afford things and maybe to be able to save a little bit of that every month in case there was an emergency. Those things, I think, are good, and the indexing, I think, is important for us as well. But we need to also make sure that we're not overburdening the middle class to achieve that. We have to make sure that we have an economy that is robust, that we do well in this province so that we can do good. That, to me, is an issue that we need to address here: the sustainability.

We've seen it in many other government programs, where they damage the affordability and the balance of costs on one side. They damage those, and then they try and put a Band-Aid on things by increasing things. I think they need to look inside themselves. Again, three and a half years to get this bill out, but in the meantime we've seen the carbon tax impact those fixed-income individuals. We have a 67 per cent increase in that carbon tax coming, and that is not going to be offset in any way, shape, or form by this. Obviously, we've heard that that money is going to go into general revenue, not into rebates.

Quite frankly, the minimum wage, which was brought in to supposedly, again, help lower income individuals, at the same time is going to damage those on fixed incomes, that are on programs like AISH in this province, and the seniors on fixed incomes and others. The unintended consequences of some of these programs are things that we can't always throw Band-Aids on, Madam Speaker. We need to ensure that we're looking at those as we're bringing them in so that we don't have to keep going back.

Indexing, I think, is something that is a natural thing to do because we don't want those people on those fixed incomes to be falling behind day by day by day and year after year to the point where they can't put food on their tables, it's hard for them to make rent, it's hard for them to live a respectable and respectful life and to ensure that they have that opportunity.

Madam Speaker, I think that it is incumbent on all of us in this House to ensure that we take care of our vulnerable people, that those people in our economy here are given the opportunity to generate that wealth so that we can do this, and I think I mentioned it in the question period today, not with red ink, not with a larger, family-size container of red ink, and that we actually learn how to sustain this economy in a way that allows us to do well and to do good and to deliver those types of services on an ongoing basis and that we can look forward five and 10 and 15 and 20 years and know that we can afford to do that and maybe we can even afford to do it better and to take care of those people in a higher and more respectful and compassionate way.

So, Madam Speaker, we'll be supporting this bill. I'll be supporting this bill. There are a lot more questions we would like to address I think in Committee of the Whole as well, but I do thank the minister for bringing this forward, for addressing this. It's taken a little while, but here we are, an opportunity for us to do the right thing, and I'll look forward to supporting it.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there any other members wishing to speak under 29(2)(a)?

Are there any other members wishing to speak to the bill?

Seeing none, I'll call on the hon. Minister of Community and Social Services to close debate.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you to all the members who participated in the debate, and I look forward to more detailed discussion in the next stage. With that, I close debate.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

[Motion carried; Bill 26 read a second time]

Mr. Mason: Madam Speaker, in light of the hour I am going to move that we call it 4:30 and adjourn until 1:30 on Monday.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:18 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 29th Legislature - 4th Session (2018)

Activity to Thursday, November 22, 2018

The Bill sponsor's name is in brackets following the Bill title. If it is a money Bill, (\$) will appear between the title and the sponsor's name. Numbers following each Reading refer to Hansard pages where the text of debates is found; dates for each Reading are in brackets following the page numbers. Bills numbered 1 to 200 are Government Bills. Bills numbered 201 or higher are Private Members' Public Bills. Bills numbered with a "Pr" prefix are Private Bills.

* An asterisk beside a Bill number indicates an amendment was passed to that Bill; the Committee line shows the precise date of the amendment.

The date a Bill comes into force is indicated in square brackets after the date of Royal Assent. If a Bill comes into force "on proclamation," "with exceptions," or "on various dates," please contact Legislative Counsel, Alberta Justice, for details at 780.427.2217. The chapter number assigned to the Bill is entered immediately following the date the Bill comes into force. SA indicates Statutes of Alberta; this is followed by the year in which it is included in the statutes, and its chapter number. Please note, Private Bills are not assigned chapter number until the conclusion of the Fall Sittings.

Bill 1 — Energy Diversification Act (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 6 (*Mar. 8, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 50-51 (*Mar. 13, 2018 morn.*), 184-87 (*Mar. 15, 2018 aft.*), 233-43 (*Mar. 20, 2018 aft.*), 301-08 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft.*), 919-27 (*May 9, 2018 morn.*), 981-84 (*May 9, 2018 eve.*), 1054-59 (*May 14, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1286-87 (*May 29, 2018 aft.*), 1280-86 (*May 29, 2018 aft.*), 1299 (*May 29, 2018 eve.*), 1311-18 (*May 29, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1488-92 (*Jun. 5, 2018 morn.*), 1523-24 (*Jun. 5, 2018 aft.*), 1525-41 (*Jun. 6, 2018 morn., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018; SA 2018 cE-9.6]

Bill 2 — Growth and Diversification Act (\$) (Bilous)

First Reading — 118 (*Mar. 14, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 243-46 (*Mar. 20, 2018 morn.*), 294-96 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft.*), 314-25 (*Mar. 22, 2018 morn.*), 411-12 (*Apr. 4, 2018 aft.*), 702-05 (*May 1, 2018 eve.*), 928-33 (*May 9, 2018 morn.*), 1061-68 (*May 15, 2018 morn.*), 1101-04 (*May 15, 2018 eve.*), 1163-67 (*May 16, 2018 eve.*), 1202-06 (*May 17, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1253-58 (*May 29, 2018 morn.*), 1288-97 (*May 29, 2018 aft.*), 1299 (*May 29, 2018 eve.*), 1379-82 (*May 30, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1492-94 (*Jun. 5, 2018 morn.*), 1510-23 (*Jun. 5, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2018 c8]

Bill 3 — Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2018 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading — 184 (*Mar. 15, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 221-26 (*Mar. 19, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 261-68 (*Mar. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 296-98 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 28, 2018; SA 2018 c1]

Bill 4 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2018 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading — 165 (*Mar. 15, 2018 morn., passed*)

Second Reading — 226-32 (*Mar. 19, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 268-75 (*Mar. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 298-301 (*Mar. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Mar. 28, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force Mar. 28, 2018; SA 2018 c2]

Bill 5 — An Act to Strengthen Financial Security for Persons with Disabilities (Sabir)

First Reading — 200-201 (*Mar. 19, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 360-62 (*Apr. 3, 2018 morn.*), 482-87 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 847-54 (*May 7, 2018 eve.*), 1084-88 (*May 15, 2018 aft.*), 1361-64 (*May 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1418-21 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018; SA 2018 c12]

Bill 6 — Gaming and Liquor Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Ganley)

First Reading — 448 (*Apr. 9, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 533-34 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft.*), 669-79 (*May 1, 2018 aft.*), 1010-13 (*May 10, 2018 aft.*), 1101 (*May 15, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1158-63 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1360-61 (*May 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2018 c7]

Bill 7 — Supporting Alberta's Local Food Sector Act (Carlier)

First Reading — 425 (*Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 491-97 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft.*), 534-36 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft.*), 679-83 (*May 1, 2018 aft.*), 908-09 (*May 8, 2018 eve.*), 913-14 (*May 8, 2018 eve.*), 1097-98 (*May 15, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1299-1311 (*May 29, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1365-74 (*May 30, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018, for sections 1-6 and 20-21 and April 1, 2019, for sections 7-19; SA 2018 cS-23.3]

Bill 8 — Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2018 (S. Anderson)

First Reading — 374 (*Apr. 3, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1639-45 (*Oct. 30, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1645-53 (*Oct. 30, 2018 morn.*), 1667 (*Oct. 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1763-65 (*Nov. 1, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Nov. 19, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force November 19, 2018; SA 2018 c14]

Bill 9* — Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Act (Hoffman)

First Reading — 425 (*Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 497-502 (*Apr. 10, 2018 aft.*), 785-93 (*May 3, 2018 morn.*), 775-76 (*May 3, 2018 morn.*), 807-08 (*May 3, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 909-13 (*May 8, 2018 eve.*), 957-61 (*May 9, 2018 aft.*), 992-94 (*May 10, 2018 morn.*), 1088-96 (*May 15, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1352-60 (*May 30, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018; SA 2018 cP-26.83]

Bill 10* — An Act to Enable Clean Energy Improvements (S. Anderson)

First Reading — 528 (*Apr. 12, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 611-12 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft.*), 643-50 (*May 1, 2018 morn.*), 761-72 (*May 2, 2018 eve.*), 973-81 (*May 9, 2018 eve.*), 1049-54 (*May 14, 2018 eve.*), 1180-87 (*May 17, 2018 morn.*), 1242-47 (*May 28, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1287-88 (*May 29, 2018 aft.*), 1299 (*May 29, 2018 eve.*), 1374-79 (*May 30, 2018 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1555-71 (*Jun. 6, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2018 c6]

Bill 11 — Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2018 (Gray)

First Reading — 505 (*Apr. 11, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 612-13 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft.*), 650-56 (*May 1, 2018 morn.*), 772-74 (*May 2, 2018 eve.*), 967-73 (*May 9, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1157 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1382-86 (*May 30, 2018 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 c9]

Bill 12* — Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 547 (*Apr. 16, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 736-46 (*May 2, 2018 aft.*), 854-55 (*May 7, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 961-65 (*May 9, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 994-96 (*May 10, 2018 morn.*), 1135-54 (*May 16, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*May 18, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2018 c P-21.5]

Bill 13* — An Act to Secure Alberta's Electricity Future (\$) (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 606 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 746-53 (*May 2, 2018 aft.*), 808-16 (*May 3, 2018 aft.*), 855-64 (*May 7, 2018 eve.*), 947-57 (*May 9, 2018 aft.*), 1169-80 (*May 17, 2018 morn.*), 1247-50 (*May 28, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1322-34 (*May 30, 2018 morn.*), 1397-1404 (*May 31, 2018 morn.*), 1449-79 (*Jun. 4, 2018 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1573-92 (*Jun. 7, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2018 c10]

Bill 14 — An Act to Empower Utility Consumers (McLean)

First Reading — 590 (*Apr. 18, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 718-24 (*May 2, 2018 morn.*), 915-19 (*May 9, 2018 morn.*), 1098-1101 (*May 15, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1319-22 (*May 30, 2018 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1421 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2018 c5]

Bill 15 — Appropriation Act, 2018 (\$) (Ceci)

First Reading — 610 (*Apr. 19, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Second Reading — 683-89 (*May 1, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 753-56 (*May 2, 2018 aft.*), 757-60 (*May 2, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 776-85 (*May 3, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*May 14, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force May 14, 2018; SA 2018 c3]

Bill 16 — Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Gray)

First Reading — 879 (*May 8, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1010-13 (*May 10, 2018 aft.*), 1105-22 (*May 16, 2018 morn.*), 1155-57 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1258-64 (*May 29, 2018 morn.*), 1299 (*May 29, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1421-22 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 c4]

Bill 17 — Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Ceci)

First Reading — 806 (*May 3, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 864-65 (*May 7, 2018 eve.*), 1014-15 (*May 10, 2018 aft.*), 1058-59 (*May 14, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1157 (*May 16, 2018 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1364 (*May 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 c13]

Bill 18 — Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Mason)

First Reading — 1201 (*May 17, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1251-52 (*May 28, 2018 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1387-97 (*May 31, 2018 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 1481-88 (*Jun. 5, 2018 morn.*), 1507-10 (*Jun. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018; SA 2018 c11]

Bill 19* — An Act to Improve the Affordability and Accessibility of Post-secondary Education (Schmidt)

First Reading — 1621 (*Oct. 29, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1667-81 (*Oct. 30, 2018 aft.*), 1690-1701 (*Oct. 31, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1718-28 (*Oct. 31, 2018 aft.*), 1828-35 (*Nov. 6, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1845-65 (*Nov. 7, 2018 morn.*), 2000-05 (*Nov. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 20 — Securities Amendment Act, 2018 (Ceci)

First Reading — 1621 (*Oct. 29, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1681-84 (*Oct. 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1716-18 (*Oct. 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1765-66 (*Nov. 1, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Nov. 19, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force November 19, 2018; SA 2018 c16]

Bill 21* — An Act to Protect Patients (Hoffman)

First Reading — 1666 (*Oct. 30, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1685-90 (*Oct. 31, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1729-32 (*Oct. 31, 2018 aft.*), 1835-43 (*Nov. 6, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*), 1900-10 (*Nov. 8, 2018 morn., recommitted, adjourned*), 1924-28 (*Nov. 8, 2018 aft., passed with amendments*), 1928-29 (*Nov. 8, 2018 aft., recommitted, passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1899-1900 (*Nov. 8, 2018 morn., recommitted to Committee*), 1928 (*Nov. 8, 2018 aft., recommitted to Committee*), 1929-32 (*Nov. 8, 2018 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Nov. 19, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force November 19, 2018, with exceptions; SA 2018 c15]

Bill 22* — An Act for Strong Families Building Stronger Communities (Larivee)

First Reading — 1714 (*Oct. 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1735-49 (*Nov. 1, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2005-16 (*Nov. 20, 2018 aft., adjourned, amendment introduced*)

Bill 23 — An Act to Renew Local Democracy in Alberta (S. Anderson)

First Reading — 1778 (*Nov. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1809-12 (*Nov. 6, 2018 morn.*), 1974-82 (*Nov. 20, 2018 morn.*), 2018-28 (*Nov. 21, 2018 morn., passed on division*)

Bill 24 — An Act to Recognize AMA Representation Rights (Hoffman)

First Reading — 1762-63 (*Nov. 1, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1799-1809 (*Nov. 6, 2018 morn.*), 1881-97 (*Nov. 7, 2018 aft.*), 1969-74 (*Nov. 20, 2018 morn.*), 2028-31 (*Nov. 21, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2058-63 (*Nov. 21, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 25 — Canyon Creek Hydro Development Act (McCuaig-Boyd)

First Reading — 1879 (*Nov. 7, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2017-18 (*Nov. 21, 2018 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 2057-58 (*Nov. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 26 — An Act to Combat Poverty and Fight for Albertans with Disabilities (Sabir)

First Reading — 1923 (*Nov. 8, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 2078-86 (*Nov. 22, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 27 — Joint Governance of Public Sector Pension Plans Act (Ceci)

First Reading — 1995 (*Nov. 20, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 28 — Family Statutes Amendment Act, 2018 (Ganley)

First Reading — 2044 (*Nov. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 29 — Public Service Employee Relations Amendment Act, 2018 (Gray)

First Reading — 2044-45 (*Nov. 21, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 201 — Employment Standards (Firefighter Leave) Amendment Act, 2018 (W. Anderson)

First Reading — 118 (*Mar. 14, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 201-14 (*Mar. 19, 2018 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future*), 1620 (*Oct. 29, 2018 aft.*), 1780-92 (*Nov. 5, 2018 aft., motion to concur in report, adjourned*)

Bill 202 — Alberta Taxpayer Protection (Carbon Tax Referendum) Amendment Act, 2018 (Kenney)

First Reading — 179 (*Mar. 15, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 549-63 (*Apr. 16, 2018 aft., defeated on division*)

Bill 203 — Long Term Care Information Act (Schreiner)

First Reading — 425 (*Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 632-40 (*Apr. 30, 2018 aft.*), 829-33 (*May 7, 2018 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1221-30 (*May 28, 2018 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1434-41 (*Jun. 4, 2018 aft., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 11, 2018 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 11, 2018; SA 2018 cL-22]

Bill 204 — Land Statutes (Abolition of Adverse Possession) Amendment Act, 2018 (Gotfried)

First Reading — 425 (*Apr. 5, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 833-41 (*May 7, 2018 aft., adjourned*), 1031-37 (*May 14, 2018 aft., reasoned amendment agreed to*)

Bill 205 — Supporting Accessible Mental Health Services Act (Jabbour)

First Reading — 1008 (*May 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1037 (*May 14, 2018 aft., deferred to Monday, October 29, 2018*)

Bill 206 — Societies (Preventing the Promotion of Hate) Amendment Act, 2018 (Coolahan)

First Reading — 1008-09 (*May 10, 2018 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1037 (*May 14, 2018 aft.*), 1441-47 (*Jun. 4, 2018 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 207 — Municipal Government (Legion Tax Exemption) Amendment Act, 2018 (Rosendahl)

First Reading — 1418 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

Bill 208 — Public Recreation Areas Consultation Act (Westhead)

First Reading — 1418 (*May 31, 2018 aft., passed*)

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For inquiries contact:

Managing Editor

Alberta Hansard

3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 St

EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E7

Telephone: 780.427.1875