



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
First Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, May 30, 2019

Day 6

The Honourable Nathan Cooper, Speaker

**Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 30th Legislature**

First Session

Cooper, Hon. Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP), Speaker
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Milliken, Nicholas, Calgary-Currie (UCP), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Amery, Mickey K., Calgary-Cross (UCP)
Armstrong-Homeniuk, Jackie,
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Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
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Glasgo, Michaela L., Brooks-Medicine Hat (UCP)
Glubish, Hon. Nate, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (UCP)
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)
Goodridge, Laila, Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche (UCP)
Gottfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)
Gray, Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)
Guthrie, Peter F., Airdrie-Cochrane (UCP)
Hanson, David B., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UCP)
Hoffman, Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)
Horner, Nate S., Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)
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Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP),
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Williams, Dan D.A., Peace River (UCP)
Wilson, Hon. Rick D., Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin (UCP)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)
Yaseen, Muhammad, Calgary-North (UCP)

Party standings:

United Conservative: 63

New Democrat: 24

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Singh
Smith
Turton
Yaseen

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 30, 2019

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Please be seated.

Statement by the Speaker

1939 Royal Visit to Alberta

The Speaker: Hon. members, before we get to the introduction of visitors or guests, I would just like to take a brief moment, to take pause. This week marks the 80th year since the visit of King George and Queen Elizabeth to Alberta. This visit to Alberta was part of the first-ever visit to Canada by a reigning monarch.

Entering the province on May 26, 1939, the royal couple visited Medicine Hat, Bassano, and Calgary. An unscheduled stop at an encampment of the Blood, Blackfoot, Stoney, Peigan, and Tsuut'ina nations was enjoyed by the royal couple. A two-day break in Banff – I think that's something we can all agree to – provided a wonderful time for relaxation. Following a brief visit to Lake Louise on May 28, the King and Queen left for British Columbia. Returning on their eastbound return trip across Canada, their Majesties stopped in Jasper, Edmonton, and Wainwright.

On June 2 the royal couple arrived at the Legislature Building, where addresses by representatives of the province and the city of Edmonton were made on the front steps. The royal couple then entered this Chamber, where Members of the Legislative Assembly and other dignitaries were presented to the King and Queen.

In preparation for the visit a temporary fountain had been constructed in the rotunda of the Legislature. This fountain is the fountain that remains in place today.

Introduction of Guests

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you Fort Saskatchewan Christian school. These students are accompanied by their teachers, Natalie McIntyre and Carol Greeve, along with their chaperones: David Hiller, Pablo Papavero, Lisa Harris, and Jennifer Peters. I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The Member for Cardston-Siksika.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour today to rise in this House and introduce to you and through you students from Vauxhall elementary school, a school in my constituency. The students are accompanied by Principal Dale Cummings and a number of teachers, chaperones, and volunteers. I'd ask them now to rise where they are in the gallery and receive the warm welcome of this Chamber.

The Speaker: It won't be long now before one of those students has your job, good sir.

The hon. Member for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock.

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce students from Landing Trail intermediate school. This is the third day in a row that we've had students here from Landing Trail intermediate school. This group is part of the French immersion program there, and they are accompanied by their teacher, Jennifer Jones, and chaperones Janene Kargus and Heather

Boucher. I would like them to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

Member Irwin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a special guest seated in your gallery, a constituent of Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood and someone many in this House know, Bill Smart. Bill is seated with his son Sheldon, his daughter-in-law Kirsten, and his grandkids Gavin and Isla. Bill, who was a member of the Legislative Assembly security services, is hanging up his blazer after 22 years of service.

But that is not his only service as a member of the LASS staff. Bill also served in the Legislature from 1980 to 1982 as part of his duties when he was a member of the Edmonton Police Service. In those days a constable was seconded to the Legislature on a full-time basis. So Bill served a total of 24 years here at the Legislature.

Bill's public service covers a much longer time span than that, however. Bill joined the Edmonton Police Service in 1971 and served with the service for 26 years. As a member of the Edmonton Police Service, Bill worked in a variety of positions, including response division, beats, traffic section, detention unit, warrant detail, communications, and a stint as an undercover operator for gambling operations.

Bill was not only a dedicated LASS member but also a true professional at all times. Bill had the ability to remember the name of everyone he came in contact with. This included everyone working at the Legislature. MLAs, custodians, GOA staff, pages, you name it: Bill knows everyone on a first-name basis. Bill was always the go-to guy for LASS members if they required advice on protocol or procedures in relation to the Legislative Assembly. What is very important to note is that during Bill's long service at the Legislature he always remained nonpartisan.

Bill will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of seeing him on a regular basis. Please give the traditional warm welcome to Bill and his family.

Thank you so much, Bill. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: Heartfelt congratulations. It's a pleasure to see you here today.

Ms Fir: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to rise and introduce to the Legislative Assembly on your behalf someone very near and dear to your heart. This person knows you extremely well. In fact, they have even changed your diapers. I wouldn't say that she's your favourite for fear that other people like your youngest brother might be watching, but we all know the truth. It is my great pleasure and honour to be able to introduce to the Assembly a constituent of mine and your eldest – significantly eldest – sister, Naomi Pulliam. I would ask her to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The Minister of Seniors and Housing.

Ms Pon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you and through you to the Members of the Legislative Assembly my guests sitting in the members' gallery. The next few days are important as Alberta marks Intergenerational Day on June 1, immediately followed by Seniors' Week, celebrated from June 2 to 8. I will have the opportunity to speak more about the importance of these two occasions in my ministerial statement. To help celebrate with us, I have invited representatives from civil society organizations into our Chamber today. The organizations here today are just a few examples of the key partners my ministry

is working with to make life better for Albertans because when it comes to caring for elders, we all are caretakers.

I invite my guests to please stand when I call your name: Sheila Hallett, executive director of the Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council; Donna Durand, executive director of the Alberta Council on Aging; Liz Tondou, executive director of Edmonton Meals on Wheels. [A cellphone rang] Last but not least is Nuel Han, an animator for the age of wisdom initiative within the Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op. I invite the Chamber to please join me in welcoming our guests with the traditional greeting of the Assembly.

Speaker's Ruling

Use of Electronic Devices in the Chamber

The Speaker: Members, as I mentioned last night – perhaps not all members were in the Chamber at the time – I'd remind all members that it's important that we turn our phones off or not bring them to the Chamber. I mentioned last night to the Member for Edmonton-Rutherford that on a go-forward basis if there was a similar sort of infraction, as we've just witnessed here – unfortunately, my eye did not catch the culprit – there will be a Speaker's fine that is implemented for the first offence, a \$50 fine to the charity of your choice. Any additional infractions will be a \$100 fine to a charity of the Speaker's choice. I encourage you to ensure that your mobile devices are off.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

1:40

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to rise and introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly a very special guest – well, very special to me – my husband, Owen Young. He is a teacher, an assistant principal, a mentor of young leaders, an awe-inspiring parent, and the truest partner I could have ever imagined. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce him personally as we know this privilege may soon be taken away from the members of this Assembly. I had hoped to introduce my two children in this Assembly one day this July when they weren't in school, but that opportunity may also be taken away from us. So I will take this chance now, so that their names get to appear in *Hansard* spoken by their mom, to say that Owen and I are parents to two compassionate, bright, and curious children, six-year-old Bodhi and four-year-old Leela. I'd like to ask my husband, Owen, to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The Member for Brooks-Medicine Hat.

Ms Glasgo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly my dear friend Dani Lagemaat, who is seated in the gallery up over here. Dani and I studied political science together at the University of Lethbridge, and it is largely because of her and her excellent proofreading skills that I got through that. Dani, please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition has an introduction.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sadly, this is likely my last introduction in this House because of the government's plan to use its majority to stifle members' ability to introduce guests, a century-long Albertan practice. Nonetheless, it is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you a friend and former colleague, Maria Fitzpatrick. Maria fought hard for the constituents of Lethbridge-East and was a strong advocate for economic diversification and renewable energy projects. I thank her for her service, and I ask that

she rise to receive the warm welcome of the members of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-Riverview, please.

Ms Sigurdson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the constituency manager for Edmonton-Riverview, Ioana Spiridonica. One of the best decisions I made as an MLA was hiring Ioana. Her broad range of abilities means my constituency office runs smoothly. Additionally, her initiatives to ensure that I have all the information I need are greatly appreciated. As this is likely my last opportunity to make an introduction in this Chamber, I must add how sad and, frankly, disturbed I am that the UCP is ending this time-honoured tradition. I would ask that she rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-North has an introduction.

Mr. Yaseen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of this House my nephew Tayyab Parvez. Tayyab is visiting Edmonton from Grande Prairie, where he works as a city engineer in the oil and gas sector with a company called Seven Generations. I am very thankful to Tayyab for his volunteer work during my campaign whenever he visited Calgary. Tayyab lives in the riding of Grande Prairie, where he also helped the hon. member Tracy Allard during the campaign. May I ask Tayyab to please rise for the traditional warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: I might just remind all members that no matter what the circumstances might be, it would be inappropriate for us to use the name of another member as opposed to their riding name. The hon. Member for Grande Prairie would probably appreciate that as well.

Ministerial Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Seniors and Housing.

Intergenerational Day Seniors' Week

Ms Pon: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I stand to recognize two important milestones on our calendar. The first is national Intergenerational Day, which is celebrated June 1, and the second is Seniors' Week 2019, which runs from June 2 to 8.

Intergenerational Day is an opportunity to bridge the gap between generations. It is a day to celebrate intergenerational families. It is also a reminder that our communities are stronger when we learn from and work with one another.

In Alberta we set aside the first week of June to celebrate our most cherished citizens during Seniors' Week. Seniors have served their families, friends, and neighbours for a lifetime. They should always feel that they are valued members of their communities.

With the number of seniors on the rise, now more than 600,000 in Alberta, it is important that we take a moment to honour and highlight their contributions to our province. For instance, Alberta's seniors contribute 32 million volunteer hours in a single year. In economic terms, those volunteer hours are worth more than \$680 million.

Intergenerational Day and Seniors' Week are also opportunities to raise awareness about the issues some seniors face such as social isolation and elder abuse. Our government believes in respecting and supporting Alberta seniors, their families, and caregivers by

providing a variety of programs and services to help seniors continue living in their chosen communities. Today's seniors are actively engaged in their communities. They live longer, healthier lives while continuing to support their communities through volunteering.

Alberta seniors deserve our deep appreciation and thanks. They ignited our collective spirit of fearless optimism and innovation. Now we pick up the torch, while remembering and appreciating the pioneers who helped build Alberta into the great province it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Albertans to join me and the government in celebrating June 1 as Intergenerational Day and June 2 to 8 as Seniors' Week in Alberta.

Thank you.

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

Ms Sigurdson: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On June 1 we will be marking Intergenerational Day. Intergenerational Day is a wonderful opportunity to encourage sharing and mutual respect between generations. In addition, June 2 to 8 is Seniors' Week. This is an opportunity to honour and appreciate Alberta's seniors and to celebrate all the contributions seniors make to our province.

We all have seniors in our lives as parents and grandparents, mentors, friends, and colleagues. Seniors are important members of our families and communities. My parents have been blessed with longevity, and I'm so grateful. Dad is 90, and my mom is 82. According to recent statistics almost 20 per cent of Albertans over the age of 65 are active in the workforce, and nearly half of seniors age 65 to 74 volunteer in their communities. In fact, Alberta has the highest percentage of senior volunteers of any province in Canada.

Now, there are some who speak of the growing senior population in catastrophic terms like the grey tsunami. These are apocalyptic discourses, and they're wrong. Look around your community. Who are the leaders? Many seniors are in elected offices at all levels of government, serving their community with significant lived experience. Who is supporting the business community, nonprofits, and family members financially? Seniors. A personal example is my mom. She teaches English as a second language at 82 years of age. As a retired teacher herself she just can't stop. She loves it so much, and I'm so glad she gets to continue that. Yes, seniors are contributing to Albertans with their time, their creativity, and their funds.

All Albertans benefit when seniors are able to remain in their communities as they age. Research shows that more than 90 per cent of seniors live in their own homes. I'm proud of the work our NDP government did to support Albertans and to make sure that seniors age in dignity close to their loved ones. We passed legislation that protects seniors in the workplace by prohibiting discrimination based on age under the Alberta Human Rights Act. In Budget 2018 we protected the Alberta seniors' benefit so that thousands of seniors have support when they need it. Additionally, I'm so proud that we indexed the Alberta seniors' benefit so that those same benefits are not eroded by the cost of living. We also launched a home repair and adaptation program to help seniors age in their communities.

1:50

For more than 30 years Albertans have formally celebrated seniors. This week and every week I hope everyone takes a moment to spend time with a senior. Seniors built this province and continue to contribute to the vibrancy of our communities. Seniors' Week is an opportunity to recognize the seniors in our communities.

Thank you.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition.

Education Funding

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we revealed that this UCP government has caused such distress in our schools that principals are surveying parents for advice on where to cut funding. At William Reid school it's either cut music or commit to massive class size increases, and when asked for some glimmer of hope, this Education minister said that she will continue to provide the same messaging that she has to date. Seriously. To the Premier. The parents at William Reid do not need messaging; they need clear funding commitments from your government. Why won't you provide that?

Mr. Kenney: I thank the hon. the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Education is a priority for all members of this place and all Albertans. That is why we were clear in the recent campaign that this government will maintain or increase funding levels for education. The government has been in place for barely four weeks. I know the Minister of Education has been working with the Treasury Board and the Department of Finance to determine the reference levels for transfers to school boards in the upcoming year, and we'll make that information available as soon as final decisions have been made.

Ms Notley: Well, that sounds to me like maybe in due course. I'm not sure.

The fact is that school boards are generally supposed to be completing their budgets on this very day, May 30. Instead, parents are being asked to weigh in on a range of uncertain scenarios, and they say the minister should just get down to doing her job. To the Premier: if your Education minister won't do her job and make these decisions, maybe you could ask another member of your cabinet to step in and get it done.

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the opposition leader that the hon. the Minister of Education is doing her job, a highly qualified minister, former chair of her school board, former president of the Catholic School Trustees' Association of Alberta, who is passionate about education, which is why she decided to run for this place. I can assure the hon. Leader of the Opposition that the Minister of Education is a strong voice for education around the cabinet table. Information will be forthcoming soon enough. We all know we need to work together to ensure quality education while bringing balance back to the province's finances after the massive NDP debt left to this government.

Ms Notley: Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, school boards need direction on the level of funding that they will receive next September today. It's a simple issue. The minister has committed to providing them only with messaging and current funding maybe and maybe increasing funding and maybe funding SFF but maybe not and maybe funding enrolment, but we're not totally sure. She's failing profoundly, and she's creating chaos and uncertainty for Alberta kids. To the Premier: is that her fault or your fault?

Mr. Kenney: I completely reject the premise of the Leader of the Opposition's question, Mr. Speaker. If a crisis has been created, it was left by the NDP, which left this province with a fiscal train wreck, which took a \$13 billion debt, turned it into a \$56 billion debt, had us headed to a \$100 billion debt, went through five credit downgrades, ran the largest per capita deficit in Canada, the worst

fiscal record of any modern Alberta government. Now it falls to us on behalf of the Alberta people to bring balance back to our finances so we can afford education and health care in the future.

The Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition.

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, when parents are told that their kids will have to compete with 30 others for their teacher's attention or that their music program is gone, they could not care less about stale election talking points like we just got. What they need is for this government to do its job: figure out whether they can afford to fund enrolment, whether they will fund enrolment, or whether they will make cuts. Do their job, give school boards certainty, stop the chaos: why won't they do that?

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Mr. Kenney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's clear that the NDP does not understand the threat posed to education and other public services by uncontrolled government debt. As debt goes up, so does our obligation to pay interest to the bankers and the bondholders that the NDP locked us into. Every extra dollar going to bankers for interest payments is a dollar that cannot go to classrooms or to health care. So to ensure the long-term provision of those important public services, we need to work together with school boards to ensure fiscal discipline.

Ms Notley: Tax cut for wealthy corporations: right now. Certainty for our kids: in due course. That is what these guys care about, and just that.

You know what, let me maybe try the Education minister. Getting funding for our most vulnerable students, our special-needs students, is important. Now, I agree with that statement. But you know what? It's not my statement. It's the Minister of Education's statement in 2017. Yet her failure to make a decision right now is putting those very students at risk. Why won't she make a decision? Why will she not do her job and tell the school boards what funding they're going to get?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, the NDP increased spending by hundreds of millions of dollars in order, ostensibly, to reduce class sizes. But guess what happened? Class sizes went up under the NDP's watch. This is a party over there that apparently has learned nothing from their complete rejection by Alberta voters. Alberta voters want not just to focus on how much we're spending but on how much we're getting from that spending, which is why the Minister of Education will be launching an examination of where the money went and why it resulted in higher class sizes.

Ms Notley: Students need action now, not examination and political ploys two years down the road.

The current Education minister also had this to say in 2017, and I quote: it seems to be increasing – mental health, that is – and, unfortunately, the resources haven't kept pace, so that's something I feel strongly we need to advocate as a board for. But here's the thing. By failing to fund enrolment, student mental health programs will have to be cut. So has she changed her mind, or does she just not care anymore about protecting student mental health programs?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, we reject the premise of the opposition leader's question. I'm pleased to announce to this House that the single largest additional spending commitment in our party's platform was for mental health. We've appointed an Associate Minister for Mental Health and Addictions, who will be working with all stakeholders, including those in the school system, to

ensure that necessary supports are in place for Albertans, including students, so that they can get the help that they need if they're facing mental health challenges.

The Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition for your third set of questions.

Conversion Therapy Working Group

Ms Notley: Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, on Monday the media reported that the Health minister had cancelled the Conversion Therapy Working Group established by our government. The minister then took to Twitter to discredit the reporter who wrote the story, only to be proven wrong by a statement provided by his own office. It's now Thursday, and the minister still isn't able to tell Albertans whether the working group is still standing. To the Premier a simple question: does the Conversion Therapy Working Group still exist, and will it still be able to carry on with its important work?

Mr. Kenney: First of all, it's important to underscore that this government opposes abusive or coercive practices such as conversion therapy. We understand that the NDP, after four years of doing nothing on this issue, decided in the eleventh hour, before an election, to appoint an ad hoc group, including two NDP members, with no ministerial order, no order in council, and as far as I understand, no actual budget. Mr. Speaker, the minister encountered this ad hoc task force, has decided to meet with its members to take onboard their input, and I'm glad he's doing so.

The Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much. Yesterday the minister met with two members of the working group, including the Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs. Later, when questioned about the meeting, the minister said that he would get back to members in, quote, due course. In fact, he rattled off the same one-sentence talking point at least nine times. The minister's behaviour was disrespectful to the victims of the psychological assault inherent in conversion therapy. So to the Premier: will you direct the minister to apologize to those victims and provide real answers on the future of the working group and the conversion therapy ban?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable to see the NDP reduced to trying to turn this difficult and sensitive issue into a political football. The reality is that the leader of the NDP told the public that her government would be coming forward with legislation on this issue in the fall of 2018. No legislation was forthcoming, none after four years. No real, formal task force or inquiry or Legislature committee was tasked with this issue. An eleventh hour ad hoc group with a couple of NDP MLAs was not a serious response.

2:00

The Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition.

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much. In fact, the working group was specifically tasked by our government to develop the most effective means of executing an outright and effective ban on conversion therapy for implementation this year. That was what we were planning. Now they've been left in limbo, and they're going to the media to find out what their mandate is. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: will he commit to banning conversion therapy before the year is out even if it requires bringing in legislation this year?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, again, it's unfortunate that the opposition is trying to turn this into a point of partisan contention. The reality is that they were in office for four years, and the answer from them was no. The answer from the NDP was no to legislation. Four years and they did not bring forth such legislation. For the first three of those four years the former Health minister said that there was effectively no need for it because this was not a practice happening in Alberta. Now, perhaps the NDP could inform us as to why they decided not to bring forward such legislation.

The Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition.

Motor Dealers' Association of Alberta

Ms Notley: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Last September the now Premier met with Alberta's Motor Dealers' Association. The MDA then reported it had promised to raise \$1.1 million to assist the UCP third-party advertising campaign – think about that one for a moment – in exchange for the UCP pledging to roll back consumer and worker protections. Yesterday this government introduced legislation designed to roll back regulations. To the Premier: is his red tape reduction bill payback for a million dollars in PAC donations, or will he commit today that the consumer protection for Albertans purchasing vehicles will remain in place?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, our red tape reduction action plan and legislation is this government keeping our promise to Albertans to liberate our economy, to go from being the most overregulated economy in Canada to the freest and fastest moving. Why? So that we can liberate job creators to do what they do best, create employment, a critical part of our job-creation strategy. They left a jobs crisis behind. We're going to cut red tape in order to create good jobs in Alberta.

Ms Notley: So is he going to then be liberating Albertans from protection from car dealers who otherwise take advantage of them? Is that what we're liberating Albertans from?

Regardless, the president of the MDA wrote to potential funders that he had been promised he would get to meet with the UCP transition team to provide input. A month ago this same president registered as a lobbyist. To the Premier: have any members of your transition team or any staff in your office or you met with the president of the Motor Dealers' Association since the election?

Mr. Kenney: I shook Mr. Ducharme's hand with that of dozens of other people at the reception following the throne speech. Apart from that, I've not met with Mr. Ducharme, and I'm not aware of any members of my staff having done so.

Mr. Speaker, I respect the role that auto dealers and other businesses play in our communities to create jobs and opportunity. You know, all through rural Alberta the auto dealers are often the number one sponsors of local sports teams and charities, and the NDP runs them down, just like they run down the restaurant owners, just like they run down our oil companies, just like they run down business in general. We understand that we need to work with the private sector to create good jobs for Albertans.

Ms Notley: Well, last week we heard that job creation should be done on the back of workers, and apparently now we're going to do job creation on the back of Alberta's consumers.

You know what? The letters written by the MDA and the subsequent actions of the PAC they created have been referred to the Election Commissioner for investigation because they bragged openly about plans to use banned corporate donations from car

dealers to work directly with the UCP in their campaign. Will the Premier commit today that neither he nor his members of government will have any more meetings with these guys until the Election Commissioner's investigation into breaching the act is complete?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, I don't know that there is an investigation, and Albertans are free to speak to representatives in government, just like the NDP-affiliated union bosses spoke to them all the time, informing the NDP government's job-killing policies, the same union bosses who spent collectively millions of dollars in attack ads against this party. I'm pleased to say that the NDP union bosses failed. We ended up with the largest democratic mandate in Alberta history.

The Speaker: The Member for Grande Prairie.

Support for Persons with Disabilities

Mrs. Allard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the hon. Minister of Community and Social Services. This week is National AccessAbility Week, which is dedicated to promoting accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities. This is an important issue to all Albertans, and I know that within my constituency of Grande Prairie residents would appreciate hearing from this government. Can the minister please update this House on the government's commitments to improve accessibility across Alberta?

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to start by saying to the Member for Grande Prairie that our thoughts and prayers are with her and all other communities across the province who have been impacted by the wildfires.

It is National AccessAbility Week, a time to celebrate the invaluable contributions that the roughly 400,000 Albertans with disabilities, both visible and invisible, make to their communities and our province as a whole. I wish everyone in this House and across the province a happy National AccessAbility Week.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

Mrs. Allard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: given that the UCP campaigned on ensuring that every Albertan should have a life of dignity and equal opportunity and given that this government has committed to making life better for all Albertans, can the minister advise this House on what specific steps are being taken to benefit Albertans with disabilities?

The Speaker: The Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mrs. Sawhney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are taking meaningful action to improve the supports and services provided to persons with disabilities. These steps include improving the PDD program; restoring the wellness, resiliency, and partnerships program for those with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. In addition to establishing four new family-governed resource centres to serve St. Paul, Grande Prairie, Edmonton, and Medicine Hat, we will also invest in assisting Albertans with accessing a registered disability savings program and grants to help in saving to care for a loved one with a disability.

The Speaker: The member.

Mrs. Allard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally, to the same minister: given that our government is committed to getting Albertans back to work and given that the constituency of Grande Prairie, my constituency, has certainly experienced job losses in

recent years, can the minister please update the House on how the government will ensure that persons with disabilities are included in that plan?

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, our government believes that all Albertans should have access to equal opportunities regardless of ability. In addition to our job-creation plan, we will partner with community organizations and business leaders to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities like abilities at work and the Rotary employment partnerships, which we will support with \$5 million per year in additional funding. In addition, we are committed to making the government of Alberta a leader in hiring persons with disabilities.

The Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-West Henday.

Consumer Protection for Motor Vehicle Owners Ethics in Government

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I was proud to play a role advocating for and delivering on changes to consumer protections during my time in the government caucus. Now that our leader has established that the Motor Dealers' Association donated large sums of money to this government's PAC in a shady deal to roll back consumer protections, to the Minister of Service Alberta: will you commit in this House today to keeping the consumer protections we introduced for vehicle purchasing and maintenance? Why, or why not?

The Speaker: The Minister of Service Alberta is rising.

Mr. Glubish: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to point out that third-party advertisers are strictly regulated by Alberta election law in their activities, fundraising efforts, and required disclosures. Furthermore, the member opposite knows full well that third-party advertisers in Alberta are independent from political parties.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-West Henday.

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Motor Dealers' Association appears to be lobbying directly for changes to vehicle standards and given that any changes to these rules would be highly suspect with a pending Election Commissioner's investigation into the relationship between the MDA and the government PACs, will the Minister of Transportation commit to making no changes being sought by the MDA until the commissioner's investigations have concluded?

Mr. McIver: Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is asking the government to not improve any rules. Please.

Of course, with the bill that he introduced in the last session of the Legislature, he should be embarrassed to be talking about this subject. His bill would have harmed the industry without protecting consumers. Perhaps he should go back and do his homework before the next time he picks up a microphone.

2:10

Mr. Carson: I don't get embarrassed by strengthening consumer protections, Mr. Speaker.

Given that this UCP government could use a crash course in democracy ethics and given that this UCP government has removed the position of minister responsible for democratic renewal, that was once held by the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods under our government, to the minister of labour: can you advise this House on who is now responsible for democracy and ethics in your

government, and what is being done to teach ministers about what is and is not appropriate?

The Speaker: The Government House Leader is rising. [interjections]

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to see the opposition so happy to see me this afternoon. It must be Thursday in this place.

The reality is, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP continue with this ridiculous tactic of trying to make fear and smear. You know, Team Angry over there. [interjections] It's disappointing . . .

The Speaker: Members, we heard your question. We will hear the minister's answer.

An Hon. Member: In due course.

The Speaker: No. Right now.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Again, Mr. Speaker, you can see the behaviour of the NDP. It's ridiculous. This is a game. We're not going to engage in that. We're focused on defending Albertans. They can continue with their game. It's not helping the people that I got sent here to represent. My colleagues and I are going to represent Albertans. [interjection]

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-Buffalo will keep his comments to himself while the Speaker is on his feet.

The Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

Corporate Taxation and Job Creation

Mr. Bilous: Mr. Speaker, under the NDP government Albertans continued to pay the lowest taxes in Canada, with no PST, no health care premiums, and no payroll tax. Albertans pay \$11 billion less in taxes than the second-lowest tax jurisdiction. Moshe Lander, a senior lecturer in economics at Concordia University in Montreal, does not believe that the risky corporate tax cut proposed by this government will result in job creation. In fact, Lander said, quote: it's a mistake to say that it's a job-creating decision. End quote. To the Finance minister: will you admit that you are making a \$4.5 billion gamble with no guarantee that jobs will be created?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, the previous NDP government raised taxes by 20 per cent. This and other job-killing initiatives caused tens of billions of dollars of investment to leave the province and, with it, jobs for Albertans. The corporate tax reduction is a key piece of our plan to return investment to Alberta and get Albertans back to work.

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

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that your arguments are based on an ideology peddled by economists in a race to the bottom and given that this idea has been tried in Kansas and other U.S. states and has failed to result in increased economic activity or significant job creation but has resulted in fewer public services, increased debt, and additional fees for government services, to the same minister: how many failed experiments does the Finance minister need before he realizes that most corporations will pocket the tax savings instead of creating new jobs?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, it's pretty rich for members opposite, who while in government presided over the largest loss of investment in recent history and, with it, massive job losses, to be lecturing us on economic policy. We are implementing the plan that

we put before Albertans, a plan to attract investment and create good jobs for Albertans.

Mr. Bilous: Mr. Speaker, given that most businesses look past tax rates and often look for access to talent, affordability, strong health care, and high-quality education in making their decisions on where to invest, will the Finance minister come clean to Albertans and admit that their corporate tax giveaway will result in larger class sizes, longer wait times, and a lower quality of life being a disincentive for companies to locate in Alberta?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, the previous government put us on a fiscal track that simply wasn't sustainable. We were headed to \$100 billion of provincial debt, and as we went in that direction, we simply could not sustain high-quality services that Albertans expect. This government is going to change the course. We're implementing very clear policy initiatives such as the corporate tax reduction policy, that will attract investment, return wealth to this province, and create jobs for Albertans.

The Speaker: The Member for Calgary-East has a question.

Support for Seniors

Mr. Singh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of 2017 Canada's seniors population is now a larger population than that of children. Canada's seniors population is now over 14 per cent of the country's population, and in the next 10 years we'll exceed the number of facilities that are available for them. My constituents are eager to know what our government is doing to support our elders. Can the Minister of Seniors and Housing please inform this House what the government's plan is to support these crucial members of our communities?

The Speaker: The minister of seniors.

Ms Pon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Member for Calgary-East for your question. To set the stage for what our current status is and what the future looks like, our 605,000 seniors make up 13 per cent of Albertans. By 2035 it is estimated to double to more than 1 million and hold 19 per cent of Alberta's population. This government will work closely with the stakeholders to make sure that seniors' concerns are heard and also support aging safely independently.

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

Mr. Singh: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that many seniors' facilities are in desperate need of renovation, repairs, and upgrades in order to continue to serve one of our most vulnerable communities, many of my constituents are rightly concerned about the long-term care of their friends, families, and neighbours. Can the Minister of Seniors and Housing please inform this House what the government's plan is to help fund these necessary facilities?

The Speaker: The Minister of Seniors and Housing.

Ms Pon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Affordable housing is a seniors' issue for Albertans. We are pursuing public-private partnership options to bring private-sector capital in to help build homes. The NDP government had four years to address this issue, yet there are more than 4,800 senior households on the wait-list to access the nearly 25,000 senior-focused housing units in Alberta. Our government is committed to do better.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Singh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. What is the government's timeline on providing these services?

The Speaker: The Minister of Seniors and Housing.

Ms Pon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government's plan is to grow Alberta's economy, create prosperity, and strengthen the social programs that we all value. We are all working to make Alberta the best place in North America to live, work, start a business, and to retire. Work is already under way to evaluate and enhance the current supports in place for seniors. We will identify the key priorities for supporting seniors as they age and create an action plan as quickly as possible.

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

Nurses' Contract Negotiations

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current contract between Alberta Health Services and United Nurses of Alberta says that wages for the upcoming year need to be bargained. One of the very first acts of this new government was to cancel the wage negotiations clearly laid out in that contract. Cancelling negotiations that were part of an agreed upon contract disrespects the rule of law. To the Premier: why were some of your very first actions of your government to potentially violate the rule of law?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, the previous government has left us in a serious fiscal mess, quite frankly. We're committed as a government to deliver high-quality services to Albertans and also bring this province to balance. We have the MacKinnon panel that's right now studying a fiscal path forward to balance, and we have delayed our budget deliberations until this fall. We simply requested a delay in arbitration so we can fully understand the best pathway forward.

Ms Gray: Given suspending contractually agreed upon wage negotiations so that the new government can examine expenditures is roughly the same as a homeowner refusing to pay their bills because they haven't gotten around to writing the family budget and given that Albertans expect their government to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time, to the Premier: why is your government refusing to participate in wage negotiations that they are contractually obligated to be part of?

Mr. Toews: Again, Mr. Speaker, we believe that it's in the best interest of Albertans that we move forward with a plan, with a competent plan. Right now we're consulting all stakeholders, including the unions, on just delaying arbitration so that we can ensure that we have the best plan forward for Albertans.

2:20

Ms Gray: Given that the labour minister was recently a member of Alberta's Labour Relations Board, he would know that the government's actions in this matter may very well qualify as bad faith negotiations and given that the Finance minister has confirmed repeatedly that the government directed Alberta Health Services to halt negotiations, will the Premier admit that his government has intentionally interfered with wage negotiations that they were contractually obligated to hold?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, again, we have simply requested a delay in arbitrations. We're consulting all parties and working with them

in good faith to delay the arbitration, again, so that we can build the best path forward for Albertans. Albertans have put their trust in this government. We take that trust seriously, and we will not spend irresponsibly while we ensure high-quality services to Albertans.

Red Tape Reduction Strategy

Mr. Nielsen: This Premier says he's on a mission to cut red tape. He's planning to give his associate minister the ability to create regulations, amend regulations, and set up a series of panels to evaluate regulations. Sounds like the minister of red tape is creating a lot of red tape himself. Still, with very little detail in his red tape reduction plan, one really has to wonder where the Premier and his minister will start. Yesterday the Premier said a whopping 17 regulations had been cut. Can the associate minister list a couple of his favourites?

Mr. Hunter: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate you on your election, and I know that with your rapier wit and your extensive knowledge of House proceedings you will serve this Chamber very well.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the member that our party ran on a commitment to get Albertans back to work and to reignite our province's economy. This is one of the four major planks in our strategy to reignite the economy and free up our job creators to do what they do best, create jobs. Albertans can expect us to be laser focused over the next four years to accomplish just this.

Mr. Nielsen: I guess there was a little red tape in the answer.

Given that this government has a goal of cutting regulations by one-third and given that it has yet to define what they view as red tape and given that there are important regulations requiring sterilization of surgical equipment and inspections of restaurants for cleanliness – dirty scalpels and spoons aren't good for anyone, Mr. Speaker – and given that this new legislation has very little in the way of accountability, to the associate minister: can we ensure Albertans' concern about health and safety will be protected from your big scissors?

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of our made-in-Alberta red tape reduction action is to have a strategy to get Albertans back to work. Over the past four years Albertans have struggled under some of the worst unemployment numbers in recent history. We've been hired to do a job, and we're not going to let Albertans down.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Nielsen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this government and its Premier have a history of cutting shady backroom deals and given that Albertans have a right to know where this government's red tape cutting mission will go, to the associate minister: will you commit to this House to publicly disclose the regulations that you are considering chopping before you cut them, and if not, why not?

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, on April 16 Albertans made a bold declaration that they want a government focused on jobs and the economy. Our mantra is that we are open for business. These aren't hollow words. We have a plan to get Albertans back to work, and the red tape reduction strategy will deliver great results by freeing up our innovators and job creators to do what they do best, create jobs.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Highway 19 Safety

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Highway 19 connecting the town of Devon with the QE II and highway 60 desperately needs to be twinned. On average in three out of every four years someone dies on this 12-kilometre stretch of road. The previous government dragged their heels on the twinning of highway 19, and my constituents are concerned that the highway will miss another construction season and remain dangerous for yet another year. Can the Minister of Transportation tell my constituents what appears to be the holdup? Is it land acquisition or some other issue?

The Speaker: The Minister of Transportation.

Mr. McIver: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the hon. member that highway 19 is on our radar. If he or anyone was to drive down the eastern portion between the QE II and range road 253, you would see that work is substantially complete, and we hope to wrap that part up this summer. Between range roads 253 and 261 planning and design work is under way, and from range road 261 to highway 60 land negotiation and the moving of utilities are under way.

The Speaker: The Member for Drayton Valley-Devon.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that highway 19 has been a major issue in my constituency for many, many years and given that the previous NDP government apparently dragged their heels on land acquisition, causing further delay in the twinning of highway 19, can the Minister of Transportation tell my constituents how the government will improve road safety on highway 19 until twinning is completed?

The Speaker: The Minister of Transportation.

Mr. McIver: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the hon. member, I want you to know that the department has recently completed major upgrades and widening on the QE II between 41st Avenue and highway 19, which should significantly improve safety. The part that is widened now should be safer. Outside of that, I'd just have to say that during construction we depend upon speed reductions, law enforcement, signs, and the good behaviour of drivers, and I would encourage all drivers to be cautious on that road.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that I talked to one constituent the other day that has had to go into therapy as a result of witnessing a horrific crash just in front of her on highway 19 this past year and given that the safety of my constituents is directly linked to the twinning of the highway and given that the town council of Devon has worked hard to try and bring this issue to a successful completion over many years, will the Minister of Transportation commit that he is willing to sit down with the town of Devon and hear first-hand the concerns of my constituents?

Mr. McIver: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would be very happy to sit down with the town of Devon, and I would invite the hon. member to work with my office and schedule that meeting. Beyond that, collisions are serious, and I would encourage all members of this House to spread the word that Albertans need to drive safely. Despite the fact that the roads might be drier and bare during the summer, risks still exist, and I would encourage all Albertans to look after one another on the roads and look after our workers that are out there too, please.

Northern Alberta Wildfire Update

Mr. Dach: Mr. Speaker, yesterday a public emergency order and a disaster order were declared as a result of wildfires burning in northern Alberta, 10 of which are considered out of control. I'd like to thank the folks at the Provincial Operations Centre and the staff at the Alberta Emergency Management Agency for their dedication and hard work. I'd also like to thank the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry for their work. To the minister: can you provide this House with an update on the wildfire situation, which, as we know with the yellow skies outside, has been serious?

Mr. Dreesen: Thank you very much for that very important question. I would like to echo what the member opposite said, to thank all the wildland firefighters, the evacuation experts that have been doing an excellent job. Regarding this fire, it is at 150,000 hectares already, and it had a major growth last night and yesterday. It is a very active fire, and it is something that officials are constantly working on.

Mr. Dach: Mr. Speaker, given four new wildfires in the last 24 hours and that many people in communities in northern Alberta, including the town of High Level and parts of Mackenzie county, Dene Tha' First Nation, the communities of Bushe River, Meander River, and Chateh, Paddle Prairie Métis settlement, Keg River, Carcajou, Wabasca, the Bigstone Cree Nation, and Chipewyan Lake, are all under emergency evacuation orders, to the minister: can you please update this House on what supports are available to folks who've been evacuated from these communities, and in particular can you comment and confirm that all of these supports are available equally to First Nations communities?

The Speaker: The Minister of Municipal Affairs is rising.

Mr. Madu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I can inform this House that our department together with all of our emergency responders as well as our emergency workers have been working around the clock to make sure that all of our evacuees in all of those communities are safe. I can further report that they are getting all of the help that they need at this point in time, and we are keeping a close eye on all that is going on.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

2:30

Mr. Dach: We'll be monitoring the situation.

Mr. Speaker, given that there are 29 wildfires currently burning in Alberta, first responders and wildfire crews are working around the clock to keep our communities safe. However, some communities face imminent risk of burning. To the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry: can you please update this House on which communities are right now at risk of being inundated by fire?

Mr. Dreesen: Again, thank you very much for the very important question. The town of High Level: there's been tremendous work, and it is actually protected very well by a berm. That happened a few days ago. The town of La Crête is probably the closest one to an active fire right now, and as was done in High Level, the town of La Crête is also having bulldozers going around the clock, making sure that that town and that area will remain safe.

The Speaker: The Member for Edmonton-Glenora has a question.

Member for Calgary-East

Ms Hoffman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It just broke that the Member for Calgary-East is under investigation for fraud, forgery, and bribery. It's clear that there is something seriously wrong with this. We've been calling on the Premier to remove this member from caucus for weeks now. Will the Premier do so today?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, we respect the RCMP and independent investigation agencies. I understand that the member is asking questions about a situation that just broke. I have not actually had an opportunity to review what she is referring to. But the reality is – again, we stress it to the House – that we respect that. Again, we're focused on government policy here and doing the work that we've been sent here to do by Albertans, and we'll let the RCMP investigators do their job.

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

Ms Hoffman: Thank you. The RCMP certainly have an important job to do. So does the Alberta Election Commissioner, who has launched an investigation into allegations of the United Conservative MLA being part of fraud, forgery, and bribery. Mr. Speaker, is this acceptable behaviour for this party? If not, why won't the Premier stand in this House and remove this member from caucus?

The Speaker: Hon. members, all members will know that it is important that the questions that are asked during question period refer specifically to government business and not party business. I hear the member refer directly to party business.

Having said that, the Government House Leader, should he like to rise and answer the question.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Again, Mr. Speaker, we respect the independence of the RCMP and all investigative services inside our province. The hon. member, as you mentioned, is not asking about government policy right now and is rising on something I have not had a chance to review. But, as such, I just want to establish very clearly to the House that we respect that, and we'll continue in this House to focus on Albertans and let the RCMP focus on what they focus on.

Ms Hoffman: The RCMP, the Election Commissioner, and, I imagine, Albertans are deeply concerned about allegations and investigations related to fraud, forgery, and bribery. Why is the government not concerned? This is a government caucus member. Why is the government not concerned with fraud, forgery, and bribery? If this is acceptable by the government in their own caucus, what else is acceptable, Mr. Speaker? Fraud, forgery, and bribery should be clear lines that qualify somebody to be disqualified from the caucus. Why won't the Government House Leader or the Premier stand in this House today and remove this member from caucus until this is done?

The Speaker: The hon. member will know that the use of preambles after Question 4 is traditionally not used in the House.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Again, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is raising an issue that I have not seen; I've been in question period today. We respect the independence of the RCMP. To be very clear, we let them do their role, and we, again, will be focused on Albertans.

The Speaker: The Member for Spruce Grove-Stony Plain.

School Construction Concerns

Mr. Turton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the previous government Copperhaven school in Spruce Grove opened its doors in 2018 to accept its first batch of young and eager students. Unfortunately, as a result of poor planning and missed completion timelines by the previous government, this elementary school has operated a full year without a gymnasium, and now it looks more and more likely that this gymnasium will not even be completed in time for the next school year. To the Minister of Infrastructure: what is the status of this project, and when will it finally be completed?

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, let me thank the member for his advocacy on behalf of his constituents. While Copperhaven school achieved occupancy in September last year, Infrastructure noted some unevenness and cracking to the gym floor. Over the past four months my department has been working with the contractor to rectify the situation. Work is expected to be completed over this summer, making the gym available for the next school year.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-Stony Plain.

Mr. Turton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: what steps is this government taking to ensure that issues like this don't continue, moving forward, for future school projects here in Alberta?

Mr. Panda: Mr. Speaker, I want Albertans to know that their government will continue to be vigilant and conduct regular site inspections to ensure that contractors deliver quality projects as per the specifications and timelines agreed to in the contracts.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Turton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: what steps has the government taken to create realistic timelines for parents whose children are attending new schools where construction may be unfinished?

The Speaker: The Minister of Infrastructure.

Mr. Panda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I have asked my department and the staff to work with all school boards to ensure that school projects are built to a high-quality standard within the approved budgets and that the projects meet the completion schedules.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche has the call.

Support for Wildfire-affected Students

Ms Goodridge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the onset of warm, dry conditions, many northern Albertans are once again forced to evacuate their homes and escape forest fires. This creates a major disruption to the everyday lives of Albertans, especially children who are attending school. Students are an important resource for our province, and their education is absolutely paramount to the continued success of Alberta. However, these evacuations have forced students to be removed from their school for their own safety. To the Minister of Education: can you inform this House how many schools . . .

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you for the question. I believe the question would be: what are we doing for our students that are

impacted by the fire? Our first priority is to ensure that our students and their families are safe and out of harm's way. Of course, we are accommodating high school students in the High Level area. My department has worked with the local school divisions to develop exemptions for students affected by the fire. My department has communicated to the grade 6 and grade 9 students that they can be excused from writing their provincial achievement tests and that they can write them at another time or in another school.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche.

Ms Goodridge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for that answer. Given that the safety of our students is the utmost priority to all members of this Assembly and given that as a result of these evacuations, many schools have been closed and given that the need to evacuate your community and the possible threat of losing your home can be an incredibly stressful ordeal, as many of the constituents in my riding of Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche can attest to, and considering that these evacuation orders have come while students are still attending classes, is there a plan to provide students with the mental health care and supports they need?

The Speaker: The Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the hon. member for the question. As my colleague would know from the fires in Fort McMurray, we take the mental health of evacuees and our students very, very seriously, and while the length of the evacuation remains unknown, I will be working with my colleague the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to ensure that the appropriate supports are in place for our students. We want to make sure that every single one of them has what they need to get through this very dangerous situation.

The Speaker: The member.

Ms Goodridge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that evacuations such as these do disrupt the academic calendar for many students and given that students in grades 6 and 9 are scheduled to write their provincial achievement exams shortly and given that the students in grade 12 are soon to write their diploma exams as well and given that these exams are such important tools for our students' academic records, to the Minister of Education: how is the government ensuring that students who have evacuated their homes are given an opportunity to complete this very important testing here in Alberta?

Member LaGrange: Thank you for the question. Our government recognizes that diploma examinations are an important part of the students' educational journey. We have communicated that grade 12 students will be eligible for an exemption from their diploma exam. When a student is exempt from their diploma exam, their classroom mark will become their final mark. These students could also write their exams at another school or defer their examinations until August. Again, we want to do whatever will help the student in this situation.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for St. Albert has a question.

2:40

PDD Program Review

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2018 our NDP government appointed a diverse group of advocates to review key issues facing the PDD program, issues like IQ requirement, waitlists, and workers' wages. After consulting in communities all over Alberta, the panel has been working on the report and subsequent

recommendations. Many in the community are concerned that this report is purposely being buried and that the new government will not let it see the light of day. To the Minister of Community and Social Services: when will you publicly release the committee's full report to the community?

Mrs. Sawhney: Thank you for the question. Mr. Speaker, our government wants to make life better for all Albertans. We are committed to supporting persons with developmental disabilities to ensure they live a life of dignity and have equal opportunities. This is why we have great respect for the work of the PDD panel. I'm currently reviewing the report and assessing the recommendations. It's important to be thoughtful and deliberative before moving forward on any decision.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for St. Albert.

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We actually asked you to release it, not talk about it or evaluate it.

Given that we've seen shocking cuts to PDD under successive Conservative governments in this province, to the minister, through you, Mr. Speaker: can you commit to keeping our government's promise that no cuts will be made to people's services or the PDD program as a result of this review?

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, the PDD review panel undertook extensive stakeholder engagement. We owe it to the panel, to their work, to the stakeholders, and to Albertans to ensure that we are thorough. I am reviewing this report, and I will provide an update very soon.

The Speaker: The member.

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A report is great, but we want the whole report. We want to see it. The community wants to see it.

To the same minister: given that many members of the community have been waiting decades for a review of the issues facing the PDD program – they are complex – and given that a key issue that needs to be addressed is the PDD IQ requirement, which we know is not a credible tool to assess whether someone needs support or not, will you commit to removing IQ as a requirement entirely?

Mrs. Sawhney: Mr. Speaker, in our platform we committed to working with the disability community to improve the PDD program, and we will honour that commitment by continuing to engage with stakeholders and the PDD review panel. As I said before, our government is committed to helping Albertans with disabilities to live a full life with dignity and opportunity.

The Speaker: Hon. members, in 30 seconds or less we will proceed to Members' Statements. I ask that if you are leaving the House, you would do so in an expeditious manner.

Members' Statements

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

Calgary-South East Constituency Update

Mr. Jones: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Calgary-South East includes four great communities: Auburn Bay, Cranston, Mahogany, and Seton. This constituency is one of the fastest growing areas in Calgary and is populated by young families. Like most Albertans, they want to provide what's best for their children. In following

with that goal, my constituents communicated to me at the doors that there are three areas they would like our government to focus on for them: the economy, education, and public transportation.

On the economy, our government already has a robust and ambitious plan to renew our economy and to bring jobs to Alberta. Through initiatives like the job-creation tax cut, the open for business act, and the Red Tape Reduction Act, we are already working to ensure that Albertans have the jobs necessary to provide for their families.

In terms of education Calgary-South East is in need of additional schools. While we are grateful that the Calgary board of education's Cranston second elementary school and the Calgary Catholic school district's Auburn Bay elementary school are both due to open in the fall of 2020, more are needed. Currently the Mahogany elementary school is in the early stages of the design process while the funding received for the much-needed Auburn Bay middle school is for design only.

Lastly, at this time the first stage of the green line is expected to be completed by 2026 and is planned to extend 20 kilometres, from 16 Avenue N to 126 Avenue S.E. Unfortunately, this will not reach the 40,000 people in my constituency. As a riding on the southernmost part of Calgary, my constituents are hoping that funding and planning can be extended to include their communities as well.

I'm looking forward to exploring these important projects with the hon. ministers of Education, Infrastructure, and Transportation. Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View would like to make a statement.

Rural Crime Strategy

Ms Ganley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and deliver my first member's statement in this House. There has been a lot of talk in this House about civility and working together, and in that spirit I would like to commend the government. It isn't easy to admit that you were wrong and take a page from the opposition, but the UCP government has done exactly that, twice now. Today we just saw the appointment of a special prosecutor. I think this will be to the benefit of all Albertans.

In 2017 rural crime rates were rising significantly, and my colleagues and I were hearing very valid concerns. In response our NDP government moved quickly to consult with the RCMP, with rural communities, and with rural crime watch groups to ensure that we developed a proactive strategy to target those prolific offenders that we know are responsible for the majority of this crime.

At the time, Mr. Speaker, the UCP wanted me to waste time studying the issue and lobby the federal government. On multiple occasions they voted against 59 RCMP officers and 40 civilian staff. They called my colleagues and I every name in the book, saying that we were spending like fools and not considering the future of the province and that new judges, 55 court clerks, and over 70 prosecutors over the course of four years were administrative waste. They voted against them at every turn. The UCP Premier even went so far as to cut ALERT while he was in Ottawa.

But, as with all things, results are what counts. After the introduction of the strategy rural crime dropped by an average of 10 per cent. This meant 480 fewer homes broken into, 3,500 fewer thefts, and 1,200 fewer vehicles stolen. I'm proud of this work.

Our strategy is working, but there's much more to do, Mr. Speaker. That's why I'm so glad that the UCP is not only keeping the additional police and prosecutors that they previously voted

against but following our lead and adding more. They've even managed to convince the Premier of the value of ALERT.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, in this place we have a duty to get it right, and I'm so glad to see that the UCP government has decided to follow our lead.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod.

Rowan House Society in High River

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations on your election. Today I'm honoured to rise in this House to recognize the important work that the Rowan House Society, a charity based in High River, does for some of the most vulnerable residents of my riding of Livingstone-Macleod. Rowan House has been serving families affected by domestic violence for almost 20 years. It is a vital organization focused on school-based programs designed to prevent gender-based violence through education and to providing tangible and practical support and protection to women and children whose lives have been shaken by the horrors of domestic violence.

[Mr. Milliken in the chair]

Historically Rowan House has focused on providing secure, temporary accommodations for the women and children in rural Alberta who are escaping domestic violence. I'm happy to tell all of my colleagues here today that starting this year Rowan House is expanding their services in an innovative way. While still seeking to guarantee safety and stability for women and children who have been harmed by domestic violence, they're launching their brand new stay-at-home program in Claresholm.

The goal of the project is to have the abusive partner in the relationship move to temporary housing for their treatment and their counselling with the goal of not taking away the stability provided to victims by living in their own homes. This serves not only to help break the cycle of violence that many families are caught in, but also to expand Rowan House's operations further into rural Alberta, with their main facility being located over an hour away from Claresholm.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly a fantastic program being launched in rural Alberta to help these families that are struggling to escape this systemic evil. Many rural families in southern Alberta do not have access to violence prevention services such as this, and I am forever grateful to Rowan House for providing such a service.

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

2:50

Tourism Week

Ms Rosin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to rise in the House today to commemorate national Tourism Week. Alberta is blessed to encompass some of the most beautiful lands on Planet Earth. Many places support tourism industries, but there are few places where it comes so naturally. While most locations pride their tourism industry on infrastructure, skyscrapers, shopping malls, amusement parks, museums, or other man-made attractions, here in Alberta our tourism industry is founded upon the mere existence of our natural, God-given beauty.

[The Speaker in the chair]

Being the MLA for the riding of Banff-Kananaskis, I know this full well. Between Canmore, Banff, Lake Louise, and Kananaskis Country my riding welcomes millions of tourists every year. In fact, these towns welcome more tourists every day of the year than they have permanent residents living within. Individuals, families, and

dogs of every breed travel from near and far to witness first-hand the breathtaking scenery of the Rockies. Looking at the numbers, tourism injected \$8.5 billion in visitor expenditures to our economy in 2015 and contributed 127,000 jobs from over 19,000 local tourism businesses.

Tourism is an industry we should be proud of. During national Tourism Week I am proud to support our government's goal of doubling this industry by facilitating private-public funding of destination marketing, working with airport authorities to expand air transport agreements, and moving the industry into the ministry of economic development so that it can be treated as the true economic driver it is and not a niche industry.

So whether you celebrate from the mountaintops of Banff or the valleys of Waterton, upside down from the Calaway Park roller coaster or sitting right side up from a West Edmonton Mall waterslide, gazing up with the northern lights above in Fort McMurray or gazing down at the fish below in Lake Minnewanka, from inside the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller or outside in the Willmore wilderness park, I hope that all members of this Assembly can join me today in honouring Alberta's vibrant tourism industry and the thousands of workers, employers, small-business owners, and entrepreneurs who support it.

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

Government Policy Implementation Time Frame

Mr. Shepherd: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, Albertans have a lot of questions for their new government. After all, the Premier said that he was doing his homework in advance and he'd move quickly once in office and, in fact, wouldn't even have time to consult. So Albertans rightly have some questions about what it is this government is going to do, and it's interesting to see what they're willing to talk about and what they're not.

For example, when will profitable corporate friends of the Premier see their generous tax break? Right away. But when will hard-working nurses, teachers, and paramedics get the government back to the table to bargain in good faith? Well, in due course.

When will young people see a 23 per cent cut in the pay that they work hard to earn to help their families and save for university? Right now. But when will they find out if their tuition will remain affordable, if their campuses will be free of hateful speech? In due course.

When will this government adopt the years-old Education Act? Immediately. But when will they let school boards know if there will be a single new dollar to support 15,000 new students in our classrooms? Well, in due course.

When will this government, so devoted to ceremony and tradition, cease to consistently acknowledge treaty land? Already done. But when will they let indigenous Albertans know if they'll accept the principles of UNDRIP and the TRC? Well, in due course.

Now, when did this Premier scold LGBTQ students for doing politics on school hours? Well, that was after two weeks in office. But when will those students find out just how far he intends to roll back protections for their GSAs? In due course.

When did their Minister of Health decide that conversion therapy in Alberta isn't a thing? Apparently, just last week. But when will he let LGBTQ Albertans know if he's willing to admit he was wrong and has the courage to help end its destructive practice now? All together now.

Some Hon. Members: In due course.

Mr. Shepherd: In the meantime it's our job to keep asking the questions government doesn't want to answer and that of Albertans

to decide if they like what they hear. I'm sure they will make their voices heard in due course.

The Speaker: They say that teamwork does make the dream work. I'm not always sure that that's the case here in the Assembly during Members' Statements, but I digress.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

30th Legislature Opening Reflections

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always an honour to rise in this House representing the people of Calgary-Fish Creek, which now includes the great communities of Midnapore and Sundance, where my family and I have lived for 27 years. I continue to be proud of being a born-and-raised Calgarian and Albertan. In addition to the privilege of public service, I have been honoured to serve the communities in which I've lived, worked, and played.

With deep involvement in Alberta's Asian community since the early '80s, I am blessed with many lifelong friends and am humbled to be considered honorary Chinese. I paddled hard and beat the drums as one of the cofounders of dragon boat racing in Alberta and have been deeply involved in celebrating cultural diversity through such organizations and events as the Chinatown Street Festival, Hong Kong-Canada Business Association, Hong Kong days, and GlobalFest.

I've also been privileged by deep engagement with community groups, educational institutions, and the nonprofit sector, including the Kids Cancer Care Foundation, Trico Centre, Trico Charitable Foundation, Bow Valley College and many more too numerous to mention. These opportunities continue to deeply influence who I am and the values I uphold and defend every day. I have a deep passion around the importance of housing affordability for all Albertans and was blessed to have driven innovative partnerships with Habitat for Humanity at all three levels of government.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that public, private, and nonprofit collaboration is key to better meeting societal challenges now and into the future. I am also steadfast in my commitment to the highest standards of integrity, principles, and values in public service and will continue to be fiercely outspoken in this regard.

Lastly, let's all remember what has and what will continue to build this province: our entrepreneurial spirit, our prairie work ethic, our shared commitment to building a welcoming, compassionate, and inclusive society. Mr. Speaker, it is these qualities that will drive us forward to a sustainable future while ensuring that each and every Albertan can and will reach their full potential as we work diligently across party lines to return to the Alberta advantage.

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise the Assembly that pursuant to Standing Order 7(8) the daily Routine may continue beyond 3 o'clock p.m.

Introduction of Bills

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

Bill 201

Protection of Students with Life-threatening Allergies Act

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured today to rise and request leave to introduce Bill 201, the Protection of Students with Life-threatening Allergies Act.

The bill proposes that all publicly funded school boards have policies and plans for students with life-threatening allergies in addition to it requiring every publicly funded school to have an EpiPen on school grounds.

[Motion carried; Bill 201 read a first time]

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

Bill 202

Child, Youth and Family Enhancement (Protecting Alberta's Children) Amendment Act, 2019

Mr. Ellis: Well, wonderful. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 202, the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement (Protecting Alberta's Children) Amendment Act, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, I promise I will be very brief. A few years back I made a promise to a young mother whose daughter was brutally abused and murdered while in kinship care. Her other children were also severely abused. Today is the day I fulfill this promise and I introduce the bill dubbed Serenity's Law, this time backed by a caring and compassionate government. This bill seeks to make it clear that everyone knows that if a child requires intervention, they can contact the director of Children's Services or a police officer.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to helping the children of Alberta. A promise made, and a promise kept.

[Motion carried; Bill 202 read a first time]

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders

Second Reading

Bill 4

Red Tape Reduction Act

The Speaker: I see the hon. Associate Minister for Red Tape Reduction rising.

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading of Bill 4, the Red Tape Reduction Act.

Bill 4 will enable us to take deliberate steps to eliminate dead-weight regulations and unnecessary processes, while at the same time protecting the environment, upholding fiscal accountability, and ensuring the health and safety of all Albertans. Albertans have been struggling because of the prolonged economic downturn, and the unnecessary costs of doing business in Alberta have not been helping. An efficient regulatory environment will speed up approvals, boost Alberta's competitiveness, and spur economic growth and innovation. This bill would set the stage for government to introduce tools to create an inventory of regulations that are currently in place and assess whether or not they are effective.

3:00

It would also direct government to adopt a regulatory approach that focuses on outcomes instead of processes. An outcome-based approach will set a standard of regulatory excellence in Alberta where all regulations are necessary, effective, efficient, and proportional to the outcome they are trying to achieve, providing value for all Albertans.

Simply put, this bill would enable us to eliminate and prevent unnecessary regulations. We've heard from entrepreneurs, businesses, nonprofits, and the public that red tape is adding to the burden of doing business here in Alberta. These extra costs include time, money, and other resources, and they're driving away jobs

and investment. With Alberta businesses and families struggling, we need to take action right away. To enable government to act quickly, the legislation will allow government to consolidate red tape reduction efforts in omnibus regulations. This made-in-Alberta, innovative approach will allow us to address red tape more quickly and efficiently than anywhere else in Canada. While we anticipate that most if not all of our red tape reduction efforts will be addressed through policy, this legislation will also allow government to create regulations to administer the Red Tape Reduction Act if necessary.

One of the immediate actions that would be enabled through this legislation is putting red tape under the leadership of one associate minister, myself, and also one division. This will help guarantee that all of the different areas and departments of government are working together and will ensure less confusion about who's directing the work. I'll have clear accountability to get the work done, and my dedicated team, albeit small, will have clear direction and clear expectations from the get-go.

To make sure that our actions and priorities are aligned with the needs of Albertans, I will also consult with Albertans by setting up a series of industry panels. These panels will be created in a phased-in approach and will represent Alberta's businesses and industry experts from key sectors, spanning from oil and gas, tourism and hospitality, and agriculture and forestry to manufacturing, construction, small businesses, and nonprofits. We know that Albertans have creative solutions to offer. They're the ones on the front lines dealing every day with unnecessary and burdensome red tape that serves no purpose other than to confuse and obstruct. We want to hear how we can do better, cut more, and get our economy back to being the freest, fastest moving economy in the country if not North America.

A key cornerstone of this legislation is a commitment to listening to Albertans, and that includes being accountable and transparent to them. That's why this legislation will require me to report on the government's red tape reduction strategies and initiatives. A copy of the report would be tabled in the Legislature and made available to the public beginning in 2020. I will have the flexibility to determine the content, timing, and frequency of the report based on the priorities that are identified and the actions that are put in place to address them. These actions, Mr. Speaker, are being introduced at a time when Alberta businesses and Alberta's economy need it most.

Mr. Speaker, we are introducing measures to reduce deadweight red tape by one-third over four years and prevent new red tape from creeping back. We are making Alberta more competitive. It will help our province to attract and retain investments, and it will reduce barriers for Alberta's job creators so that they can do what they do best, create jobs.

I now wish to adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

Government Motions

Amendments to Standing Orders

11. Mr. Jason Nixon moved:

A. Be it resolved that the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta effective December 4, 2018, be amended as follows:

1. Standing Order 3 is amended

- (a) in suborder (1) by striking out "Subject to suborder (1.1)" and substituting "Subject to suborder (1.1) and (1.2).";
- (b) by adding the following after suborder (1.1):

(1.2) The Assembly shall not meet in the morning from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, or 9:00 a.m. to noon on Wednesday or Thursday, if the Government House Leader, or a member of the Executive Council acting on the Government House Leader's behalf, notifies the Assembly that there shall be no morning sitting, notice having been given no later than the time of adjournment on the sitting day preceding the day on which the morning sitting will be cancelled.

(c) by adding the following after suborder (5):

(5.1) In the period prior to, or following the commencement of, the first session of a Legislature, the Government House Leader may file a revised calendar with the Clerk, notwithstanding the deadline in suborder (5), following consultation with the Opposition House Leaders.

(d) in suborder (6) by adding "or (5.1)" after "unless varied by the calendar provided for under suborder (5)";

(e) by striking out suborder (7) and substituting the following:

(7) As soon as possible after January 15 each year, and following receipt of a calendar submitted under suborder (5.1), the Clerk shall publish the calendar provided for under suborder (5) or (5.1).

2. Standing Order 7 is amended

(a) in suborder (1) by striking out "Introduction of Guests" and substituting "Introduction of School Groups";

(b) by striking out suborder (3) and substituting the following:

(3) When Introduction of School Groups is called, brief introductions may be made by the Speaker of groups of schoolchildren in the galleries.

(c) by adding the following after suborder (5):

(5.1) If any Member other than the mover rises to speak to a debatable motion to concur in a report of a committee on a Bill under Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees, debate on that motion shall be called under Orders of the Day

(a) when the Government thinks fit, in the case of a report on a Government Bill,

(b) on the next sitting day other than a Monday, in the case of a report on a private Bill, or

(c) on Monday afternoon under Motions for Concurrence in Committee Reports on Public Bills other than Government Bills, in the case of a report on a public Bill other than a Government Bill.

3. Standing Order 8 is amended

(a) by striking out suborder (1) and substituting the following:

8(1) On Monday afternoon, after the daily routine, the order of business for consideration

of the Assembly shall be as follows:

Motions for Concurrence in Committee Reports
on Public Bills Other than Government Bills
Written Questions

Motions for Return

Public Bills and Orders other than Government
Bills and Orders

At 5 p.m.: Motions other than Government
Motions

(1.1) Notwithstanding suborder (1), if on a Monday afternoon prior to 5 p.m. no items of business other than Motions other than Government Motions remain on the Order Paper for consideration by the Assembly, Motions other than Government Motions shall be called and after the Assembly has decided all questions necessary to conclude debate on the motion, the Assembly shall proceed to consideration of any items of Government business provided for in suborder (2) unless unanimous consent is given to proceed to an additional Motion other than a Government Motion.

- (b) by adding the following after suborder (7)(a):
 - (a.1) Debate on a motion to concur in a report of a committee on a public Bill other than a Government Bill will conclude after 55 minutes of debate on the motion and 5 minutes for the mover to close debate, unless the motion is voted on sooner.
4. Standing Order 13 is amended by adding the following after suborder (5):
 - (5.1) No Member shall disrupt the orderly conduct of the proceedings of the Assembly by loudly or repeatedly banging on a desk.
5. Standing Order 19(1) is amended
 - (a) in clause (a) and (b) by striking out “at 5:15 p.m., the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings” and substituting “the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings 15 minutes prior to the time of adjournment for the afternoon sitting”, and
 - (b) in clause (c) by striking out “at 5:15 p.m., unless the debate is previously concluded, the Speaker shall put every question necessary to dispose of the motion” and substituting “unless the debate is previously concluded, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings 15 minutes prior to the time of adjournment for the afternoon sitting and immediately put every question necessary to dispose of the motion”.
6. Standing Order 29(3) is amended by striking out “and motions for returns” and substituting “, motions for returns and motions for concurrence in committee reports on public Bills other than Government Bills”.
7. The following is added after Standing Order 31:

Confidence of the Assembly in the Government

31.1 The confidence of the Assembly in the Government may be raised by means of a vote on

 - (a) a motion explicitly worded to declare that the Assembly has, or has not, confidence in the Government,
 - (b) a motion by the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, “That the Assembly

approve in general the business plans and fiscal policies of the Government”,

- (c) a motion for the passage of an Appropriation Bill as defined in Standing Order 64,
 - (d) a motion for an address in reply to the Lieutenant Governor’s speech, or
 - (e) any other motion that the Government has expressly declared a question of confidence.
8. Standing Order 32 is struck out and the following is substituted:

Division

32(1) A division may be called for by 3 Members rising.

(2) When a division is called, the division bells shall be sounded at the beginning and for the last minute of a 15-minute interval.

(3) After the first division is called during any meeting of the Committee of the Whole or Committee of Supply, the interval between division bells on all subsequent divisions during that meeting shall be reduced to one minute, except in the case of the first division called during an evening sitting that commences in Committee of the Whole or Committee of Supply pursuant to Standing Order 4(4).

(4) When Members have been called in for a division, there shall be no further debate.

(5) Members are not compelled to vote and those who wish to abstain should remain in their seats when asked to rise and record their vote.

(6) The Clerk shall record the ayes and the noes and announce to the Speaker the number of votes cast for and against the motion.

(7) The ayes and noes shall be entered in the Votes and Proceedings.

(8) Abstentions shall not be entered in the Votes and Proceedings.
 9. Standing Order 37 is amended
 - (a) by striking out suborders (1) and (2) and substituting the following:
 - (1) Five copies, and any additional copies required by suborder (2), must be tabled of a document presented by a Member to the Assembly for
 - (a) placement of one copy in the records of the Assembly, and
 - (b) distribution of
 - (i) 2 copies to the Legislature Library,
 - (ii) one copy to *Hansard*,
 - (iii) one copy to the Government, in the case of a document tabled by the Speaker, the Official Opposition, any other party or group in opposition or an independent Member, and
 - (iv) one copy to the Official Opposition, in the case of a document tabled by the Speaker, a Member of the Government caucus, any other party or group in opposition or an independent Member.
 - (2) In addition to the copies required under suborder (1), one additional copy must be tabled of
 - (a) responses to written questions and returns ordered by the Assembly for

- distribution to the Member who asked the question or moved the motion for return, and
- (b) any document presented by a Member who is neither a Member of the Government caucus nor the Official Opposition, to allow for distribution to both the Government and the Official Opposition under suborder (1).
- (b) by striking out suborder (3).
10. The following is added after Standing Order 46:
Debate interrupted by adjournment of the Assembly
46.1 When a motion to adjourn the Assembly is carried or the Assembly is adjourned for want of quorum, the matter under consideration prior to the adjournment shall be deemed to be adjourned to a future sitting day.
11. Standing Order 52(1)(c) is struck out and the following is substituted:
(c) Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills, consisting of 11 Members,
12. Standing Order 52.01(1) is amended by striking out clauses (a), (b) and (c) and substituting the following:
(a) Standing Committee on Families and Communities – mandate related to the areas of Children's Services, Community and Social Services, Education, Health, Justice and Solicitor General, Seniors and Housing and Service Alberta;
(b) Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future – mandate related to the areas of Advanced Education, Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Labour and Immigration and Infrastructure;
(c) Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship – mandate related to the areas of Agriculture and Forestry, Energy, Environment and Parks, Indigenous Relations, Municipal Affairs, Transportation and Treasury Board and Finance.
13. The following is added after Standing Order 52.01:
Subcommittees
52.011(1) Unless otherwise ordered, a standing or special committee shall have the power to appoint one or more subcommittees, which shall report from time to time to the committee.
(2) Every subcommittee shall be appointed by motion of the committee specifying the terms of reference and the membership of the subcommittee.
(3) At its first meeting of a new Legislature, every Legislative Policy Committee and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts shall appoint a Subcommittee on Committee Business to meet from time to time at the call of the Chair and to report to the committee on the business of the committee.
14. Standing Order 52.04 is amended by renumbering Standing Order 52.04 as Standing Order 52.04(1) and by adding the following after suborder (1):
(2) Subject to Standing Order 59.01(11), suborder (1) does not prevent a Legislative Policy Committee from undertaking a hearing or inquiry during the same period of time that a matter stands referred to the committee by the Assembly if the hearing or inquiry does not interfere with the work of the committee on the matter referred to it.
15. Standing Order 59.01 is amended by adding the following after suborder (11):
(12) Suborder (11) does not apply to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills.
16. Standing Order 59.02(3) is struck out and the following is substituted:
(3) During consideration of interim, supplementary or main estimates, the following individuals may be seated at a committee or in the Assembly:
(a) officials of the Government, to assist the Minister whose estimates are under consideration;
(b) staff of the opposition, to assist Members who are participating in estimates consideration.
(4) During main estimates consideration, officials of the Government may respond to questions from a committee at the request of the Minister.
17. Standing Order 64(1)(a) is amended by striking out subclause (ii).
18. Standing Order 74.1 is amended
(a) by striking out the heading and substituting "Referral of Government Bill to a committee after first reading", and
(b) by striking out suborder (1)(b).
19. The following is added after Standing Order 74.1:
Referral of public Bill other than Government Bill after first reading
74.11(1) After a public Bill other than a Government Bill has been read a first time, the Bill stands referred to the Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills Committee.
(2) The Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills Committee shall report back to the Assembly within 8 sitting days of the day on which the Bill was referred to the Committee.
20. Standing Order 74.2(2) is struck out and the following is substituted:
(2) Upon the concurrence of a committee report that a Bill be proceeded with, the Bill shall be placed on the Order Paper for second reading and, in the case of a public Bill other than a Government Bill, the Bill shall, subject to the precedence assigned to Bills standing on the Order Paper, be taken up on the next available Monday following the day on which the Assembly concurred in the report.
21. Standing Order 89 is amended by striking out "Standing Order 3" and substituting "Standing Order 3(5)".
22. The following Standing Orders are amended by striking out "Private Bills Committee" and substituting "Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills Committee" wherever it occurs:
Standing Order 91(4)
Standing Order 96(2)
Standing Order 98(1) and (3)

Standing Order 100(1)
 Standing Order 101
 Standing Order 102
 Standing Order 103
 Standing Order 104
 Standing Order 105(1)
 Standing Order 106

23. The headings preceding Standing Orders 98, 100 and 105 are amended by striking out “Private Bills Committee” and substituting “Private Bills and Private Members’ Public Bills Committee”.

- B. And be it further resolved that upon passage of this motion any public bills other than government bills that stand on the Order Paper for second reading are deemed referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members’ Public Bills in accordance with Standing Order 74.11(1) and notwithstanding Standing Order 74.11(2) the committee shall report back to the Assembly on these bills within 12 sitting days of the day this motion is passed.
- C. And be it further resolved that the amendments in this motion shall come into force on passage.

[Debate adjourned May 30: Member Ceci speaking]

The Speaker: I see the Member for Edmonton-South rising to debate.

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, it’s really my pleasure today to rise and speak to Government Motion 11. I think it’s a really important motion here in the Assembly. It’s something that affects every single member here in the House, government and opposition alike. In fact, I think it perhaps affects government backbenchers the most out of anything we’ll do today, this change.

Really, I think, if we look at Government Motion 11, we can start from the top and look at some of the big, overarching changes that the front bench here is trying to introduce. What the government is trying to do is that they’re trying to take away a long-standing tradition in this Assembly. Not only is it a long-standing tradition in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker; it’s something that I know, as a member for the last four years and moving forward into the 30th Legislature, I was looking forward to doing and had enjoyed doing in the past. It’s something I already observed government members, not just government backbenchers but government front-benchers and cabinet ministers as well, doing in this House, and that’s the practice that we’ve had for over a century here of introducing guests.

Introducing guests is something where I’ve invited many important people in my life, whether that’s my family that I’ve invited here or my friends or, indeed, stakeholders and constituents who travelled quite a way and arranged to take time off their work because they came to see the work we do here on their behalf. They came to see what we do as legislators, as people who were sent here by our constituents for them. We’re members for constituencies, Mr. Speaker. They are the ones that want to see what we do for them. They came here, and one of the best things for them was to be introduced. I certainly remember that before I was elected, in fact, when I was quite a bit younger, I was sitting in the gallery, and my MLA introduced me in this House. That was a very high point for my year because being introduced means something for Albertans.

This is the people’s House. Mr. Speaker, you as the Speaker know very well that this is the people’s House. We let Albertans in our front doors. We let Albertans walk through this building and learn of our history and learn of what we do here in the Assembly.

It is important that they have the ability to see this and to learn this because our work here matters, and Albertans deserve to see that work. What the government is trying to do here is restrict that work.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I think, really clearly here we’ve seen government members, whether it’s in the front or backbenches, taking advantage of the opportunity to introduce guests already. Like many of the changes that are coming in Government Motion 11, like many of the things that are being introduced in Government Motion 11, it’s really clear that it’s to control private members. The government wants to control what private members can do. Maybe they’re concerned about who the backbench might bring as guests. Maybe they’re concerned that some of their members will bring guests that the front bench doesn’t agree with. Maybe they’re concerned that they’ll bring antiabortionists, maybe they’re concerned that they’ll bring pro-lifers, or maybe they’re concerned they’re going to bring gay rights activists.

Mr. Speaker, I can understand why that may be a concern for the government front bench here. I can understand why that may be a concern for some of the cabinet ministers, and I can understand why some of the cabinet ministers may actually enjoy having pro-lifers brought into this Chamber. Really, I think that very clearly Government Motion 11 is an attempt to restrict the rights of private members. It really doesn’t matter whether you would prefer to have or not have those people in this Chamber. They should have the opportunity to be introduced in our Assembly. They should have the opportunity to have their names read into *Hansard* by their MLA. We are the ones as private members that represent them in this House and represent their voice in this House. You introduced so many of your guests in the 29th Legislature and indeed some here in the 30th. You know very well how important it is that we can provide a voice for our constituents.

I think when we talk about trying to control private members and what the government front bench is doing, it plays really well into looking at one of the other changes they’re trying to bring in here. I mean, we can see pretty clearly that when they try to bring in changes around allowing abstentions in the Chamber – when there’s a division, you don’t have to leave the Chamber. Perhaps you no longer have to barge your way out of the Chamber and run and hide in your office so that you don’t have to vote. Well, now you can sit in your chair and do nothing.

3:10

Mr. Speaker, let’s be honest. If those votes won’t be recorded in the official votes and records of the Assembly, it makes no difference. It makes no difference. I know that members of the Conservative Party in the 29th Legislature were embarrassed that they were caught running away from their jobs. I know they were embarrassed that journalists and the public saw them not doing their job and refusing to work, and I know that can be embarrassing for many people. If you’re caught with your hand in the cookie jar and it turns out you weren’t working for your pay, I know for Conservatives that can be a very difficult thing.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that if this is passed – sitting down during a division and not voting are exactly the same thing. You still won’t be recorded in the official Votes and Proceedings of the Assembly. It still will show that you refused to do your job, and it still will show that you weren’t representing your constituents, what we were elected here to do, what we were sent here by our constituents to do.

I think these two things were – it shows so clearly the front bench of this government trusts their backbench so little. It shows that they trust them so little not to bring in somebody embarrassing. It shows that it trusts them so little not to know whether to stand or sit or to sit in their office rather than in the Chamber, Mr. Speaker. I think very clearly we need to look at the suite of sweeping changes trying

to be brought in by the government here and say: it really is aimed at a specific thing. It's aimed at the people sitting in the backbenches. I think that's a real shame for democracy in this House. I think it's a shame for what we're trying to accomplish here as a collaborative government and in opposition. I think that as an opposition our job is to try to oppose and propose policy changes, and I think it's a shame that we see a government that doesn't even want that from their own caucus, let alone another caucus. I mean, that's something that disappoints me in looking at Government Motion 11 here.

I think another thing that disappoints me is looking at their ban on desk thumping here. It's going to erase a long-held legislative tradition. Now, Mr. Speaker, I know you yourself in the 29th Legislature enjoyed a good desk thump once in a while, and I know many members on the government side did as well. I mean, I know a lot of members here are new, perhaps here for the first time. But there are some members here who have taken a break and returned, and those members will remember, I'm sure, that desk thumping is something that has been practised for a very long time in this Assembly. It's something that's quite enjoyable. I think it's something that allows members to show support for members across the aisle.

You'll recall, Mr. Speaker, of course, that in the 29th Legislature there was a colleague of ours who discussed how they were sexually assaulted in their home, and one of the things that members across both sides of the aisle did is that they thumped their desks to show support. It's something that made sure that that member knew they weren't alone. I'm worried that if we get rid of this ability to support our members, it's going to cause disruptive behaviours. It's going to mean that we're not able to support our members and support each other in the same meaningful way.

It really is a shame that the government front bench here wants to control members so tightly. They can't loosen their grip even a little bit because they're concerned that if they let their backbench applaud how they like, well, then they're going to get other ideas. We really can't let them choose how they want to express their applause in this Assembly. If that's the direction the government wants to take, then, I mean, that is the government front bench's prerogative. Of course, I would hope the government backbenchers may see it differently and understand how they are perhaps being restricted or understand perhaps how they are having the ability to express themselves restricted.

Indeed, it seems like these government backbenchers, these people who were decidedly not appointed to cabinet, Mr. Speaker, are okay with that. They're okay with the front bench telling them what to do, and I think that's a real shame. I think if you run a government like that, it shows pretty clearly that you're not okay with any difference in opinions. I think having a difference in opinions makes us better legislators. It makes us legislators that allow better information to come to us at any given time. It makes us legislators that allow us to have better policy at any given time. I think that's really special. A collaborative government that is trying to improve Alberta is really important. It's really important for all governments.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we can see that that simply isn't the case, and we can see with Government Motion 11 that they're signalling what they want to be doing for the next four years. For the next four years what the government is trying to signal is that if you weren't appointed to cabinet or you don't sit in the caucus and you're not appointed to cabinet, well, then, your voice doesn't matter. We're not going to let you introduce your guests. We're not going to let you thump your desk. We're not going to let you vote how we don't want you to vote. We're not going to let you go hide in your office

anymore. We're going to tell you exactly what to do every single time.

Mr. Speaker, if the members of the government backbench are okay with that, then I suppose that's what we'll see in a vote coming up here. But I think that we can see very clearly that these members are having their rights restricted, myself included as a private member. We are having our rights restricted. The government seems to want to push forward very rapidly with restricting rights in an omnibus manner. They want to do it all in one big motion.

We talk about how this ties the hands of the backbenchers. Really, it ties the hands of democracy, Mr. Speaker, because democracy depends on all of us here in the Assembly having that voice. It depends on all of us here being willing to stand up to our cabinet ministers and say: we believe there are better ways to do things. That's why we were elected here.

But if I can't even introduce the president of the school council at my school to let them know that I'm fighting for them when I'm making sure that they get their funding for enrolment, if I can't introduce the community league playground president because I'm trying to make sure they can secure some funding to build a spray park in their community, if they're trying to restrict us from doing all these things, Mr. Speaker, it becomes pretty clear that the government isn't interested in what these Albertans have to say. It becomes pretty clear that the government isn't interested in the community league presidents, the government isn't interested in the school council presidents. It becomes pretty clear that the government isn't interested in even the school groups that come here. I think that's a shame as well because those introductions that private members were allowed to make and those introductions that private members enjoyed making were a way for us to show Albertans that we were doing our jobs.

When the front bench tries to restrict their backbench and, perhaps as collateral damage, I guess, the opposition as well from doing their jobs, it really shows that the government is trying to keep everything close, and they really don't want their private members to be able to do anything at all. It's pretty clear. You can't introduce people. You can't vote, or if you do vote, you have to vote exactly how they want. They tell you when to sit in your chair and not say a word. You can't thump on your desks. You can't do any of the things that we've done here for decades, Mr. Speaker. This is my second term now, but I know many members here have had more terms than me. They will recall that in the past all these things that are now being banned were happening because they are long-held traditions here in this Assembly.

If the Premier really does feel so strongly that he can't trust his backbench to not bring in somebody embarrassing, I mean, that's the Premier's prerogative. If the Premier really does feel so strongly that he's scared of a little noise that a table makes, that's the Premier's prerogative, Mr. Speaker. If the Premier really feels so strongly that he has to sit in his chair to not work and he can't go not work from his office, that's the Premier's prerogative as well.

But I think it's really a shame that we've come to this. I think it's a shame that we've come to the situation where the government needs to use these really heavy-handed measures to control their members. I think it's a shame that the government has to use these heavy-handed members to reduce the transparency of this Legislature and reduce the democracy of this Legislature, because this Chamber, as the foundation of Alberta's democracy, as the core of where we work and where we show Alberta what we do for them – I think we should be proud to show them what we do. We should be proud to have our names on the votes and the Order Paper. We should be proud to be able to introduce them and show them the bills we are passing in here. We should be proud to be able to make some noise and tell them that we're fighting for them, Mr. Speaker.

But if government backbenchers are okay with hiding that away and perhaps closing the doors and sealing the Chamber off from the outside and if they're okay with not introducing their guests and if they're okay with not having their constituents know what they do here in Edmonton, then that's their prerogative. But really I think that we as MLAs and we as legislators should do better. Albertans deserve better, and I know that we will continue to fight for better.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

3:20

The Speaker: Hon. members, Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available for questions and comments.

I see none.

I see the Government House Leader rising.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I actually am rising to move a motion on behalf of, I hope, all private members of the Legislature. It is the following: to move to one-minute bells in Committee of the Whole. My understanding is that we have to move it now. Is that correct? Can I do it this way and just move one-minute bells for all stages for the rest of the afternoon?

The Speaker: Government House Leader, I think that is the most acceptable way for the motion to proceed. We would need to be in committee for you to move a motion in committee, so if we do this now . . .

Mr. Jason Nixon: Understood, sir.

The Speaker: Now, having said that, we're not moving a motion. We're requesting unanimous consent.

Mr. Jason Nixon: Yes.

The Speaker: Okay.

Mr. Jason Nixon: I was about to say that. Now that I understand where you would like to go with this, Mr. Speaker, or what your advice is, thank you very much.

I will move for unanimous consent for one-minute bells for the duration of the afternoon.

[Unanimous consent granted]

The Speaker: Are there other members who would like to speak to Government Motion 11? I see the Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

Ms Goehring: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise this afternoon to discuss Government Motion 11 and to discuss some of the sweeping changes that are being suggested for the standing orders. I know as a private member that being able to stand up in this House is a privilege, and I know that being able to introduce guests is something that I've found to be very important to myself and to my constituents and, I'm sure, to all of the members in this House. Having that taken away is very, very upsetting.

[Mr. Milliken in the chair]

It comes to mind in speaking about the importance of organ donation and having my best friend and her family come to the Legislature, where I got to introduce her son Austin Post, who at eight years old received a heart transplant. I have a deep connection with this family. She's been my best friend since I was 15 years old, I was there when Austin was born, and I'm now his MLA. To be able to have the privilege to stand here in his House and talk about

his bravery and give him an introduction and then to be able to have that celebrated in *Hansard* is something that I just simply am so upset is being taken away. I know Austin pays attention to what's happening in this Legislature. I know he's watching today. He knows the importance of democracy and the ability for Albertans in this province to have a voice through the ability to make introductions. That's one of the ways that we can acknowledge some of our amazing Albertans and our amazingly brave young constituents like Austin Post.

Some other pieces of this sweeping motion are also concerning. When I think about banging on our desks and the tradition that stands to us in this House, I can recall several moments in this House when we've had members in this very place stand up and share heartbreaking stories like the one from Maria Fitzpatrick, the former MLA for Lethbridge-East, when she shared with us the devastating impact of domestic violence on her and her child and the trauma that she had received because of the domestic violence and then the bravery that she showed in not only leaving domestic violence but being able to share it in this House. A way that we were able to show her support – because we're not able to move freely in the Legislature. We couldn't just walk over and give her a hug when she so desperately needed one. We were able to bang on our desks to show her that we are here with her, we support her, and we have complete respect and utmost appreciation for her ability to be able to express herself in such a vulnerable way in this House.

Thumping on our desks was the least we could do in that moment to give her courage to continue to go on sharing her story. For me, that's important. I'm a social worker, Mr. Speaker, and being able to express support in a place of such intensity is so important. I'm very upset that this is something that's being considered to be taken away.

I know also as a private member in this Legislature, Mr. Speaker, that we don't have a lot of opportunities to be able to get private members' bills. I was very fortunate to be able to have one of my private members' bills supported and passed in this Legislature. It was presented in the spring, and it was about PTSD Awareness Day – that's Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day – and the date that I had proposed was June 27. Now, if this matter had been referred to committee, it likely would not have seen its very first PTSD Awareness Day the same spring that it had been introduced in this House. We were able to get through first, second, third reading, Committee of the Whole with unanimous support in this Legislature. That's almost unheard of.

Because of the work of my office in consulting with Albertans to talk about this important issue and because of the importance that the other members of this Legislature knew it had, we were able to pass it without delay, without having to refer it to a committee to talk about some of the information that we already knew was important. We needed to raise awareness about PTSD in this province and to be able to continue to provide support and reduce stigma of this disorder. I'm pleased to say that this was very successful because we didn't have an unneeded delay of sending it to committee.

These are all things that as private members I think we should all embrace. It's tradition in this House to be able to express ourselves, to be able to introduce Albertans into their Legislature, to be able to go back and look at them in *Hansard* or watch Assembly Online and see their faces and hear their stories through the member that serves them. I mean, today we're joined in the gallery by members, and it's unfortunate that they might never get introduced in this Legislature by their member, that was elected for them. That, to me, is deeply upsetting, Mr. Speaker.

I would implore all members, private members throughout the House, to really consider not supporting this government motion, because it takes away our rights and it takes away the rights and experiences of Albertans in the province. I think that's all I have to say on this, Mr. Speaker, but I really implore everyone in the House to really consider that we not support this government motion.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Under 29(2)(a), are there any members with questions or comments? The hon. Member for St. Albert.

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs for just reminding us about the really important legislation around PTSD Awareness Day that she so expertly crafted and delivered here. We all together supported it in this place. That was a great day, actually, when it passed.

Also, the member was previously the government liaison for the military. I'm not entirely sure of the title, but I know that during her time in that role she did an incredible job of introducing people, bringing them here and recognizing their unique contributions to life in Alberta. I'm just wondering if the member could tell us maybe about some of those other introductions, that will cease to happen in our own words if we're not allowed to introduce the people and the stakeholders that mean so much to us that we write those introductions using our words, highlighting what we know to be true, and then have those words spoken by somebody else. I'd like the member to maybe expand on why those particular introductions were so important.

Thank you.

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

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you so much to the hon. member for highlighting that. As the previous government of Alberta's liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces and as the current Official Opposition liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces it's been such an honour to be able to serve and acknowledge the amazing highlights and sacrifice and contributions that our members of the Canadian Armed Forces have provided not only to this province but to this country.

Over the four years when I was in the official role, I was able to bring so many members of the military, veterans, and their families to this very House to highlight and introduce them, to let Albertans know who is serving for our country. It was such a privilege to be able to show them their Legislature and to introduce them here myself in the Legislature, knowing that so many that had come to visit had never actually been in the Legislature itself. To be able to sit up in the Speaker's gallery and, for me, to be able to express my sincerest appreciation on behalf of all Albertans in that role was an incredible privilege and honour. Unfortunately, it's something that might not continue if this proceeds the way it is. There are so many things that we need to celebrate within our Canadian Armed Forces, and in being able to highlight them just with a simple introduction and a thank you, I think that as Albertans it's the least we can do. Just knowing that that's going to be taken away is just – it feels very undemocratic and just wrong.

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

3:30

The Acting Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to speak? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

Ms Gray: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to speak to Government Motion 11 and some of the sweeping

changes to the standing orders that have been proposed here. As I gathered my thoughts around all of these standing order changes, I really want to start off my comments by talking about private members' business. Through you to all members in this Assembly but particularly all the private members in this Assembly, I really want to make sure that, particularly, new private members understand how rare it is to get a private member's bill. I know that's been discussed by other respondents under this Government Motion 11.

In winning the draw, 1 out of 60-some, depending on how many people are in Executive Council, you have to be pretty lucky. I am number 45 right now, so very unlikely that I will get to introduce a private member's bill with that current draw, but I'll live with some hope there, Mr. Speaker. Maybe we'll be very effective and efficient. But even if you win the draw, even if you are number 1, like the Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville is, we know that private members' business is very time restricted, and there's absolutely no guarantee that those bills will pass. But they can achieve very significant policy objectives.

As the Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs was just talking about, we have seen a handful of private members' bills pass in this Assembly, and each of them, the ones that make it through, is significant and has made a real difference in our province. From PTSD Awareness Day to the Long Term Care Information Act, helping to make sure that there's good information for families in long-term care facilities – the Residential Tenancies (Safer Spaces for Victims of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act is the one that really stands out for me – each of these private members' bills has made a significant difference in Alberta, but the fact that they were even passed is remarkable.

When people have looked at different Legislatures – and I do not have the data for our Legislature, Mr. Speaker – the percentage of private members' bills that typically pass in a Legislature is about 10 per cent. Even if you win the draw, even if you are number 1, even if you are number 2, the chance that your private member's bill will become law is very, very low, and it's because of that time restriction. Knowing that as a private member you have limited opportunities to make your voice heard, we need to make the most of each of them. When it comes to private members' bills, so many of them die on the Order Paper. Adding to an already difficult-to-succeed-at process and introducing a new two-week step of sending things to committee, it's actually going to mean fewer private members' bills succeed in this place. That's really unfortunate for the elected representatives who inhabit this Chamber but also for Albertans who are hoping through their MLA to have their views and desires expressed in this place.

Making sure that we have adequate private members' time is critical. Whenever there is a threat to private members' time, you will see great uproar and debate in this place, because it can only be done on Monday afternoons but also because we know that it's vital that we have these tools to be able to represent our constituents. In this case a lot of the changes in Government Motion 11 have been presented as preserving decorum, but I would suggest that this particular change is detrimental to our democracy. We're actually making it harder for private members' bills to be passed, and it's so disappointing.

I'm very pleased that the Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville and the Member for Calgary-West were able to introduce their private members' bills today. I hope that this means that even if Government Motion 11 is passed, these two bills will be able to come forward and be debated on Monday next week, when we all come back to work again. I'm not a hundred per cent certain that that's the case, but that's certainly my hope.

I think we need to talk about protecting students with life-threatening allergies and protecting Alberta's children. These are both very, very worthy subjects. And the idea that by not stopping at committee first, these are lesser pieces of legislation: I don't agree with that. It's not as if we're only going to get a single afternoon to talk about the new Bill 201. At most, the fastest this bill can pass without unanimous consent is maybe four weeks, all stages. Maybe. We know that the PTSD Awareness Day did pass very quickly with unanimous consent.

We know there's adequate time for private members' bills to be debated, and when there needs to be more time, more discussion happens. The process we have works. Even with the process we have working, so few private members' bills get through. So to add an extra barrier inhibits everything. I certainly hope that all the private members, particularly the new private members in this Chamber, are hearing what I am saying. Your private member's bill is less likely to happen even if you get drawn in the first 10 because of this change. It's unfortunate for you. It's unfortunate for your constituents.

But, of course, that is not the only change within this set of changes that have been put forward in Government Motion 11. I feel very, very strongly about MLAs being able to introduce guests. Earlier this week, Mr. Speaker, I believe you were here when I introduced my husband in this place. That was very meaningful for me because later in the summer, on July 16, it will be my 15th wedding anniversary. He's been such an amazing support/partner through this journey in politics. We both got involved in politics together, and, interestingly enough, when I was first starting to get interested in politics, I was introduced in this Assembly by Brian Mason, our former Government House Leader. That was in 2006. I can now search *Hansard* for my own name and find that introduction by that very honourable member, whom I miss, although I hope he's having a wonderful retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I was introduced in 2006. In 2007 I became a candidate for the first time. That introduction had a profound impact on me but was certainly not the only factor. Walking into this place for the first time to see debate and seeing the work that happens here on behalf of all Albertans was inspiring to me and was an important part of my political journey that brought me here to represent the great constituents of Edmonton-Mill Woods for the second term. That introduction mattered to me. The introductions I've been able to do for constituents have mattered to them.

One stands out for me, and it was a volunteer at one of my community leagues, a dedicated community member who is always there organizing events, is always there at the community league meetings, works to better what is happening in Mill Woods. I invited community league presidents and members to come and be introduced. This particular individual told me afterwards that he'd agreed and been kind of, like, "I'll get introduced; no big," didn't think too much of it, and then he got here into this Legislature. This is a building a lot of people don't make it into. It's not that accessible. It's not that often that people come through. I love the work that we do on Canada Day. I love the work that various Speakers have done to try to bring more and more people in. I think introductions are an important part of that, and I think that being introduced by your MLA is an important part of that.

3:40

After that gentleman came in and was introduced in this place, he said afterwards that it touched him in a way he really wasn't expecting. This was a simple acknowledgement of a dedicated community volunteer, and he said that that was a moment that will

last with him. That was a moment that touched my heart, too, knowing that it had had that impact. I really appreciated him telling me that afterwards.

I've had the opportunity to introduce some family but not all of them. I was happy to have my husband here. I would have preferred to have done my introduction closer to the anniversary – we were getting ahead of ourselves a little bit – but I wanted to make sure we got it done, and I appreciated him being able to make a change in his time.

I genuinely appreciated being introduced by the hon. Brian Mason. That's something that I now have a printed transcript of, that introduction. Then in 2007 Raj Pannu introduced me again, and I have that printed as well, with photos of those political leaders, people who inspired me to begin my life in politics. It really was meaningful.

I appreciate that the government introduced an amendment and that now, instead of no introductions, which was their first proposal, the Speaker will do introductions. But it is not the same thing. The relationship that I have with constituents, with family members, with those people who make a real difference can be expressed when you're doing that introduction. I think that putting on other limits would have been another fine way to address the concerns that sometimes introductions can go too long.

I really disagree and will be voting against these sweeping changes because although they did adjust it so that there will still be introductions done by the Speaker, it certainly didn't go far enough. I have to echo what my colleague from Edmonton-Castle Downs said about the change that section 4 will undergo through these changes to ban desk thumping and for a few reasons: the tradition of it; for what my colleague from St. Albert talked about, the fact that there may be members in the future unable to clap – we need to be keeping these things in mind – and for the reason that it is a powerful tool for supporting colleagues.

I have now seen a number of my new colleagues in this place, in the government caucus, who have stood to give their first statement, to ask their first question, and who have done that, stood up into a silent room. "Okay. Go. Talk for the first time." I'm really grateful because the first time I stood up to talk, my entire caucus showed their support for me by banging on their desks. That strengthened me, gave me that extra boost to be able to do that.

In these first few days of this Legislature, being able to have that support of colleagues before asking questions is appreciated. In being able to show that support to my colleagues, like when my colleague from Edmonton-City Centre delivers another brilliantly delivered, witty, funny, clever but also pointed member's statement, it's almost a release to be able to say: "Yes. That was wonderful." And it's the tradition – I've got to go back to that – being able to support colleagues.

So I disagree with that change, and I feel a little bit of regret for the private members in this House who, in their very first member's statement or their very first question, have stood up to a room of silence. I think that's unfortunate, and I'm sorry that they didn't get the opportunity to feel that support from their caucus. I think that's wrong headed.

I've talked so far about private members' bills and how these changes are going to make it harder for private members' bills to succeed; about the importance of introducing our guests ourselves and the power of those introductions; about the difference it makes to the accessibility of this place, to people coming in and feeling welcome, like this is their House; as well as about the banning of desk thumping.

I also, of course, have to speak to the change that will allow members to not do their jobs: to abstain from votes. It's just so obvious to everyone who pays attention to this place where this

started from. It started from a party being embarrassed when they had to run out of the room repeatedly. Now that same party is in government and doesn't want to be embarrassed again. That is not an issue of decorum, Mr. Speaker; that is an issue of undermining our democracy. People elect us to this Chamber to participate in debate, to make tough choices, and to help lead this province, and particularly the government caucus should take those things seriously. Abstaining, not doing your job, and doing it in a way that is the least embarrassing is not a change to be proud of.

I know, having represented my constituents for four years, that they care deeply about where their representatives, where we, stand on an issue. I know because constituents will come to talk to me, to ask these things.

For these reasons, I will be supporting Motion 11.

The Acting Speaker: Under 29(2)(a) questions or comments?

Seeing none, are there any members wishing to speak? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadows.

Mr. Deol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising in the House to provide my input on the omnibus amendments to the standing orders. I've been in the House only for six days, and it's not only me; I see many members on the other side of the House. You know, we're just trying to adjust ourselves to the new rules given to us by our constituents last month, a while ago.

It's really saddening for me to see this motion. If this motion is passed, not only me but many members on the other side will lose the right or the privilege they have to introduce members of their ridings or members of their families. We call this House the Legislature of Alberta, not the House of one or the other party. This very place belongs to Albertans, and I think they deserve to be recognized for their work and recorded in *Hansard*. This is a great privilege for me to be here and for everyone, I will say. We are not here because of us; I'm here because of, you know, the help and the support I have from my family, from my wife. And I can let you know that a house of seven people – I have three aging parents and my special-needs son and a busy place. Those people still encouraged me to do this job, to step up and go forward for this job.

This place, like, this society, the province of Alberta, I will say, is a great place because not only a few of us but thousands and thousands and thousands of people who come out, work hard, go to work 9 to 5 – they volunteer their time in their communities so that we can have such a place, a great place, like Alberta. And not only this; then they work hard to send us to this House so that we can voice their concerns and we can voice their issues. It's very sad to see that we will not be able to recognize this community.

I'm privileged to live in this community for the past 26 years, and during those 26 years I was lucky to have worked with a number of organizations: media organizations, community organizations, and sports organizations, people working hard in the community, people not belonging to one or the other party. People belong to all political stripes. I'm saddened to see that we will not be able to recognize those people. It will totally be sending a very, very wrong signal to the community. I see this as kind of going in a very, very wrong direction.

3:50

Also, I was amazed or appalled or surprised to see this motion mentioning something like that, you know, desk thumping is something bad to be done in this House. This House, when I was looking at the information, has a long – like maybe a hundred years of tradition. If this didn't offend anyone else in all those years, then I don't know what the problem is right now. If this motion passes, this is also something that will send a very, very wrong signal and

a very, very wrong message to the community at large, to this society at large.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege to run my business for the last 18 years. I ran a very small insurance brokerage, where I had six to eight people working together. You know, if this was the kind of behaviour I had towards them, I don't know how I was going to be interpreted, discriminated. So I'm surprised in this House, when people really expect from us to be role models and set a higher standard – then people in society can follow it and, you know, contribute to this society to make this society better for all.

We are kind of discussing these kinds of issues. This is not being allowed going forward because one side of the House really doesn't feel comfortable with this. Rather, you know, than updating themselves or learning about this tradition, they want us to be mumming, suppressing our voices to do this thing this way and not the other way because they don't feel comfortable with this. It's not because of something related to the standing order. It's not because of something just related to the House. So think outside, like: how are the people going to interpret what signal this is sending to the general public, the people at large?

I felt quite, you know, obliged to stand up and rise and record my actual feelings and views on this. It's just very, very appalling, and I say that it's an attack on democracy.

I'm strongly opposed, so I appeal to the members to please not vote for this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Under 29(2)(a) any questions or comments?

I believe that the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods would like to speak.

Ms Gray: Thank you. Just very quickly to my colleague from Edmonton-Meadows, congratulations on your victory. I'm very pleased to be working with you in Edmonton's southeast. I just wanted to very quickly ask you: do you not think that it feels better when you stand up and your colleagues are all welcoming you to speak and supporting you as you begin?

Thank you.

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

Mr. Deol: Yes. This is my privilege. I'm so humbled, actually honoured to be here with my colleagues, my members. My friends requested me to come up and, you know, give my feedback on this, and I think I could not do more on behalf of my constituents, the people in my riding. I could stand up and give my feedback and present their voices in the House.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Any other members looking to continue under 29(2)(a)?

Seeing none, I believe the hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview has a comment.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a great honour to rise and speak to Government Motion 11, which is sweeping changes to the standing orders. I have a number of points that I need to make, but again, I think my colleagues have adequately or rightly pointed out the fact that these standing order changes affect and impact every single member in this House, more so private members than members of Executive Council but nonetheless every single member and their rights in this place. That's why it is such a big deal and why our caucus has spoken. These are significant changes that are permanent and that will forever change this Assembly and this Chamber.

You know, one of my colleagues had said that this was the will of the government being imposed on this Assembly. I dare say that it's the will of one person that is being imposed on this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. There is only one person who is a former MP, a person who, again, loves Ottawa so much, who wants to superimpose it or, quite frankly, ram it down the throats of Albertans. We've seen that on a number of things, but I can tell you that this place has a rich history and tradition, and for me what's extremely frustrating is one person who's able to hold an office in order to impose their will on an Assembly, upsetting the table on the history of this place. I mean, desk thumping is just one of them. The fact that we're making sweeping changes to how private members' bills are going to be debated in this House – again, following the House of Commons federally, where it goes from first reading into a committee.

Now, there are some practices in Ottawa that aren't necessarily bad, but I can tell you that, you know, from an Alberta point of view, I personally like the way we do it here in Alberta, and Ottawa can stay in Ottawa. In fact, if members are itching to bring Ottawa here, maybe they've come to the wrong place. Maybe they should have stayed in Ottawa.

I do want to point out the fact that these are historic, sweeping changes to the standing orders. I encourage all members to check the history of this place, but I believe that these changes are the most significant changes that have been made without being sent to a committee. Now, there's irony in this, Mr. Speaker, because the members opposite want to pass this all in this place and not send it to a committee, yet they're very eager to send other things to committee. In fact, when they were in opposition, many of their referrals, hoists, and reasoned amendments were trying to send our bills to committee. Now that the shoe's on the other foot, it's kind of an inconvenient thing to do, so let's just ram them through in this place.

What's interesting, Mr. Speaker, is that we actually have a committee, an all-party committee, on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing. I think that after today's standing orders maybe the government wants to rename this committee because to have a committee that's supposed to review standing orders, which hasn't been used – we did bring forward a couple of amendments over the last 48 hours to break apart some of these standing orders and to send some of them to this very committee to be debated by all members of the Assembly. I'm sure that there are government private members that would love to be able to speak on these. You know, I didn't ask my colleagues on the other side if the Premier is planning to allow his caucus to free vote on these standing orders. That would be interesting. I mean, that's supposed to be one of his tenets, yet maybe only when it's convenient.

But, you know, in these sweeping standing order changes, Mr. Speaker, there are some – I'll be the first to admit that there's a handful we have no issues with, recognizing that some of these are housekeeping issues that need to be cleaned up for clarity for the table as well as clarity for members. I'll give you one example. It's the standing order – well, under Government Motion 11 it's 10 on the paper, and it's about "Debate interrupted by adjournment of the Assembly." Now, I can tell you that the table has been very, very helpful to all parties in this House when a House leader stands up and forgets to adjourn debate on a bill and just tries to adjourn the Assembly. If that should happen, whatever was being debated would die on the Order Paper. We have all benefited from advice from the table on that, so I appreciate that number 10 here aims to clarify that.

[The Speaker in the chair]

What I dislike is that the government is trying to slip in the fact that for want of quorum, so if the government fails to have an adequate number of members in this Chamber, whatever bill is being debated, if quorum is called and the bells go and there aren't enough members in this House, that bill would die on the Order Paper. Now, with these standing order changes it'll just get brought back. Now, that's a minor thing. I think, quite frankly, it's a great little consequence hanging over the fact that if the government doesn't have its act together or enough members in this Chamber when the Chamber is sitting, that could very well happen. That's more of a minor one, Mr. Speaker.

4:00

I know that a number of my colleagues have talked about Introduction of Guests. I've had the honour and privilege of being a member in this House since 2012 and can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that it is an extremely special experience for constituents to be introduced by their own MLA. Now, as great a speaker and orator as you are, it does not fulfill the same purpose to have someone else speaking and reading the names of constituents that come in. You know, to the members, and especially the government caucus, many of whom are from outside the city, bringing their constituents all the way to Edmonton to sit in the Assembly to be introduced is one of those historical life experiences, to have your name read into *Hansard* by your MLA. Again, that's meant as no disrespect to you reading it in, Mr. Speaker, but it's not the same experience as a constituent that has a direct relationship with the member.

I do appreciate that the government did amend the standing orders so that all introductions are not omitted. It'll now be up to you, Mr. Speaker, to do those. I appreciate that they moved a little bit on this, but I can tell you that it's still not quite far enough.

I'm going to jump, just because I'm worried about my own time here, to a couple of the standing order changes that I think are the most problematic, to put it one way, Mr. Speaker. One of them is the fact that – you know, it's 8, again under Government Motion 11. I'll read it into *Hansard*: (5) "Members are not compelled to vote and those who wish to abstain should remain in their seats when asked to rise and record their vote."

If you ask me, that is a very cowardly change to the standing order, and I'm using my words very carefully. The reason that it's cowardly, Mr. Speaker, is that every single member in this House should have the courage to stand behind their convictions whether they are popular or unpopular. If you believe it, you should be willing to stand up on the record and vote for it. To have the option of sitting on your hands and sitting in this place not having to vote is cowardly. We've seen it. I appreciate they still had another option, which was running out of the Chamber, which we saw with very important yet controversial legislation we were bringing in around bubble-zone protection because we believe that a woman's choice is her choice and her body is her body.

The fact that you had the whole opposition file out of here – I think there was even a jam at the door, quite frankly. They couldn't get out fast enough when these votes happened. It was a way that members could flee from this place without voting. But I think allowing members to sit in the Chamber and abstain from voting does not enhance democracy. It does not enhance accountability that members have, because constituents should be able to ask members: how did you vote on X? Or, more efficiently, they should be able to pull up the Assembly Online and see how their MLA voted. I mean, I have constituents that talk to me all the time about how I voted. They pay attention. They look at it, and they may not agree all the time with my votes, but they appreciate that they can see which way I voted.

The other part of this that just makes a bad situation worse is that (8) says, "Abstentions shall not be entered in the Votes and Proceedings." So not only can a member hide from voting; it doesn't get recorded that you just hid from voting.

Ms Renaud: That's shameful.

Mr. Bilous: I agree. That is shameful.

That's one of the larger issues I have with these sweeping standing order changes, Mr. Speaker. As far as eliminating desk thumping, again, you know, there's a difference between Ottawa and Alberta. Ottawa has 338 MPs. We have 87, so part of the reason that they banned desk thumping in Ottawa was because of the sheer volume. I can tell you that clapping is pretty loud, although maybe that's next on the chopping block. Soon this place might be silent minus the person speaking. Maybe heckling will be the next thing on the chopping block. I don't know. I look at this as a creeping implication of freedom of expression.

The other thing is, quite frankly – you know, I mean this in all seriousness – desk thumping only requires one hand; clapping requires two hands. If your one hand has something in it or for members – and there have been members in this place in the history of Alberta who only have one hand, so now they can't participate. I'm not saying that to be funny. I'm being dead serious, Mr. Speaker. The option to bang on your desk: I think to change that is a shame. I think we're throwing out a hundred years of history in this place. It's unfortunate. That's another one that I think should have been sent to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing.

As well, Mr. Speaker – I'm trying to find some of my other issues. I guess I will soon wrap up my comments. But, again, for me the frustration in these changes is that these are significant changes. In fact, I think this is the broadest set of changes to standing orders that have happened in many, many years if not in the history of this place, and the fact that they were shoehorned through in this Chamber as opposed to using the very committees that the government chooses to send bills to when it's convenient. So in these very standing orders we are sending private members' bills to committees after first reading, yet we can't send the very standing orders to the committee that's responsible for standing orders. I hope the irony is not lost on anyone in here.

It's unfortunate, these changes. I think Alberta is very unique. I myself am very proud of the fact that Albertans are different and unique from the rest of Canada. We pride ourselves on that. Replicating what's done in Ottawa because that is the will of one member I think is a shame that all of us are going to have to live with. Again I would call on all members of the Assembly to vote according to their conscience and would implore the Premier and Executive Council to allow members to have a free vote on this very, very important matter. You know, they tend to talk about how important free votes are, but once again it seems to be when they're convenient. This would be a great test of whether private members feel that some of their rights are being significantly changed through these standing orders, Mr. Speaker.

With that, I think I made it fairly clear where I stand on these standing order changes. We are about to see, I'm sure, the majority of the Assembly determine the fate of all members of this Assembly.

On a last point, it is not only your responsibility, Mr. Speaker, but the responsibility of the Assembly to ensure that the rights of the minority are not stepped on by the majority. This would be one of those great times to see members vote freely.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will encourage all members to vote against these sweeping standing order changes. Let's send them to

the committee that was designed to review standing order changes, their implications. Let's study this issue. Let's study this issue from a point of view of what is done in other jurisdictions across the country. Let's not just adopt a practice in Ottawa because it is from the House of Commons. Let's look at what's done in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia, the Maritime provinces before making such sweeping and drastic changes to the very culture of this place.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you to the hon. member.

Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available.

Statement by the Speaker

Conditions in the Chamber

The Speaker: I would just like to mention that we've closed the vents here in the Chamber. Over the last little while it has become significantly smokier outside. Unfortunately, there was a period of time this afternoon where we were providing fresh air into the Chamber here, which, as it turns out, is not very fresh at all. As such, you may have noticed that it is significantly smoky in here. Agreed. I would never want to dissuade anyone from speaking to any motion or bill, but I would encourage the House to consider the current conditions of the air quality inside the Chamber when deciding whether or not it is of necessity to speak to Government Motion 11.

Debate Continued

The Speaker: Having said that, Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available for questions and comments to the hon. member.

Seeing none, are there any others who wish to speak to Government Motion 11?

4:10

Hon. Members: Question.

The Speaker: Hon. members, as per the request of May 28 and my subsequent statement on May 28 to the motion that has been before the House for a number of days, the vote this afternoon will be split into two groups as per the request of the Official Opposition. Section 2, section 4, section 8, section 10 will all be voted on first.

[The voice vote indicated that Government Motion 11, part A, section 2 as amended, sections 4, 8, 10 carried]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 4:12 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Armstrong-Homeniuk	Loewen	Reid
Ellis	Long	Schow
Fir	Lovely	Schweitzer
Getson	Luan	Stephan
Glubish	Milliken	Toews
Goodridge	Nally	Toor
Gotfried	Nicolaides	Turton
Guthrie	Nixon, Jeremy	van Dijken
Hunter	Panda	Yao
Issik	Pon	Yaseen
LaGrange		

Against the motion:

Bilous	Eggen	Irwin
Dach	Feehan	Loyola
Dang	Goehring	Renaud
Deol	Gray	Shepherd
Totals:	For – 31	Against – 12

[Government Motion 11, part A, section 2 as amended, sections 4, 8, 10 carried]

[Government Motion 11, part A, sections 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, part B, and part C carried]

The Speaker: The hon. government whip is rising.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, a lot of progress was made this week, outstanding work by everybody in this Chamber, but given, as you mentioned, the smoke outside, some of the health risks that are being faced possibly inside this Chamber, I move to adjourn.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Prior to the vote on the motion, I would just like to remind members of the memo from the Sergeant-at-Arms dated May 30, that you all received, that over this upcoming Saturday the Order of St. John will be in the Chamber for a ceremony. I remind all members to clear the tops and the bottoms of their desks. Your desks will be locked, so you don't need to remove all of your items, but anything that is below or above, if you could please remove that.

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

Bill Status Report for the 30th Legislature - 1st Session (2019)

Activity to Thursday, May 30, 2019

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

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

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

Bill 1 — An Act to Repeal the Carbon Tax (\$) (Kenney)

First Reading — 8 (*May 22, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 44 (*May 23, 2019 aft.*), 79-92 (*May 27, 2019 eve.*), 95-107 (*May 28, 2019 morn.*), 121-43 (*May 28, 2019 aft.*), 166-70 (*May 28, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 239-41 (*May 29, 2019 eve, passed*), 215-24 (*May 29, 2019 aft.*)

Third Reading — 246-51 (*May 30, 2019 morn., adjourned*)

Bill 2 — An Act to Make Alberta Open for Business (Copping)

First Reading — 58 (*May 27, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 145-52 (*May 28, 2019 eve.*), 189-90 (*May 29, 2019 morn.*), 236-39 (*May 29, 2019 eve., adjourned*)

Bill 3 — Job Creation Tax Cut (Alberta Corporate Tax Amendment) Act (Toews)

First Reading — 111 (*May 28, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 236 (*May 29, 2019 eve., adjourned*)

Bill 4 — Red Tape Reduction Act (Hunter)

First Reading — 202 (*May 29, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 277-78 (*May 30, 2019 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 201 — Protection of Students with Life-threatening Allergies Act (Armstrong-Homeniuk)

First Reading — 277 (*May 30, 2019 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*)

Bill 202 — Child, Youth and Family Enhancement (Protecting Alberta's Children) Amendment Act, 2019 (Ellis)

First Reading — 277 (*May 30, 2019 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*)

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