



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature  
Second Session

# Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, March 5, 2020

Day 7

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

### The 30th Legislature

Second Session

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

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Amery, Mickey K., Calgary-Cross (UCP)  
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Copping, Hon. Jason C., Calgary-Varsity (UCP)  
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)  
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South (NDP)  
Deol, Jasvir, Edmonton-Meadows (NDP)  
Dreeshen, Hon. Devin, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UCP)  
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Hoffman, Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)  
Horner, Nate S., Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)  
Hunter, Hon. Grant R., Taber-Warner (UCP)  
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Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UCP)  
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Walker, Jordan, Sherwood Park (UCP)  
Williams, Dan D.A., Peace River (UCP)  
Wilson, Hon. Rick D., Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin (UCP)  
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)  
Yaseen, Muhammad, Calgary-North (UCP)

#### Party standings:

United Conservative: 63

New Democrat: 24

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Allard  
Eggen  
Glasgo  
Jones  
Loyola  
Nielsen  
Singh

### **Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future**

Chair: Mr. Neudorf  
Deputy Chair: Ms Goehring

Allard  
Armstrong-Homeniuk  
Barnes  
Bilous  
Dang  
Horner  
Irwin  
Reid  
Stephan  
Toor

### **Standing Committee on Families and Communities**

Chair: Ms Goodridge  
Deputy Chair: Ms Sigurdson

Amery  
Carson  
Ganley  
Glasgo  
Guthrie  
Neudorf  
Nixon, Jeremy  
Pancholi  
Rutherford  
Yao

### **Standing Committee on Legislative Offices**

Chair: Mr. Schow  
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Gray  
Lovely  
Nixon, Jeremy  
Rutherford  
Schmidt  
Shepherd  
Sweet  
van Dijken  
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### **Special Standing Committee on Members' Services**

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Deputy Chair: Mr. Ellis

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Deol  
Ganley  
Goehring  
Goodridge  
Long  
Neudorf  
Walker  
Williams

### **Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills**

Chair: Mr. Ellis  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Schow

Glasgo  
Horner  
Irwin  
Neudorf  
Nielsen  
Nixon, Jeremy  
Pancholi  
Sigurdson, L.  
Sigurdson, R.J.

### **Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing**

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Carson  
Deol  
Ganley  
Issik  
Jones  
Lovely  
Loyola  
Rehn  
Reid  
Renaud  
Turton  
Yao

### **Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

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Dach  
Guthrie  
Hoffman  
Reid  
Renaud  
Rosin  
Rowswell  
Stephan  
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Chair: Mr. Hanson  
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Dach  
Feehan  
Getson  
Loewen  
Rehn  
Rosin  
Sabir  
Singh  
Smith  
Yaseen

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 5, 2020

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

### Prayers

**The Deputy Speaker:** Good afternoon, everyone.

Let us pray. Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to Members of the Legislative Assembly, and to all in positions of responsibility the guidance of Your spirit. May they never lead the province wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but, laying aside all private interests and prejudices, keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all. So may Your kingdom come and Your name be hallowed. Amen.

Please be seated.

### Statement by the Speaker

#### International Women's Day

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. members, this Sunday is International Women's Day, and as Gloria Steinem said: the story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights. In acknowledgement of that, it is my privilege once again to draw attention to the all-star, all-female table serving the Chamber this afternoon.

### Introduction of Guests

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. members, today we have two school groups. Visiting from Strathcona-Sherwood Park – will you please rise? – the Strathcona Christian Academy students. Our second school group today is the Drumheller-Stettler Lakeview Christian junior high. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of our Assembly. They might still be on the tour.

### Members' Statements

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

#### Holi and Hola Mohalla

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. In just a few days the Hindu festival of Holi and the Sikh festival of Hola Mohalla will begin, and celebrations are planned around the world and at home, all across Alberta, over this weekend and next.

Holi is also known as the festival of colours and is considered to be one of the most celebrated festivals in India, where it is celebrated in almost every part of the country. This ancient festival marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring. It honours the triumph of good over evil and is a time for forgiveness, mending relationships, bonding with friends and family, and a time for playing. Celebrants light bonfires, throw colourful powder, eat sweets, and dance to traditional folk music. Holi is a very carefree festival that's great fun to participate in if you don't mind getting colourful. The vibrant colours of Holi are considered to be the colours of joy, the colours of love, the colours that fill our lives with happiness. With all the beautiful colours being thrown with enthusiasm, participants should carefully consider what they're wearing to the celebration.

I've had the honour of attending joyous Holi celebrations hosted by the Hindu Society of Alberta, the Alberta Hindi Parishad, the Indian Students' Association at the U of A, and, in my home riding of Edmonton-Mill Woods, the Bhartiya Cultural Society of Alberta. These events are organized by dedicated volunteers and attended by thousands of Albertans. Over the past few years Holi has even been celebrated at Parliament and right here at the Alberta Legislature.

Hola Mohalla is celebrated for three days and is an opportunity for Sikhs to demonstrate their martial arts skills in simulated battles. In India Hola Mohalla has grown into a huge fair and attracts people from all over the country and the world to participate and watch. I encourage all Albertans to seek out local celebrations where possible and to join in the festivities.

On behalf of the NDP caucus I wish my constituents, Albertans, Canadians, and all of the Hindu and Sikh communities a very happy Holi and Hola Mohalla.

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

### Energy Industry Investment in Alberta

**Mr. Jones:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is distressing to see the scale of capital flight from our energy sector. Despite our partnerships with indigenous Canadians, raising the bar on environmental standards, and our respect for human rights, oil and LNG projects are being delayed, rejected, or cancelled.

Enbridge was prepared to invest \$7.9 billion to build Northern Gateway, a pipeline that would have brought oil from northern Alberta to a port in Kitimat, B.C. TransCanada was prepared to invest \$16 billion on Energy East. It would have brought our oil to refineries in the east, decreasing Canada's dependency on foreign oil. Petronas was prepared to invest \$36 billion, a record amount, on the Pacific NorthWest LNG project. And most recently the \$20 billion Teck Frontier mine was withdrawn. If you also include Nexen's \$28 billion Aurora LNG, Exxon's \$25 billion LNG, and Shell's \$16 billion Prince Rupert LNG projects, the grand total reaches an astounding \$150 billion in lost investments.

Instead of creating jobs and wealth for Canadians, instead of funding our schools and hospitals, that capital is being invested in countries with poor environmental and human rights records. It's time for the federal government to represent Canadians and to stop stifling our world-class energy sector.

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

### Drug Use in Lethbridge

**Mr. Neudorf:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Everyone in Alberta deserves a safe community to live, work, and raise a family in. Creating these communities means addressing the issues that keep our friends and neighbours up at night. Since forming government in 2019, I've heard similar stories from many who make Lethbridge their home, stories of break and enters, property thefts, and a lack of confidence in our downtown core. Some have accepted these crimes as the status quo. It's hard not to when Lethbridge has seen the highest increase of meth use in the province since 2012-2013 and an explosive increase in the trafficking of these drugs.

I'm standing in this House today to inform every Lethbridgian that these ongoing crimes and worries will not be accepted as the new normal for Lethbridge. I was proud to stand this week with the Minister of Justice and the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to announce landmark initiatives that will make Lethbridge a safer community for all. The expansion of the ALERT program, with the addition of investigators and a drug court in Lethbridge, is another promise made, promise kept by our

government to southern Alberta. ALERT combats addiction-related crime through investigating, disrupting, and dismantling gangs and criminal networks that put these kinds of drugs on our streets.

Opening the first drug treatment court outside of Edmonton and Calgary in Lethbridge will bring us one step closer to breaking the cycle of addictions. The truth of the matter is that we cannot make these issues go away by turning a blind eye to those struggling with addictions, and we cannot let those struggling suffer in silence and without the support they need, but we can also no longer tolerate the related and compounding crimes.

In addition to this announcement, a few short hours ago the government released the findings of the Supervised Consumption Services Review Committee.

These steps are absolutely necessary to getting Albertans the help they may need. I am proud of this government for being bold enough to take the steps needed for effective resolution to this issue and for recognizing and validating the experience that many constituents have shared with me. Hope and help are truly on the horizon for Lethbridge.

Thank you.

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

### Education Budget 2020-2021

**Member Loyola:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Edmonton-Ellerslie is a diverse, engaged, and rapidly growing community, a community with young families who are raising their children and hope for them to have a good education.

Sadly, it's also a community being left behind by this government. Investment to infrastructure for schools is down almost \$200 million in this budget, guaranteeing that young families in Edmonton-Ellerslie's desperate need for a high school to support their growing families are probably going to go unheard. Parents also tell me that their children come home frustrated because their classrooms are too crowded. And the new education funding model will not be able to keep funding with growth that we're going to see for Edmonton's schools.

Parents of special-needs children have the added experience of worrying for their children being left behind in our public system due to the PUF cuts. These families will now have to provide additional support resources for their children from K to 12 on top of facing higher taxes and school fees. Parents tell me how life is becoming more unaffordable since this government decided to give away \$4.7 billion to profitable corporations and are now balancing the budget on the backs of the working families like theirs. Parents tell me that they have a hard time making ends meet because of the sudden increases to their children's school bus fees.

Each child in our province should be afforded equal opportunities to succeed, Madam Speaker. Handing down astronomical cuts to education is not the way that we invest in the success of our future generations. They deserve better, and we owe them better. If the education system continues to go under attack, as it is now, by this government, then my colleagues and I have a long fight ahead of us.

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

### 1:40 Teck Resources Frontier Mine Project Cancellation

**Mr. Smith:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. There are times as an MLA when I am at a loss for words, when the events that surround a particular issue are so bizarre that I cannot figure out how to accurately articulate my anger, disbelief, and confusion. The events surrounding the Teck Frontier mine decision fit into that category, so I figured that today, rather than trying to express my concern

over the intrusions of the Liberal government in Ottawa and its death-by-delay tactics, I would let others do the talking for me.

Rex Murphy is one of Canada's most esteemed political commentators. His observations are astute, balanced, and always articulate. In a *National Post* article on February 24 Rex Murphy wrote:

If one were to assemble a group of the most insidiously devious minds that this world has spawned (the Prof. Moriarty's and Lex Luthors of the world) and asked them to devise the surest way to snap the bonds of Canadian Confederation, disenchant and alienate an entire productive region of the country, paralyze the nation's transportation system and, while they were at it, deepen the rift with Canada's Indigenous citizens, they'd report back in a heartbeat: "Sorry, we can't come up with anything that beats what you've already got – the present Trudeau government."

Again, he says:

Rarely, if ever, has folly been granted such total rein, and incompetence a wider playground.

Yet later he says:

We don't have a government in Ottawa; we have an Instagram page with executive authority.

Finally, he says:

It is led by a dilettante playacting the part of prime minister. The events of recent days show him palpably fading in authority, presence and capacity.

Sometimes you have to let others speak on your behalf. He is right, and if the Prime Minister of Canada, his cabinet, and the caucus are left unchecked, they will threaten the very social, economic, and national foundation . . .

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

### International Women's Day

**Member Irwin:** International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate the acts of courage and determination by those who've worked tirelessly to advance gender equality in their communities. This day traces back to the labour movements of the early 20th century. Bold workingwomen and -men led a growing push for women to participate equally in society.

Often on days like this we think of famous women or politicians or historic heroes, but to me International Women's Day is about everyday women, women in our community, those women in our lives who inspire us, who speak up, who bring us together, who fight for justice. This year's theme is Because of You, because ultimately it takes ordinary women and men and nonbinary folks coming together through collective action to achieve gender equality.

Because of the long struggle of suffragettes, women started to gain the right to vote, to have a seat at the table, and to be here speaking in this Legislature. Because of those who marched before us, women saw movement towards having the control to make choices over their own bodies. Because of postal workers who went on strike to demand better, women in Canada began to have access to maternity leave. Because of the brave indigenous women who would not be silenced, we saw a federal inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls and 231 calls for justice. Because of the courageous women willing to share their stories and say, "Me too," we are finally starting to have a societal conversation and action on harassment and violence against women.

On days like these the UCP will put out feel-good statements to mark the day, but it's their actions for the other days of the year for which they should be judged, and ultimately their actions come up short. In fact, they're taking us backwards, and Alberta women are paying the price. But it's on us to demand better, demand that this UCP government tackle domestic violence, implement universal child care, support health care for women and gender-diverse Albertans, demand that they act on pay equity, demand that they

work to finally see economic justice for women in Alberta because, frankly, Alberta women are done waiting. The time to act is now.

Happy International Women's Day. Let's get to work.

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

### Change

**Mr. Getson:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, and happy International Women's Day.

As our legislation and policies from the previous session take hold, I have observed that there have been three distinct categories of people that have formed: the doers, the disruptors, and the do-nothings. The majority of people I meet are doers. They're the folks that go work hard every day, head to work, go to school, provide for their families, and volunteer their time. They work hard to ensure that they contribute more than what is expected of them.

At the opposite end of the spectrum are the disruptors. They complain, cause havoc, feed off the negative, and strive to drag others down with them. The most dangerous disruptors seem like they are doers, but really they just want others to disrupt while they watch the sparks fly. I've discovered that when you implement change, the disruptors get very loud and resort to name-calling and other off-putting behaviour. When they see others getting ahead from hard work, they want to cry foul about fairness. I know where the old adage of cutting off your nose to spite your face comes from, Madam Speaker.

The do-nothing crowd cares not, does not think they're affected by the world around them or that they cannot make a difference any longer. I'm disheartened when I hear the stories from folks who've worked hard, tried their best but have had a bad break or watched the protestors robbing their hope and livelihood because of illegal blockades being tolerated.

Currently disrupters would see our energy stay in the ground, end cattle farming all in the name of the environment. Know this: illegal blockades, trespassing on farms will not be tolerated. Hijacking another's cause or concern to twist it for your own is not acceptable. You will not cripple our economy. You will not make us weak. To the disrupters: we're on to your tactics, so fasten up your chinstraps; buckle up. We're driving on to ensure a fair deal in our country and our economy, to get it rolling again. We're rallying to the flag in a common cause. Albertans are standing together strong and free.

### Mobile Home Sites Tenancies Act Amendments

**Mr. Long:** Madam Speaker, I'm proud to stand today and recognize the efforts this government is making to make lives easier for Albertans. In August the Minister of Service Alberta spent weeks visiting mobile-home sites across Alberta. In West Yellowhead he came to both Edson and Hinton, where he heard from mobile-home site residents. Many of these residents have felt voiceless for far too long. When it came to disputes between tenants and landlords, they were required to bring it to courts, where they would spend more time and money than other types of renters and landlords. To file an application with the courts, it could cost up to \$200 and could take several months. My constituents had grown frustrated.

Last week the Minister of Service Alberta announced that our government will be tabling Bill 3, the Mobile Home Sites Tenancies Amendment Act, 2020. This bill proposes amendments to the existing MHSTA that, if passed, will give landlords and tenants the ability to file applications for remedies of up to \$50,000 through the residential tenancy dispute resolution service, or RTDRS. This will

give mobile-home site tenants and landlords the same rights and process as tenants and landlords in houses, condos, and apartments. Urgent RTDRS disputes are heard within 25 days, and the application fee is only \$75. This fee can also be waived if it were to cause financial hardship to the applicant.

While this is a clear example of a government listening to Albertans, it will not stop here. The minister has made it clear that beyond this immediate change our government will continue consulting Albertans in mobile-home communities on other issues they face that may not be able to be addressed through the RTDRS. While we have taken a very good first step, for me it is simply step one. I will continue to do what I can to ensure that my constituents know they are voiceless no longer.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Grande Prairie.

### Tenille Townes

**Mrs. Allard:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. In advance of International Women's Day I'm honoured to rise in this House today to speak again about Grande Prairie's own rising country music artist Tenille Townes. Not only is she an amazing artist and strong female leader in our community; she is also someone for young girls to look up to. As I've mentioned before in this House, Tenille shows poise and grace, and she swept the podium in the 2019 Canadian Country Music Association awards, taking home all four awards for which she was nominated. Not only was she awarded female country artist of the year; she was also recognized for her amazing songwriting ability, particularly for her song *Somebody's Daughter*.

Later this week, as we celebrate International Women's Day, I look to this new generation of female leaders like Tenille, who famously sang that

She was somebody's best friend laughing  
Back when she was somebody's sister  
Countin' change at the lemonade stand . . .  
Dancin' in a gym where the kids all talk about [their] someday plans

I ask all members of this House and, through you, Madam Speaker, that all Albertans remember the importance of women and their someday plans and treat them with the dignity and respect we would show to our own daughters. When I think about my daughter Isabelle and her wonderful friends, I look forward to the bright future she has in Alberta with strong female role models like Tenille Townes and the women in this very Chamber, women who lead by example and inspire our daughters to do the same.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and may I take this opportunity to show my appreciation and thank this House for having a strong female Speaker sit over these proceedings today. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Flattery will get you everywhere with this Madam Speaker.

1:50

### Oral Question Period

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Leader of the Official Opposition.

### Budget 2020 Per Capita Spending

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. To say that this Premier has trouble keeping his story straight is putting it lightly. The truth is that he talks about 2.5 per cent cuts in this House, but when he's alone with his Conservative friends and insiders, he loves to brag about his 14 per cent cut for every man, woman, and child in Alberta. On Tuesday: 14 per cent; on

Wednesday: 2.5 per cent. For the Premier: is this wild variation in his story the result of an inherent honesty deficit, or is it that he just doesn't know the answer?

**Mr. Kenney:** Madam Speaker, I'd like to welcome the NDP leader back from Ottawa. I'd also like to celebrate the success at the Supreme Court of Canada today, which refused to hear the appeal on the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. It will proceed.

With respect to the budget, Madam Speaker, this is not a question for debate. It's numbers. They are objective. They're undeniable. Last year's spending under the NDP: \$48.4 billion. At the out-year of this government's fiscal plan: \$47.4 billion. That's just over 2 per cent on a \$50 billion budget.

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

**Ms Notley:** Well, thank you. I guess this is a 2.4 per cent day. But the 14 per cent is backed by a U of C economist who describes 8.4 per cent clawed from social services, 13.7 per cent from health care, and 19.6 per cent from education and postsecondaries. Now, they called it fear and smear when we warned Albertans of 20 per cent cuts. My bad. In education it was just 19.6 per cent. Premier, why did your party lie about these draconian cuts in the last election instead of admitting just how much your \$4.7 billion corporate handout was going to cost Albertans?

**Mr. Kenney:** Mr. Speaker – Madam Speaker. I'm sorry. It's nice to see you in the chair today.

Madam Speaker, The opposition leader is reinforcing why she was fired by Albertans for her total fiscal incompetence. The truth is this. We have by far the highest program expenditures in Canada on a per-person basis, about 20 per cent more than the average amongst Canadian provinces. As we proposed in the platform on which we were elected, we will gradually reduce per capita expenditures to be closer to but still above the national average. Under our plan we're simply resetting per capita program expenditures to where the NDP was four years ago.

**Ms Notley:** Well, on top of his 14 per cent cut bragging, the Premier now says that if his fantasyland projections don't bear magic fruit, he'll cut even more.

Now, three days ago this Premier hid from questions about his cut to supports for five-year-old children with autism. He'll go to the ends of the earth to protect the \$4.7 billion gift he gave to his friends, but he plays on his phone when our kids need help. How many futures will be lost before Alberta's biggest corporations are asked to pay their fair share?

**Mr. Kenney:** You know, honestly, I think Albertans deserve better in a Leader of the Opposition than those kind of smearing remarks, Madam Speaker. I never play on my phone. I work on my phone. I reply to urgent e-mails as the Premier of a province. I don't know what she did except smear and fear and baseless attacks.

In terms of spending, Madam Speaker, the gradual reduction in per capita spending will reset it to where it was under the NDP three years ago.

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

**Ms Notley:** Well, it's true, Madam Speaker. I don't know exactly what he was doing when he was looking at his phone. He just wasn't answering the question. Perhaps today will be different.

## Education Funding for Students with Special Needs

**Ms Notley:** Yesterday parents shared a letter they received from an organization called Getting Ready for Inclusion Today, or GRIT. The letter said that the government's plan includes "a devastating cut in the per child funding of 40%." Madam Speaker, this is the real consequence of the cuts that the Minister of Education claims aren't happening. Why won't this Premier direct his minister to be honest about what she's doing, admit that it's wrong, and reverse this heartless attack on children with special needs in this province?

**Mr. Kenney:** Well, that was more of a rant than a question. I'm not clear to what the member is referring, Madam Speaker, but I will say that we recognize the importance of early childhood intervention, and we will continue to have the most generous support for early intervention in Canada. Eligibility for program unit funding, or PUF, has not changed, and the funding cap remains at \$25,000. Students with severe learning delays will continue to receive funding at the same level in the future as they do today.

**Ms Notley:** Again, Madam Speaker, the Premier is just not giving us the facts.

Now, the letter went on to say, "GRIT views the new funding models as a return to segregated classrooms where children with disabilities are clustered together. The new funding model is not supported by best practices." Now, to the Premier: why didn't he tell Albertans in the last election that he planned to claw back funding to children with special needs and reverse 20 years of best practices in supporting their futures, all to help pay for his \$4.7 billion gift to his corporate friends and insiders?

**Mr. Kenney:** Insiders. Madam Speaker, 100,000 job creators will benefit from the job-creation tax cut, which private-sector economists estimate will lead to the creation of 55,000 full-time, high-paying private-sector jobs when the NDP proposes at a time of economic fragility to punish job creation by raising those taxes.

Madam Speaker, under the old model of PUF students saw a decline in their supports as their education progressed to more challenging levels, but with our changes we'll close that gap, ensuring that no child will fall through the cracks as they transition from kindergarten to grade 1.

**Ms Notley:** GRIT teaches children who have developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, speech delays, behavioural challenges, and vision and hearing loss, but they're not the only service provider whose ability to help our kids is under attack as a result of the cuts. Ultimately, five-year-old vulnerable children in every part of this province, taking that profoundly important step into school, will now be left behind thanks to this government's decisions. The Minister of Education won't come clean. The Premier doesn't seem to care. Is there anyone over there who will stand against the immorality of these decisions?

**Mr. Kenney:** Well, Madam Speaker, I think purposefully misleading Albertans is immoral, and that's what we see from the NDP in this place every single day. Inflicting policies on Albertans that kill tens of thousands of jobs, the carbon tax, higher taxes on employers, driving this province into tens of billions of dollars of debt that will encumber the livelihoods of future generations: that's immoral.

I can say that we've also with respect to PUF matched speech and language funding to actual need, ensuring that students continue to receive the supports they require to succeed. Every student, whether they are in ECS or K to 12 education, will receive the supports . . .



**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition on her third set of questions.

### Physician Compensation Framework

**Ms Notley:** Well, Madam Speaker, hundreds of physicians are writing this government saying that we're on the cusp of a mass exodus of doctors and overwhelmed ERs all while coronavirus is still spreading. Quote: the house is on fire. How does the Premier respond? He goes on TV and implies that these doctors are liars. The Premier accusing others of lying: the irony is rich. Regardless, Premier, on the eve of an epidemic how many ERs will be thrown into crisis before you call off your attack on health care?

**Mr. Kenney:** Madam Speaker, there is just absolutely no end of the depths to which the desperate and divisive NDP will go to frighten people, and it is grossly irresponsible to do that on a matter of public health. We've been briefed by the chief medical officer of Alberta and assured that Alberta is well prepared for any prospective outbreak of coronavirus here.

With respect to physician compensation, under the NDP they merely contributed \$5.2 billion to physician compensation. Under this government that's going up to \$5.326 billion for the best compensated physicians, whose work we value. They deserve to be compensated fairly and even generously, and that's what we're doing.

**Ms Notley:** Well, Madam Speaker, the desperation is coming from the doctors who are pleading with this government.

You know, this Premier just doesn't grasp the obvious. When there is an epidemic on your doorstep, that is exactly when you don't cut health care, you don't fire nurses, and you don't attack doctors. But today even another group of emergency room doctors released a letter pleading with this government to stop the attack on preventative care and emergency rooms. Premier, we are obviously facing a very serious health crisis. Why won't you reverse your attack on doctors and stop the chaos?

**Mr. Kenney:** Madam Speaker, the only chaos we see is the political chaos within that socialist party that is still angry with Albertans for firing them.

With respect to health care, Madam Speaker, the numbers speak for themselves. There are no health care cuts. Page 126 of the budget before this Assembly had spending for health care at \$20.4 billion in 2018 going up to \$20.7 billion, physician compensation going from \$5.2 billion up to \$5.32 billion. Those are the real, hard numbers.

2:00

**Ms Notley:** Well, Madam Speaker, the doctors speak for themselves as well.

You know, there is no one this Premier will not sacrifice to make sure profitable corporations get their \$4.7 billion gift, not emergency doctors, not nurses, not family doctors, not nurses' aides, not LPNs, not pediatricians, and, most importantly, not the people of Alberta who actually need their ERs, their primary care, their public health system working now more than ever. Madam Speaker, for heaven's sake, what will it take for this Premier to stop sacrificing the health care of Albertans?

**Mr. Kenney:** Madam Speaker, yesterday I joined the hon. Minister of Health in announcing a hundred million dollar investment in additional surgical infrastructure to reduce surgical wait times that ran up unbelievably under the NDP, part of a half billion dollar investment in the Alberta surgical initiative. Last week we joined with MLAs in Red Deer to announce a hundred million dollars to upgrade and expand the Red Deer hospital, something the NDP

refused to do. The week before that we announced \$126 million to expand the Peter Lougheed Centre emergency ward. This government is investing unlike any government before in our health care.

**Mr. Shepherd:** "The public safety net is under threat." That, Madam Speaker, is the warning from emergency room doctors right here in Edmonton who allege that the chaos created by this government is putting Albertans at risk. They note that the reduced accessibility to primary care through clinics "will cripple" our emergency rooms. To the Premier. These doctors are just the latest of hundreds across the province to raise these concerns. Are you willing to put patients in harm's way just to force through your chaos-filled agenda?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health.

**Mr. Shandro:** Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. Unlike the NDP, we're putting patients at the centre of the system. We're going to do that, as we campaigned on, by supporting the patient's medical home model, by allowing compensation models for our physicians on a contract basis rather than fee for service because I think, as the letter from those emergency room doctors says, fee for service is broken for our family physicians who are on a fee-for-service basis. We need to make sure that we are going to provide that stable and predictable funding so they can take the time to be able to serve the patients of Alberta.

**Mr. Shepherd:** What the letter says, Madam Speaker, is that they want this minister to go back to the table to negotiate on the contract he chose to unilaterally tear up. The letter goes on to state that unnecessary emergency room care "comes at a much higher cost." The doctors say that the inevitable result of the chaos caused by this minister and Premier will be "reduced quality of care, longer emergency wait times, and an increased taxpayer price tag." But wait a second. I thought their excuse was that this attack on health care was going to save money. To the Premier: what price tag do you put on providing proper patient care? Better yet, what price tag do you consider too high to save someone's life?

**Mr. Shandro:** Madam Speaker, we are spending \$5.4 billion on our physician compensation, and we're going to continue to do that: \$5.4 billion in physician compensation. Our physicians in this province are the highest paid in the country, and with our new framework they're going to continue to be among the highest paid in this country. We're going to continue to listen to and meet with and get information from the Alberta Medical Association with this new framework. We're happy to continue to meet with them, and any time that they have any further offer for us, I've instructed the ministry to entertain those and to be able to review those future offers.

**Mr. Shepherd:** Minister, you tore up the contract, and you slammed the door.

The Edmonton doctors are far from alone, and it's clear that they feel they have to go to the public because you aren't listening. They've said that they are willing to work with your government on a new model if you would come back to the table. The minister, meanwhile, decides to spend his time on Twitter fighting with parody accounts. Surely, he could find some better way to spend his time, especially with the chaos he continues to cause. To this minister. We're coming up to a constituency break. If I were to arrange it myself, would you be willing to meet with me and a group of concerned physicians during the break? Yes or no?

**Mr. Shandro:** Madam Speaker, first of all, I don't find it funny. When people are scared by misinformation that's spread by a fake account, it's really important for us to be able to correct that misinformation. That the hon. member thinks that it's funny and perpetuates the misinformation is so irresponsible and not becoming of him.

As I've said, my door is open to meet with any physicians in this province. I will continue to meet with those physicians. If the hon. member has physicians that he'd like me to meet with, I'm happy to continue to meet with physicians. We are going to continue to meet and speak with the AMA as well to make sure that my door is always open to physicians and the AMA in this province.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Highwood.

### Infrastructure Blockade Impacts on Agriculture

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Over the last few months the Alberta economy has been under attack by illegal blockades on infrastructure that is critical to the health and sustainability of our economy. We have seen blockades erupt from coast to coast, which has disrupted our ability to export our agriculture products. There is no doubt that these illegal blockades are costing our agriculture sector and economy a great deal. To the minister: what is the direct impact to Alberta's agriculture sector?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Farmers are losing about \$9 million a day due to these illegal blockades. That's through cancelled contracts, through ship demurrage at port, and penalties and just not being able to haul their grain. While the NDP openly supports their radical good friends and allies like Extinction Rebellion, Shut Down Canada, Direct Action Everywhere, and Leadnow, it's time that we as a government actually stand up to these economic bullies that are trying to inflict so much damage on our economy.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Given that the past year has been incredibly difficult for our agriculture sector due to the, quote, harvest from hell, which has resulted in more than 950,000 acres of unharvested crops, and given that the federal Liberal government has forced a carbon tax on farmers, who are already strapped for cash, and given that the situation for farmers has only been amplified due to the illegal blockades on our infrastructure, to the minister: in such a difficult time what resources are available to farmers and ranchers who are struggling to get by?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. AFSC along with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry are working with farmers to see how we can improve our programs that we have, but we are also continuing to fight the imposition of a carbon tax on Albertans, on farmers. Ultimately, it's sad to see that the NDP again sides with their radical good friends and allies like Extinction Rebellion rather than fight on behalf of Albertans. Actually, I'll quote the Member for Lethbridge-West not too long ago, who coauthored a book that states, "This book draws together a mix of some of the most successful and doable actions taken over recent years – from our fun number 1 . . ."

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Highwood.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that these illegal blockades have plagued our country and our province over

the past few months, which has resulted in mass layoffs, harm to our economy, and damage to our reputation on the national stage, and given that our federal Liberal government allowed these illegal blockades to continue for far too long and given that the Agricultural Advisory Council has recently called for federal and provincial government support, to the minister: what is being done to ensure that these illegal blockades are addressed and do not continue?

**Mr. Dreeshen:** Well, Madam Speaker, our government is taking action. We've introduced Bill 1, which is the Critical Infrastructure Defence Act, which will actually implement penalties on those that seek to damage or interfere with our critical infrastructure.

Just to finish that quote from the Member for Lethbridge-West – there were two parts of it – she said that "Radical Cheerleading" was her number 1 recommendation "to our very serious number 52, 'Blockades'." I wonder if the Member for Lethbridge-West is still cheerleading the blockades that are happening across Canada.

### Provincial Parks and Environment Ministry Spending

**Mr. Schmidt:** Madam Speaker, the UCP believes that camping is a luxury that we just cannot afford. They claim that investing in Alberta's world-class parks and campgrounds is throwing money down the drain and not worth the expense. One thing that this minister doesn't spare any expense on, though, is his long-weekend plans. During the last May long weekend the Minister of Environment and Parks gave the people of Alberta a \$7,000 bill for a helicopter tour. Can the minister explain why he gets a helicopter tour while Albertans are being told that their camping trips are an unaffordable luxury?

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

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, we are investing in parks, over \$86 million this year, and we're proud of that.

That's not a ministerial office expense, helicopters. It's a department expense. Let me be very, very clear. The department of environment does use helicopters, as does the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. My department is responsible for maintaining and managing areas that are larger than European countries, and my officials do use helicopters. They also use trucks, boats, and sometimes even horses. I'm happy to be out in the field working with them on one of the busiest weekends of the year as they do their important work maintaining our important places.

2:10

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, Madam Speaker, given that I hope the ministry of environment keeps those horses away from the minister . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** No.

**Mr. Ellis:** Point of order.

**Mr. Schmidt:** . . . and given that the Albertans in Banff-Kananaskis . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. member, sit down.

### Speaker's Ruling Improper Inferences

**The Deputy Speaker:** You have been talked to about this particular issue. I will ask that you apologize to the hon. minister, and then you can start your question again.

**Mr. Schmidt:** I apologize and withdraw.

**Provincial Parks and Environment Ministry Spending**  
(continued)

**Mr. Schmidt:** Given that the Albertans in Banff-Kananaskis have been told that the cross-country ski trail grooming in Peter Lougheed provincial park is, quote, a significant cost and given that he suggested that this maintenance was not worth the expense despite the local concerns that this will negatively impact the health, fitness, and recreation opportunities of Albertans and given that the minister of environment stuck the people of Alberta with a \$7,000 bill for his long-weekend joyride, will the minister commit to repaying the cost of his helicopter joyride before he tells Albertans that their cross-country skiing is a significant cost that we just can't afford?

**Mr. Kenney:** Madam Speaker, the minister of parks joined a previously scheduled trip by officials to do his job as minister.

Madam Speaker, I don't believe the apology from that member. He just repeated what he did last week, which was, by implication, to smear this honourable member, who had been completely exonerated and apologized to by the RCMP, apologized to by a court, who received a substantial compensation for false allegations that had been made against him. That conduct is beneath any member of this place and is shameful.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Well, Madam Speaker, if the Premier is mad at me, then I'm doing something right.

Given that the minister also suggested that investing in the world-renowned Dinosaur provincial park in Drumheller-Stettler is just not worth the expense and given that Calgary families are speaking out about this cut, claiming that it will ruin their vacation plans, and given that I know the minister's colleagues are hearing plenty from concerned families right across this province, to the minister: last chance before you fly off for an eventual constituency week, will you park your heartless, inconsiderate attacks on our parks? Yes or no?

**Mr. Kenney:** Madam Speaker, you want to talk about heartless and inconsiderate. This member's family went through years of hell based on completely disproven and false allegations, from which he was completely exonerated in a court of law, and that member continues to try to drag his family back into that painful period. That is beneath every convention of honour in this place. That member should be ashamed of himself.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-North West.

**University of Alberta**  
**Board of Governors Appointment**

**Mr. Eggen:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday this government's blatant cronyism reached new levels. They appointed Janice MacKinnon to the board of governors at the University of Alberta. Yes, the very same Janice MacKinnon who commissioned a report that is now being used by this Premier to take our province apart. Janice MacKinnon is just about as progressive as this UCP government. To the minister: how exactly are the students at the U of A supposed to trust that MacKinnon has their interests at heart when she literally vouched for the gutting of their school?

**Mr. Kenney:** Madam Speaker, Dr. MacKinnon was the first female Finance minister in Canada, under an NDP government as well, by the way. Dr. MacKinnon is one of the most highly regarded Canadian

historians, widely published and highly regarded. Dr. MacKinnon is a member of the Order of Canada. She is a former chair of the Economic Council of Canada. She is one of the most highly regarded academics in this country. Any university would regard itself as being enormously benefited to have such a person on their board.

**Mr. Eggen:** Well, given that this minister has now appointed what many see as the fox to guard the henhouse and given that students at the U of A are facing tuition hikes of more than 7 per cent, increased costs for residency, increased costs for meal plans, to the minister: do you expect Janice MacKinnon to be actually welcome on campus?

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Point of order.

**Mr. Eggen:** Perhaps she could hold a town hall for students, look them in the eye, and explain what she's done to them.

**Mr. Kenney:** Madam Speaker, was that some kind of a threat from the hon. member opposite for Dr. MacKinnon to visit one of our great public universities? What this member is doing is trying to sully the name of one of the most respected public servants and academics in this country, who, by the way, spent decades actively in the New Democratic Party. What he is doing: this is why so many good people are unwilling to put themselves forward for public service. Dr. MacKinnon is taking on this appointment with zero compensation. That is the essence of public service. Shame on that member for what he's doing.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. members, a point of order is noted at 2:15.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-North West.

**Mr. Eggen:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Certainly, Janice MacKinnon is no New Democrat of ours. We actually support postsecondary students.

Given that the MacKinnon report has been used as political cover for our postsecondaries to be cut by almost 20 per cent – 20 per cent, Madam Speaker – and given that these cuts to our schools are the likes that we have not seen in a generation and NAIT and SAIT have already moved to lay off almost 500 staff since this Premier released his broken-promise budget, to the minister: do you expect Janice MacKinnon will address the staff at the U of A before or after they've been handed their termination papers?

**Mr. Kenney:** No, Madam Speaker. We're not going to let that member get away with the fear and smear against a distinguished academic, a distinguished public servant, the first female Finance minister in Canadian history, a true trailblazer, a brilliant woman with a PhD in Canadian history, by the way, who has been involved in the administration of major public universities and public budgets. No. We will not let the NDP intimidate people from public service to Albertans in positions with zero compensation, in this case one of the most highly qualified individuals in this country.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

**Alberta Health Services Review**

**Mr. Walker:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the Speech from the Throne our government stressed that our goals for preserving a high-quality public health care system were to increase patient choice, reduce wait times, and improve health outcomes. In the past few months there has been much fear and smear around the health care reforms our government will be looking to implement that will come from the recommendations of Ernst & Young. Can the

Minister of Health please address yet again the two recommendations that are unequivocally off the table?

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health.

**Mr. Shandro:** Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. The EY review that the hon. member mentions confirms the findings of the MacKinnon report on Alberta's finances and confirms that Alberta's high spending on health has not led to better outcomes. The report contains 57 recommendations, 72 savings opportunities ranging from \$1.5 billion to \$1.9 billion. I want to be clear that there will be no hospital closures or consolidation of the urban trauma centres, and the government is not delisting, is not deinsuring any of the procedures listed on page 79, and every dollar that we save will stay in the health system to improve access and make the system work better for patients.

**Mr. Walker:** Thank you, Minister. Madam Speaker, given that we have established that our government is not closing rural hospitals or adult trauma centres and given that preserving a high-quality public health care system is essential and given that underused hospitals lead to inefficient use of staff and facilities, can the Minister of Health please explain how rural hospitals will play a part in reducing surgical wait times within clinically recommended timelines?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health.

**Mr. Shandro:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Our \$100 million investment for the Alberta surgical initiative, which we announced yesterday with the Premier, will provide additional operating room and acute-care capacity across the province. Increasing capacity in rural locations will take the pressure off larger sites and help people to get care closer to home. This capital investment will help us reach our goals to provide 17,000 more surgeries across Alberta by the end of the next fiscal year and 80,000 new surgeries in the next three years.

**Mr. Walker:** Madam Speaker, given that our government has committed that Albertans will never have to pay out of pocket for medically necessary care and given that privately delivered care for minor procedures is already improving wait times in other Canadian jurisdictions and given that Alberta already contracts out some health care delivery such as eye procedures and did so under the previous government as well, can the Minister of Health yet again address how his proposed changes are not leading to the Americanization of our Alberta health system?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health.

**Mr. Shandro:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Despite the NDP's fear and smear campaign, I want to be clear that the \$100 million that we announced yesterday in capital funding will go to renovations in AHS-owned facilities, AHS-owned, publicly owned facilities. All surgeries will continue to be covered through operating funding from Alberta Health regardless of where they're performed. We're keeping our platform commitment to drive down surgical wait times with the Alberta surgical initiative, and that's exactly what we're going to do. We're going to put patients at the centre of the system.

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

2:20

## Supervised Drug Consumption Sites

**Ms Sweet:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Another UCP panel produces yet another completely predetermined outcome. The associate minister hand-picked a group of opponents to supervised consumption. Then he specifically forbade them from considering any of the proven life-saving benefits. The question is a simple one: will this government condemn Albertans who use substances to death and condemn their families to grief by cancelling their services or moving them out of reach? [some applause]

**Mr. Shandro:** Well, Madam Speaker, I think that was applause for me, maybe.

We heard loud and clear at the doorsteps of Alberta families that their communities have been impacted by consumption sites, and we kept our promise to listen to them, Madam Speaker. The panel on consumption sites heard from over 19,000 Albertans, whether through an online survey, through the public town halls, through written feedback, through interest group meetings. I thank all Albertans for being able to take the time to meet with that panel and being able to provide their feedback so that we can have some better information on how we can move forward with our consumption sites and provincial oversight over the consumption sites.

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

**Ms Sweet:** Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that one of the many misleading claims in this report is the suggestion that overdose reversal numbers were exaggerated because some Albertans were only being given oxygen and given that the co-chair wouldn't even stand by these claims in her report when under question today, are the associate minister and his panel so ignorant of opioid addictions that they don't understand that stopping breathing is actually what causes the death of a person experiencing an opioid overdose?

**Mr. Shandro:** Well, Madam Speaker, our focus and what we campaigned on is making sure that – unlike the previous government, which had a one-pillar approach that focused entirely on harm reduction, we believe that harm reduction can be a part of the full continuum of care for Albertans who are suffering from addiction, but it's a continuum, and we can't rely on one pillar anymore. We have to be able to include other options throughout the rest of the continuum and also be able to provide recovery options for Albertans who desperately need that help with their addiction and be able to make sure that we are spending more to be able to add 4,000 new recovery spaces in Alberta.

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

**Ms Sweet:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given that supervised consumption services are available in 16 cities and four provinces outside of Alberta, of all political stripes, and given that a return of higher methamphetamine use is a real concern in all communities and given that Albertans are still using opioids and dying from opioid use every day, is the Premier really going to use the suffering of methamphetamine users as a reason to turn his back on the suffering of opioid users and their families?

**Mr. Shandro:** Madam Speaker, as I said, we are going to make sure that we have a full continuum of care for Albertans who are suffering from addiction so that we aren't relying on one pillar anymore. We're going to still have harm reduction as a part of that continuum, but we needed to add other options for families, for communities, for the Alberta patients who are suffering from addiction. Unlike the previous government, who ignored the rest of

the continuum, we are going to be able to add 4,000 new spaces in this province to be able to help those families, help those patients, and help Albertans who need the recovery.

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

### Seniors and Budget 2020

**Ms Sigurdson:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Budget 2019 was difficult for seniors as they saw the erosion of the Alberta seniors' benefit, cuts to program funding, the elimination of the Seniors Advocate, and a general lack of care by this UCP government for the people who built this province. Sadly, the 2020 broken-promise budget makes things even worse for seniors. This government is balancing the budget on the backs of seniors. To the Minister of Seniors and Housing: how can you stand by and do nothing as seniors' services are dismantled under your watch?

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

**Ms Pon:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me be clear. The change of the Alberta seniors' benefit program will not affect current seniors. They will continue to receive the same benefit amounts that they are currently receiving. However, given our current fiscal situation and the fast-growing seniors population in this country, the current program will not be sustainable for future seniors. In order to make sure that the most vulnerable future seniors are protected, we are introducing changes to the ASB program . . .

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

**Ms Sigurdson:** Deindexing the Alberta seniors' benefit means that every senior that receives it has less in their pockets.  
Given that . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** Preamble, hon. member.

**Ms Sigurdson:** . . . this UCP government is being reckless with the health of seniors by not funding a transformational, holistic program at SAGE here in Edmonton and given that the University of Alberta's Faculty of Nursing partners with SAGE to serve seniors with complex needs, where nurse practitioners along with social workers assess and serve seniors in the greater Edmonton area, to the Minister of Health: why is this effective and cost-efficient program being terminated?

**Mr. Shandro:** Well, Madam Speaker, we are going to continue to ensure that we're going to provide the care for the seniors in our communities and in our public hospitals. We're going to ensure that we're spending more than the NDP ever did, more than in the history of this province. We're going to spend more than \$20 billion on our health care system. We're going to continue to ensure that our drug programs for our seniors are sustainable. We're very proud to support our seniors through the health care budget.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Given that SAGE has been forced to send out thousands of letters to patients notifying them that the program will end March 31, 2020, due to this UCP government's disregard and given that this program reduces costs for the government as it keeps seniors out of hospital, why is the government terminating this program, which supports seniors to live well in their communities? Will the minister commit today to reversing these terrible policies and keep SAGE operational?

**Mr. Shandro:** Well, Madam Speaker, as I said, we're going to continue to ensure that we're providing the care in the communities

for our seniors, providing the care for them in the hospitals. We're going to continue to ensure that seniors are going to be at the centre, as all patients are going to be at the centre of the system, unlike the NDP, who didn't put patients and didn't put seniors at the centre of the system. We're going to ensure that patients are the centre of the system, and we're going to continue to ensure that our programs for our seniors are sustainable for future generations as well.  
[interjections]

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Klein.

### Economic Development

**Mr. Jeremy Nixon:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Alberta's economy has been in a downturn for over five years now. The NDP's job-killing carbon tax and their increases to taxes on job creators have caused extensive damage to our economic growth, and it has killed tens of thousands of jobs. Investment fell, companies went elsewhere, and Calgary's downtown emptied as other jurisdictions with favourable investment climates recruited them. Can the Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism tell the House what she is doing to reverse the significant damage that was caused by the previous government?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Technology, for example, is a key element in our economy, and it drives growth in other key sectors such as energy and agriculture. We have tasked an innovation capital working group with developing ways to attract investment into tech start-ups, and tech will be a key target sector in our upcoming investment and growth strategy. My colleague the Minister of Labour and Immigration is also going to be introducing a foreign graduate start-up visa stream to target highly educated grads who want to launch start-ups in Alberta.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Klein.

**Mr. Jeremy Nixon:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the minister for her attention to this matter. Given that it's unrealistic to expect that the damage that was done by the previous government will be fixed overnight and given that we are still seeing ripples of their absolutely terrible economic policy and given that the government has gotten to work immediately to improve conditions and given that we are taking action to ensure that our energy sector sees growth, can the minister tell us what other sectors she is currently working on to help grow our economy?

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Our government is taking a multipronged, government-wide approach. The Minister of Justice and Solicitor General is standing up for us in the courts. The Minister of Energy has taken numerous steps, with CNRL committing to further development, thanks to her changes along with our job-creation tax cut, and CAPP predicting billions more in development. This spring we'll be introducing our investment and growth strategy, which will focus on key sectors of our economy for investment attraction, including the energy sector.

2:30

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Klein.

**Mr. Jeremy Nixon:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, and, again, thank you to the minister for her dutiful efforts to fix the mess we were left. As has been mentioned, investment fell drastically under the previous government. Their 20 per cent increase to taxes on job creators actually brought in less revenue than before, and their government-knows-best ideology led to bureaucratic logjams and heavy administration. We know that we take a broad-based approach to creating economic growth. Can the minister tell us what she is doing to grow the economy and how that fits within our strategy of broad-based economic growth?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

**Ms Fir:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the member. Over the last 10 months I have met with hundreds and hundreds of stakeholders, businesses, existing and potential investors to identify barriers to investment and promoting Alberta as the best place to invest. Our investment and growth strategy will include an investment agency, which will be a one-stop shop concierge service of government investment attraction efforts that will target key international markets for attracting investment. The party of Extinction Rebellion across the aisle drove billions of dollars of investment out of our province. We'll bring it back.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. members, right now is a great time to remind everyone that we don't use preambles at this part of the question period. Each party in this House got a pass on some of their stuff today, but let's just proceed with no more of that.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora.

#### **Education Funding for Students with Special Needs** (continued)

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Another support this Premier has cruelly cancelled to pay for his \$4.7 billion corporate handout is a regional collaborative service delivery grant. This grant supported multidisciplinary teams that provide mental health supports, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, support for those who are deaf and hard of hearing, and Albertans with visual impediments. Why is the Premier so determined to give billions to billionaires and take away crucial services from Alberta students?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education.

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The truth of the matter is that we are maintaining record spending in Education. Our new model, in fact, eliminates a lot of red tape, provides school boards with that flexible and predictable funding that they have long called for, and they are excited to start working with it.

Thank you.

**Ms Hoffman:** Given that boards long advocated for adequate sustainable funding – the Premier and his ministers seem to forget that – and given that this Premier is gutting supports for students with special needs who rely on PUF funding and given that I have been overwhelmed with phone calls and e-mails and messages from parents who are utterly heartbroken at this government's cruelty, will the minister own her choices today and tell the thousands of parents who've been navigating this system for years why she's taking away their child's aide and therapist when they need them the most?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education.

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The fact of the matter is that the eligibility for the PUF funding has not changed, and the funding cap remains at \$25,000. Students with severe learning delays will continue to receive funding at the same level as they do today, period.

**Ms Hoffman:** Given that I have documents here, that I'll table in a few minutes, that show that there are some facilities where children are receiving 40 per cent less funding next year because of this minister, given that these are two massive blows to Alberta families of children with special needs and given that I wish I could convey to this minister and the Premier the sheer despair that these parents have communicated to me, given that they ask me: why is she happy to spend \$30 million on a joke of a war room and leave large profitable corporations with \$4.7 billion more in the bank and laugh all the way to the bank? Madam Speaker, can the minister tell these parents why she is so cruelly indifferent to the struggles of raising a child with special needs?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education.

**Member LaGrange:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. As a mother of seven children, a grandmother of four, and a sister of a brother who was born with Down syndrome, I am very, very compassionate and understand the needs of this particular group. While they continue to put misinformation out there, the truth of the matter is that the PUF funding remains at \$25,000 for every single student that requires it. Our most severe learning delays will continue to receive the same funding that they do today. I can't say it enough: they will be looked after. [interjections]

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Point of order.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. member, a point of order has been noted at 2:35.

The hon. Member for Lethbridge-West.

#### **Lethbridge and Budget 2020**

**Ms Phillips:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Three questions about Lethbridge today. Forty-two positions have been eliminated at the University of Lethbridge. One of them is a fellow named Steve, a single dad who's unsure how he's going to provide for his two little boys now. And there's more to come for the University of Lethbridge, which is a major employer and an economic driver in Lethbridge. The cuts are so severe that we know there are going to be more layoffs in my riding. To the minister. People are wondering if Lethbridge is bearing the brunt of cuts because they voted NDP. Is revenge and retribution how this minister is making government policy?

**Mr. Nicolaides:** Madam Speaker, what a ridiculous question and a ridiculous assertion. Come on. I don't even know where to begin. The fact of the matter is that we are spending more on postsecondary education than comparative provinces, and our outcomes, regrettably, don't appear to be comparable. We look at post-secondary participation rates. Despite the fact that we are spending much more than other provinces on postsecondary education, participation rates have not budged. They are at low levels, 17 per cent for Albertans age 18 to 35. We can't keep going in the same direction. We need to make some changes.

**Ms Phillips:** Given, Madam Speaker, that we saw new schools in Calgary, but southern Alberta did not get any new schools and given that the public system in Lethbridge needs two new schools alone

and given that Lethbridge, all told, got almost nothing in this budget, therefore given that it's no wonder that the city took the unprecedented step of spending \$5,000 a month on a lobbyist because our UCP MLA can't get the job done . . .

**Mr. Ellis:** Point of order.

**Ms Phillips:** . . . why is it that this Premier thinks that his Calgary MLAs are more important than his southern Alberta MLAs?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Toews:** Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm not sure exactly where the question is there, but the reality is this. This government inherited a fiscal mess from the NDP members across the floor. Albertans elected this government to get our financial house in order, and we are doing just that. We're ensuring that we have presented a credible, realistic budget that will bring the province back to balance and clean up the mess that the NDP members across the way created.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Member for Lethbridge-West, I just caution your second supplemental in that it is related to your original question. I see that your theme is Lethbridge, but that might not be good enough.

A point of order has been noted at 2:37.

**Ms Phillips:** Given that I was elected to represent a city and that that is exactly what I'm doing, Madam Speaker, given that Lethbridge is not getting the replacement of a 50-year-old bridge that the Premier promised during the campaign and given that the policies of our new Infrastructure minister mean that the local Lethbridge construction companies could not bid on new schools even if we were getting them, something that the Lethbridge Construction Association has been critical of, and given that the past head of the Lethbridge Construction Association was the Member for Lethbridge-East, is it now this government's policy that capital plan decisions are made by ministers who don't feel the need to listen to the local voices that they've sidelined to the backbenches?

**Mr. Panda:** Madam Speaker, if the member can look into the budget and look at the capital plan spending, it is unprecedented. We're spending \$6.9 billion across the province building big and beautiful schools, better than the NDP. It's a shame that they chose International Women's Day to attack Janice MacKinnon. Shame on you.

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

#### AISH and Income Support Payment Schedule

**Mr. Turton:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Last month the Minister of Community and Social Services announced a change to the date for the payments of the assured income for the severely handicapped and income support programs. As we know, many vulnerable Albertans and their dependants rely on these programs every month to meet their financial needs, and this includes many of my constituents in Spruce Grove-Stony Plain. Can the minister please provide an update to the House about how the benefit payment process occurred for March of 2020?

2:40

**Mrs. Sawhney:** Madam Speaker, thank you to the member for his question and for his commitment to the vulnerable in his

community. This MLA is well-known for holding myself and my cabinet colleagues to account, and we all encourage it. Our government knows how important income support and AISH benefits are for Albertans who rely on them. Starting March 2020, the monthly payment date for AISH and income support was changed to the 1st of the month to provide more consistency. The March 2020 payment run occurred as scheduled on February 28 with outcomes typical to what we normally see every month.

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

**Mr. Turton:** Thank you, Madam Speaker and to the minister for her answer. Given that according to your department the caseload for the AISH program is currently over 68,000 people and for the income support program is over 60,000 and given that these programs are often the main or only income these Albertans receive, as many residents of Spruce Grove and Stony Plain have informed me, can you please provide us with an update for the other individuals on the program who also receive monthly support?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Community and Social Services.

**Mrs. Sawhney:** Thank you for that question, Madam Speaker. I can confirm the following for the February 28 payment breakdown. It's important to know that every month we have new clients coming into the program and clients going out of the programs. In terms of numbers, over 98 per cent of the 107,000 payments that went to clients on Friday were direct deposits. About 13,000 other payments were made by cheque. Of the cheque payments almost 12,000 were sent to a third party. This might include a landlord or a utility provider or anyone else that the client consented to release a portion of their payment to.

**Mr. Turton:** Thank you, Minister, for your answer. Given that many people have reached out to my office, worried about the disruption of the changes to their ability to pay bills on time, and given that some recipients of AISH will need additional help changing their billing cycles to conform to the new schedule, would the minister please provide us with an update on her actions taken so far to ensure that this change in the payment date is occurring smoothly and with minimal impact on clients?

**Mrs. Sawhney:** Madam Speaker, it's my priority to ensure minimal disruption for our vulnerable clients. I have asked for a daily update from my department. As of March 4 the calls received on the day of the payment and the days following were similar to the calls received in previous months. In fact, while we have received 42 more calls about AISH this month, 329 this month and 287 last month, we received 87 fewer calls about income support. As you know, the payment date changed every month previously. This month was no different, and the system performed exactly as it typically does. We're monitoring the situation closely and have worked hard to prevent negative consequences from the date change. I would also like to add, to any members of this House who have received questions or concerns . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. member, your time is up.

We will proceed with the rest of the Routine here in 30 seconds.

#### Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

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

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. As chair of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills I am pleased to table the committee's final report on Bill 201, the Strategic Aviation Advisory Council Act, sponsored by the hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek. The bill was referred to the committee on February 27, 2020. The committee's final report recommends that Bill 201 proceed. I request concurrence of the Assembly in the final report on Bill 201.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. members, the motion for concurrence in the report on Bill 201, Strategic Aviation Advisory Council Act, is debatable pursuant to Standing Order 18(1)(b). Are there any members who wish to speak on the motion for concurrence?

[Motion for concurrence carried]

### Notices of Motions

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

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to give oral notice of the following bills: Bill 6, Appropriation Act, 2020, sponsored by the hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board; Bill 7, Responsible Energy Development Amendment Act, 2020, sponsored by the hon. the Minister of Energy; and finally, Bill 8, Protecting Survivors of Human Trafficking Act, sponsored by the hon. the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

### Introduction of Bills

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

#### Bill 202

#### Conflicts of Interest (Protecting the Rule of Law) Amendment Act, 2020

**Ms Ganley:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise today to seek leave to introduce a bill, the Conflicts of Interest (Protecting the Rule of Law) Amendment Act, 2020.

This bill, Madam Speaker, will amend the Conflicts of Interest Act to recognize that members have a political interest in the outcome of investigations into their parties and their leaders.

Thank you.

[Motion carried; Bill 202 read a first time]

### Tabling Returns and Reports

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

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have the requisite number of copies of a letter that parents forwarded to me. They received this from GRIT, which refers to the 40 per cent cut that they are facing given this minister's new funding formula that she says isn't actually inflicting any cuts. They also say that "GRIT views the new funding models as a return to segregated classrooms where children with disabilities are clustered together. The new funding model [does] not [support the] best practices in the research for inclusive early childhood services."

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

**Ms Pancholi:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to table the requisite number of copies of a number of e-mails and letters received by my office, that were also sent to the Minister of Children's Services, sent by constituents of the Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, the Member for Chestermere-Strathmore, as well as from the constituency of Banff-Kananaskis as well as from the constituency of Lacombe-Ponoka. These letters all relate to the government's decision to cut the benefit contribution grant to child care centres, which has resulted in an impact on child care fees, increasing those fees and making child care increasingly unaffordable.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Are there any other members? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

**Member Irwin:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The first tabling that I would like to make is a petition with 450 signatures from an incredible advocate in the community named Tarra Carlson. The petition is basically about the changes to disability support, and I've got the requisite number of copies of said petition.

The second thing I would like to table are a few e-mails related to the change in biosimilars. I've got some folks sending messages to the Member for St. Albert about their concerns about this government's changes.

Finally, I would like to present the requisite number of copies of a large pile of e-mails from folks who are quite concerned about Bill 22 and the changes to pensions.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

**Ms Goehring:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have the requisite number of copies for some e-mails that I would like to table. They're e-mails that have been CCed to the Premier, the Minister of Education, the MLA for St. Albert, and the MLA for Morinville-St. Albert. People are expressing concerns about the cuts that are happening to the education system, their distress. If I could just table those, that would be appreciated.

Thank you.

2:50

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

**Ms Sigurdson:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to table the requisite number of copies of the letter that I spoke about in my question today in question period. It's from SAGE about the closure of their program.

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

**Ms Renaud:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have copies of letters from constituents. The first package are nine letters about the AISH date change. I also have letters about Blue Cross coverage changes and optometry cuts.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Any other tablings? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to table five copies of a letter from a constituent concerned about the impact to the Allen Gray early learning child care centre around the \$25-a-day program that is ending.

Thank you.



### Tablings to the Clerk

**The Clerk:** I wish to advise the Assembly that the following documents were deposited with the office of the Clerk. On behalf of the hon. Mr. Glubish, Minister of Service Alberta, responses to questions raised by Mr. Carson, hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday; Ms Pancholi, hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud; and Mr. Dach, hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung on November 19, 2019, Ministry of Service Alberta main estimates debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** We are now at points of order.  
The hon. Government House Leader.

### Point of Order

#### Reflections on a Nonmember

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I believe there are three. I'm rising on the first one. I'll rise on the second, and I think the hon. government whip will rise on the third.

Madam Speaker, during question period today the Member for Edmonton-North West used his question today to smear a member of the public by name in this Assembly. I would draw your attention to *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, third edition, on page 622, that says:

Members are discouraged from referring by name to persons who are not Members of Parliament and who do not enjoy parliamentary immunity, except in extraordinary circumstances when the national interest calls for this. The Speaker has ruled that Members have a responsibility to protect the innocent not only from outright slander, but from any slur directly or indirectly implied, and has suggested that Members avoid as much as possible mentioning by name people from outside the House who are unable to reply in their own defence.

You can see why this rule exists, Madam Speaker. In the first supplemental from the Member for Edmonton-North West he made suggestions that Dr. Janice MacKinnon should be concerned for her safety whenever she goes to the University of Alberta. [interjections] Now, Madam Speaker, the NDP and the Leader of the Opposition may heckle over that, but, on a day like today, for them to do that, to in any way belittle somebody's safety when they go to a university is beneath them, and the Leader of the Official Opposition should not heckle during that. She should call her members to account.

Now, I don't have the benefit of the Blues, but the remarks we have here in the notes that I took say:

Well, given that the minister has now appointed what many see as the fox to guard the henhouse and given that students at the U of A are facing tuition hikes of more than 7 per cent, increased costs for residency, increased costs for meal plans, to the minister: do you expect Janice MacKinnon to be actually welcome on campus? Perhaps she could hold a town hall for students, look them in the eye, and explain what she's done to them.

I think the comments do a disservice to the Chamber, are beneath the opposition, Madam Speaker. Certainly, Dr. MacKinnon cannot defend herself from them inside this Chamber. In any way to imply that Dr. MacKinnon would be unsafe at the University of Alberta or to imply that students should do anything to Dr. MacKinnon or anybody else is shameful and beneath the Official Opposition.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Official Opposition House Leader.

**Ms Sweet:** Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. This is clearly a dispute of the facts. The member did say to not expect Dr. MacKinnon to be welcome on campus. Let's be clear. This government references Dr. MacKinnon and her report repeatedly in this

House on an ongoing basis as rationale for the decisions that they have made under their budget. Our hon. member on this side of the House was referencing that very report that this government continues to reference in regard to Dr. MacKinnon, saying that she would then have a responsibility at the U of A to stand up and have to rationalize the report that she wrote that, in fact, as this government continues to reference, says that there needs to be budgetary cuts to postsecondary.

Again, Madam Speaker, it is a dispute of the facts. The intention was not what this government would like it to be, and in fact they reference this individual repeatedly in the House. If they would like to stop referencing her by name and the report, then we will respect that as well.

**Mr. McIver:** Madam Speaker, what I just heard – the major difference here, which the hon. Opposition House Leader made, is that referencing the report is not the same as referencing the person. On our side we often reference the report repeatedly. What they referenced today was whether the person should be welcome on campus and, by extension, other things.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods. Why not?

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much. I appreciate the comments from the government, but I did want to add two new points to this debate. Asking if she would be welcome does in no way imply harm or safety. It is a reasonable question. This government has spoken about Dr. Janice MacKinnon as a person in this House repeatedly, and that is not a fact that is under dispute. It is not solely in referencing the report that her name has been used in this House.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. members, thank you for the discussion around this particular point of order. I do have the Blues available to me, and I do know what was said. The comment in question was, "Do you expect Janice MacKinnon to be actually welcome on campus?" in which a point of order was called at that time. While this may not particularly sound like a polite statement to make, it doesn't seem to meet the threshold for a point of order in respect of threatening or offensive language.

I consider this matter now dealt with and closed.

The hon. Government House Leader.

### Point of Order

#### Allegations against a Member

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise on 23(h), (i), and (j) in regard to the question that was taking place at the time between the acting NDP leader and the hon. the Minister of Education, I think. I may have the asker of the question mistaken, but I do believe that's who it was. I definitely have which minister was being asked correct, and I know you have the time up there.

At that time the member said to the Minister of Education that she is cruel and indifferent. Madam Speaker, there are several rulings inside this Chamber by the Speaker making it clear that hon. members should not be referring directly to a member. She did not say that the policies were cruel and indifferent, did not indicate anything along those lines. That clearly is 23(h), which is making allegations against the other member. Let me be clear. The Education minister is not cruel and indifferent. It clearly is (i). It "imputes false or unavowed motives to another Member." Lastly and most importantly, it's abusive language of a nature that is "likely to create disorder" in this place.

Now, I would like to think that the hon. acting leader of the NDP was trying to refer to policy and not directly to the member. Sometimes things can become heated in this Chamber. That's fair. If that's the case, she should rise, withdraw, and apologize to the hon. minister.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Opposition House Leader.

**Ms Sweet:** Well, thank you, Madam Chair. I think before I get into that matter of point of order, I would just like, out of respect for the whole House, that the hon. House Leader use the appropriate names when relating to members in our roles within our caucus.

Speaking in regard to the actual point of order, I recognize that this is a matter of debate. This is a matter of debate. I will read that there was a comment around: "is so cruelly indifferent to the struggles of raising a child with special needs." Again, of course, I recognize that, as Speakers have in the past, it does need to be directed to government. Again, I think we are disagreeing on the budget and the matters of that budget, but at your direction I can have the member withdraw the comment.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I think that would be a wonderful solution to this situation.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess next time I will say, "Why are the policies that she is delivering so cruel and heartless?" rather than implying that it is her herself. Today I am very willing to apologize and withdraw the phrasing that I used.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

The hon. government whip.

3:00

## Point of Order Supplementary Questions

**Mr. Ellis:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise on a point of order that was made at 2:37 p.m. against the Member for Lethbridge-West during her questions. She had a question that – and forgive me; I do not have the benefit of the Blues in this particular case. But I do recall it having to do with hardships, I believe, that constituents were facing as it related to postsecondary decisions, which is, of course, why the Minister of Advanced Education answered that particular question. Then the first supplemental, from my understanding, again not having the benefit of the Blues, was referring to schools that were being built. I think what we heard was high schools that were being built, which caused a little bit of confusion because it was not related; thus, the Finance minister answered the question. Then, of course, the second supplemental was regarding an infrastructure question, which the Minister of Infrastructure answered. Again, possibly it could be argued that the second might be related to the third, but either way it does not appear that the second or third related to the first question.

Now, Madam Speaker, I would like to say that, of course, as you are fully aware and this House is aware, Mr. Speaker dealt with a very similar point of order even as recently as yesterday when my good friend the Government House Leader rose on a point of order. I will just reiterate the points that were made, and I will do my best to be brief. As my friend indicated, he rose on this point of order, a similar situation yesterday, and he cited Speaker Kowalski on May 12, 2004 – and you can find this on page 1390 of *Hansard* that day – in which the Speaker said:

There's also a tradition we follow here that if an hon. member is recognized, they raise a first question and then they're allowed two supplementals.

And then he went on to say:

It has always been understood that supplementals must have something to do with the first question.

I will also refer, of course, to *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, third edition, 2017, page 513. Under Supplementary Questions it says:

By definition, a supplementary question is meant to arise from the information given to the House by a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary in his or her response to the initial question.

Now, I will additionally add a comment made by Mr. Speaker even as recently as yesterday in which he did provide caution to the Official Opposition: "As such . . . it is important that all members of the House," not just, of course, the Official Opposition but all members of this House, "try to do everything they can to follow the rules."

Madam Speaker, I would argue that it has been only 24 hours, and a similar mistake, I will call it, has been made. I ask that you find that this is something that needs to be corrected. It is a long-standing tradition in this House that the main question and the second and third supplementals of course have a relation to it. I think it's a long-standing procedure, and I ask that those rules continue to be enforced.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Official Opposition House Leader.

**Ms Sweet:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I mean, I think this is clearly a matter of debate. Again, I just want to recognize that when the member stood up to ask her three questions, the very first thing she said was: "Three questions about Lethbridge today." Then she referenced Lethbridge in her first question. She referenced Lethbridge again and the dynamics in Lethbridge in her second question. Then again in her third supplemental she referenced Lethbridge and the impacts on Lethbridge in the budget. So in all three questions she mentioned the budget; in all three questions she mentioned Lethbridge. All three are connected via her constituency.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. members, thank you for that information. There was so much there. I'm very grateful. I am prepared to rule.

I would tend to agree with the government arguments, as I had cautioned during the question being asked. While it is very creative to tie all of her questions to a city, I think that opens up a whole can of worms that this Assembly doesn't want to deal with.

So I will caution the members of the Official Opposition in their questions moving forward as this is now the second day in a row where we've experienced something like this. I will commend the creativity with which the questions were attempted to be answered. But from now on there's no more.

That matter is now considered dealt with.

## Orders of the Day

### Government Motions

#### Provincial Fiscal Policies

4. Mr. Toews moved:  
Be it resolved that the Assembly approve in general the business plans and fiscal policies of the government.

[Adjourned debate February 27: Ms Sweet]

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that we adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

**Mr. Jason Nixon:** Madam Speaker, I move that the Assembly adjourn pursuant to Standing Order 3(6) until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:06 p.m. to Monday, March 16, at 1:30 p.m.]



## **Bill Status Report for the 30th Legislature - 2nd Session (2020)**

**Activity to Thursday, March 5, 2020**

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 — Critical Infrastructure Defence Act (Kenney)**

First Reading — 4 (*Feb. 25, 2020 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 12-18 (*Feb. 26, 2020 morn.*), 96-98 (*Mar. 2, 2020 aft., adjourned*)

### **Bill 2 — Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Amendment Act, 2020 (Hunter)**

First Reading — 30 (*Feb. 26, 2020 aft., passed*)

### **Bill 3 — Mobile Home Sites Tenancies Amendment Act, 2020 (Glubish)**

First Reading — 30 (*Feb. 26, 2020 aft., passed*)

### **Bill 4 — Fiscal Planning and Transparency (Fixed Budget Period) Amendment Act, 2020 (Toews)**

First Reading — 62 (*Feb. 27, 2020 aft., passed*)

### **Bill 5 — Fiscal Measures and Taxation Act, 2020 (Toews)**

First Reading — 110 (*Mar. 3, 2020 aft., passed*)

### **Bill 201 — Strategic Aviation Advisory Council Act (Gotfried)**

First Reading — 62 (*Feb. 27, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*), 136 (*Mar. 5, 2020 aft., reported to Assembly*)

### **Bill 202 — Conflicts of Interest (Protecting the Rule of Law) Amendment Act, 2020 (Ganley)**

First Reading — 136 (*Mar. 5, 2020 aft., passed; referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills*)



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