



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
Fourth Session

Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, March 16, 2023

Day 20

The Honourable Nathan M. Cooper, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 30th Legislature

Fourth Session

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Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie-East (UC), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees
Reid, Roger W., Livingstone-Macleod (UC), Deputy Chair of Committees

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Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-West Henday (NDP)
Ceci, Hon. Joe, ECA, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)
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Vacant, Calgary-Lougheed

Party standings:

United Conservative: 60

New Democrat: 23

Independent: 2

Vacant: 2

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Deputy Chair: Mrs. Allard

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Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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Deputy Chair: Ms Goehring

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Barnes
Bilous
Carson
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Standing Committee on Families and Communities

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Carson
Dang
Fir
Gottfried
Long
Sabir
Smith, Mark
Yao
Yaseen

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Smith

Deputy Chair: Mr. van Dijken

Ceci
Dach
Hunter
Loyola
Orr
Panda
Rehn
Shepherd
Toor

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Deol
Fir
Goehring
Gray
McIver
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Sigurdson, L.
Singh
Sweet

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Deputy Chair: Mr. Gottfried

Aheer
Allard
Armstrong-Homeniuk
Deol
Ganley
Loyola
Nixon, Jason
Rehn
Renaud
Yao

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

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Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

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Aheer
Dach
Ganley
Getson
Issik
Nielsen
Orr
Sigurdson, R.J.
Singh
Turton

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 16, 2023

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our King, to his 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 ideas but, laying aside all private interest and prejudice, keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all.

Statement by the Speaker

Deaths of Constables Travis Jordan and Brett Ryan

The Speaker: Hon. members, I ask you to remain standing as we take a moment to pay our respects. Constable Travis Jordan, 35, Constable Brett Ryan, 30, were tragically taken from us this morning while they were murdered in the line of duty. Both men made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of our communities, for our people, and we are all forever in their debt. Our thoughts, our prayers, and our support is with their families as well as the greater policing community, including the sheriffs and the Legislative Assembly security service. I ask that you join me now in a moment of silence as we remember the lives of these two courageous young officers. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Members, we will now be led in the singing of *God Save the King* by Ms Nicole Williams.

Hon. Members:

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King!

The Speaker: Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: Hon. members, I do have a number of guests to introduce today, and for the benefit and knowledge of all members, the introductions clock doesn't begin until the conclusion of the Speaker's introductions.

Members, seated in the Speaker's gallery is one of the most incredible, most outstanding constituents of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills; she is my constituency assistant, Alana Gibson. She's accompanied by her husband, Alastair Gibson, and their three wonderful daughters: Charlotte, Elizabeth, and Amelia. I invite the Gibsons to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Also seated in the Speaker's gallery today are very, very close, good friends of mine: Lauren Casamayor, Jack Casamayor, and Eli Casamayor. They are constituents who live in Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills; they are here as part of the home-schooling association of NorthStar Academy in Didsbury. Also my favourite sister, much to the chagrin of my other sister, Naomi Pulliam, and my nephew Isaac Pulliam. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Today we are very, very pleased to have joining us the grandfather of our head page, Ayla Seigny. Her grandfather Mr. Doug Tupper is the former executive director of the Police Commission, so it is on a particularly difficult day for him, but I ask them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Finally, hon. members, I'd also like to introduce to you and through me six staff of the Alberta Ombudsman's office seated in the galleries. These hard-working staff are here today to watch the proceedings, and the Ombudsman is appreciative of their work. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The hon. the Member for Lacombe-Ponoka has a school group.

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am very happy to introduce the classes from l'école Lacombe upper elementary school. I'd like to recognize their teachers Derek Rankin and Heather Mackay-Hawkins – both have been with the school for more than 20 years – also educational assistants Angela Richter and Eden Cade. Included in this class is the granddaughter of my constituency assistant Cheryl Christie. To all the students and teachers from l'école Lacombe upper elementary school: please rise today and receive the warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Sherwood Park has a school group.

Mr. Walker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to introduce to you and through you the grades 5 and 6 classes from Woodbridge Farms elementary school and their teacher, Antonia Triska. Thank you, all, so much for being here. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of this House.

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to welcome the grade 6 students from Menno Simons Christian school, accompanied by their teacher, Erin Folkerts. If we can give them the warm welcome of this Assembly and have them rise, please.

Thank you.

The Speaker: I might take a brief Speaker liberty, that my childhood babysitter has joined this school group; Mr. George Graffunder, please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The hon. Member for Peace River.

Mr. Williams: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you a terrific friend of mine, a community builder, a council member for the town of Peace River, a cancer survivor, and, more importantly, a deeply good person, Shelly Shannon. Please rise and receive the very warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Red Deer-South has an introduction.

Mr. Stephan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you my friend Nick de Gier. Nick is a lifelong central Albertan and a civil engineering student at the University of Alberta. Admitted at only the age of 17, he is also a member of the United Conservatives club at the university and is excited to learn about the work we do here. Please rise and receive a warm welcome from the Assembly.

The Speaker: Are there others? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora.

Ms Hoffman: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce Doug Tupper. As was mentioned, he was on the Police Commission. He's also a former assistant deputy minister with Alberta environment and was a trustee and board chair with Edmonton public schools, but most importantly he's a grandfather to Ayla Sevigny. He's here to watch her today in action, so please join me in welcoming him as well.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Chestermere-Strathmore.

Mrs. Aheer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today to introduce to you and through you my very good friend Dr. Bhavini Gohel. Bhavini is the director and cofounder of Grassroots Global Health, an acute-care physician, site chief of a hospitalist program in South Health Campus in Calgary, and a clinical assistant professor at the University of Calgary. Thank you so much to the minister of Indigenous affairs and to Maya Ehtay today for meeting with us, and thank you so much to you, Dr. Gohel, for all the work that you do here at home and across the globe. If you would please rise to receive the warm welcome.

Ministerial Statements

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services.

Deaths of Constables Travis Jordan and Brett Ryan

Mr. Ellis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with a very heavy heart. Last night Constable Travis Jordan and Constable Brett Ryan of the Edmonton Police Service were tragically killed in the line of duty while responding to a call.

Constable Brett Ryan was 30 years old, had five and a half years of service. Constable Travis Jordan was 35, and he had about eight and a half years of service. Today the province mourns the loss of these two heroes. We send our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and friends.

Mr. Speaker, every day police officers across Alberta put their uniforms on. They step up and protect and serve our communities. These courageous men and women bravely rise to any challenge that comes their way to protect the public. Police officers are more than just the uniform that they wear; they are an integral part of the communities that they serve.

1:40

Their moms, their dads, their brothers or sisters, their daughters or sons: like any other job, family members send their loved ones off to work. Unlike any other job, these family members hope and they pray and they worry that their loved ones may not return home safely at the end of their shift. For the Ryan and Jordan families this did not happen today. The sudden and tragic deaths of these officers remind us again of the dangers that police officers face – constantly face – when they serve the people of Alberta. Alberta would not be the great province that it is today without the service and sacrifice of constables Jordan and Ryan, and Alberta's government is here to support the Edmonton Police Service, their members, their families during this tragedy. To honour the service and dedication of these officers lost, the flags of the Legislature will be lowered to half-mast.

Mr. Speaker, there are no words that I can say to make up for the loss of life that occurred today. As a former police officer myself, to all my brothers and sisters out there that are on the front lines, I

mourn with you. Everybody here mourns with you. And to the members of EPS and all of our front-line law enforcement: we all here have your back.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and of course thank you to the minister for his words today. It is with great sadness that I rise to deliver this statement to the House marking the loss of two Edmonton police officers killed in the line of duty earlier this morning: Constable Travis Jordan, 35 years old, a member for eight and a half years; Constable Brett Ryan, 30 years old, a member of five years. I know that there are no words that can truly capture the scale of heartbreak experienced by Albertans today, so I rise only to offer the sincerest and deepest condolences on behalf of His Majesty's Official Opposition.

I first want to speak to the members of the Edmonton Police Service and, by extension, all Albertans who serve their communities on police forces across this province. Alberta stands with you. Today's tragedy reminds us of your sacrifice and of your bravery. You put yourselves in danger for the sake of our loved ones, our children, our parents, and our grandparents, people who mean the world to someone but are total strangers to you. You work in one of the most dangerous professions in the world and the consequences of your courage can sometimes be devastating. Today all of Alberta grieves with you.

I want to speak to the families of these officers. It takes an enormous amount of strength to see your loved ones go to work every day, knowing that they will face these kinds of dangerous situations, and to receive this news is devastating. But do know that you are not alone and that all Albertans mourn with you.

Mr. Speaker, we also know there's another woman involved in this event. This was a domestic dispute, and there's now a woman fighting for her life in hospital, so we extend our condolences and support to her and to her family as well.

Finally, I wish to speak to all of us in this Assembly no matter what side of the aisle we sit on. Across this country we have lost seven officers in the last six months. We know that front-line responders are facing increased risks doing their job, keeping citizens safe. After three years of greater and greater stress on our communities all across this country, I believe that we can say that these incidents are not isolated, and neither are the solutions. It's on all of us to do everything we can to keep our communities safe and, through that, to keep our officers safe, and we can do that in our roles here by working to build more secure communities. We owe it to the memory of Constable Jordan and Constable Ryan to come together to find solutions and to provide greater support and greater strength to Albertans throughout our province. We owe it to all first responders, their families, and all Albertans to do everything we can to keep officers safe as they set out each day to do the same for us.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Members' Statements

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

Automobile Insurance Premiums

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Families across this province are feeling the pressure of the increased cost of living. It costs more to put food on a table because grocery prices have increased,

utilities are more expensive, and it's harder for Albertans to pay for their homes as both mortgages and rent are increasing right now.

Today I'm going to speak to the need to support Alberta drivers by making insurance more affordable. It's harder for families to drive to work, drop kids off at school and their sports games and music lessons when insurance premiums increase, and they have increased a lot over the past few years. Many families saw their premium go up as high as 30 per cent during the pandemic. This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker, and it is avoidable.

I was proud to be part of a government that successfully froze insurance premiums. We did this even though the province faced many economic challenges. We prioritized this because supporting families to pay their bills is most important during tough economic times. Under the UCP insurance premiums skyrocketed. Albertans paid more even though they drove less during the pandemic. We continually called for the UCP to support drivers and stop allowing insurance premiums to increase.

I was glad to see the UCP announce that they would freeze insurance rates in January until the end of 2023; however, Mr. Speaker, that good news was short-lived because two insurance companies announced the rate increases in March for 13 and 16 per cent, which were approved by the Automobile Insurance Rate Board. Unfortunately, the announced insurance freeze is no freeze at all. Albertans pay more for the most expensive car insurance in Canada, and it's still getting more expensive. Albertans deserve real relief to bring down the costs of keeping their cars on the road.

Deaths of Constables Travis Jordan and Brett Ryan

Mr. Long: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an unthinkable and unimaginable tragedy that happened last night. The lives of two dedicated EPS officers were tragically taken. This is a tragedy that will be felt around the halls of the Legislature, around the city of Edmonton, our province, our country, and indeed around the world.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the families and friends of the fallen officers who were involved in this heartbreaking event. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you navigate the days and the weeks ahead.

I also want to acknowledge the security guards here today, most who are retired EPS officers themselves, many who are connected with last night's tragic event in some way, shape, or form. Yet they are here today showing the true heart of EPS members both past and present. It's a heart that exemplifies courage, integrity, and service to community. Our thoughts are with you.

I want to thank all the men and women in uniform that put their lives at risk every single day to keep our communities safe. Alberta's law enforcement agencies are world-class and part of the reason Alberta is the best place to live, work, and raise a family. Rest assured our thoughts and our prayers are with you today. We stand with you. Thank you for your service.

Youth Transition to Adulthood Program

Ms Issik: Mr. Speaker, Alberta's children are the future of this great province, and securing their future should be our top priority. Children in care have survived difficult circumstances. They have lived through trauma and face barriers in work and their education when they transition out of care. The transition to adulthood program, or TAP, exists to remove that barrier. The TAP program provides children in care the supports they need to transition into adulthood. Just as the program's namesake suggests, it acts as a bridge for children in care as they age into adulthood and proceed on their journey to fulfill their full potential.

1:50

We need to remove barriers to education, employment for Alberta's youth and young adults transitioning out of care so that they can have access to the same opportunities as their peers. This is precisely the reason why I'm thrilled that Alberta's government has made the decision to change the eligibility of age to 24 while simultaneously injecting \$28 million into the program to ensure that young adults have more options once they age out of care. This will help bridge the gaps when children in care need to access postsecondary education, employment and skills training and placement, and help prepare them for everyday life once they have moved on from the foster care system.

Everyone, no matter their background, should have equal opportunities to succeed in this great province. Programs like TAP are doing just that to ensure that no child in Alberta is left behind. Securing Alberta's future also means protecting our most vulnerable, especially Alberta's youth and young adults. Thank you for making sure that youth aging out of care are fully empowered to succeed as adults.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: The Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition has question 1.

Deaths of Constables Travis Jordan and Brett Ryan

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, I know all of us in this Assembly were heartbroken, as we've already discussed, to learn of the deaths of the two Edmonton police officers this morning, Constable Travis Jordan and Constable Brett Ryan. These officers were killed in the line of duty, doing their jobs, serving their communities. Our opposition joins the government in offering our deepest condolences to their families and their friends and their colleagues in this devastating loss. We all share in that grief and that sadness. To the minister of public safety: can he tell us what supports are being provided to families and loved ones of these officers?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you very much, and I'd like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Alberta's government, of course, extends our deepest sympathies and condolences to the friends and families and loved ones of the fallen officers as a result of the tragic events that occurred today. Alberta's government established the heroes' fund in 2020 for first responders who die in the line of duty. This fund provides a one-time, tax-free payment of a hundred thousand dollars for eligible family members. First responders eligible for the payment would include police officers, firefighters, paramedics, sheriffs, and provincial corrections officers who die as a result of their duties.

Again, I'd like to thank the member of the opposition.

Ms Notley: Thank you very much to the minister for that answer. This tragedy is a sombre reminder of the dangers that police officers face each and every day in their service to Albertans. We know that police members are family and that these events have an impact on every single member of the service. We want to make sure that those members, those officers, are supported in this difficult time as well. Can the minister tell this Assembly what supports or services are being provided to fellow Edmonton police officers grieving this unimaginable loss?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you very much, and I couldn't agree more with the Leader of the Opposition. We are united on this. The government of Alberta is going to continue to support the Edmonton Police Service through this incredibly difficult time. To these fantastic men and women who patrol our streets every day to keep our communities safe: we're here to help and offer any resources that we have available. We're, of course, in direct contact with the Edmonton Police Service and there to let them know that we are here for them, and to all the courageous officers on the front lines, let them know as well: we are all here for you.

The Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again to the minister. These tragedies, of course, also carry a deep impact on the community and on our city and on our province. I know that all of Edmonton and all of Alberta stand in solidarity with our officers today, and the people of this city and this province will be looking for ways to express their condolences. In fact, I know for a certainty that the people of this city and this province will do everything they can to show their support for these officers and their families. Will the province be planning a memorial or another way for the public to pay their respects and share their grief?

The Speaker: The minister.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you very much. Of course, the overwhelming support across this country has been amazing. Our government is going to continue to work with EPS to pay our respects to Constable Travis Jordan and Constable Brett Ryan in the appropriate manner. We're going to support EPS on memorial and remembrance opportunities. The officers' names will be included in the *Pillar of Strength* monument on the south grounds of the Legislature, and their names are going to be part of the honour roll read out at Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Day. The families are also presented with copies of the dove-shaped plaques inscribed with the officers' names and placed on the monument. I can tell you that there are lots of ways we're going to support and remember these two officers, but right now we're going to support these families.

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

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are all shocked by the death of two Edmonton police officers earlier today. As critic for Justice and public safety I join my colleagues on both sides of this House to extend my deepest condolences to the loved ones of Constable Travis Jordan and Constable Brett Ryan and to their fellow officers at Edmonton Police Service and across this province. Can the Premier update this House on what supports are available to those grieving this loss?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services.

Mr. Ellis: Well, thank you very much. I think we're very fortunate that the Edmonton Police Service along with the Edmonton Police Association have been extremely supportive. I have seen them. They are there for those families, who have been grief stricken over the deaths of these officers, not to mention the police officers that I saw earlier today, who also have been extremely grief stricken. I can tell you that we are working very closely with the Edmonton

Police Service and the Edmonton Police Association to ensure whatever supports they need are available to them.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Minister, for that answer. The second sudden loss of two officers will reopen painful memories for many Albertans. Alberta has lost many brave officers and first responders in the line of duty. Many people in my community are reminded of the death of Calgary police Sergeant Andrew Harnett on New Year's Eve in 2020. Can the minister talk about mental health supports that are available to first responders, former first responders, and their families, who will certainly be impacted by this tragedy?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you. I'll let the minister speak. Let me just say this. Sergeant Andrew Harnett was a constable when I was a sergeant with the Calgary Police Service, and I want to thank you for bringing that up. It was a very tragic event for the officers that I worked with. Obviously, the death of that officer is horrific; any death – any death – is horrific. I will just say this. Every one of us here has to learn lessons from these tragic events to make sure that they don't happen again. I will say on behalf of the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction there are enormous supports that are available to help these families, to help these police services.

Thank you.

Mr. Sabir: Thank you, Minister, for that answer. I do know that you have served on the front lines.

I realize that only a few hours have passed, but many Albertans are looking for ways to express their support for Edmonton Police Service, their colleagues, and loved ones of those fallen officers. Before the details of memorial services are available, can you share with Albertans how they can express support for Edmonton Police Service, for those who have lost their loved ones?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Ellis: Well, thank you. I think that at this time if people want to express their condolences, I would recommend that they reach out to the Edmonton Police Service. You know, let me just say this, and this was brought up today at the press conference. If you see a police officer, thank them. Thank them for their service. Thank them for what they do. I would say that that is a first step in the right direction, but certainly if you would like to express your condolences, then reach out to the Edmonton Police Service. I know that they have a big heart, and they would probably really appreciate it.

Thank you, sir.

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

Ms Hoffman: I, too, want to express my condolences for everyone impacted by the brutal killings this morning, including the families and colleagues of constables Jordan and Ryan.

Affordability Plan Cash Payments

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents have contacted me to ask about why they're not eligible for the government's affordability payments despite financial hardship that they are going through. Less than a quarter of Albertans have received payment so far. Will the Premier consider expanding eligibility to help low-income folks who don't have children?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors has risen.

Mr. Dreeshen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to provide condolences to the families on the senseless violence that happened last night.

In response to the question, though, in the first 24 hours of the affordability portal, when it did open, 140,000 applications came through; that's 140,000 Albertans that were receiving this payment. It is something that – it's \$100 a month going towards those who need supports the most. It is something that we've worked very hard to make sure that everybody is receiving this payment that can get the payment, and it is something that we on this side of the aisle obviously know. When it comes to inflation and the cost of living, it's something that we try as a government very hard to reduce. That's why we have low taxes, we fought the carbon tax and other measures that have increased the cost of living in Alberta, and are continuing to find ways to make life more affordable in Alberta.

2:00

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, when these payments were first announced, the government said that it would cost approximately \$900 million in payments to Albertans. However, last month they confirmed that only \$96 million had actually been paid out to Albertans. We know that there are hundreds of thousands of Albertans who are eligible under the already-limited criteria who could really use the help, so to the government: why have so few Albertans received affordability payments?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors.

Mr. Dreeshen: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to remind the opposition and tell all Albertans that when it comes to the fuel tax being removed permanently here in Alberta, that goes a long way to helping Alberta families get to work, drive to work, and drive their kids to soccer or hockey practice. Also, the electricity rebate is also going to all Albertans. There's a suite of measures that our government put in place to try to help with this inflation crisis that's hitting every single Alberta family, and those are two examples that help every single Albertan.

Ms Hoffman: Mr. Speaker, we know that the application process for these payments isn't easy for some Albertans. While many have applied, many applications require edits to make them eligible. Registry agents have told us that there isn't an edit button so that people can make changes to their applications, and on Monday in estimates the minister for service Alberta acknowledged this issue. We are already halfway through the eligibility period, and this edit button can make a difference for people struggling to pay their bills this month. Will the Premier commit that an edit button will be added by the end of the month and that everyone eligible will get compensation for the months that have already passed?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Technology and Innovation.

Mr. Glubish: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister responsible for the team that is building out the functionality of this portal, I'm happy to respond. It's a thoughtful question. I want to highlight that an edit button has been added already for individual applicants so that if there's an individual Albertan who had an issue with getting their banking information signed up for direct deposit, they can correct that already on the portal, and I encourage them to visit the portal to do that. In terms of now developing and extending that edit function to registries who then support folks face to face, that is in

the works. It will be done very soon, and we'll be happy to update this House when that's the case. I do also just want to highlight that over 1.1 million Albertans have successfully signed up . . .

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

WCB Cancer Coverage for Firefighters

Mr. Nielsen: Firefighters endure great risks to serve our communities. Some of those risks are immediate, but others develop over time, which is why presumptive coverage and retroactive coverage are vital to ensure that those who protect us are protected, too. Other provinces know this, and in fact Ontario has recently provided presumptive coverage retroactive to January 1960. Is the Premier aware of this retroactive presumptive coverage that Ontario has provided to their firefighters?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears the NDP are claiming that our government doesn't care about first responders. This is a retroactivity issue. It's an issue that their government never addressed. Our government has done a thorough review. The WCB has done a thorough review. There is exactly one case that might be impacted by retroactivity. That individual passed while the NDP were in government, and the NDP did not alter the law. While our hearts go out to that family, the specific case is so complicated, that the NDP knows as well, that it remains clear that . . .

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

Mr. Nielsen: As Ontario's decision demonstrates, we have the power to help Alberta firefighters diagnosed with cancer and their families, including those already locked into disputes with WCB. In fact, the Ontario government has provided this coverage retroactive all the way back to 1960. It's an easy decision to make, one that provides vital protection and thanks to first responders. Does the Premier agree that if Ontario can provide this level of protection to all firefighters, surely Alberta can do as much for the heroes of the 2016 Fort McMurray fire?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We find that it remains unclear whether retroactivity would have helped in these circumstances. The WCB has a fairness office that is handling this complex case. That's how it's been handled in the past. It's how it's been handled with other governments, and that's the way it needs to be handled.

Mr. Nielsen: Firefighters who fought the Fort McMurray wildfires are heroes who deserve our unequivocal support, and not a single one should be left out of coverage for cancers they face as a result of heroism during that fire. Making sure this bill has retroactive coverage is the least we can do, and Ontario has now shown that it can be done. To the Premier: can we agree that these firefighters deserve our thanks and our support, and can we agree to amend Bill 9, as the opposition has proposed?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

Mrs. Savage: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no question that the firefighters deserve our thanks and our help. That's why we've

done a thorough review. There's one case that might – and I say "might" – be impacted by retroactivity, and that individual has already passed. Alberta is, again, the leader on protecting firefighters. We'll soon be making changes to expand our leadership on this issue. Again, the policy is complex, and retroactivity risks creating more unfairness than it solves.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River has a question.

Youth Transition to Adulthood Program

Mr. Williams: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As children in government care become adults, they often are left wondering how they will be able to fend for themselves as they prepare to start their life on their own. The transition to adulthood program, or TAP, within Children's Services provides the supports they need to succeed now and into the future. To my colleague the Minister of Children's Services: could you please rise and let the House know about the supports available for TAP in Budget 2023 to help young Albertans in care and those leaving it in building an independent, healthy life?

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

Mr. Amery: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and if you would so indulge me, I too would like to express my sincerest condolences to the families and indeed all Albertans impacted by the tragedy we heard today.

Budget 2023 is an investment in our future. By investing in the future of youth and young adults transitioning out of care, we are investing in future prosperity for this province, and that's exactly why I was proud to announce that we are investing an additional \$25.6 million to the transition to adulthood program as part of the Children's Services ministry in the next three years to support young adults transitioning out of government care and into adulthood.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River.

Mr. Williams: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that youth leaving from care often lack the network needed to find good employers to sponsor them for entry into apprenticeship education programs and given that these young adults experience training and employment barriers compared to their peers, to the same minister: could you please let us know what additional funding is available in the budget to help them find jobs with in-demand trades?

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

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the hon. member for the question. In addition to the \$25.6 million that we've allocated, I was pleased to announce, along with my colleague and Deputy Premier and Minister of Skilled Trades and Professions, an additional \$2.5 million, which will be allocated to support youths in transition to further develop their skills and careers in the trades as well. This will benefit approximately 500 youths transitioning out of government care and into their future educational pursuits.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Williams: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that youth in care have been looking forward to this kind of support to help them succeed and further given that that aligns perfectly with the views of the child advocate of this Legislature, to the minister: what is this government's plan to make sure that these children and kids continue to access supports they need as they age out of care?

Mr. Amery: Mr. Speaker, we recognize the value that this tremendously important and incredibly well-received program has been providing, and the hon. member is indeed correct; it does align with many of the views of the advocate. It is because of these reasons that we have committed funding increases for the next three years, with \$5.5 million allocated in this year's 2023-2024 Budget; 8 and a half million dollars for '24-25; and, finally, \$11.6 million for the '25-26 years.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud has a question to ask.

Ms Pancholi: Thank you. As an Edmontonian I'm very grateful for the brave service of the Edmonton Police Service and their women and men who are officers. I send my deepest condolences to the family and friends and colleagues of Constable Jordan and Constable Ryan.

Deaths of Children in Care and Youth Transitioning out of Care

Ms Pancholi: Mr. Speaker, one of the hardest parts of my role as the critic for Children's Services but, even more, as a mother is to every month see the growing list of children and young people who have died while receiving child intervention services. Last year was the worst year on record in Alberta: 49 children and young people died. We all hoped we wouldn't see another year like it, but this year is no better. To date 45 children and young people have died. To the Minister of Children's Services: what is being done differently, truly differently, to make a change?

2:10

Mr. Amery: Mr. Speaker, once again, as a father of three young children there is no greater tragedy than hearing about the death of any child, and, once again, my heart and my condolences go out to the families that are impacted by this. As the hon. member is indeed aware, any child receiving intervention services and who dies or is seriously injured is reported publicly, and we conduct a rigorous and thorough examination of exactly what happened. Alberta is a leader in public reporting, and that includes posting online when a child or youth has passed away in care or is receiving services and publicly posting online Children's Services . . .

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

Ms Pancholi: Given that of the 45 deaths this year to date 19 of them were actually children under the age of 12 and given that 18 of these children were actually in the care of Children's Services – the government is their legal guardian – and given that any loss of life is a tragedy and that as members of this Chamber we all owe a responsibility to ensure that every child in care has the support, services, and resources they need to thrive and given that there have been reviews and reports and promises for two years, can the minister explain what specifically this budget does differently for children in care to ensure that they are supported and, most importantly, safe?

Mr. Amery: Mr. Speaker, an increasing number of youth have died as a result of drug poisoning, leading to the Child and Youth Advocate recommendation that the government establish a specific youth opioid strategy, and that's exactly what we've done. Recently the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction announced a number of initiatives, including a 4 and a half million dollar investment into the virtual opioid dependency program as well as a \$92 million

investment in CASA for kids, which is certainly helping to address these troubling concerns.

Thank you.

Ms Pancholi: Given that yesterday the government announced a \$5.5 million increase in funding for youth aging out of government care into the transition to adulthood program but this doesn't make up for the \$14 million per year that was cut three years ago and given that today we heard that only 120 young people aged 22 to 24 are receiving supports under TAP and this is a big decrease from the 500 young people of the same age who received financial supports under the SFAA program and given that this means that far fewer young people transitioning out of care into adulthood are actually being supported by this government, can the minister please explain what he's doing to increase the number of young people accessing the TAP program?

Mr. Amery: Mr. Speaker, what the hon. member failed to mention was that she heard that 120 children were receiving soft supports but that many others had already been transitioned into the TAP program, so certainly that is a good-news story regardless of how the member wishes to spin it. We are working diligently to expand and increase the TAP program as a holistic and comprehensive approach to addressing youths aging out of care and into adulthood, and we'll continue to do that through the supports that we have just elaborated on through the various members' statements and the questions prior.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung has a question.

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start by offering my condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of the two Edmonton police officers who lost their lives today.

Emergency Alert System

Mr. Dach: Mr. Speaker, Albertans rely on our emergency alert system to keep them safe, but they need to know it will be there when tragedy strikes. This requires regular testing so Albertans and our government know it will work. On March 1 the system was tested, but Albertans didn't get just one alert; they received a total of nine alerts. This left Albertans with a lot of questions about what happened. To the minister: can you explain what happened with the emergency alert system that day?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction has risen.

Mr. Milliken: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the question. I would also take this opportunity to extend my deepest sympathies to the families, friends, and colleagues of constables Travis Jordan and Brett Ryan.

With regard to the exacts on the nine versus however many certain people received, I'll undertake to make sure that I get those for the hon. member.

I do want to just take an opportunity for the hon. Member for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall and mention that the mental health helpline 1.877.303.2642, and 211 is also available 24 hours a day for anyone.

Thank you.

Mr. Dach: Given that the Premier suggested the issues came from other government agencies but we know that's not accurate and

given that media now reports that it was "old code" that caused the problem on the provincial side and given that the alert is critical in ensuring the health and safety of Albertans in the event of an emergency, what steps have been taken to fix this problem?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Technology and Innovation.

Mr. Glubish: Mr. Speaker, I want to just say again thank you for this line of questioning. I, like many Albertans, was surprised when I saw the numerous alerts back to back on the day in question. I want to assure all Albertans that when I saw that happen, I immediately reached out to my colleague the minister of public safety to offer the support of my department, Technology and Innovation, to look at ways that we can apply more modern tools and technology to ensure that this kind of situation does not happen again. The fact is that Albertans need to know that they can rely on this alert system, and we are going to take all of the steps needed to make sure that our systems can deliver that exact result.

Mr. Dach: Given that Albertans need to know that the system will be there when they need it and given that there was a glitch in a previous test and given that the minister says that it has been fixed, what lessons did the government learn from this test, and will there be another test of the system in the near future, after these problems are resolved, to ensure that it's actually working the way it's supposed to?

Mr. Glubish: Mr. Speaker, we always look to learn from all of our experiences, good and bad, so we are certainly taking a look into this situation to make sure that our public alert system will be as strong as it possibly can be. As I mentioned before, my Department of Technology and Innovation will be supporting the minister of public safety and his team to make sure that we take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the system is strong, robust, capable, and secure so that we can meet the needs of Albertans today and into the future.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat has a question to ask.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, my condolences to the families and friends of Constable Jordan and Constable Ryan, the entire Edmonton Police Service, and my thanks to everyone involved in public safety and policing to safely protect us all.

Physician Recruitment and Retention

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, it has also come to my attention that there is presently a sizable group of freedom-minded Ontario physicians willing to relocate to Alberta. Given that our communities are crying out for doctors, particularly in the south zone, and given that on March 3 in Medicine Hat we're 18 available physicians short, including five in family medicine and three in emergency medicine, to the Health minister: please share with us what you're willing to do to cut through the red tape to accommodate a group of dedicated medical professionals who . . .

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance has risen.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Minister of Health is actively looking at every option, every solution to ensure that we have an adequate number of physicians working and serving Albertans. That's one reason why we increased the Health budget by almost a billion dollars this year. There will be funding for additional seats for every health care occupation, including 120 new seats over the three-year fiscal plan, in our schools of medicine.

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

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Attracting doctors is about more than spending money, however. Given that physician shortages in Alberta have become a systemic issue and given that on February 6 the city of Lethbridge had 49 doctor position vacancies, including nine in family medicine and eight in emergency, and given the fact that physician compensation and development now accounts for nearly 25 per cent of our total Health budget, is the minister really in a position to turn away any qualified, experienced, out-of-province doctors who want to practise in Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the minister, again, is looking at every solution to ensure that we can onboard health care professionals, foreign-trained health care professionals, health care professionals from other provinces and other countries. On top of that, we are creating more spaces here in the province so Albertans who want to pursue a career in health care can in fact do so. We are focused as a government on expanding capacity in health care.

Mr. Barnes: Mr. Speaker, more money is not buying results. Given all the taxpayer money that this government has dumped into rural physician recruitment and retention and given that physician compensation now accounts for nearly 10 per cent of this government's total operational spending and given the fact that over the past two years numerous, numerous emergency rooms across Alberta have been temporarily closed due to physician shortages, is this minister finally willing to consider options for physician recruitment that don't involve the failed strategy of just throwing more hard-earned taxpayers' money at it?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, we do need to pay our doctors, and I'm pleased to say that the Minister of Health has struck an agreement with the Alberta Medical Association on a new remuneration agreement with our incredible physicians, those physicians that serve Albertans every day. I know the minister is again looking at every solution to ensure that we can provide more physicians across the province in rural Alberta and urban Alberta. In fact, there are 250 more doctors working at the end of 2022 than at the beginning, but our work is not done.

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

Ms Renaud: I'd also like to add my condolences to constables Jordan and Ryan, their families, friends, and the first responder community.

2:20 Nonprofit-sector Supports

Ms Renaud: Nonprofits fill critical needs, employ nearly 300,000 Albertans, contribute \$5.5 billion to the economy and another \$5 billion in volunteer hours. They're struggling right now. The essential workers putting the needs of the communities first are suffering. An analysis by the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations shows instability. Will the minister rise in this House and tell us what this government is doing to support nonprofits and the critical work that they do?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Culture.

Mr. Luan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm speaking with a heavy heart. I also want to acknowledge my condolences for the families and for the fallen officers before I answer this question.

Mr. Speaker, the question of helping nonprofits to do more is a real one. Just for your information, I had the honour of working as a social worker in the field for over 28 years. I worked with CCVO in my past. The advocacy they are advancing for the sector: we wholeheartedly support that. It is because of that reason that we increased \$11 million in support for CFEP in this Budget 2023.

Ms Renaud: Given that many organizations are facing higher demand, 74 per cent reporting an increase in need, and lack supports for programs with complex needs and that 41 per cent identified significant reduction in capacity and given that the current affordability crisis has major impacts in this sector, with 88 per cent citing inflation as a massive concern, with insurance going as high as 150 per cent, forcing downsizing and layoffs, while funding agreements are not keeping pace with population growth and inflation, why does this budget not do more to ensure a better future for the 30,000 nonprofits in Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services.

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for her advocacy for not-for-profits. I'm so proud of budget 2023-2024 because there are significant funds available for not-for-profits within this budget. Specifically, within my ministry we increased funding for the PDD sector. We increased significant funding for homeless shelters and homeless outreach programs. We increased money for seniors and seniors' groups as well as increased funds with FCSS. All of these groups do significant work. I've been spending a lot of my time meeting with not-for-profits across the province. We want to continue to work with them and improve supports as we go forward.

Ms Renaud: Given that Karen Ball, president and CEO of the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, stated – and I quote – that when nonprofits fail, so does our society and given that I urge this government to listen to their needs and make a definite commitment to work alongside them and provide more fiscal assistance than the small amounts we see in Budget 2023, will the minister commit to working with groups like the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations to ensure nonprofits get the resources they need to continue the vital and essential work in Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services.

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the answer to that question is yes. Karen Ball is actually a constituent and a friend of mine. We do talk. Actually, I'm scheduled to give her a call later this afternoon. We, of course, want to continue to partner with our not-for-profits. We've seen significant work within 2023 not just in my ministry but in Children's Services, in Culture, in Health, in Justice, in Education. There's increased funding right across the board for not-for-profits in our community. We're going to continue to make sure that we're funding these great organizations, that we're getting resources deployed.

I also want to mention the – I'll answer more later, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member Loyola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to offer my condolences to the family and friends of constables Jordan and Ryan and all first responders being affected by what's going on.

School Construction in Edmonton

Member Loyola: Mr. Speaker, Edmonton public schools expects a 2.7 per cent increase in enrolment for this upcoming year. By 2027 there will not be enough space for all high school students in the city. We all know schools take time to build, and we have all known about forecasted enrolment growth in Edmonton schools. To the minister: why has this government only provided full construction funding for one new school in Edmonton this year?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education has risen.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I want to offer my condolences and prayers as well to the family and friends and all those that are impacted by the deaths. As a mother of a police officer myself it's my worst nightmare that I can think of. It's the worst thing I can possibly think of, to lose one of my children in such a way, so my heart goes out to all of them.

On the question that was asked, in fact, the member opposite is incorrect. We have allocated and announced five new schools for Edmonton public school division: the new junior-senior high in Glenridding Heights; a new K to 9 school in Edgemont; a new K to 6 in ...

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

Member Loyola: Given that I was speaking about high schools and that it takes time to build a school and that modernization of existing schools only leads to a slight increase in capacity and given that the government has made it clear in their capital plan that they do not think Edmonton deserves more schools for a growing student population and given the critical need for more student spaces, with thousands of new students expected to start attending school in Edmonton, will the minister please explain how they plan to address the growing need for more space in Edmonton schools with only one new school planned in this budget?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Education.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the member opposite did not know that Edmonton public schools actually had two new high schools, one that is opening in May 2024, the southeast high school, and the Joey Moss school as well actually just opened here, I believe, in September 2022, in addition to the other schools that have been allocated in the future. We can say that over the last number of years we have announced 18 projects for Edmonton that will address these needs.

Member Loyola: Given that the government should be investing in and maintaining top-quality education in the province and given that, to this end, students must have the space they need to learn, which means that building new schools is an absolute necessity, and given that only one new school received construction funding, leaving many in my constituency to ride the bus out of their communities, will the minister commit to restarting public reporting of class sizes as student numbers rise much faster than the number of classrooms in Edmonton?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Member LaGrange: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again the member opposite is incorrect. We have allocated 18 projects overall to

Edmonton while the NDP, during their four years, only allocated eight projects. I would say that our record as a whole over the last four years is 106 schools across this province, new infrastructure, 58 alone this year; the members opposite during their time period, only 47. In fact, they failed rural Alberta. When we allocated 37 schools, they only allocated 14.

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

Ms Fir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to offer my deepest condolences to the friends, family, and colleagues of constables Jordan and Ryan in the terrible tragedy that they're going through right now.

Deerfoot Trail Capital Plan

Ms Fir: Mr. Speaker, our government recognizes and supports the important role transportation infrastructure plays in building our province's economic corridors and communities. In acknowledging that role, we must include one road that my constituents of Calgary-Peigan know far too well, Deerfoot Trail. Deerfoot Trail is currently the busiest road in Alberta, and both daily commuters and businesses are feeling the pains of this. Can the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors inform the House of the important contributions that our government is taking to improve Deerfoot Trail?

The Speaker: The Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors.

Mr. Dreeshen: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is tragic events like we all heard about today that really do put things into perspective.

Regarding the question, Calgary did receive \$2.2 billion in Budget 2023; \$430 million actually went towards upgrades to Deerfoot Trail. Just last November we actually announced significant improvements on the south side of Deerfoot Trail, improving the Bow Bottom Trail and Anderson Road, Southland Drive, and Glenmore Trail interchanges. Seven new bridge structures, Mr. Speaker, are going to be built on the Deerfoot, and construction will begin this spring.

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

Ms Fir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think everyone in Alberta who's driven on Deerfoot Trail can agree that this is a welcomed investment to improve our province's busiest road. Given that these improvements to Deerfoot Trail would further develop Alberta's economy, can the minister tell the House about how these investments into Deerfoot Trail will drive our economy forward?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors.

Mr. Dreeshen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hundreds of jobs indirectly will be created by the improvements to this, the construction work on Deerfoot. Deerfoot is obviously a major trade route through the province of Alberta, shipping goods not just from the airport but up and down highway 2, throughout the province. The economic benefits of improving the Deerfoot from Bow Bottom Trail to Glenmore Trail will provide about a \$23 million economic boost to the province but also allow Calgarians to be able to get home sooner to spend more time with their families.

2:30

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Fir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that those who use Deerfoot Trail daily are not limited to the semi-trucks that keep our grocery shelves stocked and help our local businesses take goods to market and given that there are many thousands of people that use Deerfoot Trail daily, whether it's to go to school or going to and from work, can the same minister tell the House about how the Deerfoot Trail upgrades will benefit Albertans who commute daily on this road?

Mr. Dreesen: Well, obviously, Mr. Speaker, we are committed to making lives better here in the province of Alberta. Calgary commuters will actually see a 15 per cent improvement in their morning rush-hour commute and also a 22 per cent improvement in their evening rush-hour commute once this construction is done. In total, that means about 900,000 hours a year will be saved with the completion of these Deerfoot Trail improvements. At the end of the day, that just means Calgarians will be able to spend more time with their families and less time staring at tail lights.

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

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along with my colleagues in this House, I'd like to give my condolences to the families of constables Jordan and Ryan and, of course, also acknowledge their friends and colleagues.

Seniors' Support

Ms Sigurdson: Alberta seniors deserve a dedicated Seniors Advocate. This role was created to ensure that the voices and concerns of Alberta seniors would be heard by the government. I was disappointed that the UCP terminated the position of the Seniors Advocate. The recent report of the Auditor General shows the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on seniors and that there is a need for seniors to have a dedicated, independent voice. Will the minister support the re-establishment of an independent Seniors Advocate?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services.

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member for her question and her advocacy for seniors. Of course, this government cares about our seniors. We want to make sure that our seniors are supported and that they do have an advocate. The good news is that seniors do have an advocate within the Health Advocate office who is speaking on behalf of seniors' issues and concerns. Part of the reason why we merged these two offices is because over a third of the concerns that were coming in to the Seniors Advocate were health related, so by merging these two offices together, we're actually able to better serve seniors to make sure that their concerns are being addressed. As we go forward, there's going to need to be a strong relationship between the minister of seniors and the Minister of Health to address these issues.

Ms Sigurdson: Given that this budget proposes a 2.4 per cent increase in accommodation rates for seniors in continuing care and given that this increase comes during a cost-of-living crisis, which could mean that families face difficult choices between paying their bills while ensuring that their family member is being cared for, and given that as we deal with this affordability crisis, ensuring that the seniors who built this province have the support they need is critical, will the minister reverse this proposed increase in accommodation rates?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services.

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the member for her question and her advocacy. This government is taking action in regard to addressing affordability challenges for seniors. Indexing seniors' benefits as well as supplementary benefits was a big part of that but also bringing in the affordability payments to help seniors get through this affordability crisis. We're also working towards expanding out affordable housing for seniors right across this province in the communities that seniors have raised their families and built their lives in. We know how important this is, and we're going to continue to work with the community and our not-for-profit partners and housing providers to improve affordability for our seniors.

Ms Sigurdson: Given that Albertans are in the debt of the seniors who built this province and that we in this House need to provide them with the support that they need and given that seniors' voices should be heard by their elected representatives, Minister, please explain what steps are being taken to ensure that no seniors fall through the cracks during this affordability crisis. When will the minister reinstate the office of the Seniors Advocate?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services.

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again to the member for the question. Of course, we are making sure that seniors' voices are heard through the Health Advocate's office, through the Seniors Advocate within the Health Advocate's office, to make sure that the concerns that seniors have – that they're able to present that to the Health Advocate office, of course, compiling that data to help inform government on how best we move forward and to make sure that seniors' concerns are being addressed in this community. We are committed to improving the lives of our seniors, and Budget 2023-2024 has significant investments in addressing affordability and providing additional supports for our seniors.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Eggen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to begin by offering my condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the fallen officers who passed away today.

Jobs and Investment Incentives Proposal Act

Mr. Eggen: Yesterday I had the honour of introducing Bill 207, the Jobs and Investment Incentives Proposal Act. If passed, the bill would direct the ministry to develop a tax credit that would provide investment incentives to companies making capital investments in clean tech, carbon materials, critical minerals processing, and advanced manufacturing. The bill is targeted towards the fastest growing emerging sectors, where Alberta has the opportunity to compete on a global scale and bring these opportunities right here to Alberta. For all of these reasons, I would ask: would the government consider supporting Bill 207?

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

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member opposite putting forward a bill that he believes will further Alberta's economic growth and diversification. That goal, that

objective, has been the objective of this government since day one, in 2019. That's why we worked hard to create the most competitive business environment of any province in the nation. We started out by reducing our business tax rate from 12 to 8 per cent. We've been focused on reducing red tape, and our plan is working. Our business environment is competitive, and investing is coming.

Mr. Eggen: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that the competition for investment in new, emerging sectors is increasing after the United States passed the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and given that Alberta has some of the lowest capital investment growth in the country – our proposed tax credit is estimated to leverage a projected \$10 billion in incremental investments and will create an estimated 20,000 jobs – I would ask: why would the government continue with their tax cuts when we know that, in fact, tax credits allow growth and compel growth in the province for Albertans and for our economy?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, we believe that broadly creating a competitive business environment is really government's role and responsibility. Now, we also believe that where we have sectors where we're naturally competitive and we're competing with other jurisdictions, at times specific incentives and tax credits are worthy. That's why we brought in the Alberta petrochemical incentive program. That's a targeted tax incentive grant program that is attracting interest from investors around the world. We have tens of billions of dollars of investment lined up to come into the sector in Alberta.

Mr. Eggen: Well, Mr. Speaker, given that Bill 207's incentives are also designed in a way that allows for good-paying jobs, supports innovation, and provides training so that Albertans get the necessary skills to work in these sectors and given that Alberta currently has the slowest wage growth in the country, will the government, then, support Bill 207 as a means of accelerating wage growth for Albertans, using tax credits rather than tax cuts?

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, I know the members opposite dislike tax cuts. That's abundantly apparent. But in Budget 2022 we allocated \$600 million for skills and jobs. We've added to that in Budget '23 with over \$300 million, again, to ensure that Albertans can step into training opportunities, to ensure that all Albertans can be skilled to flourish in the economy of the future. Every Albertan needs to participate in the Alberta advantage.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Camrose.

Ms Lovely: My deepest condolences to the family, friends, and co-workers of the fallen officers.

Federal Energy Transition Plan

Ms Lovely: The just transition plan to phase out oil and gas will harm not only my constituents but oil and gas workers across our province. An important dividing line between the provinces and the federal government is that natural resources and their development fall under provincial jurisdiction. Gibson Energy, that claims 1 of 4 barrels exported from western Canada, runs through Hardisty. To the Minister of Energy: will the provincial government be prepared to defend and protect our constitutional rights and maintain and develop our own oil and gas industry?

The Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Guthrie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not the first time that we've seen devastating policies from Ottawa for our energy

industry. The key phrase here is "constitutional rights." Alberta has a long history of protecting those constitutional rights. Let's take a walk down memory lane. Whether that's Peter Lougheed fighting against Justin Trudeau's father and his national energy program or the drama teacher Justin Trudeau's terrible just transition plan, I assure you we are doing and will continue to do everything to guarantee that our rights remain our rights.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Camrose.

2:40

Ms Lovely: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. Given that Ottawa's just transition plan is clearly to hinder Alberta's production of oil and gas and further given that there is an ongoing energy crisis where energy is a necessary part of life, from heating our homes to fuelling our cars, to the Minister of Energy: is the government of Alberta prepared to export our morally and responsibly sourced energy to the world struggling with energy security?

Mr. Guthrie: Mr. Speaker, here in Alberta we produce the most reliable, responsible, and secure energy of anywhere in the world. Recent events have made it clear that energy security is a huge priority for jurisdictions like Germany, Japan, and South Korea. Last year the German chancellor came to Canada looking for Canadian LNG, and Justin Trudeau turned him down. I recently visited Germany and Norway to advocate for Alberta because Ottawa clearly doesn't have the compassion or the best interests of Albertans or Canadians, for that matter, in mind. The world needs more Alberta energy.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Camrose.

Ms Lovely: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for the answer. Given that Justin Trudeau has gone down the path of just transition and given that others support this misdirected notion, to the Minister of Energy: how has Alberta contributed to the welfare and well-being of the rest of the country?

Mr. Guthrie: Mr. Speaker, there are approximately 2,500 coal plants operating globally right now, with 189 under construction, many of which are located in China. Our responsible, reliable, and ESG-leading energy, especially our natural gas, can off-set increasing global emissions if we can move those coal plants to Alberta LNG. We contribute leadership, technological innovation, and the highest standard of ESG throughout the world. We should be and are the standard that every other country tries to live up to.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. members, this concludes the time allotted for Oral Question Period. In 30 seconds or less we will continue to the remainder of Members' Statements.

Members' Statements

(continued)

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

Edmonton

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to be a representative in this Chamber in Alberta's great capital city of Edmonton. As MLA for Edmonton-North West I have seen Edmonton grow and develop into the great Canadian city that it is today, with endless potential for the future.

However, this is certainly not by accident. Through partnerships in all levels of government down to the community level, Edmonton has been able to build a welcoming home for the thousands of people who move here every year. It is critical that we do not let up in this effort. We need to ensure it by investing in Edmonton, by building schools and hospitals and also supporting nonprofits who serve this city. We need to continue to invest to ensure that our city's most vulnerable are supported in every way.

Importantly, the city needs a partner in the Legislature to ensure that these needs are acted on. I was proud to be part of a government that was such a partner to the city and the people of Edmonton, and I will never stop advocating for Edmonton and the people who call it home, because when Edmonton succeeds, Alberta succeeds, too.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Beddington has a statement to make.

Deaths of Constables Travis Jordan and Brett Ryan

Ms Pon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our men and women in uniform are heroes. It hit me very hard to learn that just after midnight this morning Edmonton Police Service responded to a family dispute in northwest Edmonton, and two police officers were killed in the line of duty. Two young EPS veterans, 35-year-old Constable Travis Jordan and 30-year-old Brett Ryan, did not come home to their families after the night shift this morning. Though all of the details of this horrifying act are not yet known, we know that the officers' colleagues rushed these heroes to the hospital and worked bravely to save these members, but sadly they were declared dead in the hospital.

I can tell you without any hesitation, Mr. Speaker, that I stand with the Premier, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services, a former police officer himself, and all of my colleagues in this Chamber in full unity with these heroes in uniform as well as the family and friends that have lost their loved ones this morning. The first priority after this tragedy for all of us should be to support these two heroes' mourning friends, family, and colleagues in EPS in any way that we can, and the next one should be to do whatever we need to keep a tragedy like this from happening again.

Mr. Speaker, the Alberta government always will stand proudly with our men and women in uniform, a career that all too often, I'm sure, feels thankless. I'm going to say right now with no reservations on behalf of my colleagues in the Alberta Legislature: thank you.

Federal Energy Transition Plan

Mr. Orr: Mr. Speaker, in the last few months Ottawa has once again misunderstood Alberta with their paternalistic just transition. It's not surprising, but it is frustrating and disappointing. At a time when our international allies are suffering due to lack of access to essential oil and gas energy, with people in Europe burdened by astronomically high prices, the NDP-Liberal government not only refuses to send them what they need but simultaneously seeks to dismantle Alberta's industry and jobs.

Just transition is a proposal that could not be more ill timed or falsely named. The colonial Ottawa Liberals are blinded by an agenda that has little bearing on reality and, in its pursuit, are happy to afflict Albertans with joblessness by way of a government crusade against the industry that literally fuels our nation's economy. It's one thing to promote the positive benefits of green energy technology, a sector Alberta has embraced as a leader; it's another thing entirely for an NDP-Liberal coalition to institute top-

down bans and restrictions on an industry that constitutes the lifeblood of modern civilization.

As Alberta moves diligently towards a low-carbon future, it is undeniable that oil and gas produced here is among the most ethically sourced in the entire world, but the woke would sooner import oil from dictatorships produced with zero environmental standards. As we continue to innovate and diversify our economy here, it would be foolish and short sighted for Ottawa to abandon or, rather, eliminate Alberta's fuel industry with the stroke of a pen. Our allies are in desperate need of these resources, and developing nations will continue to source energy somewhere as they grow their economies and improve their people's quality of life. Not only would just transition destroy hundreds of thousands of jobs and set Alberta and Canada's economy back for a generation, but it would also be clearly unjust to continue refusing our allies and developing nations the basic energy supplies that they so desperately need.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WCB Cancer Coverage for Firefighters

Mr. Nielsen: Firefighters are our heroes. They keep our communities, our cities, and our province safe from fires as well as many other hazards. They protect our families, friends, and loved ones from danger, and they risk their lives in the process. I thank them for their continued service, but I know that words are simply not enough, not when the realities of their job can lead them to develop cancer.

The Fort McMurray wildfire shook our province. It was devastating, but I'm proud of the way Albertans rallied around each other to offer support during this time. Albertans did everything they could, from fundraising to donating needed items to opening their homes, all while Alberta firefighters did everything they could to stop the fire as quickly as possible. So it is hard now to see the ways in which the spirit of community care, friendship, and support seem to have fallen away, and in its place has been an unnecessary fight: when coverage should be provided and to whom.

We have the power here and now to end these disputes and do the right thing, to make sure Bill 9 includes retroactive coverage for cancer that firefighters develop as a result of their job, as the province of Ontario did earlier this month. I want to remind the UCP that this support is possible, that we have the amendment at the ready to correct this wrong and align Alberta's policy with provinces like Ontario.

Our firefighters have given us so much. Let's work together and provide them with retroactive coverage. It's just the right thing to do.

2:50

Presenting Petitions

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Peace River has a petition.

Mr. Williams: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As chair of the Standing Committee on Private Bills I request leave to present, in accordance with Standing Order 98(2), one petition that has been received for private bills, the petition of Dr. Shawn Flynn, president of St. Joseph's College, for the St. Joseph's College amendment act, 2023.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Ordres du jour.

Orders of the Day

Transmittal of Estimates

Mr. Toews: Mr. Speaker, I've received a message from Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, which I now transmit to you.

The Sergeant-at-Arms: Order! All rise, please.

The Speaker: The Lieutenant Governor transmits supplementary supply estimates of certain sums required for the service of the province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023, and recommends the same to the Assembly.

Please be seated.

The hon. the Treasury Board president and the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Toews: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now wish to table the 2022-23 supplementary supply estimates along with an update to the '22-23 fiscal plan as required by the Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act. This 2022-23 fiscal plan update contains no changes from the information provided in the '23-26 fiscal plan tabled for Budget 2023.

The documents I'm tabling today reflect the realities we've faced and the needs we've addressed since I tabled Budget 2022 in February of last year. The numbers in these documents reflect this government's commitment to save for the future, increase the capacity of our health care and education systems, and adapt to the changing global economy. These funding requests will also provide for the planned spending to enable electricity rebates and other affordability supports that have provided relief to Albertans struggling with our current affordability crisis. The unique and challenging circumstances of this last year called on the government to act fast and to make life more affordable, and we responded.

Mr. Speaker, in total the supplementary supply estimates will allow additional spending by 19 government departments. When passed, the estimates will authorize an approximate increase of \$2.7 billion in expense funding, \$500,000 in capital investment funding for the government, and \$292 million in financial transactions. Of this funding the four highest expenses are \$753 million for Treasury Board and Finance for investment in the Alberta heritage savings trust fund; \$636 million for Energy, primarily for the cost of selling oil and the site rehabilitation plan; \$553 million for Health, primarily for physician payments and the new Alberta Medical Association agreement; \$355 million for Affordability and Utilities for rebates and grants under the affordability action plan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Government Motions

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

23. Mr. Toews moved:

Be it resolved that the message from Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the 2022-23 supplementary supply estimates for the general revenue fund, and all matters connected therewith be referred to Committee of Supply.

Mr. Toews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the creativity in my title today.

The Speaker: Hon. members, Government Motion 23 is debatable pursuant to Standing Order 18(1)(i). Is there anyone wishing to join in the debate?

Seeing none, I am prepared to call on the minister to close debate.

[Government Motion 23 carried]

24. Mr. Toews moved:

Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 61(2) the Committee of Supply shall be called to consider the 2022-23 supplementary supply estimates for three hours on Monday, March 20, 2023.

The Speaker: Hon. members, pursuant to Standing Order 61(2) this is a nondebatable motion.

[Government Motion 24 carried]

The Speaker: Just one second. It appears to me like the hon. the Government House Leader is rising or wanted to rise prior to calling the Committee of Supply. Does he have a question? The hon. the Government House Leader.

Mr. Schow: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do rise to request unanimous consent to allow for one-minute bells in Committee of Supply, including the first division.

The Speaker: Hon. members, this is a request for unanimous consent. It would shorten the bells in Committee of Supply, including the first division. It's a relatively uncommon request, so I want to ensure that everyone understands what we are agreeing to. I will ask only one question: is there anyone opposed to providing unanimous consent for one-minute bells upon the entry into Committee of Supply, including the first division?

[Unanimous consent granted]

Committee of Supply

[Mrs. Pitt in the chair]

The Chair: Hon. members, I'd like to now call the committee to order.

Prior to beginning, the chair will outline the process for this afternoon. The Committee of Supply will first call on the chairs of the legislative policy committees to report on their meetings with the various ministries under their mandate. No vote is required when these reports are presented.

The committee will then proceed to the vote on the estimates of the offices of the Legislative Assembly. The vote on the main estimates will then take place.

Finally, the chair would like to remind all hon. members of Standing Order 32(3), which we have decided is not relevant anymore given the previous unanimous motion.

3:00

Committee Reports

The Chair: I would like to now call on the chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future to present the committee's report.

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Madam Chair. As the chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future and pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(10) I am pleased to report that the committee has reviewed the 2023-2024 proposed estimates and business plans for the following ministries: Executive Council; Ministry of Advanced Education; Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Forestry, Parks and Tourism; Ministry of Infrastructure; Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development; Ministry of Skilled Trades and Professions; Ministry of Technology and Innovation; Ministry of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

I'd like to now call on the chair of the Standing Committee on Families and Communities to present the committee's report.

Ms Lovely: As chair of the Standing Committee on Families and Communities pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(10) I'm pleased to report that the committee has reviewed the 2023-24 proposed estimates and business plans for the following ministries: Ministry of Children's Services; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction; Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services; Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services; Ministry of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

Now the chair of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship, the hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Hanson: Thank you, Madam Chair. As chair of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship and pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(10) I am pleased to report that the committee has reviewed the 2023-2024 proposed estimates and business plans for the following ministries: Ministry of Affordability and Utilities; Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation; Ministry of Energy; Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas; Ministry of Indigenous Relations; Ministry of Municipal Affairs; Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors; and Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance.

I'd like to thank all of my committee members for their participation. Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

We shall now proceed to the vote on the 2023-24 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates general revenue fund. Pursuant to Standing Order 59.03(5), which requires that these estimates be decided without debate or amendment prior to the vote on the main estimates, I must now put the following question on all matters relating to the 2023-24 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates general revenue fund for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024: \$180,409,000.

Agreed to:

Offices of the Legislative Assembly	\$180,409,000
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The Chair: Shall the vote be reported? Are you agreed?

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Any opposed? That is carried.

Vote on Main Estimates 2023-24

The Chair: We shall now proceed to the final vote on the main estimates.

[The voice vote did not indicate agreement]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 3:03 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Mrs. Pitt in the chair]

For the motion:

Aheer	Long	Rowswell
Allard	Lovely	Savage
Amery	Madu	Sawhney

Dreeshen
Fir
Getson
Glubish
Gottfried
Guthrie
Hanson
Hunter
LaGrange
Loewen

Nally
Neudorf
Nixon, Jason
Nixon, Jeremy
Orr
Panda
Pon
Reid
Rosin

Schow
Sigurdson, R.J.
Smith, Mark
Stephan
Toews
Turton
van Dijken
Williams
Yaseen

Against the motion:

Bilous
Carson
Eggen

Feehan
Loyola
Sabir

Sigurdson, L.
Sweet

Totals:

For – 37

Against – 8

[Motion carried]

The Chair: Shall the vote be reported? Are you agreed?

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Any opposed? Carried.

I would now like to invite the hon. Government House Leader to move that the committee rise and report the 2023-24 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates general revenue fund and the 2023-24 government estimates general revenue fund.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that the committee rise and report the 2023-2024 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates general revenue fund and the 2023-2024 government estimates general revenue fund.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Reid in the chair]

Mrs. Pitt: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions relating to the 2023-24 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates general revenue fund and the 2023-24 government estimates general revenue fund, reports as follows, and requests leave to sit again.

The following resolutions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, have been approved.

The offices of the Legislative Assembly: support to the Legislative Assembly, \$76,763,000; office of the Auditor General, \$29,620,000; office of the Ombudsman, \$4,480,000; office of the Chief Electoral Officer, \$42,397,000; office of the Ethics Commissioner, \$1,000,000; office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, \$8,534,000; office of the Child and Youth Advocate, \$16,205,000; office of the Public Interest Commissioner, \$1,410,000.

3:10

The government main estimates.

Advanced Education: expense, \$2,416,985,000; capital investment, \$25,000; financial transactions, \$1,060,100,000.

Affordability and Utilities: expense, \$87,128,000; capital investment, \$25,000; financial transactions, \$96,970,000.

Agriculture and Irrigation: expense, \$679,936,000; capital investment, \$7,177,000.

Children's Services: expense, \$2,319,912,000; capital investment, \$10,000,000.

Culture: expense, \$301,380,000; capital investment, \$2,331,000; financial transactions, \$1,710,000.

Education: expense, \$5,479,943,000; capital investment, \$565,000; financial transactions, \$18,920,000.

Energy: expense, \$571,581,000; capital investment, \$1,000,000.

Environment and Protected Areas: expense, \$553,936,000; capital investment, \$59,396,000; financial transactions, \$100,000.

Executive Council: expense, \$35,245,000; capital investment, \$25,000.

Forestry, Parks and Tourism: expense, \$397,957,000; capital investment, \$85,110,000; financial transactions, \$1,310,000.

Health: expense, \$25,037,760,000; capital investment, \$28,865,000; financial transactions, \$88,876,000.

Indigenous Relations: expense, \$225,693,000; capital investment, \$25,000.

Infrastructure: expense, \$477,704,000; capital investment, \$1,692,856,000; financial transactions, \$28,114,000.

Jobs, Economy and Northern Development: expense, \$249,693,000; capital investment, \$1,970,000.

Justice: expense, \$648,842,000; capital investment, \$17,816,000.

Mental Health and Addiction: expense, \$275,005,000; capital investment, \$25,000.

Municipal Affairs: expense, \$993,931,000; capital investment, \$600,000.

Public Safety and Emergency Services: expense, \$1,107,941,000; capital investment, \$6,275,000; financial transactions, \$4,196,000.

Seniors, Community and Social Services: expense, \$5,066,076,000; capital investment, \$4,072,000; financial transactions, \$19,700,000.

Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction: expense, \$143,677,000; capital investment, \$45,520,000; financial transactions, \$5,500,000.

Skilled Trades and Professions: expense, \$218,811,000; capital investment, \$25,000.

Technology and Innovation: expense, \$948,075,000; capital investment, \$112,385,000.

Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism: expense, \$85,874,000; capital investment, \$25,000.

Transportation and Economic Corridors: expense, \$1,722,148,000; capital investment, \$1,837,114,000; financial transactions, \$134,644,000.

Treasury Board and Finance: expense, \$240,261,000; capital investment, \$25,000; contingencies, \$1,500,000,000.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes my report.

The Acting Speaker: Hon. member, just like reconciling the home chequebook, isn't it? Great job on all those numbers, but, hon. member, if we could request some clarification on the following: financial transactions for Affordability and Utilities, expenses for Culture, expenses for Energy, expenses for service Alberta, expenses for Tech and Innovation, please.

Mrs. Pitt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been a long week.

In general our government main estimates clarification on Affordability and Utilities expense is \$87,128,000 . . .

The Acting Speaker: The financial transactions for Affordability and Utilities, please.

Mrs. Pitt: Oh. Are they financial transactions for all the requests?

The Acting Speaker: No. Administrative expenses, please.

Mrs. Pitt: Financial transactions for Affordability and Utilities . . .

The Acting Speaker: Yes, please.

Mrs. Pitt: . . . is \$96,970,000.

Financial transactions for Culture . . .

The Acting Speaker: Expenses for the rest, please.

Mrs. Pitt: Expenses for the rest.

Expense for Culture: \$301,380,000.

Expense for Energy is \$571,581,000.

Expense for Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction is \$143,677,000.

Expense for Technology and Innovation is \$948,075,000.

Mr. Speaker, are we squared up?

The Acting Speaker: You're square. Thank you very much, hon. member. I'll say that I'm really glad I'm in this chair and not your chair today.

Hon. members, does the Assembly concur on the report?

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Acting Speaker: Any opposed? So ordered.

I would also like to alert the hon. members that pursuant to Standing Order 59.03(7) following the Committee of Supply's report on the main estimates, the Assembly immediately reverts to Introduction of Bills for the introduction of the appropriation bill.

Introduction of Bills

Bill 11

Appropriation Act, 2023

Mr. Toews: Well, Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill 11, the Appropriation Act, 2023. This being a money bill, Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the contents of this bill, recommends the same to the Assembly.

This bill requests a total of \$57.4 billion from the general revenue fund, consistent with Budget 2023 presented in the House, this House, on February 28. I ask my all of my colleagues in this Assembly on both sides of the aisle for their support in this bill.

[Motion carried; Bill 11 read a first time]

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader has caught my eye.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been a wonderful week of work here in the Legislature, but the time has come to head on to our respective directions. You don't have to go home – I encourage that you do – but you have to get out of here. With that said, I do move that the Assembly be adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 20, 2023.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:19 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 30th Legislature - 4th Session (2022-2023)

Activity to Thursday, March 16, 2023

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* — Alberta Sovereignty Within a United Canada Act (Danielle Smith)

First Reading — 4-5 (*Nov. 29, 2022 aft., passed on division*)

Second Reading — 22-31 (*Nov. 30, 2022 aft.*), 43-52 (*Nov. 30, 2022 eve.*), 65-73 (*Dec. 1, 2022 aft.*), 105-36 (*Dec. 5, 2022 eve.*), 172-77 (*Dec. 6, 2022 eve., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 177-96 (*Dec. 6, 2022 eve.*), 231-38 (*Dec. 7, 2022 eve.*), 238-45 (*Dec. 7, 2022 eve., passed with amendments on division*)

Third Reading — 245-50 (*Dec. 7, 2022 eve.*), 251-57 (*Dec. 7, 2022 eve., passed on division*)

Royal Assent — 452 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft.*) [Comes into force on December 15, 2022; SA 2022 cA-33.8]

Bill 2 — Inflation Relief Statutes Amendment Act, 2022 (\$) (Jones)

First Reading — 208 (*Dec. 7, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 270-75 (*Dec. 8, 2022 aft.*), 342-49 (*Dec. 13, 2022 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 361-72 (*Dec. 13, 2022 eve.*), 421-25 (*Dec. 14, 2022 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 430-31 (*Dec. 14, 2022 eve.*), 446-50 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — 452 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft.*) [Comes into force on December 15, 2022, with exceptions; SA 2022 c19]

Bill 3 — Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2022 (Shandro)

First Reading — 86 (*Dec. 5, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 148-55 (*Dec. 6, 2022 aft.*), 224-30 (*Dec. 7, 2022 aft.*), 276 (*Dec. 8, 2022 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 325-29 (*Dec. 12, 2022 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 375-78 (*Dec. 13, 2022 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — 452 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft.*) [Comes into force on December 15, 2022; SA 2022 c23]

Bill 4 — Alberta Health Care Insurance Amendment Act, 2022 (Copping)

First Reading — 86 (*Dec. 5, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 155-70 (*Dec. 6, 2022 aft.*), 220-24 (*Dec. 7, 2022 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 321-25 (*Dec. 12, 2022 eve.*), 372-75 (*Dec. 13, 2022 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 392 (*Dec. 14, 2022 aft.*), 426-29 (*Dec. 14, 2022 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — 452 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft.*) [Comes into force on December 15, 2022; SA 2022 c17]

Bill 5 — Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2022 (No. 2) (Shandro)

First Reading — 147 (*Dec. 6, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 211-20 (*Dec. 7, 2022 aft.*), 314-21 (*Dec. 12, 2022 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 392-99 (*Dec. 14, 2022 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 429-30 (*Dec. 14, 2022 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — 452 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft.*) [Comes into force on December 15, 2022, with exceptions; SA 2022 c20]

Bill 6 — Police Amendment Act, 2022 (Ellis)

First Reading — 270 (*Dec. 8, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 309-14 (*Dec. 12, 2022 eve.*), 349-54 (*Dec. 13, 2022 aft., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 399-408 (*Dec. 14, 2022 aft.*), 409-21 (*Dec. 14, 2022 eve., passed*)

Third Reading — 431 (*Dec. 14, 2022 eve.*), 450-51 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — 452 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft.*) [Comes into force on Proclamation, with exceptions; SA 2022 c22]

Bill 7 — Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2022 (No.2) (Schow)

First Reading — 329 (*Dec. 12, 2022 eve., passed*)

Second Reading — 378-79 (*Dec. 13, 2022 eve., passed*)

Committee of the Whole — 398-99 (*Dec. 14, 2022 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 425-26 (*Dec. 14, 2022 eve., passed*)

Royal Assent — 452 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft.*) [Comes into force on December 15, 2022; SA 2022 c21]

Bill 8 — Alberta Firearms Act (Shandro)

First Reading — 503 (*Mar. 7, 2023 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 536-43 (*Mar. 9, 2023 aft., passed*)

Bill 9 — Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 (Nally)

First Reading — 523 (*Mar. 8, 2023 aft., passed*)

Bill 10 — Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 536 (*Mar. 9, 2023 aft., passed*)

Bill 11 — Appropriation Act, 2023 (\$) (Toews)

First Reading — 617 (*Mar. 16, 2023 aft., passed*)

Bill 201 — Public Health Care Delivery Standards Act (Notley)

First Reading — 64 (*Dec. 1, 2022 aft., passed on division*)

Second Reading — 88-91 (*Dec. 5, 2022 aft.*), 354-60 (*Dec. 13, 2022 aft., defeated on division*)

Bill 202 — Alberta Personal Income Tax (Charitable and Other Gifts) Amendment Act, 2022 (Williams)

First Reading — 64 (*Dec. 1, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 91-98 (*Dec. 5, 2022 aft., passed on division*)

Committee of the Whole — 289-97 (*Dec. 12, 2022 aft., passed*)

Third Reading — 445-46 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft., passed*)

Royal Assent — 452 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft.*) [Comes into force on Proclamation; SA 2022 c18]

Bill 203 — Traffic Safety (Excessive Speeding Penalties) Amendment Act, 2022 (Toor)

First Reading — 270 (*Dec. 8, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 298-303 (*Dec. 12, 2022 aft., adjourned*), 480-87 (*Mar. 6, 2023 aft., passed on division*)

Bill 204 — Missing Persons (Silver Alert) Amendment Act, 2022 (Mark Smith)

First Reading — 270 (*Dec. 8, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 487-92 (*Mar. 6, 2023 aft.*), 557-64 (*Mar. 13, 2023 aft., passed*)

Bill 205 — Official Sport of Alberta Act (Lovely)

First Reading — 444 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft., passed*)

Second Reading — 564-71 (*Mar. 13, 2023 aft., adjourned*)

Bill 206 — Insurance (Private Passenger Vehicle Premium) Amendment Act, 2022 (Sabir)

First Reading — 444 (*Dec. 15, 2022 aft., passed*)

Bill 207 — Jobs and Investment Incentives Proposal Act (Eggen)

First Reading — 601 (*Mar. 15, 2023 aft., passed*)

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