



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
First Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, October 10, 2019

Day 26

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 30th Legislature

First Session

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Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
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Official Opposition House Leader
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Party standings:

United Conservative: 63

New Democrat: 24

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 10, 2019

[The Speaker in the chair]

The Speaker: Hon. members, please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: Hon. members, visiting today from the constituency of Edmonton-Rutherford: grade 6 students from George P. Nicholson school. Also, from Edmonton-Riverview we have grade 9 students from Hillcrest junior high. Welcome to all of the students.

Hon. members, seated in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon is a guest of the government military liaison and MLA for Leduc-Beaumont. It's my pleasure to welcome former military serviceman and Canadian military veteran Mr. Brock Blaszczyk.

Also in the Speaker's gallery today is a very familiar face to many, perhaps the visitor and guest most often in this Assembly, Mr. Pat Nixon.

Hon. members, a guest of the Minister of Energy, Mr. Mark Scholz, president and CEO of the Canadian association for oil well drillers, and students from the Students' Association of NorQuest College: Shylo Morin, Daniel Kazambu, Jamila Davis, Joshua Chiazza, Albert Nsapu, John Skene, Hutchoy Moris, Mohammad Rajab, and Peyton Monahan.

Please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-City Centre has a statement to make.

Vegreville Century Park Supportive Living Facility

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for introducing the hard-working Albertans who are joining us in the gallery here today. Indeed, there are a few visitors that we have who are hard-working Albertans and, at least for a few more days, employees of the Century Park seniors' facility in Vegreville. A few days ago these Albertans and their colleagues, 53 people, were all dismissed by Century Park's operator, Optima Living, a private company based in Vancouver. Our guests do difficult, demanding work. They bathe, toilet, dress, feed, and support the seniors in their care day and night.

These guests deserve the thanks and the respect of every member in this House, yet the letter that Optima handed them said that the reason they were all being thrown out of work was because it, quote, offers the prospect of greater return to our shareholders. This decision wasn't about providing the best care; it was about getting the most cash. Is the Minister of Health's vision of seniors' care for the Century Park building to provide a return to shareholders in Vancouver or a home to seniors in Vegreville? Well, we'll find out because these Albertans are here in this room today to learn whether their government cares about them and the seniors that they care for.

Make no mistake; wholesale staffing changes by operators contracted by AHS require AHS approval, and the Minister of Health has the authority to give direction to AHS. This government is clearly not shy about inserting itself into labour relations when it wants to. I'm sure that the Health minister is well aware of his government's actions through Bill 9. These Albertans are here to learn whether the Minister of Health will use his authority to protect 53 Alberta families from the ravages of unemployment and 40

Alberta seniors, family members, from losing their primary caregivers. I know that seniors and families, workers, and operators are watching today. It will be a defining moment for this Minister of Health.

The Speaker: Hon. members, the Member for Calgary-Klein has a statement to make.

Mental Illness Awareness

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to mental illness, stigma and discrimination cause people living with symptoms to feel alone and often to not seek treatment. In 1992 Mental Illness Awareness Week was established as October 7 to October 11 by the Canadian Psychiatric Association. This week is dedicated towards opening the eyes of Canadians to the serious realities of mental illness so that we can change our behaviours towards acceptance and respect for people.

One in 5 Canadians is directly affected by mental illness, but we know that indirectly millions more across this country are also impacted. Despite efforts to reduce stigma and raise awareness, many Canadians still live in fear of being stigmatized and of what seeking help could mean. Others do not know that they need help or sometimes are not able to identify or explain what they are experiencing.

The goal of Mental Illness Awareness Week is to break down barriers by increasing awareness of the symptoms and the resources available for people that need help. The biggest goal is to let people know that they do not have to face this alone. We can help those with mental illness by being available to talk and being available to listen. The good news is that there's hope. There are many examples of recovery and many examples of community-driven programs to support individuals and families to live satisfying and hopeful and purposeful lives.

Our government is hopeful that our investment into more nurse practitioners will be a proactive step into mental health support across this province, but it will take continued investment, and we will all have a role to play. We need to realize that we are all in this. This isn't an us-and-them question but something that we all suffer with, and we all have a role in supporting each other.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Read In Week

Mr. Walker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise in this House today to recognize 30 years of Read In Week. Earlier this week I had the opportunity to read to classes of students at l'école Campbelltown elementary school in Sherwood Park. It was an awesome experience. This week is a time to celebrate the joy of reading and come together as a community to enrich the lives of our children by reading aloud in our classrooms, our homes, and around our province.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Read In Week. This initiative began when Edmonton public schools, Edmonton Catholic schools, and NorQuest College decided to come together to encourage the development of literacy and language skills amongst students. It has since expanded, and many school divisions outside of Edmonton have started to participate or conduct similar events. Reading is a key exercise to help students develop the skills they need to succeed. It inspires children to have a vivid imagination and to be curious learners and creative thinkers.

I would like to recognize all the community partners in Edmonton, my own community of Sherwood Park, and across Alberta for their

hard work to raise awareness for the importance of literacy and spreading the love of reading. During this important week I would encourage all my colleagues in this Chamber to get out into their communities and read to a class. I am certain that schools would be happy to have you, and you would be helping promote the importance of literacy to the next generation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning is rising to make a statement.

Mental Health Awareness

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in recognition of mental health awareness day. Mental health impacts all of us in different ways and at different times. Sometimes this is with personal experience when the stressors of life can create moments of anxiety or depression. As individuals we may not always speak of the personal struggles that we experience. For some of us, we are not impacted as individuals, but instead we may have loved ones that have mental health struggles. Some of us may have even lost a person due to suicide. This is why this day is so important, a day that is dedicated to encourage all of us to talk to each other about how we are doing.

Every 40 seconds a person dies due to suicide, a staggering number of people, people who do not feel they were loved. Today why not do 40 seconds of action? If you are struggling, talk about those struggles. If you know that someone is struggling, let them know that they are not alone, that there are people that are thinking about them, that care about them and love them. We need to continue to talk about mental health, about suicide, to improve the knowledge of how to identify when someone is struggling, to be able to be supportive and remove the stigma around mental health so that people feel they can talk about their struggles. Simply put, we need to show people that we care.

1:40

As Albertans we are caring people. We want to help. That is why it is so important that we ensure that supports that people need are available to them. Mental health services need to be funded and supported. Access to counselling and treatment without financial barriers needs to be available to all.

So let's spend the time to talk to one another, to listen, and to be supportive. Tell those in your life that they are important. Take care of one another. Above all, take the time to take care of yourself. If you are struggling, tell someone. We're all here to help.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville has the call.

International Day of the Girl

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Friday, October 11, is International Day of the Girl, a day to promote girls' empowerment and advocate for their human rights. It is a day to recognize and celebrate how far we have come in the advancement of the rights of women and girls, both at home and abroad. But it's also important that we recognize the challenges that girls all over the world face. We see advertisements and even world leaders saying that girls can do anything, but the reality is that girls still face many barriers that hold them back from fulfilling their potential and realizing their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, on the day of the girl we reiterate the fact that girls can do anything. Given this, I think it's only fitting to touch on the important efforts that our government has undertaken to empower

women in trades. Women are dramatically underrepresented in the skilled trades. Our government is changing that. Being a journeyman and the chair of the Skilled Trades Caucus, I know many women who made great contributions to their families, communities, and our economy as a tradesperson. If we truly want girls to pursue their goals and follow their dreams, we need to make sure they have access to a wide range of opportunities, including pursuing a career in the trades. I'm glad our government is taking concrete action to support women. We are providing Women Building Futures with \$10 million in funding over the next four years. By investing in training for women in the skilled trades, we're investing in Alberta's future.

It is incumbent upon all of us in this Assembly to show girls in Alberta and beyond that they can become whatever they want. Let's all take a moment today and every day to teach, inspire, and learn from our girls and help carve a path for them to realize their dreams, whatever they may be.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Old Alberta Farmer by Davie Barnes

Mr. Dach: Mr. Speaker, Davie Barnes was an Alberta farmer from Thorhild, a Canadian soldier, a lifelong family friend, and a poet who recently passed away at age 94. The following poem he wrote was recited at his memorial service by one of his granddaughters. I promised her that I would read it in the Legislature to honour his memory. His daughter Linda Pack and grandson Neil Pack are seated as my guests in the public gallery to hear my address. It is titled Old Alberta Farmer.

He stands beside his tractor, in the evening of his life,
A strong successful farmer who has weathered storm and strife.
He stares into the sunset as the evening shadows fall,
And thinks about his family with a father's fond recall.

He is going to give up farming, so this spring will be his last,
And his mind is on the future, but his heart is in the past.
He day-dreams of the children who once played where he now stands
And the happiness and comfort once provided by his hands . . .

He looks slowly 'round the farmstead – each familiar field he sees –
Remembers each one's weaknesses and idiosyncrasies.
He remembers all the planning that goes into each new crop,
And the practices that pay the most, and practices to drop.

He glances at his tractor, waiting patiently at hand,
For his touch to start and guide it far across the rolling land.
He has serviced the injectors, checked the fuel and the oil,
And now it stands there waiting to begin its yearly toil.

He will run it one more season; then the parting of the ways
From his faithful iron monster and those sixteen-hour days . . .
With a start he realizes that it is no longer day –
He takes a last long look around, then sighs and walks away.

Hail to you, Alberta Farmer – (and your understanding wife –
For she shares you with a mistress that has claimed your soul for life!
Woe betide the marriage partner who says: "Choose! The land or me!"
For a true Alberta farmer just might set the lady free!)

You have suffered toil and hardship, dared the weather's fiercest blows,
Had your share of joys and sorrows, summers' heat and winters' snows.
Now the time is fast approaching when, for you, the race is run,
And you cease your operations at the setting of your sun.

When your days on earth are numbered, come you home at last to lie
In the bright Alberta sunshine, 'neath the blue Alberta sky;
In the arms of Mother Nature you shall have your final rest,
And tell your loving Father: "Lord, You know I did my best."

Davie, we miss you.

Small Business and Thanksgiving

Mrs. Pitt: Mr. Speaker, Thanksgiving should be a time of reflection and goodwill between friends, families, and our communities. While some of us will be enjoying good laughs and turkey naps this weekend, I want to bring the attention of everyone in the House to those who won't be gathering in good spirits with the rest of us.

We can talk about economic downturns and slumps and sluggish growth for hours, Mr. Speaker, but what goes unheard is the true cost of the poor policies of the previous government. As much as we like using fancy fiscal terms to illustrate how hard past policies kicked Albertans when they were down, nothing says it quite like seeing yet another for-lease sign crop up in another storefront in Airdrie's core. I have to commend the strength and will of our small-business owners as they fought to stay afloat under bad policies like the carbon tax, but I can absolutely not blame them for being cornered into closing their doors due to legislation that couldn't support their vision and their dreams.

Thankfully, Albertans made it resoundingly clear this year that they were done with the carbon tax, they were done with the poorly thought out minimum wage increase, and they were done with policies that won't support them. Our government has set a clear path towards economic recovery, and we are on track for economic prosperity. Our policies give hope to the small-business owners who weathered the storm of the economic downturn and will signal to those who shut their doors that now is the time to reinvest and try again.

What we need to see from this House and from every Albertan is a resounding message of support to small businesses in this province. I believe in giving a hand up instead of a handout, Mr. Speaker. The best way to do that is through supporting local businesses, that are the backbone of our communities. Policies only go so far. The rest is up to us and who we decide to give our business to.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

Tenille Townes

Mrs. Allard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to rise in this House today to speak about Grande Prairie's own rising country music star, Tenille Townes. Anyone who knows me knows that I take tremendous delight in any opportunity to speak about my friend Tenille as she is a close personal friend but also truly one of the nicest and most genuine people I have ever met.

This year at the 2019 Canadian Country Music Association awards in Calgary Tenille swept the podium, claiming all four awards for which she had been nominated, including songwriter of the year, female artist of the year, single of the year, and music video of the year for her song *Somebody's Daughter*.

Besides her work ethic and incredible talent as a country music artist, Tenille is a true humanitarian. At age 18 she was the youngest ever recipient of the Slaughter humanitarian award from the CCMA in 2012. This recognition came as she has been a champion for Sunrise House, which is the northernmost youth emergency shelter in Alberta, which is located, of course, in Grande Prairie.

In September 2019, just one week after her big win at the CCMA awards, she celebrated the 10th anniversary of her annual fundraiser event, Big Hearts for Big Kids, raising over \$415,000 in just one evening and bringing her grand total raised to over \$1.9 million. The first Big Hearts event she hosted raised just \$30,000 and happened to be held on the very night that the shelter closed due to lack of funds. It is largely due to Tenille and her dedication that the shelter reopened and serves youth to this very day. She embodies

the drive of Albertans and what they can do when they decide to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that I am very proud to be from Grande Prairie, and I don't hesitate when I see an opportunity to brag about my community or the wonderful people who call it home. I am quite certain the folks in Calgary could hear my cheering all the way from my living room in Grande Prairie the night she got called up over and over again. I am so proud to be able to show Canada and the rest of the world the talent that resides right here in Alberta.

Thank you.

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

Calgary LRT Green Line Funding

Mr. Jones: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Calgary continues to expand, it also continues to seek to increase its LRT coverage. LRTs enable large cities to move people in an efficient, safe, and environmentally friendly manner, especially for work and large events. As many in this Assembly are aware, construction on the first phase of the green line is set to begin in 2020 and will result in a line from the north of Calgary to the south. To date this is a \$4.65 billion project with funding from all three levels of government. Unfortunately, the project funding falls short of what is necessary to complete the project fully. While I appreciate the work that has been done thus far and the funding from all three levels of government, I have concerns about this project, concerns shared by my constituents.

1:50

The first is that the southern portion of the line is only presently funded to reach 126th Avenue, or Shepard station. The residents of Calgary-South East are disappointed that the green line will not reach as far as their southern constituency. This is a section of the city which is rapidly expanding and includes the South Health Campus hospital.

We also have concerns about the growing budget uncertainty and also the lengthening timeline. I recognize that future phases of the plan for the green line extend to the community of Seton, but there is debate on whether this will be included on the second or third phase. The first phase is scheduled to be completed in 2026. This means that even if Seton is included in the second phase, we will not see an LRT in my constituency until at least 2030.

It is my sincere hope that the city of Calgary, our government, and the federal government can come together to find a cost-effective and fiscally responsible path forward for this project and that it will include a station in Seton as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Oral Question Period

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

Provincial Fiscal Policies and Job Creation

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All week our members have risen to ask this Premier about the various cuts he's planning as he scrambles to pay for his 4 and a half billion dollar corporate giveaway, a giveaway, I might add, that hasn't created a single job to date. The Premier has ducked, dodged, and weaved our questions, and I expect him to do the same today. But I have to ask the Premier: are you scared to introduce your budget because you know the harm it'll cause Albertans and the anxiety it will also cause your very caucus?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, we'll be introducing our budget even earlier than the NDP did back in 2015. Of course, we had to take onboard the expert advice of a former NDP Finance minister, Dr. MacKinnon, and her nonpartisan panel in framing this plan to get Alberta back to work and to bring our finances back to balance. What the NDP is scared of talking about are the real issues facing Albertans in the election to happen two weeks from now. The question I have for that member is: will the members of the NDP be voting for their antipipeline leader, Jagmeet Singh, or their antipipeline ally, Justin Trudeau?

Mr. Bilous: That's a very nice duck, dodge, and failure to answer the question.

Let me give the Premier a bit of a rundown on what's already happening because of his failure to deliver the budget. Rural police funding is being cut. School fees are going up. Insurance rates are up. Child care pilots are stuck in limbo. So, too, is classroom funding. I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker. Every day the Premier refuses to answer our questions and accuses us of fear and smear. By refusing to table your budget, you are hurting Albertans. Perhaps it's something to do with the federal election. To the Premier: do you fear that your budget is so bad that it'll hurt the election chances of . . .

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, Albertans gave this government the largest democratic mandate in our province's history in part in order to create jobs and bring balance back to our province's finances after the fiscal catastrophe of the NDP. [interjections] I hear the former failed Finance minister continuing to heckle. I understand why he feels so bruised. You know what they're calling him out there in Alberta these days? The \$60 billion man. That's the debt that he left this province in, on the way to \$100 billion, with five credit downgrades. We're going to get Alberta out of the hole that the NDP put us in.

The Speaker: The hon. the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Bilous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Premier, Albertans want action today, not two years from now. Here's the thing: the Premier hasn't created a single job. Not one. Albertans elected you to create jobs, but so far 13,000 jobs have been lost in the energy sector alone under your watch, Mr. Premier. All the while the Energy minister sits on her hands, and the economic development minister uses the same tired talking points daily. To the Premier: will you scrap this failed experiment, listen to the business community, reinstate the successful tax credit that the NDP introduced, and perhaps consider a cabinet shuffle while you're at it?

Mr. Kenney: Mr. Speaker, it's the first week after five months away, and that's the best that they can come up with? That's a pretty strong confirmation that we're on the right track. Imagine the socialists saying that we should listen to the business community when all week they've been attacking the job-creation tax cut and the businesses that create employment in our province. I'll tell you what: that government raised taxes on businesses and on Albertans and on everything with the carbon tax, and they drove us into a historic recession. That's why they're the first one-term government in Alberta political history.

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

School Bus Routes in Calgary

Ms Renaud: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's becoming abundantly clear where school boards are cutting to pay for this Premier's \$4.5

billion corporate giveaway. Students with complex needs in Calgary have seen their ride times double, and they've been crammed onto buses that are much more crowded than in years past. Many of these kids can't cope with the additional stress of noise and longer commutes. Given all of these facts, I have to ask, Mr. Premier: do you still think your \$4.5 billion corporate gift is worth it? Is it more important than kids with complex needs or severe autism?

Member LaGrange: Well, first of all, I want to say how sorry I was to hear what had happened to those individuals, those children and their families. But the NDP knows full well that this is an internal decision by the Calgary board of education. School divisions are in the best position to make their bus routes, and they have done so. I think that if NDP MLAs are wanting to micromanage school routes, they should be looking to run for school boards in the next election.

Ms Renaud: Literally throwing school boards under the bus.

This government obviously won't listen to me, so I'm going to try bringing forward the concerns of parents, just like we promised to do. One mother who wrote to us about the busing funding said that the stress of these bus rides is causing her child to vomit daily. This Premier won't even consult with parents like this before making drastic cuts that harm our students. To the Premier: what do you have to say to this mother and so many others who fear for their kids every single morning that they send them out the door, put them on the bus to school?

Member LaGrange: We have been very, very upfront and committed to providing a world-class, high-quality education for all students. We owe it to parents and children to get better outcomes for the money that is being spent on education, including the bus rides and transportation. I find that it's just another example of the NDP fear tactics. I've travelled across this province, and what I heard more and more was that they are continuing to create fear in the education community. It's deplorable.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Renaud: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to ask this question one more time. Other than the talking points, listen to what the parents are saying. These bus rides are not working. These kids cannot function in these buses that are packed. These bus rides are too long. They can't do it. These kids are vomiting. This isn't about your talking points, your lack of budget, your delay. Answer these parents. They have serious questions or concerns for these children. Stand up. Speak to them.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I have to put it back to the fact that we do not micromanage school boards. We have heard loud and clear that school boards want their own authority to put together the bus routes. Unlike the previous Minister of Education, who was missing in action, this summer and this fall I have been touring the province, meeting with school authorities, teachers, students, and parents. What I've heard is that the system is tired of the NDP scare tactics. The narrative that they've been spreading to further their agenda is causing the anxiety in our education.

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

Vegreville Century Park Supportive Living Facility

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope the Premier is able to take a moment to look up from his desk and see the guests gathered in this House who've travelled in from Vegreville, health care professionals who provide front-line personal care for Alberta seniors. They work hard. They work long hours. They take on tasks like bathing, toileting, dressing, and feeding our seniors day and night. Their employer has dismissed them and insulted them with an offer to be rehired for \$10 less an hour. To the Premier: plain and simple, do you believe this decision to fire these workers was fair?

2:00

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I understand that a transition like this can be stressful for employees and families. Our priority is going to continue to be making sure that the residents are going to continue to have the care that they need at Century Park. Now the NDP is asking me: am I going to interfere in these contracts at this site? The answer is no. We believe that the system . . . [interjections] And they heckle me. We believe that the system that we have in continuing care in Alberta, with a mix of private partners as well as government . . .

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

Mr. Shepherd: Transition, Mr. Speaker.

This Minister of Health has the legal authority and responsibility to intervene to uphold the standard of care for these seniors, as the previous Minister of Health did, but this government seems far more focused on helping rich corporate friends with a 4 and a half billion dollar handout than providing any form of support to these workers. To the Premier: will you commit right now to directing the Minister of Health to prevent 53 Vegreville families' unemployment and protect 40 Alberta seniors from losing their familiar primary caregiver, or do you only interfere when you're breaking contracts to lower their wages?

Mr. Shandro: Mr. Speaker, the NDP has a long history of interfering with businesses, interfering with their contracts. The bias against the private partners that we have in continuing care, in the system is quite obvious. Over four years they tried to squeeze our nonprofit partners, our private partners in continuing care. We see them again, now that they're no longer in government, continuing to attack those partners, our nonprofit partners and our private partners. We support the decades that we've had of continuing care in Alberta with the mixture of government, nonprofit, and private providers in the system.

Mr. Shepherd: Well, Mr. Speaker, that answer is as tone deaf as the statement yesterday from the minister for women's issues. When our critic asked her yesterday about how this government would support these workers and if she supported this cut in their wage, the minister seemed to simply imply that they should all just go and look for jobs in the trades. This is shameful. The jobs they do have dignity. We need quality health care workers like the ones that are gathered here today. They deserve the respect of this government and a decent wage. To the Minister of Health: will you commit to meeting with these health care workers and myself immediately after question period today, so we can find a resolution to get . . .

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy to meet with them. I'm happy that they have come to the Legislature today to be able to meet not only with the hon. member and his colleagues, but if they would like to meet me, I'm very happy to meet with them. Also, just to say this as well for any Albertan who's listening today, for the residents at Century Park, our department and AHS are monitoring this transition very closely. We'll provide any supports that are needed during this transition.

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

Rural Police Service Funding

Ms Ganley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier has told this House many times that a response to rural crime is a top priority of this government. The UCP government has promised 500 new officers and 50 new prosecutors. Well, it's been six months since the election, and this House has passed 13 bills. Rural communities are still waiting for the Premier to get around to his so-called top priority. If the Premier believes there is a rural crime crisis, why couldn't he find a single dime for rural policing this spring when he handed out \$4.5 billion to corporations.

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, I've answered questions on this the last few days. We are being very clear with Albertans. We're talking about more money for policing. More money for policing.

Now, last night I was in Camrose, and 150 Albertans came out and expressed their concern regarding the justice system, Mr. Speaker. I heard a lot about the NDP legacy in the justice system. I'm going to be in Rocky Mountain House in a couple of weeks with another town hall. I invite that member to come to Rocky Mountain House and hear about their NDP legacy on rural crime.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View has the call.

Ms Ganley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we were in government, we took action on rural crime, and the UCP notoriously voted against that rural crime strategy while in opposition. In government, after they got their \$4.5 billion corporate handout done this spring, they all went on vacation and forgot about rural crime. Here we are in October, and it's still another two weeks before we'll get a budget. Police officers take time to hire, train, and deploy. To the Premier: will we see a single new officer on the streets within the first year of this government's term?

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, again, silence. Yes or no, will you come to Rocky Mountain House to hear about your legacy? This is the utmost in frustration. Let me share with you some of the stories I've heard on my tour: people living in fear across Alberta, people that are scared now when somebody drives down their dirt road. They're no longer happy to think: maybe a neighbour is here. They're now wondering: who is here to harm me? Why won't that member come hear about their legacy on rural crime? Open invitation: come to Rocky Mountain House.

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

Ms Ganley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier and the Justice minister have repeatedly announced 50 new prosecutors, but the minister recently admitted that they have yet to hire a single one. The minister tried to blame these vacancies created by the UCP's hiring freeze on me. To the Premier: since the minister seems

confused about who's in charge of the Justice department, can you tell us if there will be a single new prosecutor hired this year?

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, we're hiring the 25 unfilled positions that we inherited from that member. We're hiring right now. We have job opportunities right now. Yes. We will be also funding 50 new prosecutors. But that member hasn't even answered the question. Will you come to Rocky Mountain House? [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order. Members, we will have order. The Member for Brooks-Medicine Hat has a question.

Investment Incentives and Job Creation

Ms Glasgo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have already seen positive results from the job-creation tax cut, with major investment announcements made in September by Telus, Suncor, and Polycarp, and this activity has come just after the first of four cuts to the corporate tax . . . [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Hon. members, we will have order. Hon. Member for Brooks-Medicine Hat, please feel free to restart your question.

Ms Glasgo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have already seen positive results from the job-creation tax cut, with major investment announcements made in September by Telus, Suncor, and Polycarp, and this activity has come after just the first of four cuts to the corporate tax rate. It is my understanding that our government has made other tax changes that have helped increase Alberta's attractiveness as a place to invest. To the Minister of Finance: what are these changes, and how will they help drive investment back to Alberta?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. In addition to announcing the job-creation tax cut, the carbon tax repeal, our government is going forward with the accelerated capital cost allowance provision adopted by the federal government. This measure allows businesses to invest in equipment with accelerated writeoffs, which will support investment and, ultimately, job creation. This measure will be felt very directly by our small businesses, which we know are essential employers in the province. We're continuing to re-establish Alberta as the most competitive business environment in this country.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Brooks-Medicine Hat.

Ms Glasgo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that specifically the announcement from Telus of a \$16 billion investment will have great benefits for my constituents in Brooks-Medicine Hat and given that this announcement alone will improve rural connectivity while creating 5,000 jobs, can the Minister of Finance elaborate on what other impacts this broad-based tax incentive will have for our province?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of impact, let's hear from an Albertan. I quote Mick Dilger, president and CEO of Pembina Pipeline Corporation, with respect to the accelerated capital cost allowance measure: these investment incentives are critical to the development of creating value-added goods, which in

turn create employment, tax space, and help our global competitiveness in industries across the country; for our company, this will help stabilize our recent investment decision into the development of a world-scale polypropylene facility.

Ms Glasgo: Thank you, Minister.

Mr. Speaker, given that the previous government seemed determined to drive business and investment out of the province and had no regard for job creators and their unique challenges, that they themselves created, can the Minister of Finance provide more detail about how these investment incentives work to support Alberta's job creators?

The Speaker: The minister.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again thank you to the member for the questions. These changes allow Alberta businesses to write off 100 per cent of their manufacture and processing equipment and clean energy equipment in year 1. They also mean that for most classes of capital assets, in year 1 they get three times the otherwise deductible amount. Alberta is attracting much-needed investment back into this province. Again, this measure will especially support small businesses, and we're very pleased to make a decision to go forward with it.

2:10 Rural Police Service Funding (continued)

Member Ceci: Mr. Speaker, councillors, in a Lac Ste. Anne county press release yesterday, are warning that this Premier's plan to cut funding for rural police will "place a considerable financial burden on resource-strapped municipalities." They also warn that they may have to raise taxes to keep communities safe. Now, both the Premier and the Justice minister have stood in this House this week and claimed that they are not cutting police funding. To the minister: if that's the case, then why do town councillors keep saying the opposite? Are you really trying to claim that local leaders in Lac Ste. Anne are completely wrong?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Madu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that question. I have spent the entire summer travelling across our province listening to the concerns and priorities of our municipalities, but I think the question ought to be to that member. When he was the Finance minister when they were in government, what did they do? Here are the records. They left us with more than \$60 billion in debt, and they chased away investments out of our province. They led a government that led us to have more than 200,000 of our fellow citizens out of employment. We are working to solve all of these problems.

Member Ceci: You're well on the way to losing more jobs.

Given that Lac Ste. Anne county councillors described the response of the provincial government to their questions and concerns as "noncommittal and ever-shifting" and given that this flies directly in the face of the minister's claim on Tuesday that he has been "crystal clear" in his commitments, to the Minister of Justice: will you end your noncommittal and ever-shifting approach to communicating with rural municipalities and finally be straight with them about your plan to cut their funding for police?

Mr. Schweitzer: Mr. Speaker, we have been communicating clearly with municipalities across Alberta regarding our plan. We're seeking their feedback right now. They have a few more days

now to get their feedback in regarding our proposals regarding police costing. We're listening to Albertans. We want to make sure that we have their feedback. We were at the AUMA. We had 1,000 people there. We answered their questions in detail on this. We are committed to spending more money on policing. This is about more pie.

Member Ceci: Then why did you vote twice against increases to rural police funding?

Given that Lac Ste. Anne councillors also said the government's plan to cut police funding by up to 70 per cent is "an ill-conceived and poorly-communicated initiative" and given that we know that this cut is being done to help pay for the \$4.5 billion you're giving away to big corporations, to the Premier. Your minister has screwed this up. My question to you today is: will you cancel this cut and work in true partnership with RMA and AUMA to craft a way forward?

Mr. Schweitzer: Again, I don't know how many times I've got to repeat this in this House. We are dedicated to more funding for policing. We have been crystal clear on that from day one. I also want to quote for that member. We got some feedback as well. Terry Ungarian, reeve of the county of Northern Lights: if we have to pay a little bit extra but see money reinvested to bring rural crime under control, then that's a win. From Lance Colby, mayor of Carstairs: I believe everybody should pay a little, that anything we pay should be reinvested. And from Cheryl Eikeland, mayor of Marwayne: the idea behind this proposal is very good; we need more police on the ground. Mr. Speaker, we're continuing to listen to Albertans.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall has a question.

Canadian Energy Centre Managing Director

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday this government announced that they have appointed failed UCP candidate Tom Olsen as the head of their so-called energy war room. At last check, this individual was a lobbyist for payday loan companies and now is being paid a massive \$195,000 a year salary, and all this war room seems to do is post on Twitter. To the Premier: how much money is Mr. Olsen being paid per tweet?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the real story here is that the United Conservative Party, Alberta's government, has followed through on yet another promise, creating an organization that will work to defend our oil and gas industry. That's where we're going. We will spare no cost. We will work hard to defend the hard-working men and women that work inside the oil and gas industry, something that those members did not do when they were in government just a few short months ago, when they were working against our energy industry. I can tell you, through you to Albertans, we will continue to fight each and every day to protect our largest industry.

Mr. Sabir: Given that the appointment of Tom Olsen to head the energy war room is puzzling and given that *Maclean's* writer Jason Markusoff said about the Olsen appointment that, quote, if this war room is to be judged by its general, this isn't an encouraging sign, to the Premier: can you please explain to all the qualified people in Alberta's communication and energy industries why you think Olsen was better for this job than they were?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, this side of the House will not be lectured by that side of the House when it comes to appointments in regard to our energy industry. That's the side of the House who,

you will recall, appointed Tzeborah Berman to their panel to defend the oil sands. Talk about putting the fox in the henhouse. This side of the House is dedicated to getting jobs and the economy and pipelines going in our province. We will always stand with our oil and gas industry, the complete opposite of the NDP in this province. Their former Education minister stood on the very steps of this Legislature chanting: no more pipelines. Through you to him: shame. Albertans, you can trust us when it comes to the energy industry.

Mr. Sabir: Given that 60 per cent of the voters in the Calgary-Buffalo constituency rejected Mr. Olsen in the last election and given that he now stands to earn more than all the members of your caucus who had winning campaigns, to the Premier: will you commit to releasing the hiring criteria that you used to hire Mr. Olsen and the rationale for rejecting more qualified Albertans? Or was this just a patronage appointment with no rationale?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, there are members of the NDP caucus who are sitting in this House even though 60 per cent of the voters in their own ridings rejected them. I don't dispute their right to be able to sit inside this Chamber.

What I can confirm to you on behalf of the Premier is that we will continue with the platform promises that we have made to protect our oil and gas industry. We will stand up for our oil and gas industry. We are proud of our oil and gas industry. We have the best environmental standards in the entire world, the best social standards in the entire world. We will continue to stand with them. Again, to them, the real question that's been asked the entire time: are they voting for their close ally Justin Trudeau and his antipipeline policies, or are they voting for their NDP leader and his antipipeline policies?

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

Vegreville Century Park Supportive Living Facility

(continued)

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of stories circulating about changes occurring at the Century Park continuing care facility in Vegreville, including a suggestion that all staff are being thrown out of work and being replaced by people brought in from outside the province. These claims are causing tremendous anxiety to seniors and families in Vegreville. Can the Minister of Health please explain to me and my constituents the situation in Vegreville?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm advised that the transition will take effect on November 1. I know it's stressful for the residents and their families as well as for staff at the facility. I'm concerned about the impact on staff and employment in Vegreville, so I'm glad to hear that the new operator intends to hire most of the current staff. The claim that staff are being replaced with people from out of the province, I'm told, is simply false. I also understand that AHS has vacancies in the Vegreville area, so there should be jobs for most or all of the staff.

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

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for sharing this information with us. Given that there is also a suggestion that pay rates at the facility are going to be cut under the new operator, to the same minister: do you plan on

intervening to prevent pay reductions or cancel the transfer of the facility altogether?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health.

Mr. Shandro: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member. I support the rights of the staff under the law and their collective agreements. My department and AHS are monitoring the transition closely, and they'll provide any supports that are needed, as I said before. You know, unlike the NDP, I don't believe in manipulating individual contracts for political purposes. [interjections] Continuing care for decades has been publicly funded and delivered by a mixture of government, nonprofit partners, as well as private partners. The NDP just can't accept that. That's why they're heckling me. They can't accept . . .

2:20

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

Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again, Minister. Given that there are also questions being raised about the whole issue of contracting continuing care and the potential that changes like the current one in Vegreville may happen again elsewhere, again to the Minister of Health: do you plan to change the process for funding continuing care facilities to avoid the potential for any future subcontracting situations like this?

Mr. Shandro: The answer, Mr. Speaker, is no. We believe the system is based on the right approach. We fund the operators – public, government, private, and nonprofit – all on the same basis. The NDP ignored the real issues in the continuing care system for four years and imposed their bias against private providers in one area after another, from continuing care to labs to laundry. Our government campaigned on the real issue: improving access to care, not who provides it. That's my priority as Health minister.

Commercial Driver Training and Testing Standards

Member Loyola: Mr. Speaker, yesterday we heard the Transportation minister fail to justify why he had abandoned critical highway safety measures and turned his back on the victims and families and survivors of the Humboldt Broncos bus disaster. It was shameful, but let's give him another chance. Will the minister do the right thing today and commit to maintaining the standards brought in by the previous government to keep Albertans safe on our highways?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. McIver: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will remind the hon. member again that the standards that he claims they brought in – it was the MELT standards – come out of the United States. No truck driver will be able to go from Canada into the U.S. with a class 1 or 2 after February without MELT training. But they didn't actually bring them in. They announced them. They say that they operationalized them on March 1, about two weeks before the election, but on the same day they nationalized the driver examiners and lost half of them, crippling the government's ability to deliver what the hon. member now claims they delivered. So it's not true.

Member Loyola: Given that an independent, third-party review of Alberta's PC-era driver examination model found seven significant safety gaps, 17 important safety gaps, and eight critical safety gaps, has the Minister of Transportation actually read the Tantus report, and how can he justify returning to this deeply flawed and fundamentally unsafe model of driver training?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently we're still using the method of driver examination that the previous government left behind. It finally gave me something to agree with. There was a test that said there were problems with the system. I agree with the hon. member that there were problems with the system. We will continue trying to sort that out. I think we're on the right track, and I think we have quite a few fail-safes in place that will solve, we hope, all those problems.

Member Loyola: Given that this government only seems to open its doors to big corporations and given that the Premier rushed to hand over \$4.5 billion to these corporations in a failed experiment to create jobs – not one – and given that we now know that this Minister of Transportation is putting the interests of big trucking companies over those of families who lost their loved ones in a tragic accident, to the minister: who convinced you to make these awful changes, and why didn't the families of the Humboldt bus tragedy have a say in the matter?

Mr. McIver: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would like the hon. member and the House to know that I spoke with Mr. Boulet a second time today, just not long before question period. The MELT is here to stay. The previous government actually never got MELT delivered. We will get MELT delivered – and it is here to stay – which is the higher standards. The previous government failed to do it. This government will not fail.

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

Gay-straight Alliances in Schools

Member Irwin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the organization led by anti-LGBTQ2S-plus campaigner John Carpay wrote to the Edmonton public school board urging them to repeal their locally developed policies that protect students from being outed against their will. The letter states that this repeal is needed thanks to this UCP government's shameful Bill 8, the first rollback of human rights in Alberta's history. Will the Minister of Education admit that this attack on LGBTQ2S-plus children was her goal all along?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The truth of the matter is that Mr. Carpay and his group do not speak for the government of Alberta, nor do they speak for the Department of Education. The fact of the matter is that our government has the most comprehensive statutory protections for LGBTQ2S-plus students in Canada. Students can be assured that they will continue to be protected and cared for in our schools.

Thank you.

Member Irwin: Given that this letter also contains a threat of legal action against Edmonton public schools unless they expose these vulnerable youth to being outed against their wishes and given that lawsuits drain money from school board budgets that really would be better spent in the classroom supporting students, will the minister commit today to paying the legal bills of any school district that resists the homophobic bullying of John Carpay?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Privacy Commissioner stated in June, membership in any student organization, including GSAs, is protected under Alberta's robust privacy legislation. I will not comment on hypothetical litigation. Students absolutely can be assured that we are looking after them. We will protect them. We always have. We always will.

Member Irwin: Hypothetical. This is exactly what we predicted would happen under Bill 8. We're seeing fewer students joining GSAs as a result of your harmful policies.

Given that Mr. Carpay also brought a lawsuit against this province to try and out LGBTQ2S-plus kids and given that he dropped this lawsuit immediately after the passage of Bill 8, what message does it send that this Minister of Education accepted generous campaign donations from two supporters of this homophobic bully's lawsuit?

Member LaGrange: I reiterate: the fact of the matter is that our government, Alberta Education, has the most comprehensive statutory protections for LGBTQ2S-plus students in Canada. Our students can be assured that they will continue to be protected by provincial legislation.

An Hon. Member: Shameful.

Member LaGrange: What is shameful is that the NDP continue to play politics with this issue, and they cause fear amongst our LGBTQ students. That's reprehensible. [interjections]

The Speaker: Order. Order.

The hon. Member for Red Deer-South has risen with a question.

Needle Debris and Addiction Treatment

Mr. Stephan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following NDP mandates, social agencies distribute on an annual basis millions of needles for taking illegal drugs, including upwards of 100 needles at a time to individual drug users. There are little or no internal controls preventing the growing number of discarded needles in public parks or other spaces, causing public safety risks. To the minister: will this government require distributing agencies to be more diligent and responsible to reduce needle debris?

The Speaker: The hon. Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Mr. Luan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for a very good question. Our government takes the issue of needle debris very seriously. Albertans deserve safe communities that are free from needle debris. Our government will continue to work with municipalities and local law enforcement to find new ways to keep our communities safe and reduce needle debris.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Red Deer-South.

Mr. Stephan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that at the recent AUMA convention municipalities passed a resolution requesting that government develop a province-wide strategy for cleaning up used needle debris and given that flawed NDP policies have exacerbated the proliferation of needle debris, to the minister: will this government develop a province-wide strategy to reduce the millions in taxpayer costs to clean up needle debris in Alberta's parks and other spaces?

The Speaker: The hon. Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Mr. Luan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is yes. I have already directed my staff to report to me with options to reduce needle debris. I'm looking forward to a comprehensive plan that will reduce needle debris in our province. Until then we will continue to fund needle debris services throughout the province in the communities that were impacted. That is something we can do to make sure that we keep our communities safe.

2:30

Mr. Stephan: Given this government's commitment to invest in supporting individuals seeking to become free from addictions and given the prior NDP government's focus on supporting those remaining in their addictions, including in Red Deer, with a drug overdose prevention site that omits services for addiction recovery, and given that the end goal for drug addiction should be freedom from drug addiction, to the minister: will this government begin with the end in mind, with a focus on supporting those seeking to become free from addictions?

The Speaker: The hon. associate minister.

Mr. Luan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member is right. Our government believes in a full continuum of care to support Albertans with multiple choices when they need help. We believe harm reduction alone cannot be the answer for the problem. That's why we have committed unprecedented funds, \$140 million, to help Albertans to develop a comprehensive strategy, and we also announced recently that we will create 4,000 treatment and recovery spaces to help Albertans who need support services get the support.

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

Early Learning and Child Care Centres

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Children's Services has been described by the media as a minister of mystery, and to be honest, the title fits. She didn't rise once in the last session to speak on behalf of vulnerable children, when her government slashed minimum wages for young people and protections for LGBTQ youth. Now it's been months since the minister has said that she would be conducting a thoughtful and careful review of the NDP government's \$25-per-day child care program. We're aware this government is fond of its reviews and panels, but the lack of transparency here is deeply concerning. To the Minister of Children's Services: what is the status of your so-called review, and do you support affordable child care or not?

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

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Albertans struggled for the past four years under an NDP government, and I can tell you that while members opposite had a platform, so too did we. We are going to continue to create jobs so that parents have the opportunity to provide for their families, we're going to continue to work on growing the economy so that we can provide supports for those who need them, and we are going to ensure that the parents who need supports have access to them.

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

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the previous government, child poverty was cut in half, and that was partly because of affordable child care. Given that the minister has received many, many letters of support for the ELCC program from child care providers and families across Alberta and given that the minister knows that parents are concerned about the future of the program

and given that this government has raced to cut a \$4.5 billion cheque to big corporations but has left families looking for affordable child care in the lurch, to the minister: is affordable child care even on your radar?

The Speaker: I'd just like to take this opportunity to remind all members that preambles after question 4 are not acceptable.

The hon. Minister of Children's Services.

Ms Schulz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last six months I've been travelling across the province to all different types of licensed daycares, speaking to Albertans about their priorities in child care, and in that time I have heard from concerned daycare operators, child care workers, and parents that the \$25-a-day pilot was concerning because, unfortunately, your pilot did not track need, it did not track income, it did not track employment, and it did not track wait-lists. I know this because while the member opposite spent her summer with radical antipipeline activists and fear-mongering on Twitter, I spent mine talking to parents and child care operators across the province. [interjections]

The Speaker: The hon. member.
Order.

Ms Pancholi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that I also spoke to a number of child care centres and families over the summer, who told me repeatedly about the impacts that this was having on their children's accessibility and readiness for school and that they were having increased professional development and cost of living for early childhood educators – I'm sure that information will also be included in the review – and given that this government is causing . . .

The Speaker: I think I provided a caution about the use of preambles mere moments ago. I would encourage you to get immediately to the question now.

Ms Pancholi: Mr. Speaker, given that while this government claims to be in favour of creating jobs but has refused to acknowledge the evidence that affordable child care helps get parents back to work and boosts the economy, to the minister: do you think it was wise to spend . . .

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

Ms Schulz: Well, that was some fast talking, so I'm going to slow it down here. We will review the results of the pilot. We understand that there were some major gaps in that pilot, and there is some data that we just won't be able to gather. That's why I spent the summer speaking to child care operators, front-line child care workers, parents across the province. We are advocates for quality child care. We are advocates for affordable child care and, certainly, for helping parents who need help to take part in the workforce.

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

Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions' Remarks

Ms Sweet: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday during the debate on Bill 14, the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions compared the UCP government to the communist government by saying: "It further enhanced my belief that even with a communist government, when they focus on the right issue for the people, people's livelihoods actually increase. I see so [many similarities] to the current UCP government." To the associate

minister: could you please share with this House what similarities you see between the UCP government and a communist one?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the hon. associate minister clarified those comments in the House yesterday.

What's interesting to me is what has not been clarified by the Official Opposition in this Chamber, the question the Premier asked the Official Opposition yesterday, and that is that many of their members participated in a protest on the steps of the Legislature that included communist flags within the crowd, and they still have not condemned that. So will they stand up in this House right now and condemn that type of activity?

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

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the associate minister compared the priorities of his government to communist ones and given that the current Premier has condemned the Prime Minister for similar remarks, to the Premier: will you also condemn the comments of the associate minister, or will he admit that he shares his views that a nondemocratic communist government is positive for people's livelihoods?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, as I said, the associate minister clarified his comments in the Assembly yesterday, and those comments speak for themselves. The member is welcome to refer to *Hansard* if she did not notice them at the time.

Again, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier's question to the opposition: do they support protests that include communist flags? Four of their members at least, that I know of, participated in a protest on the steps of the Legislature that was organized by a well-known antipipeline and anti oil and gas activist, who in other places had blocked bridges and conducted themselves with civil disobedience that caused significant disturbance of the peace. Do they support that behaviour?

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Sweet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the associate minister twice expressed his admiration for the positive effects that a communist government can have on people's livelihoods and given that when trying to explain his remarks to the House, the associate minister went on to compare the government's Bill 14 to the priorities of nondemocratic communist governments, to the associate minister: will you apologize to your cabinet colleagues and UCP party members for comparing them and their priorities to those of nondemocratic communist governments?

Mr. Jason Nixon: Mr. Speaker, again, the associate minister clarified his comments in the Assembly yesterday. His clarification comments speak for themselves.

Here's another question that hasn't been answered by the NDP that has been brought up by myself earlier this week. The NDP, we do know, conducted an investigation into some of their members, some of the members who may remain in the benches today, for serious sexual misconduct. The leader of the NDP confirmed that there was a problem with some members when it came to sexual misconduct and that she had to take constructive action. She still has not acknowledged who those individuals are. Mr. Speaker, through you to them: do they currently sit in the NDP benches, yes or no?

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

Adoption, Foster Care, and Kinship Care

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many Albertans dream of one day having a family to call their own. Tragically, and often due to circumstances out of their own control, these dreams are unrealized. Some families may turn to adoption or fostering initiatives; however, these processes can be lengthy and expensive. To the Minister of Children's Services: how will this government create efficiencies in these processes that allow Albertans who are ready to adopt to build a family of their own?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister for Children's Services has the call.

Ms Schulz: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. It was such an incredible pleasure to spend time with my colleague in Lethbridge-East this summer and see what an exceptional advocate he is for his constituents.

Adoption is an issue that many members of our caucus care deeply about, and I am grateful for their advocacy in this area. Like my cabinet colleagues, I'm taking a thorough look at what red tape families encounter as they look to adopt to see how we might be able to streamline those processes while ensuring that children are safe and supported. We're also continuing discussions around the bill proposed by the minister of culture that was unanimously . . .

2:40

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

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that children in care often face unique challenges when placed in foster homes, including challenges such as integrating into a new foster home and adjusting to a new community, and further given that foster families must be adequately prepared to overcome these challenges and support the children in their care, can the minister please explain how this government is supporting families in caring for foster children?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister for Children's Services.

Ms Schulz: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. Fostering and kinship caregivers across the province do incredibly remarkable work. They step up in a child's hour of need to offer safe and caring homes to the most vulnerable children in our province. Because this work is intensive and can be incredibly challenging, my ministry offers a variety of supports, including mandatory training, dedicated caseworkers to provide guidance and assistance, and things like respite care to give caregivers time to care for themselves. Later this month is Fostering and Kinship Caregiver Week, which will give us an opportunity to recognize these remarkable Albertans.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. Given that children in foster care also require comprehensive support and follow-ups in order to ensure their success in foster care and beyond and given that these children must not fall through the cracks of this complicated system, to the same minister: what will this government do to ensure foster children are placed in homes or in kinship care arrangements that best suit the needs of the child in question?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Schulz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our priority is to ensure that vulnerable children are safe and supported. We are committed to keeping indigenous families together whenever safely possible. Because of the nature of these fostering roles, rigorous screening is done for both kinship and foster homes, which includes annual reviews, ongoing contact, and assessment of any care concerns that might be identified. My ministry also recently launched new training for caregivers. The training now better reflects an understanding of child development, trauma and historic trauma, and highlights the importance of maintaining connection with family, community, culture, and language to a child's safety and well-being.

Introduction of Visitors

The Speaker: Hon. members, if I can have your attention for one brief moment. I would just like to bring to your attention the presence of the consul general of the country of Japan. He has joined us in the Speaker's gallery. I invite you to welcome him to the Assembly.

Hon. members, in 30 seconds or less the Deputy Speaker will proceed with the rest of the daily Routine.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Mr. Ellis: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. As chair of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices and in accordance with section 21(4) of the Election Act I'd like to table six copies of the following report, A Report of the Chief Electoral Officer: 2018 Enumeration. An electronic copy of this report will also be provided to all members.

Thank you very much.

Ms Renaud: Okay. I have an article from the *Guardian*, and it's a question. Bad Ancestors: Does the Climate Crisis Violate the Rights of Those Yet to Be Born?

The Deputy Speaker: Okay. We're going to do it this way. Does anybody else have a tabling?

Mr. Feehan: I have an article entitled A Data-based Dismantling of Jason Kenney's Foreign-funding Conspiracy Theory by Sandy Garossino in analysis, energy, and politics.

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

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have two tablings today. First, a tabling on behalf of the Member for Calgary-Buffalo, a Joint Media Release in Response to Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's Draft Police Funding Model: Municipal Leaders Express Collective Concern Over Costs and Effects of Contemplated Change. I have five copies for tabling.

Also, on my own behalf I have the privilege of tabling a poem that I read today entitled Old Alberta Farmer, written by Mr. Davie Barnes, a Canadian soldier, farmer, and Thorhild resident, whose family is here to witness the tabling as well.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: I think we all enjoyed that poem.

Orders of the Day Government Motions

Canadian Armed Forces Health Care Funding

33. Mr. Schweitzer moved on behalf of Mr. Jason Nixon, as amended:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly denounce the federal government's decision to reduce the rates at which it reimburses the costs of providing health care services to Canadian Armed Forces members, call on the federal government to immediately and fully reverse this decision, commit to no future changes, and provide the highest level of treatment for these members, and recognize the contribution of these members, who bravely and willingly risk their lives for our country.

[Debate adjourned October 10]

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any speakers to the amended Motion 33?

Should I put the question?

Hon. Members: Question.

[Government Motion 33 as amended carried]

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 15 Real Estate Amendment Act, 2019

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta.

Mr. Glubish: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to rise and move second reading of Bill 15.

The Real Estate Council of Alberta, also referred to as RECA, was established under the Real Estate Act as the regulator for the real estate industry with a mandate to protect customers, establish and enforce professional standards, and provide services to the real estate industry. Unfortunately, over the past couple of years that council has failed to deliver on its mandate. RECA's current and most recent governing councils have been unable to exercise proper governance and oversight over the organization. It is clear that actions need to be taken in order to protect the overall operations of the council and its critically important role by refocusing and stabilizing the regulator for the immediate term and then ensuring efficiency and confidence in the future.

For those of my colleagues and for Albertans who don't know the backstory, this afternoon I'll walk you through what brought us to this point. In 2016 my department received the highest number of complaints about RECA that it had ever received, and since then that complaint number has continued to be consistent. That means that for at least three years there have been significant issues identified by Albertans, industry, council, and administration. This government is addressing those issues.

Early in my mandate I received a review from KPMG about the governance structure of the Real Estate Council of Alberta. The review had begun earlier in the year, after KPMG was tasked not just with reviewing but also with putting forward recommendations to address any concerns as well. Considering the complaints that had been raised against the council, complaints that included conflict within the council, a lack of trust, allegations of misconduct, and an inability of the council to work with the administration, I was curious what the independent reviewer's

reaction would be. It didn't take me long to find out. I needed only to read the first page to find out that the complaints my department had received over the past three years were warranted.

To be frank, Madam Speaker, it was very disappointing. It was disappointing that the council had deteriorated to this level. It was disappointing that the full scope of complaints was confirmed, and it was disappointing that nobody had addressed the complaints earlier. It's important to note that these complaints were significant.

2:50

The review is very clear in laying out all five major findings: first, "significant interpersonal conflict amongst Council and Administration"; second, that the "Council is not focused on strategic issues"; third, "Council does not have constructive relationships with industry associations;" fourth, that "Council is not exercising adequate oversight of RECA"; and fifth, that there is "minimal public representation on Council, and one industry association's ability to control the majority of Council member appointments contribute to these challenges."

Madam Speaker, by every measure RECA received a failing grade. That is why this legislation is so important. It will allow us to dismiss the current council and to appoint an administrator and to restore stability to the regulator while we work with industry partners to tackle the issue of broader governance reform in the coming months. Any further governance amendments will come later, but first we will engage with members of the real estate industry before we can chart a new path forward.

Madam Speaker, I've talked a little bit about what we're doing; now I'd like to go into why. Despite council having a positive history as an effective regulator prior to 2016, since that time the number of complaints made against them has escalated substantially. As the KPMG report has indicated, the level of dysfunction is undeniable. Since becoming minister, I've had numerous Albertans approach me about this dysfunction, and they've been asking for my intervention. Clearly, the council has lost the confidence of the real estate industry, of Albertans, and I have to say that I, too, have lost confidence in the regulator's ability to protect Albertans. It may be surprising to you to hear that the council itself recognized and was concerned with how it was operating. It may also surprise you to hear that the council was asking for the minister's office to intervene.

At the bottom of the first page of the KPMG review it states:

All Council members and senior staff interviewed during the review described the current state of Council as being challenged. There is a lack of trust among Council Members and between Council and Administration, as evidenced by several complaints and allegations amongst and between Council members and Administration, and requests to the Minister to intervene in Council affairs from Council members and Administration.

I'll point out to you, Madam Speaker, and to the other members of this House that it was not a singular request for ministerial intervention. There were multiple.

With that in mind, the action proposed in this bill is long overdue. There may be some who say that dismissing the entire council takes things a step too far. To them I would say that the KPMG review directly addresses that concern. The authors of the review state that it is necessary to remove all members of council because "dismissing only a subset of Council could contribute to a further deterioration in trust amongst Council, Administration and industry."

Madam Speaker, there may be some who ask: why is legislation needed to dismiss council? To them I would say, through you, that over the past number of months I have had to intervene with ministerial orders to stop the dysfunction of the council. One

particular ministerial order I issued addressed the overreach of the council when they were proposing to implement a font-size change for real estate agents on their promotional materials. Preliminary estimates indicate that this would have cost between \$35 million and \$50 million to the industry to implement and would have accomplished nothing to protect Albertans. This just illustrates how out of touch the council has become. But these ministerial orders have not been enough, and the dysfunction persists. As the KPMG report suggests, we agree with the need to replace council, full stop. That is why this legislation is necessary.

Madam Speaker, some might ask: why is the appointment of an administrator necessary? To them, through you, I would say that for Albertans to have faith in the real estate industry, they have to have faith in the regulator. For them to have faith in the regulator, the regulator has to do their job and do it well. The council has not been doing its job, and that is why this legislation will dismiss them. But we need to ensure that the regulator function is performed, and that is why this legislation will allow me to appoint an administrator. This is a necessary step on the path to restoring Albertans' faith in the industry and its regulator. A properly functioning regulator is incredibly important for any industry and especially for one that oversees billions of dollars of transactions. Alberta's real estate industry, specifically the resale housing market, saw approximately \$21 billion worth of sales in 2018. Fortunately, this dysfunction we've talked about today has not affected everyday Albertans who are simply trying to buy or sell a home. Albertans can still trust the real estate professionals they are working with.

Investment in real estate is a significant decision for many Albertans, who should benefit from a well-governed regulator that ensures their industry professionals are licensed, have professional education, and can be held to account for any wrongdoing. Albertans deserve to be confident that their investments are protected.

Effective oversight is also critical to protecting the livelihoods and reputations of real estate professionals. Madam Speaker, I have been clear with you that the dysfunction of this council is significant and is clearly disclosed in the independent review conducted by KPMG. With this legislation I am putting an end to the dysfunction and putting us back on a path to proper governance and a path to restoring Albertans' trust in the regulator.

For these reasons, I am pleased to bring this bill forward and move that it be read a second time. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any members wishing to speak to Bill 15? The hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday.

Mr. Carson: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and thank you for the opportunity to rise and speak to Bill 15. I would also like to thank the minister for continuing our government's work to address the concerning situation that has developed within the Real Estate Council of Alberta.

While I think both sides can agree that it's important for arm's-length organizations to remain that way, there are times where government must intervene to safeguard the interests of all Albertans. In this case it is necessary, which is why I will be voting in favour to support this act.

Thousands of Albertans access the services regulated through the Real Estate Act every year, and while the vast majority of those transactions are happy occasions – new homeowners buying for the first time or moving to a new community to access job and education opportunities for their family – sometimes the process does not go as smoothly as it should.

Now, the Real Estate Council of Alberta plays a critical role in ensuring that Albertans buying and selling property can rely on a well-regulated profession and a strong appeals process when those

issues do arise. This work is important, and it must be done to a high standard to protect Alberta consumers and property owners.

I would just like to take a moment to share with this House some background on the actions – I know the minister did, but I would also like to touch on them – already taken by the government to address this important issue. In 2018 the then Minister of Service Alberta received a number of complaints from the profession and the public that the work of RECA had essentially ground to a halt. Our government took the responsible step of investigating these concerns. That preliminary assessment was completed in October 2018 by George B. Cuff & Associates.

The assessment led the minister of the day to commission a review under section 76 of the act to provide real, practical solutions to the problems being faced by RECA. KPMG took the time they needed to get their review right. Their 60-page review, which is available on the government's open-data page – and I would urge all of my colleagues to review their findings – was released at the end of June.

Now, normally a review under the act would result in the minister issuing an order to RECA to follow, but as an arm's-length organization the act anticipates that RECA would be given the opportunity to put their own house back in order before more drastic measures are taken. But in this case KPMG saw a need for more timely action to address the issues facing RECA, which is why we are here today to discuss the merits of giving the minister new powers to fire the board before issuing orders.

I would also like to take a moment to thank KPMG and all of the stakeholder organizations who have worked on the recommendations that have ultimately brought this bill before the House. Their hard work and diligence are to be commended.

While I will be supporting this bill, I do have a few concerns. This bill gives the Minister of Service Alberta a lot of power. He will have the unilateral ability to appoint an administrator to oversee the work of RECA while the council is re-established. Now, it's very important that the minister gets this right. The Real Estate Council of Alberta deserves a fair, transparent, and smooth transition into what its new governing structure and membership will look like. Albertans deserve that transparency and will benefit from a transition back to a council that includes industry experts and public oversight as soon as possible.

Real estate agents, mortgage brokers, appraisers, and property managers are an integral part of our province's economy, and they deserve a good governance process.

Stakeholders of this bill should have a say in who the administrator is and should work with the administrator in deciding what the new governing structure of RECA will look like. I have spoken with stakeholders impacted by this bill, and they agree that these steps are necessary but also hope that the resulting process of restructuring RECA is fair and transparent.

3:00

The minister, of course, gets to select his own administrator. This administrator is appointed for a one-year term, which is renewable. The renewable terms give flexibility for the administrator to be there for specifically just as long as they need to be. Now, if done properly, this is a good plan. The administrator should be someone who will work closely and collaboratively with the stakeholders involved.

However, I do have some concerns with this government's recent appointments, and I hope this is not the case this time. I hope the minister does not take this opportunity to appoint an administrator as a chance to pay a favour to a UCP donor or candidates that did not win in the recent provincial election such as Len Rhodes being appointed to the AGLC or Tom Olsen being appointed to the energy war room or whatever it's being called today. The judgment this

government exercises in appointments has been particularly bad lately with selecting the Member for Calgary-East to be on the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund despite the active investigations into his conduct. RECA's current turbulent situation should not be used as a time for UCP cronyism. The real estate industry is too important and foundational in Alberta to be neglected for a political ploy. Albertans deserve better than that. Unfortunately, we in this House have no assurances that that will be the case.

I'm not criticizing KPMG's findings. They are experts, and, as I said, they took the time they needed to get it right during their review. I do not, however, necessarily agree that this bill is the only way to enact those recommendations. Too much of how this is going to go after this bill passes will be left to regulation, and that's turning into a bit of a pattern under this government.

Remember the changes to the Education Act? This government assured Albertans that those details would be looked after in the regulations. Fast-forward to the Friday before the Labour Day long weekend, literally the last business day before school starts, and late in that day it came to light that the Minister of Education had repealed rules that protected Alberta parents from paying school fees. They used that same bill as an excuse to change the name of public school boards by taking the word "public" out without any consultation or notice to the affected boards. And months later we're still waiting for details that were supposed to come in regulation about whether the government's Red Tape Reduction Act is actually going to make life better for any Albertans or whether it's an administrative boondoggle that accomplishes nothing other than adding an associate minister's expenses. I would hope that this government would be more transparent.

Now, given the wide-ranging powers the minister is asking this House to accord him and how much of this work is left to regulation, I think it's fair to be concerned. We will hold the government to account to ensure that the power of RECA is given back to Albertans and not used in a way for the UCP to appoint more of their insider party members to boards. I look forward to further discussion in this House. I hope the minister will take the opportunity, as he has already, to shed some light on how he plans to get RECA back on track. I will of course have more questions as we reach committee, but I do appreciate the minister taking action on this file, and I look forward to discussing it more very soon.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members wishing to speak to Bill 15 in second reading? The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise with pleasure to speak to Bill 15, Real Estate Amendment Act, 2019. As a former industry member for 30 years, a real estate sales agent, it's important to me to see the industry regulator, the Real Estate Council of Alberta, operating properly. I know there have been long-standing issues with the real estate council, and our former government, under Minister Malkinson, took action to instigate this review as a result of complaints that were received. This review was, I think, welcome news by the industry members, which are administered under RECA's watch. I think that KPMG did a fairly thorough analysis and came up with recommendations that the current government is basically following through on. I agree and I think industry members also agree that simply tinkering with the membership of RECA, given the numerous evidences and findings of the KPMG report of the dysfunction of the council, wouldn't have worked, so basically starting fresh with completely new members and starting with an administrator is the appropriate way to go in this situation.

I always am concerned when we find that a self-regulating body such as the real estate industry has found itself in governance trouble. That, to me, says that there may be something we should be looking at across the board in terms of the self-governance operations of some of the boards and councils that we have in the province. That may be taking a look at how and what and the terms of reference that we use to appoint individuals, particularly to not only the council memberships but also to the executive director or board chair positions. What can happen in those situations is that those executive directors or board chairs can form associations because of their longer standing than most of the council members, who will rotate in and out of the positions on a more frequent basis. The executive director can wield a significant amount of power and influence, which may lend itself to the creation of teams of council members.

I think that's something that we need to take a look at in terms of ensuring that executive directors of such councils perhaps have term limits and also ensure that the annual performance reviews are done and have some means of enforcing that these performance reviews are carried out. I know that the KPMG report that was commissioned by our former government indicated that these performance reviews were not necessarily done as required. They may have revealed earlier some of the deficiencies in governance that were happening at the Real Estate Council of Alberta. I know that many stakeholders have been concerned for a long time about the operation of the real estate council. They, I believe, are happy to see that some action has been taken as a result of the review that our former government initiated. There are concerns, of course, about the process by which the new council will be appointed and how that transition will go.

Also, I'm concerned about the timeline. We know that it's a one-year renewable contract that the administrator has been proposed to have. I don't know if it's going to go beyond a year or not, but industry members deserve to have a functioning body, a functioning council, which deals with the issues and matters of the real estate and Alberta mortgage brokerage industry and other industries that are under RECA's purview. Rather than focusing on governance problems and getting bogged down in those issues, the industry members are all wanting to get back to normal business and functioning. I along with them are hoping that the appointments are – that that process gets undertaken fairly soon, that the administrator has as a top priority getting back to normal business and getting back to a properly functioning real estate council that is focused on the interests of industry members and the general public in terms of protecting both of their interests in the operation of the industries that are under the purview of the council.

Many stakeholders are concerned about the long-term industry impact or the impact of having an administrator rather than an effectively operating council over the longer term. There is a genuine desire to ensure that the process of appointments gets into place fairly soon and that it be an open and transparent process so that we avoid the pitfalls of the past and we don't end up getting into a quagmire that the RECA council ended up getting into over the course of its last number of years. It's something that I and the critic for Service Alberta on our opposition side, the Member for Edmonton-West Henday, will be closely watching and monitoring. We will, of course, in further readings of this bill have further questions and bring up other concerns that we're looking forward to addressing as this legislation moves forward through the different stages of debate in this House.

3:10

I'm wondering if, of course, a power of RECA is to actually be placed in the hands of councillors, once again, beyond the

administrator's time frame. What I wonder and what I hope is that we end up with an adherence to true principles of a governance model that any government, board, commission, or council or even, for that matter, a private corporate board might be expected to follow. It's my view that it's high time that the review got undertaken. I'm very, very glad that we initiated it when we were government ourselves under the former minister and, now that the review has been released, government is acting upon it. I'm looking forward to getting the process started but also making sure that the same result doesn't happen. It would be shameful if we ended up having the process of appointments allowed to result in a quagmire of personality conflicts and an executive director that fuelled the fire. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, 29(2)(a) is now available. Would anyone like to speak?

Seeing none, any other speakers to the bill?

Seeing none, are you ready for the question?

[Motion carried; Bill 15 read a second time]

Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Mrs. Pitt in the chair]

The Chair: I'd like to call the Committee of the Whole to order.

Bill 14

Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Act

The Chair: We have under consideration Bill 14, the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Act. Are there any speakers or amendments to the bill?

Mr. McIver: Well, Madam Chair, we made good progress this week, and I know that some of our members have a long ways to go to get home to their families for Thanksgiving. Even those that don't have far to go, I'm sure, are looking forward to spending some time with their loved ones, so I would, if the House agrees, move to rise and report progress.

[Motion carried]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

Mr. Getson: Madam Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has had under consideration some bills and would like to report progress on the following bill: Bill 14.

The Deputy Speaker: Does the Assembly concur in the report? All those in favour, please say aye.

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Deputy Speaker: Any opposed, say no. So carried.

Mr. McIver: Madam Speaker, as I've said, we've done some good work this week, and I'd like to wish everybody a happy Thanksgiving and move that we adjourn the House until the appointed time on Tuesday morning.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:15 p.m.]

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

Activity to Thursday, October 10, 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 Sittings.

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 — 215-24 (*May 29, 2019 aft.*), 239-41 (*May 29, 2019 eve.*), (*May 30, 2019 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — 246-51 (*May 30, 2019 morn.*), 327-339 (*Jun. 3, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 4, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2019 c1]

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.*), 375-79 (*Jun. 4, 2019 aft.*), 416-17 (*Jun. 4, 2019 eve.*), 448 (*Jun. 5, 2019 aft.*), (*Jun. 5, 2019 eve.*), (*Jun. 5, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 986-1002 (*Jun. 19, 2019 aft.*), 1090-99 (*Jun. 20, 2019 aft.*), 1218-22 (*Jun. 25, 2019 eve.*), 1235-44 (*Jun. 26, 2019 aft.*), 1293-1300 (*Jun. 27, 2019 aft.*), 1313-26 (*Jul. 2, 2019 aft.*), 1329-31 (*Jul. 2, 2019 aft.*), 1347-57 (*Jul. 2, 2019 eve.*), 1357-62 (*Jul. 2, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Third Reading — (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 18, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2019 c8]

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.*), 341-53 (*Jun. 4, 2019 morn.*), 408-16 (*Jun. 4, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — (*Jun. 5, 2019 eve.*), (*Jun. 11, 2019 morn.*), 685-700 (*Jun. 11, 2019 aft.*), 738-45 (*Jun. 12, 2019 morn., passed*)

Third Reading — (*Jun. 12, 2019 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 c5]

Bill 4 — Red Tape Reduction Act (Hunter)

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

Second Reading — 277-78 (*May 30, 2019 aft.*), 365-75 (*Jun. 4, 2019 aft.*), 432-48 (*Jun. 5, 2019 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 633-44 (*Jun. 10, 2019 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 644-46 (*Jun. 10, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 cR-8.2]

Bill 5 — Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2019 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 779 (*Jun. 12, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 986 (*Jun. 19, 2019 aft.*), (*Jun. 25, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1135-36 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve.*), 1153 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1195 (*Jun. 25, 2019 eve., adjourned*), 1213 (*Jun. 25, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 c4]

Bill 6 — Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2019 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 931 (*Jun. 18, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 984-86 (*Jun. 19, 2019 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1136-38 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve.*), 1153 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1195-98 (*Jun. 25, 2019 eve.*), 1213 (*Jun. 25, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 c3]

Bill 7 — Municipal Government (Property Tax Incentives) Amendment Act, 2019 (Madu)

First Reading — 356-57 (*Jun. 4, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 625-31 (*Jun. 10, 2019 aft.*), 653-60 (*Jun. 11, 2019 morn.*), 701-07 (*Jun. 11, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 811-13 (*Jun. 13, 2019 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 1138-45 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 c6]

Bill 8 — Education Amendment Act, 2019 (LaGrange)

First Reading — 421 (*Jun. 5, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 648-49 (*Jun. 10, 2019 eve.*), 707-25 (*Jun. 11, 2019 eve.*), 781-95 (*Jun. 12, 2019 eve.*), 848-74 (*Jun. 17, 2019 eve.*), 1145-53 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve.*), 1153-62 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve.*), 1180-86 (*Jun. 25, 2019 aft.*), 1255-57 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1258-59 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve.*), 1266-78 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve.*), 1375-83 (*Jul. 3, 2019 aft.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Third Reading — (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 18, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force July 18, 2019; SA 2019 c7]

Bill 9 — Public Sector Wage Arbitration Deferral Act (Toews)

First Reading — (*Jun. 13, 2019, passed on division*)

Second Reading — 874-84 (*Jun. 17, 2019 eve.*), (*Jun. 17, 2019 eve.*), 933-71 (*Jun. 18, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 971 (*Jun. 18, 2019 eve.*), 1004-76 (*Jun. 19, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Third Reading — (*Jun. 19, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force June 28, 2019; SA 2019 cP-41.7]

Bill 10 — Alberta Personal Income Tax Amendment Act, 2019 (Toews)

First Reading — (*Jun. 13, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 847-48 (*Jun. 17, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 971 (*Jun. 18, 2019 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1138 (*Jun. 24, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2019 c2]

Bill 11 — Fair Registration Practices Act (Copping)

First Reading — 975 (*Jun. 19, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1186-94 (*Jun. 25, 2019 aft.*), 1244-51 (*Jun. 26, 2019 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1259-63 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 1263-65 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2019 cF-1.5]

Bill 12 — Royalty Guarantee Act (Savage)

First Reading — 1088 (*Jun. 20, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1186 (*Jun. 25, 2019 aft.*), 1251-53 (*Jun. 26, 2019 aft.*), 1255 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1257-58 (*Jun. 26, 2019 eve.*), 1292-1293 (*Jun. 27, 2019 aft.*), 1393-94 (*Jul. 3, 2019 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 18, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force July 18, 2019; SA 2019 c9]

Bill 13* — Alberta Senate Election Act (Schweitzer)

First Reading — 1225 (*Jun. 26, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1292 (*Jun. 27, 2019 aft.*), 1345-47 (*Jul. 2, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1383-93 (*Jul. 3, 2019 aft.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve.*), (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — (*Jul. 3, 2019 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — (*Jul. 18, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force July 18, 2019; SA 2019 cA-33.5]

Bill 14 — Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation Act (Wilson)

First Reading — 1654 (*Oct. 8, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1655-77 (*Oct. 8, 2019 aft.*), 1679-95 (*Oct. 9, 2019 morn., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1708-25 (*Oct. 9, 2019 aft.*), 1761 (*Oct. 10, 2019 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 15 — Real Estate Amendment Act, 2019 (Glubish)

First Reading — 1707 (*Oct. 9, 2019 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 1758-61 (*Oct. 10, 2019 aft., passed*)

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*), (*Jun. 13, 2019 aft., reported to Assembly*)

Second Reading — 825-38 (*Jun. 17, 2019 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 1122-24 (*Jun. 24, 2019 aft., passed with amendments*)

Third Reading — 1124-26 (*Jun. 24, 2019 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — (*Jun. 28, 2019 outside of House sitting*) [Comes into force January 1, 2020; SA 2019 cP-30.6]

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*), (*Jun. 13, 2019 aft., reported to Assembly*)

Second Reading — 838-40 (*Jun. 17, 2019 aft.*), 1115-22 (*Jun. 24, 2019 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 1126 (*Jun. 24, 2019 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 203 — An Act to Protect Public Health Care (Feehan)

First Reading — (*Jun. 13, 2019 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*), (*Jun. 27, 2019 aft., reported to Assembly*)

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