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The Honourable Kenneth R. Kowalski, Speaker

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The 27th Legislature

Second Session

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 30, 2009

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Good afternoon. Welcome.

Let us pray. As we conclude for this week our work in this Assembly, we renew our energies with thanks so that we may continue our work with the people in the constituencies we represent. Amen.

Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Battle River-Wainwright.

Mr. Griffiths: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me today to rise to introduce to you and through you to members 34 visitors in the gallery from Killam public school. There are 28 students, and they are accompanied by their teachers – please forgive me if I mess up your names – Ms Karin Brussé-Paterson, Mrs. Janet Yarham and parents Mrs. Mavis Knodel, Mrs. Marilyn O'Brien, Dr. Tim Hanton, and Mr. Roger Rachid. It's a pleasure to have them here. I know that they're enjoying their time here in Edmonton, and I look forward to getting the opportunity to come and visit them in Killam, like I do with as many schools as possible, to talk to them about what we do here in the Legislature. I'd ask them to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Ms Redford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a tremendous pleasure for me today to rise to introduce a very good friend of mine, a very good friend of many people on this side of the House, Mr. Bill Smith. Mr. Bill Smith is a long-standing Calgarian. He used to be a firefighter. He made the wise decision later in his life to go back to school and become a lawyer. He is now a very respected member of the legal community in Calgary, and he is also vice-president of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta. Bill and his wife, Mary, have four children, very tall children: Connor, Logan, Liam, and Alison. I'd like to ask all members to join me in offering him a very warm welcome this afternoon.

Mr. Cao: Mr. Speaker, I have an introduction today. It's a great pleasure for me to introduce to you and through you to all Members of the Legislative Assembly two individuals from the Cantos Music Foundation in Calgary. They are executive director Andrew Mosker and fund developer Jeni Piegrass. Cantos Music Foundation owns a world-class collection of keyboards and electronic instruments, and it offers musical tours and programs for Alberta children and seniors. I would like to ask Andrew and Jeni to rise and receive a traditional welcome from our Assembly.

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

Mr. Denis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly another gentleman who has made some wise choices in his life, Mr. Tyler Shandro, who is sitting in the public gallery. Tyler is a lawyer with Walsh Wilkins Creighton in Calgary. He is a resident of Calgary-Buffalo although he grew up in Calgary-Fish

Creek. I'm particularly proud that he could join us today as he and his wife have been very occupied with their eight-month-old boy, Phineas. I'd ask that Tyler please rise and accept the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Strathcona.

Mr. Quest: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you to this Assembly a group of 10 individuals who are visiting the Legislature today from Longmont, Colorado, which is about 45 minutes north of Denver. They're part of a home-school group led by Debbie Lukasiewicz and are in Alberta touring around, performing as the Luke Ham Sandwich Family Band. They have already toured the building today and are now looking forward to seeing government in action. They're seated in the public gallery, and I would ask that they all rise to receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

Mr. Vandermeer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to introduce to you and through you two people. They're not lawyers. I'd ask them to rise as I mention their name. The first one is my new STEP student. She'll be working in the office. Her name is Bethany Long. She'll be taking care of my constituents this summer. The other one is my daughter Charlene, who is back home for the summer from Olds College, where she took design and marketing. You'll notice that she's wearing something that she designed, her jacket. I'd like you to give them both a warm welcome.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Athabasca-Redwater.

Paving Health Pathways Strategy

Mr. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about an exciting new initiative by the government of Alberta that I believe is one of the first of its kind in Canada. It'll provide high school students in several communities the opportunity to sample health courses contained in Alberta Education's revised career and technology studies program.

This opportunity will be available in 10 communities, which will serve as pilot sites for Paving Health Pathways: A Health Services Strategy, which aligns with the government's mandate to build Alberta's skilled workforce and initiatives in the Minister of Education's mandate letter. This strategy is backed by a three-year, \$12 million funding commitment by the government. Under the revised program of studies the previous CTS strands have been replaced by a more deliberate and structured set of five clusters, including a health, recreation, and human resources cluster. Under the strategy students in these 10 pilot jurisdictions will have greater opportunity to explore the world of work, gain insight into possible health services careers, and work toward postsecondary education, all while still in high school.

Each pilot jurisdiction has determined its own course options and site location. Options include child care worker, health care aide, sports medicine, emergency responder, and licensed practical nurse. The revised CTS program of studies will be phased in starting this fall, with the health, recreation, and human resources cluster set for implementation in the fall of 2010. This initiative is a win-win for everyone. It opens doors for students to new career possibilities and may potentially increase the pool of qualified workers in Alberta's

health services field. It also fosters collaboration between K to 12, postsecondary, industry, and other community partners and helps ease the transition into postsecondary education.

I applaud the school jurisdictions that applied for these pilot projects, and I'd also like to congratulate the 10, including those in my constituency, for being selected to pilot this initiative. The Premier, the Minister of Education, and his department staff deserve our thanks for moving this important pilot project forward.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing the results of this pilot project, and I hope that some day it will be available province-wide.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

Oscar J. Lacombe

Ms Calahasen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Oscar Lacombe has made history in this province and has left a legacy that many aboriginal people are proud of. He has done this in so many ways, but more notable is his appointment as the first Métis Sergeant-at-Arms in this Assembly, from 1980 to 1993. He took this position seriously and showed this with the pride that he exhibited as he did his job. In fact, Mr. Lacombe was so respected in this position that on the day after his retirement, in January of 1993, government and opposition stood in unison to pass the motion that Oscar J. Lacombe receive the title of honorary Sergeant-at-Arms for life.

Oscar has had a distinguished career, spanning over 40 years; first, with the Canadian Armed Forces in 1949, serving in Korea, Japan, and Europe; with tours in Egypt, Cyprus, and the Middle East as a peacekeeper with the UN. Following his retirement from the military, for 12 years he worked as a bodyguard for then Premier of Alberta Hon. Peter Lougheed, something Oscar speaks about with pride.

Never one to back down from his heritage nor from his accomplishments, I believe the then Speaker of the House, David Carter, said it well: Mr. Lacombe has served his country, his province, the former Premier, and this Legislative Assembly with distinction. In his own right and as a representative of the Métis people Oscar has contributed to our province and country. Loyalty, dedication, and perseverance are some of the fine personal attributes that he possesses. But I believe that one of the greatest attributes that Oscar has is his Métis humour, which many of us who knew him could attest to. In fact, media types often dubbed him as having a salty humour and the strategic sense of a good soldier.

We will be celebrating Mr. Lacombe's 80 years of a remarkable life on Saturday. Still active, I am sure he will do the Métis jig with fervor and show up many of us younger people in the crowd.

I'm sure I speak on behalf of all of us here: Oscar Lacombe, our honorary Sergeant-at-Arms, happy birthday, and may you celebrate many more.

1:40 National Victims of Crime Awareness Week

Mr. Hehr: This week is National Victims of Crime Awareness Week, a time for all of us to consider real, life-affecting crimes on our neighbours and fellow citizens. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking of crime as something that happens to other people, but once you're the victim, everything changes. Whether you've been robbed, assaulted, or defrauded, crime leaves you feeling hurt, violated, and frightened. Often there is an erosion of trust, a loss of faith in humanity. Violent crimes are seen as more devastating, with long-term emotional and physical consequences. No one wants to be a victim of crime, and indeed we all feel sympathy and regret when we hear that an Albertan has been murdered or robbed or otherwise victimized.

Fortunately, many Albertans go further than sympathy. I'm grateful to those citizens who decide to serve as Block Parents, for those who sign up for Rural Crime Watch or who volunteer to help out with Crime Stoppers videos. Above all, I'm grateful to the social workers and police officers, who put everything on the line every day to help victims of crime and to prevent crime. These dedicated men and women are real heroes. They do more to ease the pain of victims of crime than we can ever know.

As elected representatives of the people of Alberta the members of this House should always keep their eyes and ears open for new ways to alleviate the pain and suffering caused by crime, just as we should be open to new strategies to stop crime cold.

On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the House I want to express our condolences and best wishes to all Albertans who have been victimized by criminals.

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

Work Safe Alberta Student Video Contest

Mr. Elniski: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the first annual Work Safe Alberta Student Video Contest winners gathered at a ceremony in Edmonton to receive their awards from the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I would like to congratulate the winning students on their creativity and hard work in producing videos to bring the attention of their peers to the importance of working in a healthy and safe manner.

First place was Brad Fleischer from Bert Church high school in Airdrie with his entry called *Mistakes and Regrets*. Second place went to Mr. Curtis Huisman and Mr. Jeff Oudman from W.R. Myers in Taber for their entry called *Promote Safe Work*. Third place went to Mr. Evyn Boudreau and Ms Jessie Seberg from The Third Academy in Lethbridge for their entry called *Work Smart Be Safe*.

By putting this kind of effort into keeping other young Albertans safe, they have shown that they are truly winners. I encourage Albertans to see these award-winning calls for safety online at www.employment.alberta.ca.

Thank you.

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

Government Accountability

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Openness and accountability in government are the foundations of a true democracy, yet we're seeing, at an alarming rate, bill after bill take power out of the hands of the Legislature and give it to the cabinet or minister, where decisions can be made behind closed doors. So-called consultations are not public, and there is no onus placed on the government to follow the advice it is given. Hand-picked friends of the government are placed on boards and make important decisions that have significant impact on all Albertans.

Increasingly, government ministers are refusing to answer questions from the public and the opposition, demanding instead that we use the FOIP process. When this is done, they often refuse to release the information asked for or render what they do provide worthless by striking out key passages. The FOIP legislation itself is designed to allow the government to hide information from the public. There are built-in loopholes, such as the so-called advice to the minister, that allow almost anything to be withheld. Such a clause is not the norm in other freedom of information legislation in other jurisdictions. Most recently the government withheld an

important report on mental health, based on the dubious assertion that it was advice to the minister.

Mr. Speaker, Albertans are concerned about what this government is hiding. They wonder whether a government that is afraid of public debate can be trusted. They worry that this government is more concerned with the interests of its friends and the oil industry than it is with the things that ordinary Albertans need to care for their families.

The Alberta government has become the most secretive in Canada. That is not what Albertans want. That is not what Albertans voted for.

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

Crime Reduction and Safe Communities

Mr. Olson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to talk about gangs and the safe communities task force and the impact of both on a community in my constituency. As you know, in recent weeks the safe communities task force has been conducting meetings around the province, talking about gang suppression. Last week the Member for Drayton Valley-Calmor and myself had the opportunity to sit in on one of those meetings. Now, even though we were at a meeting in Hobbema, I want to stress that this is not an issue that's unique to aboriginal communities. This is something that all Albertans in every community deal with. It touches all of us either in terms of property or in terms of a more personal, individual impact, impacts like fear, intimidation, injury, and even death.

I want to focus a little bit on victims in a personal way but gang members as victims of gangs. While gangs are in many ways thought of as kind of large, monolithic, faceless organizations, they're made up of individuals and for the most part young individuals, kids. We were, I think, somewhat shocked to hear how kids are being used by gangs as couriers, enforcers, prostitutes, and so on. One of the most shocking things is how kids have lost hope. They don't see themselves as living even into their 20s, and that makes for a very dangerous formula both for themselves and for their communities.

However, it was interesting to hear a policeman say that the person that one of these young people wants to speak to when they get arrested is their mum. So I think we have to keep that in mind, that we're dealing in large part with kids. It's time to take firm action on crime, but it has to be coupled with good parenting, respect, good role models, education, and jobs. We need hope. That's what I like about the safe communities task force and what they're doing, and led by the people in Hobbema, I think they're going to make a difference to the people in that community.

Thank you.

Projected Government Business

The Speaker: The Official Opposition House Leader.

Ms Blakeman: Thank you. According to Standing Order 7(6) I would request that the Government House Leader please provide the Assembly with the projected government business for the week commencing, Monday, May 4, a new month, with government business commencing Tuesday, the 5th of May.

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Hancock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Tuesday, May 5, under Government Bills and Orders for second reading we would anticipate dealing with Bill 20, Civil Enforcement Amendment Act, 2009;

Bill 23, Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 24, Animal Health Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 25, the Teachers' Pension Plans Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 26, Wildlife Amendment Act, 2009; and Bill 33, the Fiscal Responsibility Act. In Committee of the Whole Bill 10, Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act; Bill 11, Fisheries (Alberta) Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 12, Surface Rights Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 13, Justice of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 14, Carbon Capture and Storage Funding Act; and Bill 16, Peace Officer Amendment Act, 2009.

On Wednesday, May 6, in the afternoon under Government Bills and Orders for second reading Bill 27, Alberta Research and Innovation Act; Bill 28, Energy Statutes Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 29, Family Law Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 30, Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 31, Rules of Court Statutes Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 34, Drug Program Act; Bill 36, Alberta Land Stewardship Act; Bill 43, Marketing of Agricultural Products Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2); and Bill 44, Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act, 2009; and in Committee of the Whole Bill 33, Fiscal Responsibility Act.

On Thursday, May 7, of course, we have scheduled Committee of Supply and the votes on the main estimates and, time permitting, second reading of Bill 34, Drug Program Act; Bill 36, Alberta Land Stewardship Act; Bill 43, Marketing of Agricultural Products Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2); and Bill 44, Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act, 2009; and as per the Order Paper.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: Hon. members, the Clerk will stop the clock. Before we proceed with Oral Question Period, there is a matter that arose yesterday in the House and which must be dealt with now. I'm going to invite the hon. Member for Calgary-Currie to make comment.

Member's Apology

Mr. Taylor: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, thank you for granting me this time to stand before the Assembly and say that I am sorry. I heckled yesterday during question period thoughtlessly, without any thought whatsoever that the words I used would be offensive. I just figured I was doing a little trash-talking with my heckling. Indeed, I was so insensitive to how my remark would be taken that I continued blithely along for the rest of the afternoon in here, thinking everything was fine, and it was only after we adjourned at 6 o'clock last night that I discovered how I had hurt and offended my colleagues on the benches opposite. That was never my intention. That never even entered my mind, and I am truly sorry for the offence and the pain that I have caused. It will not happen again.

1:50

The Speaker: The comment arose out of an exchange with the Premier. Mr. Premier, is that satisfactory to you?

Mr. Stelmach: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to table four copies of a letter that I sent to the Leader of the Official Opposition. Please permit me to quote just the one paragraph.

As members of the Assembly we are afforded special privilege under the law in an effort to promote free speech and honest debate. That privilege cannot be taken for granted and requires a high standard of integrity. That is why party leaders need to demonstrate through actions and words their commitment to, and respect for, democratic ideals. Simply put, with leadership comes the burden of discipline.

I believe that our caucus as a whole will accept the apology from the hon. member.

The Speaker: We will now proceed with the Oral Question Period. The clock will now be set in motion. First Official Opposition main question. The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

Parental Choice in Education

Mr. Chase: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Enshrining parental rights in human rights legislation as Bill 44 proposes is either a deliberate attempt to undermine Alberta's public education system or a thoughtless, unintended consequence of social conservatism. Not only does this legislation guarantee a get out of class free card, but there's an expectation that the teachers stop, drop, and roll over the lesson to provide an immediate alternative learning experience for the objector. To the Premier: why has the majority of the Conservative caucus decreed that a minority tail wag its dogma at the expense of Alberta's public education system? Does a religious right make an Alberta education wrong?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education responded to the allegations yesterday, and I'll ask him to respond in the House.

Mr. Hancock: Mr. Speaker, what is being proposed in the human rights act merely puts into the human rights act something which is already in practice not only in Alberta but, I believe, in many places. Under the School Act a parent can exempt their children from religious study. Under the policies mandated by the Department of Education of the human sexuality education policy, schools are required to inform parents through letters or meetings when sensitive or human sexuality topics will be discussed in their child's class. Parents must be given the opportunity to request . . .

The Speaker: I appreciate that. This is the question period, not a time for debate.

Mr. Chase: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are existing exemptions available to parents, including private schools, charter schools, home-schooling, and opt-out provisions currently within the School Act. What is the justification for allowing our universal public education system to be held hostage by the social conservatives in this Tory caucus?

Mr. Hancock: Mr. Speaker, nothing of the sort is happening. Parents are always expected to have a strong role in the education of their children; in fact, parents are responsible for their children. At the beginning of every year schools have meet the teacher nights and open houses so that parents can be invited in and understand the curriculum that their children are being taught. There are specific areas where parents are required to be informed. One is with respect to teaching about human sexuality. Sex ed has always been the case; it's been a very sensitive subject. When it's taught, it's required that parents be informed, and they have the right to exempt their child. That happens now. Nothing will change.

Mr. Chase: Again to the Premier, or he can pass it off to the Education minister at his will. Don't students and teachers have the right to follow the publicly approved curriculum without the looming spectre of accusations of intolerance? Isn't that what a public school system is meant to be?

Mr. Hancock: Mr. Speaker, sex education has always been something that is a family value, and we expect those family values to be maintained. Schools have a role in making sure students have appropriate information in accordance with the curriculum, and the curriculum is a public health curriculum when it comes to CALM, when it comes it comes to, I think, the junior high health program. In those cases, because sexual education is a sensitive issue and a family issue, parents are informed. They've always had the right to request that their child be exempted from sex education in school.

The Speaker: Second Official Opposition main question. The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

Income Support for Housing

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs claimed a few weeks ago that the cancellation of the homeless and eviction prevention fund was merely an administrative change. However, on page 2 of the Alberta works directive circulated on March 24, it states

Even though clients may receive less than their full shortfall or be put on a waiting list by the housing authority, the income support program cannot exceed its required shelter maximums.

To the minister: given that the government has been fully aware of the funding gaps since the inception of this administrative change, what has the minister done to address the gap?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Fritz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I did indicate, hon. member, the change to the homeless eviction and prevention fund is administrative. What will be happening for people is that they will more clearly see that their rent support program will be with Housing and Urban Affairs, much as it is with all other Albertans that require subsidy with rent support.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue, though, is whether there is enough support there. Given that housing management bodies have wait-lists that can be up to two years, and in some cases, depending on the circumstances, even longer than that, will the minister explain how people will be able to pay the rent shortfall in this two-year-long interim?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Fritz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The program will be under the direct-to-tenant rent supplement program. Rather than first-month rent and damage deposit only, it will be delivered on a 12-month basis, which is completely new for people that were previously under the HEP fund. That allows for, I think, greater financial peace of mind for people as they can undertake job retraining, employment counselling, or they can relocate to housing that's even more affordable for them in that time period. The rent shortfall benefit program and the other comments, you may speak to the minister of EI.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Taylor: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're hearing from constituents all the time that it's not working out that way for them. So considering that as a result of these administration changes some

people will have to lose their homes before they can access programs and supports, will the minister explain how this new program is in line with the housing first model? It sounds more like a homelessness first strategy.

Mrs. Fritz: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that people will not be losing their homes through our rent supplement program. In fact, as I indicated, we're supporting people for a 12-month period rather than what had previously been a very short time for them. Previously people were going through about 22 application processes. Every month they were doing that. This ensures stability for people. The HEP fund program, the rent supplement people were receiving, will continue for a 12-month period for those individuals. They don't need to requalify. It's actually a very good change.

The Speaker: Third Official Opposition main question. The hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo.

Mr. Hehr: Mr. Speaker, with the cancellation of the rent shortfall portion of the homeless and eviction prevention fund many people who were receiving income support are no longer able to pay for housing. Under income support a single adult only receives a core shelter benefit of \$323 per month. To the Minister of Employment and Immigration: given that even the Salvation Army charges rent of \$525 per month, where exactly are income support recipients supposed to find housing for \$323 a month?

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Speaker, we do our best to help individuals find the proper accommodations, and those that need emergency help that are facing, say, emergency evictions or help for damage deposits, for instance, can apply directly to our ministry for that type of support. You'll recall that last fall we increased our budgets quite dramatically, and those increases are still in place. Our estimate for this year of \$473 million towards income support programs represents an increase of just about \$70 million from what we had last year.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Hehr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. People don't receive funding from your ministry until they are actually off the waiting list and at the front of the line. Can you tell us what they're supposed to do in the interim to receive funding to find a place to live?

2:00

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Fritz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm assuming that the member is still discussing the HEP fund for people that are receiving a rent shortfall benefit. Those individuals that are moving into our direct to tenant supplement program will not need to qualify. They are moving directly over administratively to this department. They are, hon. member. I don't know why you're shaking your head no. I know exactly what's happening with this program. I can tell you that people are moving over to our program. They will be assisted not for a one-month period but for a 12-month period.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Hehr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Premier. As the hon. Member for Calgary-Currie indicated, this sounds more like a homelessness first plan than a plan to end homelessness. Why are we continuing to not support the people who need support the most?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, I can stand before this House with great confidence that there is not one jurisdiction in Canada that's doing as much to end homelessness as this province. Absolutely no one comes close to the millions of dollars invested. In fact, raised just yesterday in Members' Statements, a new idea: \$6 million for Habitat for Humanity, that will add another 67 homes across Alberta in various communities. That's over and above the hundreds of millions of dollars that are going into affordable housing. Again, no jurisdiction is coming close to the plan that we have in place.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, followed by the hon. Member for Strathcona.

Parental Choice in Education

(continued)

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I was at the news conference yesterday when the Premier was asked if his new Bill 44 could be used to prevent children from learning about evolution in schools. The Premier told the media, and I quote: parents would have the opportunity to make that choice. Yesterday the Premier denied making that statement and accused me of using wrong information. He said it, and I can play the tape if members wish. My question is to the Premier: you said it to the media, so why not say it to the House? You've drafted a bill that means that children can be prohibited from learning about evolution. Admit it.

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, the bill is very explicit in what it says. The Minister of Education, again, referred to sections of the policy that's in place. This is nothing new in the province of Alberta. It's simply confirming the rights. Those rights will now be in our human rights legislation.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's very different, and in this respect: not only does the government think it's okay for children to be opted out of studying evolution in the classroom; it puts the onus on teachers to enforce it. If they don't, they can be hauled in front of the Human Rights Commission. That is new. Why is this Premier planning to expose Alberta teachers to persecution for teaching evolution in schools?

Mr. Hancock: Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from reality. Under the School Act, section 50(2): "Where a teacher or other person providing religious or patriotic instruction receives a written request signed by a parent of a student that the student be excluded from religious or patriotic instruction." That's in the School Act now. What Bill 44 basically says in section 11.1 is that when there's a course, educational program, or instructional materials that deal explicitly with religion, a student can be exempted from study. The School Act provides it now. It's now in the human rights act.

It's apparent that that's a parental right, to guide the course of education of their child, as we all know is a responsibility of parents. We have a public responsibility for public education. We have a strong curriculum in this province. What the hon. member is talking about is absolutely ludicrous.

Mr. Mason: Sure sounded like two completely different things to me, Mr. Speaker.

This government's so-called parents' rights policy exposes teachers to prosecution before the Human Rights Commission if they teach something a parent doesn't like. That's new. Teachers will be

looking over their shoulders and afraid of open discussions with their class. This Education minister knows it. I know he's been put up to protect the Premier today, but I don't think he believes it himself. Why won't you admit that this policy will stifle education and end up hurting Alberta children?

Mr. Hancock: Mr. Speaker, nothing in this policy or this act is going to stifle education in this province. We have a very strong curriculum in this province. We have a very strong curriculum in sexual education. We have a very strong curriculum in health. We're constantly improving the education. What we're saying is that under the act that exists and under the policies that exist, parents have a right to exclude their students from sexual education and from religious education. Under the human rights act they'll have the same privilege.

The Speaker: To the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood. A lot of energy today; save it for the full debate on Bill 44, okay?

The hon. Member for Strathcona, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

H1N1 Influenza Pandemic Planning

Mr. Quest: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the World Health Organization raised the level of the influenza pandemic alert from phase 4 to phase 5. This phase means a pandemic is likely imminent. Confirmed cases are now being reported world-wide, including six cases in Alberta. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Wellness: what measures are in place to protect Albertans from a pandemic?

Mr. Liepert: Well, Mr. Speaker, the member is correct that as of this morning we now have officially six cases of the influenza in Alberta. It should be pointed out, however, that all of the cases are mild in nature and are all either recovered or well on their way to recovery. We have a very extensive plan in place. It is being administered by our emergency operations centre. As of tomorrow Alberta Health Services will be part of that emergency operations centre, and in the event that the World Health Organization declares a pandemic, we also have a 100-page pandemic plan, which is available to all members on the website.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Quest: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question, also to the Minister of Health and Wellness: what steps should individual Albertans be taking to help stop the spread of this infection?

Mr. Liepert: Well, I think, first of all, Mr. Speaker, individual Albertans should go about their normal business doing what they do on a day-to-day basis. If someone travelled to Mexico and returned and feels as though they may have, in fact, some contact with this particular influenza, we have the Health Link line, the professionals monitoring the Health Link line, who will give the advice that the average Albertan would be seeking, but overall we should be doing what we normally do on a day-to-day basis in this province.

Mr. Quest: Mr. Speaker, my final question is to the Minister of Education. We're hearing of school boards in this province that are cancelling trips for students. Is it necessary for parents and/or school boards to cancel planned trips at this time?

Mr. Hancock: Well, Mr. Speaker, first of all, from a public health perspective there's no reason to cancel field trips within the province or within the country. Obviously, if school trips are planned to an area or a gathering where there are confirmed laboratory cases, that should be a consideration. The deputy minister advised school boards on Tuesday to consider rescheduling student trips to Mexico and the affected areas of the United States until additional information is issued in the days ahead. I believe that's still good advice. There's no need for people to do wholesale cancellation of trips, but that decision is in the school boards' hands with respect to what's most appropriate for trips that their schools and their students are planning. What we've advised is that they should look very closely at cancelling trips to Mexico and clearly affected areas.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford.

Secondary Ticket Sales

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Ontario Attorney General introduced amending legislation prohibiting reselling of tickets between related sellers like Ticketmaster and TicketsNow and instituting a penalty of up to \$50,000. While other jurisdictions are acting to protect their citizens, this government seems content to sit back, monitor the situation, and let Albertans be gouged on tickets for AC/DC, Leonard Cohen, and Britney Spears. My questions are to the Minister of Service Alberta. Why does the minister continue to allow our citizens to be ripped off?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm indeed aware of what the government in Ontario is doing. I think it's really important to note here that there are a number of cases across Canada. Of course, the federal commissioner has asked for an investigation as well. We need to look at all the answers and questions and make sure that what we do is right for Albertans and that it's enforceable and effective. So the fact that we are looking at what they are doing in Ontario is a step in the right direction.

Ms Blakeman: Back to the same minister. If this government is so aware of changing economic times for its own budget, why can't this administration understand that citizens get angry when a \$90 ticket turns into a \$300 ticket because there is no consumer protection for ticket reselling in this province?

2:10

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think what's at stake here is the power of the consumer. The consumer has the power to make choices that I can't comment on. On the other hand, it's important to note that the consumer is protected under the Fair Trading Act. To make sure that consumers know and that they have the information to make the best decisions, we are looking at this very closely. We are not going to propose something that's a solution overnight. This is a complex situation that we are looking at from all angles.

Ms Blakeman: Well, back to the same minister. Does the minister not understand that Ticketmaster is the sole ticket supplier? She makes a remark like: oh, the consumers can decide to purchase tickets somewhere else. No, they can't. When will the minister stop

monitoring the situation and introduce legislation like Ontario has prohibiting secondary ticket sales and instituting significant fines to deter this practice?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know in Service Alberta when I did my estimates, I made it very clear that any regulations or legislation that we introduce has to be the right legislation for Albertans. This is what this conversation is about. If we legislate something that's not effective and enforceable and has false expectations, that's not going to protect consumers either. That's why we are looking at what's happening across Canada and doing what's right for Albertans.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo.

2015 World University Games

Mr. Horne: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As all of my colleagues in the Legislature representing Edmonton constituencies will know, the coming weekend is a very important weekend for our city. An international sport delegation will be visiting Edmonton to view sport facilities and infrastructure for Edmonton's bid to host the 2015 Universiade summer games. My first question is to the Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation. What is the specific role of the delegation visiting Edmonton, and what will be happening with this weekend's site visit?

Mrs. Ady: Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is right: this is a very exciting weekend for the city of Edmonton. We've got five members from the International University Sports Federation that are arriving today. They're going to be looking over the city of Edmonton and their sports facilities. They're going to meet with the bid committee, with government officials. They're going to be looking at Edmonton to see whether they have a chance to win the university bid in 2015. I'm here to tell you that I think this city is going to do a great job.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for her optimism on behalf of our city.

To the same minister: what is the expected economic impact of hosting the games both for the city of Edmonton and Alberta?

Mrs. Ady: Well, Mr. Speaker, Economic Development Edmonton is projecting that the economic impact for the province is about \$465 million, and for the city of Edmonton it's about \$301 million. It's important to remember that there are legacies that get left from games in improved infrastructure but also in the attention that will be paid to sport and high-performance sport and fitness in this province. Those are legacies you can't put a price tag on.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Final supplementary question to the same minister. When does the minister expect the final decision will be made on Edmonton's bid? Specifically, what date can we expect to hear the good news?

Mrs. Ady: Well, Mr. Speaker, Edmonton is the final stop of these delegates. They've already been to Korea, and they've been to

Taiwan. We get the last kick at the can to show what a great job Edmonton can do. I have to say that the city of Edmonton has such a great track record when it comes to hosting international sporting events that I think they're going to be in a very, very strong position. The decision will be made in Brussels on May 22 and 23. Good luck to Edmonton. Let's show them what we can do.

Unified Family Court

Mr. Hehr: Mr. Speaker, Alberta Justice has taken the initiative to improve maintenance enforcement collection by removing adversarial aspects surrounding recalculation. I applaud them for it. However, this government remains unwilling to commit to improvements flagged by the Graham report in 2003 to accomplish similar goals. Why is this Justice minister unwilling to commit to the creation of an integrated, single-forum court for Albertans facing a family breakdown?

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Ms Redford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think what the hon. member is referring to is a unified family court. Those are magic words. In theory they should allow certain objectives to be achieved, the most important objective being to find alternatives to litigation to resolve family matters. In Alberta Justice we have a number of programs that have been championed by court administrators, by judges, and by people who are involved within the entire court system with respect to ADR mediation, ensuring that we have full disclosure of financial information and that we look to what is in the best interests of the children with respect to custody. We believe that we meet those objectives already.

Mr. Hehr: Well, that does sound great, but it's not quite a unified family court. Unified family courts have been endorsed by academics, legal practitioners, and litigants as ways to increase access to justice. Why do we continue to deny litigants a more appropriate forum and streamlined access to the courts for family disputes?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Redford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I made it very clear that it's not a unified family court. We've made a decision, this government has made a decision that we're going to meet the objectives that we need to make. One of the things that we know is that there are always lots of academics and lots of lawyers that have opinions and endorse this or that. What we know is that we're going to serve Albertans, and we're doing it.

Mr. Hehr: Mr. Speaker, just to be clear, are you, then, saying that your own expert task force back in 2003 was wrong and that a unified family court is no longer needed?

Ms Redford: Mr. Speaker, that report included a number of pieces about what we needed to achieve for family law and family courts in this province. I think we're achieving those, and that's what we'll continue to do.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Public Transit Funding

Mr. Sandhu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The announcement by the Premier of the extension of the northeast light rail transit line,

including the portion from Clareview to the Gorman Town Centre in my riding of Edmonton-Manning, was great news. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. What are the priority projects funded with regard to the announcement today?

Mr. Ouellette: Well, Mr. Speaker, this was indeed a great news story for Edmonton today. The funding today will support three projects. One is extending the LRT line from Clareview to the Gorman Town Centre in the northwest, as the hon. member mentioned, the second involves lengthening station platforms to handle longer trains and increase system capacity, and the third involves building three park-and-ride locations and upgrading signals on the LRT to improve systems efficiency.

Mr. Sandhu: My first supplemental to the same minister. The federal government promoted this project as a stimulus project. What does the announcement mean for the Edmonton construction workers?

Mr. Ouellette: Mr. Speaker, great news also for the Edmonton construction workers. The \$300 million announced today will keep roughly 3,500 Alberta construction workers working. One of the priorities of this government is to keep people working in Alberta, so let's keep Albertans working.

Mr. Sandhu: My second supplemental: when can my constituents and other Edmontonians expect to see work begin on these projects, and when will the work be concluded so they can make use of an expanded public transit system?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Ouellette: Mr. Speaker, on the planning and design, I understand the city of Edmonton has that under way or is getting it under way soon. If all goes well, the city of Edmonton could see construction start early this summer. I don't have exact completion dates, but I encourage the member to contact the city of Edmonton on that because the city is in charge of these construction projects.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

Community Initiatives Program

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday it was made known that after a meeting with the international development organizations the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit reinstated the international funding component into the community initiatives program. The right decision, but it does call into question the quality of the research or the reasoning that led to the cut in the first place. My question is to the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. Why did the minister torment the international development community and make it jump through hoops by withdrawing the funding in the first place?

Mr. Blackett: Mr. Speaker, I certainly didn't torment anyone. We had a budget decision, and we said in response to the budget estimates that we had to look at taking a reduction of \$9 million in our budget, and what was the most effective way to be able to do that and to deliver the services to those organizations that we support? We thought that the Wild Rose Foundation could roll into the community initiatives program. We would find a way. We haven't made that commitment yet because I had committed that in 30 days we would deliver that. I said that it's our intention to

honour the funding for \$1.3 million to the international development fund. That's what I said, and we'll stick with that.

2:20

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Blakeman: Thank you. Again to the same minister: well, given the change of mind that the minister has had, how can the Assembly, the voluntary sector, and indeed citizens in Alberta have faith that this is the minister's final answer?

Mr. Blackett: Well, because this minister, Mr. Speaker, has been pretty consistent. I said on budget day, I said in the budget estimates, I said in every interview from there forward that my intention is to be able to provide funding on the same criteria to those organizations, whether it's with respect to international development, whether it's with respect to the organizations that need funding on a nonmatching basis. Albertans believe strongly in helping one another and the less fortunate. Our not-for-profit sector does a fantastic job, and our government will stand behind them.

Ms Blakeman: Teeter-totter Tories.

Back to the same minister. Given that a month ago there was 37 and a half million dollars in Wild Rose and CIP and now a reduction of both the original cut and this set aside for the international funding, how are all of the original Wild Rose grant recipients plus the groups that usually compete for CIP money supposed to cope with a loss of almost a third in the total funding available to them?

Mr. Blackett: Well, again, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite doesn't tell the truth. Our government through our department alone commits . . .

Ms Blakeman: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Blackett: I apologize, Mr. Speaker.

The statement is that in budget estimates I said that we have \$166 million that comes through our department to the sector – it is not just CIP; it was not just Wild Rose funding – \$20 million dollars from the community spirit donor program, new money introduced in 2008, \$80 million in enhanced tax credit, and also the community facility enhancement program at \$39 million.

The Speaker: Hon. minister, there was a comment made. I heard an apology, but I think it's very important to withdraw that comment as well.

Mr. Blackett: I withdraw that comment, sir.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.

Parental Choice in Education

(continued)

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Culture and Community Spirit has proposed a human rights policy that prevents teachers from discussing issues a parent might deem distasteful on religious grounds without first giving notice to the parent and censoring the discussion in the meantime. The minister's defence was that the law isn't meant to be taken literally. He said, and I quote: if you took the thing literally and ran it on its ear, we'd have anarchy. Well, I do agree with that. To the minister: if you never

meant for this to be taken seriously, why are you trying to make it law and denying kids a balanced education?

Mr. Hancock: Mr. Speaker, Alberta has one of the best educations in the world for our children, and no child is being denied a balanced education. What we have in this province is an opportunity for parents and the public to have a joint interest in making sure that every Albertan child is educated. Parents have a very strong responsibility for the education of their children.

There are two areas in this province and in every other place that I know of that are particularly important to parents. Those have to do with their religious values and sexual education. It's long been the practice in this province and, I believe, in most other places that parents have the right to exempt their children from religious instruction and from sexual education. They're entitled to be advised when it's in the curriculum, and they're entitled to ask that their child be excluded.

The Speaker: Hon. member, I'm going to recognize you. You are also the House leader of your caucus. Would you put some mufflers on the person sitting to your right? Now, proceed, please.

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, I could have sworn that the Human Rights Commission was part of the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit's area.

As part of a class discussion on current events a young girl asked her teacher about the oppression of women in many parts of the world. This minister's new policy means that the teacher would have to uncomfortably change the subject and refuse to answer the question until notice had been given to certain parents. In effect, this policy prohibits educators from using teachable moments to explain to students the values we hold dear. Why has the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit proposed policy that allows a parent who believes in the subordination of women on religious grounds to interfere with a young girl learning about her democratic rights?

Mr. Blakett: Well, Mr. Speaker, again, we engage in flights of fancy. What is there is an entrenchment of what's already in the School Act, the provisions that foster our curriculum. We are not telling teachers to do anything different than they've already done before. As the Minister of Education has eloquently stated, we are just putting into the human rights act something that is already there in the School Act. Teachers can respond to their students. They can have discussions. We are not creating the thought police. Please stop the misrepresentation of what we are actually doing. People are . . .

The Speaker: The hon. member. [interjection] It's okay. I've already recognized – boy, we're going to have an exciting debate if this bill ever gets to the House.

The hon. member.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The act is different from the policy.

Now, a bunch of kids surround another in the schoolyard, calling him something derogatory based on his sexual orientation. The teacher intervenes, telling the kids why people are completely equal regardless of sexual orientation. Under your policy he's just breached the human rights code. Why does your government want to prohibit this teacher from teaching human rights at the very time it's most needed?

Mr. Blakett: You know, again, we expect that Albertans will be reasonable. Parents are reasonable, and they have the ability to determine how their children are taught. We have protection. The Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act is to prevent discrimination. What you're talking about: discussions, conversations . . . [interjection] We're not turning anything back. I'll have the Minister of Education respond.

The Speaker: Okay. Okay. First of all, you're going to debate this through the chair. Okay? Number one. Number two, we're going to move on.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Southwest Anthony Henday Drive

Mr. Xiao: Yes. Mr. Speaker, many constituents continue to call our office inquiring about the completion of the Edmonton ring road, specifically the southwest section, where there are still traffic lights plugging up traffic at certain points of the day. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. With the construction of the Stony Plain Road interchange under way, when will your department begin work on the remaining three interchanges at Cameron Heights, Lessard Road, and Callingwood Road?

Mr. Ouellette: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that we are very, very close to moving forward on all three of the remaining intersections. In fact, we've completed the design work on both the Lessard Road and Callingwood Road interchanges, and we've just held an open house this past week for the Cameron Heights interchange. We're not quite ready to announce the start of construction on these projects, but we're moving forward quickly, very quickly. I would tell the hon. member to stay tuned. It could come any time.

Mr. Xiao: I'm very happy to hear that.

Again to the Minister of Transportation: will the minister ensure that by the time the northwest section of the ring road is completed, there will not be any lights remaining to slow traffic down at any point on the southwest ring road?

Mr. Ouellette: Well, Mr. Speaker, as you know, our Premier has stated many times that the goal of this government is to complete the Edmonton ring road by 2015. That includes the removal of all traffic lights so that the entire ring road will be free flowing. My department is working very, very hard to remove those traffic signals as quickly as we can, and if possible we will have them removed by 2011.

Mr. Xiao: My second supplemental to the same minister: can the minister tell me what is the total estimated cost of the Edmonton ring road once completed?

Mr. Ouellette: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that to date my department has committed almost \$2.4 billion towards the construction of the ring road. That includes the cost of the southwest, the southeast, the northwest sections as well as the Stony Plain Road interchange. Next we'll have to complete the three interchanges in the southwest, a bridge across the North Saskatchewan River, about 10 kilometres of new roadway, and improvements along the northeast leg of the Henday. By the time it's done, it'll be a multibillion-dollar project.

Mr. Xiao: My last supplemental . . .

The Speaker: You've already had three.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, followed by the hon. Member for St. Albert.

2:30 Temporary Foreign Workers

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One hundred and thirty two Chinese temporary foreign workers in Fort McMurray were cheated out of 3 million plus dollars of their wages from April through July of 2007. A weakness in the Alberta Employment Standards Code prevents code violations going back further than six months from being investigated. My first question is to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. How can the minister guarantee that the unpaid Chinese temporary foreign workers will receive their wages which they were cheated out of when we can only go back six months in violations of the Employment Standards Code?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Goudreau: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated this past week, we have begun the process of verifying those individuals' identity and establishing the process for the distribution of unpaid earnings. The member is right in indicating that there is \$3.17 million for distribution that's available to these particular workers, and we'll continue to make every reasonable effort to make sure that they get their money back.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the same minister: of the 132 workers cheated out of their wages, how many hours per week did they work and at what rates?

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Speaker, I really cannot answer that particular question. I don't have those particular details. We know that they weren't paid their full amounts and that there is some money owing. Our staff have that particular file, and they have those particular details. I would be prepared, if the hon. member wishes, to get more details for him.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I and Alberta workers and members of this House would appreciate it if that information could be tabled forthwith.

Along with that, to the hon. minister: were the Chinese temporary foreign workers in Fort McMurray who were cheated out of their wages in 2007 paid for their overtime? If so, how much of the \$3 million did they acquire through overtime rates?

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Speaker, again, I cannot answer that particular question, those particular details. I'm sure that that information was made available as part of the investigation process to determine the earnings that were not paid. When we do look at earnings, it's the full complement of all of the earnings, including the overtime. Again, I don't have those details at my fingertips.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for St. Albert, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview.

Federal Building Renovations

Mr. Allred: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been almost a year since the Minister of Infrastructure announced the redevelopment of

the federal building, which has been vacant since 1989. It doesn't appear that much progress has been made. My question is for the Minister of Infrastructure. Can the minister update Albertans on the progress of the federal building redevelopment project?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Hayden: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to report that we are on schedule with the federal building, and it will be ready for occupancy at the end of 2011. Our construction manager and our design consultants are in place, and the design work has gone very well. The construction fencing – I'm sure all members have seen – is going up, and the excavation of the parking lot will begin very shortly. The interior demolition has gone very well, and we will be working on the restoration of the exterior of the building. In very early summer we'll get started with that.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Allred: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: can the minister assure Albertans that the historical significance of the federal building as an architectural landmark will remain once the redevelopment is complete?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Hayden: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it also would interest the members that the design team, in fact, includes historical resources professionals who are going to ensure that the heritage features of the building are preserved. There are a number of things we pay particular attention to: the restoration of the building exterior, the main lobby, the historic elements throughout. The stairwells, doors, and many other items have all been documented in their warehouse to be put back exactly in the right place to keep the historical significance of this building exactly what we want.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Allred: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to hear that. My final question is to the same minister. It can be a challenge to make older buildings environmentally friendly and energy efficient. What is the minister doing to make sure that the federal building will be a green building while keeping its history intact?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Hayden: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, this is an area I take great joy in, the record of this government with respect to the environmentally friendly approach we take to our buildings and energy efficiency. We are targeting LEED gold on the federal building when completed with a green roof, high-performance mechanical systems, and landscaping that minimizes the irrigation needs that are required. We are recycling and reusing as much as we possibly can in the restoration of the building.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview, followed by the hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont-Devon.

Marketing of Agricultural Products

Dr. Taft: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Time and again this government's agriculture policies benefit the small number of big players and discourage the large number of smaller players. The most recent

example is Bill 43, which has many of the province's cattle, pork, lamb, and potato producers angry. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Why is the minister ignoring the concerns presented by the producer commissions concerning Bill 43?

Mr. Groeneveld: Well, Mr. Speaker, of course, Bill 43 is in front of the House as we speak today. I'm not ignoring anyone. I'm just moving forward to what we believe very much on this side of the House is freedom of choice.

Dr. Taft: Boy, I can tell you that producer commissions don't see it that way.

Again to the same minister: why is this minister, who says he's in favour of freedom of choice, imposing this new provision on producer marketing commissions instead of allowing them to exercise their democratic right under existing legislation and conduct a plebiscite allowing all producers to decide whether or not they wish to make check-offs refundable?

Mr. Groeneveld: Well, Mr. Speaker, obviously, the member across the way doesn't understand how when you give people choice, that gives them the ultimate vote out there. They vote with their money. If their needs are not being met, they have the choice of pulling their hard-earned monies back.

Dr. Taft: How they vote with their money. That's a telling comment, Mr. Speaker.

This bill is about taking power from the hands of the many and concentrating it in the hands of the few. Bill 43 abandons the principle of one producer, one vote, and as the minister, I guess, is admitting, replaces it with a golden rule: he who has the gold makes the rules. Once again the big players who back the Premier's leadership campaign with secret donations rule the day. To the minister: will the minister admit that his intent with these changes is to take much power away from the small producers and their associations and concentrate it in the hands of giant feedlots and huge corporate producers?

Mr. Groeneveld: Well, Mr. Speaker, obviously, the question is full of innuendo and misrepresentations. I don't know where the hon. member gets his facts. We on this side of the House have a mind of our own. We know where we want to go. If you think I'm being unduly influenced by one or two people, you're very mistaken, hon. member.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont-Devon, followed by the hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

Postsecondary Education Research Funding

Mr. Rogers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The doom and gloom associated with the global economic downturn is overshadowing some very strategic and significant investments that will strengthen Alberta's future economic position. My first question is to the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. Mr. Minister, will recent investments position the Edmonton capital region as a first-rate centre for research and higher learning?

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, that is a good question because given the current economic times many have probably been wondering whether or not we're pulling in our horns, so to speak, on investments in our postsecondaries, but Edmonton is definitely a success

story as it relates to Campus Alberta. The postsecondary institutions are going to be receiving over a billion dollars in support in research funding and capital and operating expenses this year alone. We are certainly positioning ourselves in Campus Alberta with the University of Alberta and Grant MacEwan and NAIT and even the Universiade games that were mentioned earlier today in question period. We're positioning Edmonton to be a leader not only in the province but also on the globe.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Rogers: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question is to the same minister. There's been a lot of discussion in this House and, certainly, throughout our province about our health care system. To the minister: how are research and technology advancements through our universities enhancing the quality of life for all Albertans?

2:40

Mr. Horner: Well, Mr. Speaker, we've had a number of endowments over the years. We've had a considerable amount of capital expenditure in health research. Obviously, we're currently working with the ministry of health on the strategic health research initiative, where we're going to be working with not only Bill 27, that's before this House, in terms of the framework to align and focus our research efforts but also to strategically build on the strengths that we have in the province. The Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research just announced \$25 million in funding for three new Alberta-based research teams that will be developing devices for brain and spinal cord regeneration and replacement for devices. Our biomedical services institution at the U of A . . .

The Speaker: You'll be able to get all this in the third question.

Mr. Rogers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question to the same minister: how will these technological advancements enhance our next gen economy?

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, we've heard our Premier say on a number of occasions that the vision for this economy is the next generation economy, or the knowledge-based economy. We know that the commodity of the future, if you will, is going to be knowledge. To that end, our investments and the legislation that's before this House and all of the capital expenditure that we've put on the table, the \$1.2 billion across Campus Alberta over the next three years, including the \$400 million that is in our budget this year, is all zoned in to build on the strengths that we have not only in health research but in life sciences, in biomedical, as I mentioned, regenerative medicine, working with the new Health Services Board and in a number of other areas.

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

Energy Conservation

Ms Pastoor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our budget website, budget2009.ca, has received some very interesting questions for this government. Albertans want to know more about the spending priorities of the government. My questions are for the Minister of Energy. Jordan from Edmonton wants to know why this government isn't investing more in renewable energy.

Mr. Knight: Well, to be quite honest, Mr. Speaker, the situation is that the province of Alberta, in fact, has a very robust support system

for biofuels and alternate energy, one of the strongest support systems across Canada. We've got about \$239 million in a program to do exactly that.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Pastoor: Thank you. Fraser, also from Edmonton, wrote along the same lines. When are we going to use the money from oil and gas to prepare the next generation, the 21st century, for energy utilization?

Mr. Knight: Well, Mr. Speaker, the preparation of individuals in the next generation for energy consumption, I suppose, could be a long, long debate because in the next generation, if she's talking in the kind of time frame I hear her talking about, there's an entire range of, I think, new energy discoveries and new technology that will be employed by that point in time. Who knows? We might have fusion energy by that time. So we're not able to kind of condition people for that kind of energy at this point in time, but we certainly are able to condition them to the use of alternate energies that we know about today.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Pastoor: Thank you. Fraser follows up with a clear example. Why aren't we making the best solar panels in the world and selling those?

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, wonderful question, and I'm glad to answer it by saying that at our nanotechnology institute we have the top researcher in solar panels on the globe. We were able to attract him. It's a wonderful success story, and I'd be more than happy to share that with the hon. member.

Mr. Knight: And manufactured in Edmonton.

Mr. Horner: And manufactured here.

The Speaker: Hon. members, that was 102 questions and responses today.

Today is the last day of April. We begin May tomorrow. As there are almost four pages covering the various days and the weeks that May is, I'll deal with that Monday and Tuesday. I just want to advise all members, however, that because of all the interest and the enthusiasm in the room today, the chair really wondered why there was so much energy in this room today. The chair actually looked over to see what days are coming up, and the chair runs across May 2, Saturday, World Naked Gardening Day.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders

Third Reading

Bill 4

Post-secondary Learning Amendment Act, 2009

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

Mr. Bhullar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today and move third reading of Bill 4, the Post-secondary Learning Amendment Act, 2009.

The first proposed amendment to the Post-secondary Learning Amendment Act will allow baccalaureate and applied studies

institutions the option of applying for the use of the term "university" in their name. The second amendment will clarify delegation powers for general faculties councils and faculty councils. These proposed amendments have been the subject of some very productive discussions in the House on what they will mean to further enhance the roles and mandates policy framework and the government's vision of Campus Alberta.

Campus Alberta and the six-sector model have enhanced and strengthened one of the best postsecondary systems in the world. We may not be the largest, Mr. Speaker, but we are recognized as one of the best by ensuring that diversity, independence, learner mobility, and teaching and research excellence are maintained within the system. These elements build upon the already strong foundation that has made Alberta's postsecondary system a shining example for other jurisdictions to follow and are critical to ensuring that Alberta realizes the goal of a knowledge economy for future generations.

The amendments will enable further sound decision-making to strategically and effectively invest public resources to address critical skilled labour shortages while at the same time creating a more educated society to respond to the growing need for knowledge workers.

Mr. Speaker, I am indeed very proud to be the mover of this legislation, and I encourage all members to support the passing of this bill. Thank you.

The Speaker: On third reading of Bill 4, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview.

Dr. Taft: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise on this particular issue. Postsecondary education is important to me on a number of accounts. First of all, the University of Alberta main campus and its south campus are in my constituency, as is the Jasper Place campus of MacEwan College. As well, I was a student at the university for a number of years, my wife taught in the school of nursing there for many years, and I must say that a number of members of my family – my mother, my stepfather, and two of my three sisters – are graduates of the University of Alberta as well. I will just simply finish off by saying that my father was very involved in the development of Canada's postsecondary education system in the period after World War II, in the 1950s and '60s in particular and into the '70s, and had quite a distinguished career in the postsecondary system. So this is an issue and a field that I feel very close to.

I also want to make the point that it's long been my view that the future of this province won't depend on oil and gas or forestry or tourism or high tech. None of us really know what it's going to depend on, but there's one thing we can be certain of, that whatever it is, it's going to require terrific education, and it's going to require terrific education right from preschool to the postgraduate level. That's why we have long argued in the Alberta Liberal caucus that the resources devoted to education need to be generous. They need to be thought of as an investment.

2:50

We long have argued that a portion of the nonrenewable resource revenues that fuel so much of this government's budget should be dedicated to establishing an uncapped endowment fund for postsecondary education so that the day comes, you know, the dream perhaps of all of us – I think I heard that in the voice of the Member for Calgary-Montrose, for example – when Alberta's postsecondary system really can take its place among the best in the world. One of the key ways to achieve that isn't just through this sort of legislation, but it's also through guaranteeing a stable and generous supply of

revenues to the universities and to the colleges and to the technical schools. This Bill 4, the Post-secondary Learning Amendment Act, 2009, feeds into what for me and what for our caucus is a larger view of the position of postsecondary education in Alberta's economic, social, and cultural future.

When I debated this bill during committee, I commended the general steps taken by this bill that will allow the expansion of the university system in Alberta. The obvious candidate to become a university first is Mount Royal College. There may well be other campuses that follow suit. There's certainly talk about Grant MacEwan College, now more commonly known as MacEwan College, becoming MacEwan university. I even saw an article in the *Edmonton Journal* proposing that its name be changed to the university of Edmonton. [Ms Calahasen sneezed] I hope the member from Slave Lake hasn't been to Mexico recently because she's sneezing and coughing vigorously. Anyway, this bill will facilitate the expansion and development of the university system in this province. [Ms Calahasen sneezed] [interjections] We're all having a hard time with the member from Slave Lake.

Ms Calahasen: Lesser Slave Lake.

Dr. Taft: Lesser Slave Lake. Sorry.

I also want to make a couple of other points, Mr. Speaker, for the broader context of Bill 4. Hopefully by expanding the university system, we also expand and encourage more people to actually attend postsecondary education. Alberta has long had a relatively low high school completion rate, and there are many explanations for that, one of which has been the strong economy, another of which, in my view at least and in the view of some, is that in the downsizing of the 1990s, when we eliminated so many of the vocational high school programs, we actually cut out programs that drew many people into high school. Whatever the reason, we all agree that we need to increase the high school completion rate. I think we also need to expand the participation rate in postsecondary education, and I mean in everything from the technical schools to the diploma programs right through to, you know, the research in nanotechnology, that the minister of advanced education mentioned earlier today.

If this bill, by expanding the profile and extending the reach of the university system, actually draws more people of all ages and all backgrounds into Alberta's university system, I think that's a good step. It won't happen just by changing names. It won't happen just by changing designations. It's going to take a long-term strategy. It's going to take financial resources. It's going to take a social will. But a gesture like this bill will, I think, help to create the atmosphere for more people to think, "You know, it's not such a big deal to go to university. I could do that. I could go to Mount Royal university. I could go jump on the bus and attend MacEwan university" and to find that, lo and behold, three or four years later they come out with a degree, and they go on and contribute so much more not only to their lives and their families' lives but to society as a whole.

So I'm glad that this policy has been brought forward. The concepts in here are ones that we've long supported on this side of the House. It's definitely time that we see provisions in place for baccalaureate institutions to be able to achieve university status. It'll be interesting over the years to see how this plays out for other institutions like King's University College or Concordia College or those other institutions that are out there and perhaps will be drawn more clearly into the entire provincial university system as this develops.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that I think this is a step forward.

I hope it's part of a longer term, bigger vision to really help Alberta take its place as a champion of postsecondary education.

With those comments, Mr. Speaker, I'll take my seat. Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Ms Redford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to stand to celebrate the progress we've made on this legislation. I've had the opportunity as an Albertan to attend a number of different postsecondary institutions in this province – the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, Mount Royal College – and also a number of institutions outside of the province. What I've found so important in all of those experiences is that the institutions in Alberta have not only provided a wonderful quality of education but also a unique experience in terms of the relationship that we as students are able to build with those institutions. I want to congratulate the minister who brought forward this legislation and the Member for Calgary-Montrose for understanding that regardless of the nature of an institution, the most important thing for those institutions is to serve their students.

In the work that I do and that our government does with respect to justice, when we talk about safe communities and the future of what the justice system would look like, one of the things that we celebrate is the fact that as we move forward to shift the kind of work that government does and communities do, we are now talking about different kinds of careers that people might have in the justice system. When I think back to when I went to law school, you pretty much became a lawyer, practised law however you might choose to do that, and participated in the system. Now when we talk to people about safe communities and what it means to be involved in helping people that need to make their way through the justice system, we talk about trained mediators, people who are trained in ADR, we talk about lawyers doing different kinds of work, we talk about paralegals that are involved in the system, and we talk about trying to understand that it's important for education in Alberta to meet the needs of the people that will require services in the future.

I look at programs across this province that are creating new ways to approach justice reform. There are programs such as the program at Mount Royal College. I know there are also programs in other parts of the province. Athabasca University has some. I just want to thank those institutions for looking forward in the way that the ministry has to try to find new ways to provide education to people that serves the needs of students now and will serve the needs of Albertans in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Then we'll recognize the hon. Member for Calgary-North Hill.

Mr. Fawcett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, as a graduate of the University of Calgary I recognize the value of an undergraduate education and the benefits that it provides and the opportunities that it provides to people throughout their careers and their lives in pursuing their goals and dreams.

Also, I do want to recognize the importance of our baccalaureate-granting and applied study colleges. They're doing a very superb job of teaching and educating our students, which cannot be overlooked, specifically when it comes to the economic benefit that our province derives from these institutions in providing the people with the skills and knowledge to be very competitive in the global market. One of the forces that we're very much subject to these days is globalization, and part of being competitive on that level is

ensuring that we have the skills and attitudes that are appropriate to get the work done that needs to be done in a manner that allows us to be competitive.

When I talk to both students as well as administrators at Mount Royal College, they're very happy to hear about this legislation not because it provides anything substantive to their organization, but it recognizes what they already do, and what they do is provide those opportunities for people to become very important members of our skilled workforce.

3:00

The second part is that it also recognizes what is happening at that university and provides future opportunities for those individuals that are attending that institution and getting their education there. Whether they want to move on to further graduate work or work in the workforce, it provides them with the recognition that they believe is equivalent to some of the other institutions that are delivering education, not just in this province but right across this country and across the world.

For those reasons I believe this legislation is important. I commend the hon. Member for Calgary-Montrose and the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology for bringing this forward and taking that one last step to ensure that recognition for this institution and the students that attend it is there so that they can further their endeavours in providing a workforce for us as well as allowing individuals to pursue their passions and their life's dreams through their education.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. members, Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available. The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, then.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to participate in third reading on the Post-secondary Learning Amendment Act, 2009, as proposed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Montrose. Certainly, our comments in third reading are similar or reflective of what has been stated earlier in previous stages of debate.

When we see this amendment to the Post-secondary Learning Act, we see that it is to allow institutions in the baccalaureate and applied studies institutions to – and, of course, this is all subject to the minister – be given the name “university.” The bill will also set out provisions which would allow the delegation of powers by a faculty council as the council sees fit.

Now, certainly Mount Royal College has had a consistent and sustained effort for some time to be named Mount Royal university, and this was part of the Alberta Liberal Party's platform in the last election. It's nice to see another policy from the Alberta Liberal Party being brought forward by this government and becoming eventually the law of the land.

Now, the President of the Treasury Board is sitting over there with a very satisfied smile on his face. Certainly, he must be very pleased, indeed, after this government, that he was a member of, was so reluctant to initiate or start a sustainability fund or a cookie jar for a rainy day. That was done. After a lot of discussion it was done, and certainly it's needed at the moment during this economic downturn. Hopefully, that cookie jar won't be emptied by the time the economic recovery resumes. I certainly hope not. This is another example of a good policy being adopted by this government.

Dr. Taft: Along with eliminating health premiums.

Mr. MacDonald: Eliminating health care premiums was another

one. Hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview, I'd forgotten about that. I appreciate that. [interjection] Mr. Speaker, I've been distracted again by the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

The Speaker: If we'd stick to the debate on Bill 4, you probably wouldn't have been.

Mr. MacDonald: You're absolutely right. Yes.

Now, with Bill 4, as Mount Royal seeks acceptance into the AUCC and with the provisions set out in this bill to allow university status to institutions such as Mount Royal, students with degrees from these institutions will have greater recognition. I think it was the previous speaker, from Calgary-North Hill, who talked about this.

Certainly, when you look at the information that's provided by CAUS, you can see the economic contributions being made not only by each respective institution but by the graduates from those institutions. The more education you have, the easier it is to make a good living, and I don't think there is a member of this Assembly who doesn't realize these days that it's very difficult for some people, unfortunately, to make a living.

This bill, I'm convinced, will not only improve the education that Mount Royal College or university will provide, but also I think there are applications for this, which was mentioned by previous members, for a lot of other institutions across this fine province.

Thank you.

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

The speakers list that I have has now been exhausted. Should I call on the hon. Member for Calgary-Montrose to close?

Mr. Mason: I'll stand and say a few words, Mr. Speaker, on this. I rise to support this bill. I agree with some of the comments that have been made about the importance of education and encouraging people to engage in lifelong learning.

The community college system that was established in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s in this province I think has played a very important role in extending higher education much more broadly than had previously been the case. It has in a sense democratized education and made it available to many people who in earlier years would have been unable to obtain entrance to one of the universities for a variety of reasons: the number of spaces, costs, academic requirements, and so on.

That system has evolved over the years. Community colleges were given the ability to grant degrees, and that has been extended and extended. Now it's very much the policy that most students who embark on a bachelor's level education will do at least a couple of years at one of the colleges. There's been a real evolution in the development of colleges in this province.

Traditionally the distinction between a college and a university is that a university does research and a college does not. Both teach. But I think that that distinction is increasingly becoming obsolete. I know that both Mount Royal College and Grant MacEwan College here in Edmonton have their own reasons for seeking university status, and I agree that it can only help to enhance their stature, enhance the stature of the degrees which they grant. In general, I think it will benefit education and will benefit those who have received their education at those institutions. It will benefit those institutions and make them stronger.

Hopefully, they will be, like the existing universities and the rest of the postsecondary institutions, adequately funded so that they can accomplish the goal of ensuring that every Albertan who has the ability and the desire can have the education which they desire.

Meeting that goal is a very, very high priority for me and for our party, and I'm pleased to offer my support for this piece of legislation.

Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

Shall I call on the hon. Member for Calgary-Montrose to close the debate?

Mr. Bhullar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank all hon. members for their support of this legislation and call the question.

[Motion carried; Bill 4 read a third time]

3:10

Bill 9

Government Organization Amendment Act, 2009

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Service Alberta on behalf of the hon. Member for West Yellowhead. Proceed.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to give a quick recap of Bill 9, the Government Organization Amendment Act, 2009, that was introduced this session. Alberta is the only province in Canada that uses a registry agent model for delivery of registry services. This model allows Alberta to deliver the best registry services in the country. A full review was recently completed to ensure that the registry agent model continued to evolve and meet the changing needs of Albertans.

[Mr. Mitzel in the chair]

In response to the full review, the changes included in this bill focus on strengthening the requirements of registry agent agreements, clarifying the Minister of Service Alberta's right to inspect registry agent businesses, enhancing the offence and penalty sections of the act, and granting the Minister of Service Alberta additional regulation-making powers that will further protect Albertans and support registry agent operations. These changes will ensure that Albertans continue to receive unparalleled service and that Albertans' confidence in the registry agent delivery model remains high.

I move third reading of Bill 9, the Government Organization Amendment Act, 2009.

Thank you.

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

Dr. Taft: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is one of those small but important bills that will work its way through this Assembly. I think it's telling that the bill is here to address some concerns with the registry system. The Minister of Service Alberta said in her comments – and she said it unequivocally – that Alberta has the best registry system in the country. I don't know that that's true; I don't know that it's false. If the minister has some interprovincial or some national comparisons or something to support that statement, I'd love to see it.

I think it's important, as the minister said, to take steps to protect the integrity of the registry system and to protect public confidence in it. Otherwise, people lose confidence in the system, we'll begin to have problems, and more drastic steps will have to be taken.

The presentation of this bill raises the question: why is it necessary? What were the issues and problems that prompted this legislation to be drafted and brought forward as this particular bill? Were there serious problems already occurring in registries that this

is meant to address, or is this entirely in anticipation of problems that theoretically could arise in the future? You know, we don't want to overlegislate. We don't want to overcontrol. On the other hand, if there are real problems, we do need to address them.

One of the issues that immediately comes to mind when we begin talking about the security of private registries was a pretty dramatic series of incidents a few years ago in Edmonton where there were what I think were called crash and dash incidents at a handful of Edmonton registries, where people in off hours would crash vehicles through the front windows of the registry and steal special papers and documents and printers and other things that were required for producing secure documents. There was, of course, a lot of concern there. I haven't heard of that occurring recently, and I'm relieved by that, but I'm wondering if, you know, those kinds of problems maybe were partly what stimulated this bill coming forward. It is the case that registries, frankly, can hold a fair bit of quite sensitive personal data, so it is necessary for the government to have strong controls. I was going to say: in case the data gets into the wrong hands. But by then it's too late, I think, really, to prevent information from getting into the wrong hands.

I know this government is very keen on having a privately owned registry system. I'm always of the view that there are two sides to everything. I think there are benefits. There's no doubt that there are a lot of registry offices in all kinds of locations, and I know that when I go to them for my driver's licence or car registration or that sort of thing, other documents, usually, not always but usually, the service is good.

One of the concerns that has been brought up – and I hope the effect of this bill will be to address that – is the role of organized crime in registries. It's not that difficult to imagine that through a very clever organization of criminal activities, in fact, the ownership of a private registry falls into the hands of sophisticated organized criminals. I mean, we are talking in the world today about organized crime of remarkable sophistication. The Auditor General himself in his report last fall spoke about his staff being able to see, in his terms, the footprint of organized crime on the data of information in Alberta government computers.

I think we have to assume that organized criminals are out there and that they are working very hard. One of the ways that I've been concerned they could get access to all kinds of things we don't want them to have is by quietly taking ownership of what appears to be a perfectly legitimate registry business. Then – wow – think of the access to information and numbers. Insurance information, birth information, all that kind of thing could ever so quietly but ever so effectively be mined and stolen and repackaged in the hands of organized crime. So I think that's one of the risks of having privately owned registry agencies.

The people of Alberta and the people of Canada are rightly very alert to privacy issues. It's because people's private information is so valuable that we do need to be alert to that. To the extent that Bill 9 gives this minister more control over that information, frankly, I think it's a good idea.

When we look at the evolution of registries, I hope that this bill and this minister are trying to stay ahead of the game because registries are constantly evolving. They're sometimes taking on new services. If I'm right – and the minister might be able to nod her head yes or no – the day is perhaps now upon us or soon will be when Alberta health cards are issued through private registries. I believe that's the case. I'm getting a nod from the minister. Who would have thought that a few years ago?

We may even see private registries involved more and more in the marketing of auto insurance or home insurance so that you can go in and get your driver's licence and your pink card and all that stuff and

also buy your auto insurance. Well, there is a merging of functions there, with access to personal data, that has to be thought through and managed very carefully. I hope that the minister and her department are anticipating where registries may be in five or 10 years from now because if we make mistakes, it's almost impossible to reverse them. It's virtually impossible to turn back the clock on this kind of thing and repair losses or damage that has occurred.

We on this side of the Assembly have supported this bill. I repeat my request to the minister that if there is actually interprovincial research comparing different registry systems that puts Alberta at the top, I'd be very interested to see that.

With those comments, Mr. Speaker, I'll take my seat. Thank you.

3:20

The Acting Speaker: Any other members wish to speak? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to participate in the debate this afternoon on Bill 9, the Government Organization Amendment Act, 2009. When you look at what this bill is proposing to achieve by increasing the powers of accountability and monitoring that the government has over registries and registry owners and also increasing the government's regulatory powers over the registries, as I interpret this, I certainly think it's necessary.

I, too, would take exception to the comment from the hon. minister that this is the best registry system in the country. There have been issues in both Edmonton and in Calgary. There was an issue recently in the town of Athabasca, that I'm aware of, around the registries. You know, each and every one of us is entitled to our opinion, but in my view, after what happened in Calgary on Centre Street and what has happened here in Edmonton, I don't agree with that statement.

One would only have to look at the Auditor General's recommendations from previous years and from last year to see that there is a need for this bill. At the same time I think we should commend the minister and the hon. minister's department for bringing this forward and trying to tighten up some of the processes here. Certainly, issues of security, for instance, Mr. Speaker, were even brought up at Public Accounts earlier this week with Service Alberta and also during budget estimate debates, which I had the privilege of participating in, even if it was for a short time.

When we look at the intent of this bill, before we pass it on, Mr. Speaker, we have to look at some of the audit findings and recommendations of the Auditor General. Service Alberta provides many services to ministries, but specific to the registry system we can look at some of the recommendations that have been made. Now, the Auditor has flagged that Service Alberta should securely store void or cancelled documents with confidential information obtained through its vital statistics services. There was an issue around the secure storage of this, and I think Bill 9 will make a difference. Certainly, that recommendation will come into force much sooner.

We look, Mr. Speaker, at the system conversion process for the registry system and the Ministry of Service Alberta, and I'm going to quote directly from the Auditor's October 2008 report: "We recommend that the Ministry of Service Alberta document its review of actual system-conversion activities to ensure that they comply with the approved test plan for system conversion and data migration." Now, I'm not going to go into great detail here, but if members are interested, they can check this out on page 349. Those two examples are reason enough for all of us to consider passing Bill 9.

We look at other recommendations that the Auditor has made

around the registry system. I'm not talking here about performance measures, Mr. Speaker, but IT project management for registry renewal initiatives, security, the issues around security and who has access and who doesn't, security administration for shared services. All of this relates to Bill 9.

I think the minister's and the department's intentions are very good. We have to ensure that the Auditor's recommendations – and I'm so disappointed that some of the Auditor's recommendations have been just rejected by this government, certainly not by the Minister of Service Alberta. If the hon. minister, you know, could maybe grab the President of the Treasury Board by the elbow and suggest to the President of the Treasury Board that he abide by all of the recommendations from the Auditor General, just like the hon. Minister of Service Alberta has done with this legislative initiative, I think we'd have a much better province and a better government.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to rise and speak to Bill 9, the Government Organization Amendment Act, 2009. I think it's quite clear that the government is taking steps in this bill to tighten up control over the private registries that exist in our province. A number of these steps, I think, are necessary and overdue. There are a number of aspects of the bill that are worthy of comment.

The agreement between the minister and the registry agent must specify the services the agent must provide and the location of the agent and that the agent shall not provide services other than those specified by the government and the agency cannot change ownership without the prior approval of the minister. That's particularly important, Mr. Speaker, an important control to prevent these registries from falling into hands of either criminals or people who do not have the best interests of the public and public information at heart.

It says that the minister may act to collect a debt that rises from a default by the agency. That's a necessary protection of the public. It also expands the regulation-making power of the minister in regard to the requirements people have to meet to be an agent, the use of information in a registry, and restrictions of access to the information following a contravention of regulations, the conduct of inspections and audits, and it deals with offences and deals with appeals by registry agents against contravention.

The bill goes on to establish the power to enter without warrant the business premises of a registry agent to inspect and audit the business, require the production of records, make copies of those, access the computer systems, and so on. It states that each registry and all information in the registry are the property of the government, which begs the question, Mr. Speaker, of why this is all necessary.

We could go back to the establishment of the new driver's licence for Alberta. Very, very expensive security features, two parts, were imposed, and this was after some incidents when driver's licences that were obtained through a registry were found in the possession of gang members. The costs of additional security features, the necessity for stronger regulation all really begs the question as to why this service is being provided through private enterprise as opposed to the government.

If you look at the history, Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of very serious problems that have been created by these private registries. Alberta First Registries of Edmonton was shut down in July 2007 for improper storage and handling of government

documents. A government spokesman at the time said that no information was inappropriately used; however, the threat existed, he said. Elizabeth Avenue Registries in Edmonton was shut down in June 2006 after gang members in B.C. were found in possession of fake licences issued by the registry. Edmonton police first raised concerns about that registry in 2000. The gang members were arrested in B.C. in September 2005, five years later. From October 2005 to June 2006 the government tried to force the registry owner to sell the business. Members of the public have filed numerous complaints about poor service and errors in documentation at the registry. Mr. Speaker, a Calgary registry owner was forced to sell his business after some employees had taken bribes in return for fake licences.

3:30

It seems to me that these tighter regulations are in part a response to a problem it has created by privatizing the registries and the handling of very important aspects of public information in our province. The bill gives the government more tools to handle problems that it has created through the ideological approach to the delivery of public services.

Our policy is to reverse the privatization of the registries as the best way to ensure the protection of public information and the public interest, Mr. Speaker. I think that back in 2006 we indicated that raids at that time on a registry in Edmonton provided evidence that the decision to privatize registries was a disaster. It was the second time that very serious breaches of privacy and confidentiality of extremely sensitive information of Albertans that was entrusted to privatized registries took place.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a world where identity theft and threats to national security go hand in hand. Breaches that we have repeatedly seen in these registries are unacceptable. I believe that Albertans also deserve assurance that their personal information is secure. Identity theft leading to fraud is a very serious and still growing problem. We're not dealing here with how long people stand in line or whether correspondence is answered – those are the kind of performance standards that the government likes to talk about – but the very serious questions of the fundamental security and privacy of Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just indicate that we believe that registries demand close public scrutiny and government transparency, and that is best delivered when they are a part of government, not free-wheeling privatization and ministerial complacency. We believe that ultimately what is needed is a decision to reverse the privatization of registries. We don't believe that anything short of that will actually fix the problem. Nevertheless, given that the government has shown no indication that it realizes the error of its ways but is moving to try and put a few more fingers into the dike here, we will support the bill.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, this is not the fix that we need. We need a more fundamental fix, and that is to have Albertans' information carefully protected by government. That cannot ultimately be done through its dissemination through multiple small businesses located around the province. There is something just inherently difficult about protecting Albertans' information with that type of system that the government has established.

I just want to indicate that we will support the bill while at the same time recognizing that the real problem has not been addressed.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available.

Any other members wish to speak?

The hon. minister to close.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the excellent comments on Bill 9. I believe that many of the comments about security and technology and wanting to be ahead of the parade I agree with. The critical point and the integrity of these registry agents and the information they have is paramount to me as Minister of Service Alberta. This unique partnership with the registry agents across Alberta means that this new agreement is going to give them more information and better assistance to do their job and to help them.

One of the things that we have been working very hard on is smart cards, cards that when you go onto the system you can track the service that you're doing and move forward on that. I think that ultimately what we're doing here relates to the work that's gone on with Service Alberta with the whole approach to IT, information management and security. This bill is going to assist agents to be accountable and to be alerted to situations when they need to be looking at a matter. I believe that this agreement is going to set out a number of important changes in the areas of accountability, requirements to become a registry agent, processes for audits and investigations, and other areas of legislation.

I'd like to move this bill.

[Motion carried; Bill 9 read a third time]

Bill 17 **Securities Amendment Act, 2009**

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-North Hill.

Mr. Fawcett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to move third reading of Bill 17, the Securities Amendment Act, 2009.

I've been pleased to hear a number of the comments from colleagues in this Assembly about this particular piece of legislation. Bill 17 continues the commitment made by Alberta and all other provinces and territories except Ontario to reform this country's securities regulatory system. Alberta has been leading this work since we signed the 2004 provincial-territorial memorandum of understanding regarding securities regulation.

I understand that the federal government prefers a single federal securities regulator. However, I would suggest that that is more a policy looking for a problem than it is anything else. I would counter by pointing out that the provinces have been responsible for regulating securities markets for decades and have done a very good job. The work we've done and will continue to do under the 2004 MOU has led to the successful creation and implementation of a passport system, which is national in scope. The passport system is ready now, Mr. Speaker, and eases the regulatory burden by allowing market participants to deal with one provincial regulator, comply with one set of harmonized laws, and have the regulator's decision or approval apply automatically in other participating jurisdictions.

To move to a national regulator could take years. The passport system is a practical model that provinces and territories other than Ontario have implemented to create a national regulatory regime that is flexible and responsive and which respects provincial authority, all without the need for structural change. Canada's securities regulatory system is already ranked by independent organizations as one of the best in the world.

Bill 17 builds on the work that Alberta has done since 2004 to further modernize, harmonize, and streamline Alberta's securities law. The majority of the debate on this bill focused around whether we want to see a federal securities regulator and what the federal government is doing. I just want to remind members of the House

that this bill is more to do with further harmonizing enforcement sanctions to improve disclosure to consumers and restore rescission rights to mutual fund investors until harmonized rules are adopted.

I would encourage all member to give their full support to third reading of Bill 17. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview. 3:40

Dr. Taft: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noticed a phrase recurring in the comments we just heard from the Member for Calgary-North Hill. It was similar to a phrase from the comments from the Minister of Service Alberta, which was “best in the world”. So we have best in the world registries, and we have best in the world security systems. Again, I’m going to ask the member simply to show me. You know, you mentioned studies. Send them over at some point. Let me see who has ranked Alberta’s security system so well. I’d be interested in it. We are supporting this bill, so I’m not saying that out of any devious motive. I’d just like to see the basis.

Mr. Denis: Nothing devious, eh?

Dr. Taft: I would never be devious.

However, I think it’s worth noting, Mr. Speaker, that while most members in this Assembly will support this bill – I can’t speak for the third party – there are, in fact, serious, credible voices speaking for the other side. Over the years I’ve talked with any number of top business leaders, for example in Calgary, the hometown of the member who’s sponsoring this bill, who actually would prefer Canada to go with a single regulator. It seems to be the case that the larger the company and the more capacity they have to play on the national and international stage, the more likely they are to prefer a single national regulator.

I’ve heard people, big businesspeople and, I think, even New Democrats, propose what would be an interesting compromise. We know how close big business and the New Democrats can be at times. Another option would be to pursue a single national regulator but insist that its headquarters be in Alberta. That’s something that’s worth considering. Since I don’t think that’s going to happen, I think we need to look at this particular bill.

We have supported for any number of years, perhaps forever, the idea of an Alberta Securities Commission as opposed to a national one. There was a period when I was beginning to lose confidence in our support of that, and that was the session before the current Member for Calgary-North Hill was a member. That was about four years ago when there was some prolonged and extremely serious controversies in the Alberta Securities Commission that led to a real erosion of the credibility of the commission. It led to a number of firings, a major RCMP investigation, and although no charges were laid, there was no question that there were serious breaches of best practice.

We seem to have moved on from that as far as I can tell. The Alberta Securities Commission is more on track than it was four or five years ago, so that helped restore my faith in the model that Bill 17 represents, which is a passport system with many different provincial securities commissions.

One of the effects of Bill 17, I hope, is to increase interprovincial co-operation and integration. What we have here is a very interesting model of Confederation where provincial governments from the Pacific to the Atlantic, from Victoria to St. John’s, have come together and addressed some common concerns and discovered that we could work together as Canadians to make for a better security system and not sacrifice the regional interests either.

I think this is an interesting model. I do genuinely hope that one of the effects of a more effective passport system will be to increase the east-west integration of Canada. I think that we’re going to find – and we can see this already in the newspapers – more and more barriers coming up to easy north-south economic activity. The Americans now for almost the entire decade seem to be putting up one barrier after another, whether it’s cross-border movement of tourists or business, whether it’s all kinds of security issues, the no-fly list, and any number of trade issues: beef, wheat, softwood lumber, on and on. Now we may see the Americans erect other barriers concerning environmental issues.

We are at a moment where we need to be doing the kind of thing that Bill 17, I think, can facilitate, which is to strengthen our east-west ties and to make it easier for us to do business on a trans-Canadian basis because it may be becoming more and more difficult to do it on a north-south basis. I look forward to this bill being implemented, and like I’ve said, I think it’s a step in the right direction.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to just very briefly speak to Bill 17, the Securities Amendment Act, 2009. One of the problems that we have with a Constitution in our country – and this is not just confined to Canada; other countries have similar problems – is that it’s fairly difficult to amend. Constitutions usually are difficult to amend, and there’s very good reason why that’s so. Our system is based on division of powers. The provinces have some authority in certain areas; the federal government has authority in other areas. The problem when you establish a Constitution well over 100 years previous is that the world changes very quickly.

What has been changing the most quickly in the last decade or two is the degree to which the world is becoming unified in many respects, particularly in commerce, through the process of globalization. The type of regulatory system for securities that was appropriate in the late 1800s or through most of the 20th century has become rather obsolete, and we now have a situation where it’s not appropriate and does not adapt well to the modern realities of electronic transfer of information, money, and ownership.

We believe that the idea of provincial governments regulating securities is obsolete. It’s clearly an anachronism and is not appropriate for today’s world. We do see the need for a national regulator, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that it has to be the federal government. We need one, not 10, with a system of passports and a system of co-operation although it is a step perhaps in the right direction. Ultimately, we should be establishing a single regulator for Canada. What we propose is not to hand it over to the federal government but to organize one through mutual agreement between the provinces, and then create a national securities regulator in that way.

Calgary rivals Toronto as a financial centre in our country. It is a growing and very powerful city in respect to business and finance in our country and really is, in many respects, the financial capital of the new west, so it makes sense that the national regulator should be located in Calgary. I think we might have trouble with Ontario on that, but we’ll have trouble with Ontario even on the passport system and the agreement that has led to it.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to indicate that while the passport system is a move towards greater co-operation between the provinces, it does not go far enough, and our federal system needs to be more

responsive and quicker to change than it is. Having said that, I think that we have seen more movement in this regard in the last few years than we have for a long time, so that is not a bad thing.

3:50

Mr. Speaker, I just want to indicate that we don't really have any difficulty with this legislation. But I just want to put on record that we need to move past this and towards a national regulator that is consistent with the realities of the 21st century, and we're not there yet.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available.

Any other members wish to speak?

Hon. Member for Calgary-North Hill, do you wish to close?

Mr. Fawcett: Just the question.

[Motion carried; Bill 17 read a third time]

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 16 Peace Officer Amendment Act, 2009

[Adjourned debate March 12: Mr. Hehr]

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

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping that there was going to be a response to some of the questions that my colleague the Official Opposition critic for the Solicitor General and Member for Calgary-Buffalo had put on the record.

This appears to be a very straightforward thing, but I've learned not to believe that things are as straightforward as they appear. What we have is one fairly narrow section being amended that basically is talking about insignia and markings and the use of the term "constable" or "special constable" in conjunction with permission from the minister. What's being added in is "without the prior approval of the Minister," and then it goes on to say that you can't use the term "constable" or "special constable" or use the insignia on symbols and uniforms and things like that.

According to the explanation that was given the last time this was debated, which was on March 12, a while ago, this was simply to save smaller centres from having to fall into line with requirements about presenting identically and having to change their insignia and things on their cars and the little tabs that are on their uniforms and what colour their stripes are and things like that.

But because the clause that's being amended also talks about the term "constable" or "special constable," it brought into play that whole discussion of terminology, which reminds me of another decision that government made that then government was looking at reversing some period of time later – that always causes me to say: well, why did you do it in the first place? – and that was the whole thing about front plates and not front plates. We used to have two plates on our vehicles in Alberta, front and back, and then the government changed that to only being on the back. There was then a bill that came forward – it must have been a private member's bill – that was going to replace the licence plates on the front of the vehicles again, and a debate ensued.

Really, the conundrum that is raised by this that I was hoping to get an answer about is the terminology again. We just aligned everybody not that long ago into calling all of our constables and special constables peace officers and tried to have everything line up

that way. Now, given the opening of this particular clause, it makes me question whether we aren't going backwards and trying to reinstate all of this terminology that we just took away. The levels of authority that we have now are Alberta peace officers levels 1 and 2 and community peace officers levels 1 and 2.

Now, I think that the concern around the insignia and the markings has probably more to do with that community level of policing. I have to say that as a citizen it's getting a bit bewildering. I move through a lot of public spaces, and there are so many different uniforms and colours of stripes on the sides of pants and different hats and different titles, and also with that, of course, comes different powers of what they're enforcing.

I know that having different levels of law enforcement where they're differently empowered has worked very well in some situations. I'm thinking specifically of what were going to be community peace officers, I think, that the city of Edmonton deployed onto Winston Churchill Square because of the vandalism and kind of petty crime that they were having there. They were very pleased with the result. These were uniformed officers that were basically making their presence known in an unobtrusive way in that particular public space, and it worked really well for them. But I have to admit that as a citizen I'm starting to get bewildered by all of these different levels.

If this act is merely to make sure that smaller centres do not have to change all of their insignia and yet another version of coloured stripe on their trousers and yet a different hat, I would be grateful, but if it's going further than that and starting to work around, again, how we are going to title these law enforcement personnel, then I have more questions around this because I liked the move to peace officer. I think that was important. The specificity of language is important in the work that we do here. "Peace officer" says something very different than "law enforcement officer," and that was the question I was hoping was going to get answered.

You know, frankly, this can be dealt with in Committee of the Whole, so I'm happy to allow others to speak. I will wait to get an answer in Committee of the Whole, and I can address my concerns again there.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Hon. members, Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available.

The hon. Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security to close debate.

Mr. Lindsay: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise today and speak in support of Bill 16, the Peace Officer Amendment Act, 2009. Under the Peace Officer Act auxiliary police service uniforms, titles, and insignias must be changed from constable to peace officer effective May 1, 2009. Bill 16 proposes to amend this provision to permit the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security to exempt certain police services from this requirement.

Mr. Speaker, this would relieve the exempted constable employers of the cost to make the necessary name change on items such as uniforms and insignia. It's important to note that this amendment in no way impacts the duties and responsibilities of the affected constables and peace officers. In this regard the legislation could be considered a matter of technicality.

One of the unintended circumstances of the Peace Officer Act, Mr. Speaker, is that the legislation as it is would force police agencies who employ auxiliary police officers, such as the RCMP, to unnecessarily change up the uniforms for, in regard to the RCMP, 300 auxiliary members in the province of Alberta, and that's really what this amendment is intended to correct. The RCMP's auxiliary

program is a national program, and we don't want to set precedents here in Alberta.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, there are also a number of smaller communities, as the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre pointed to, that we could look at if they're experiencing financial difficulties in regard to this particular legislation. For example, the Lacombe Police Service has, I believe, five members who they refer to as auxiliary members. Taber has two; Medicine Hat, approximately 19, I believe; the Blood tribe, maybe one or two; and Louis Bull, although it's now closed, did have one. So we could extend that to them, but primarily at this point in time I'm looking at the RCMP because it does create a bit of a problem for them.

4:00

I guess in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I ask for support for this legislation as it will provide flexibility and relief to law enforcement agencies who do not change their titles and insignias from constable to police officer.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 16 read a second time]

Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Mr. Mitzel in the chair]

The Deputy Chair: I'd like to call the committee to order.

Bill 10 Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act

The Deputy Chair: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to this bill? The hon. Member for Red Deer-South.

Mr. Dallas: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good afternoon. I'm pleased to rise in Committee of the Whole to discuss Bill 10, the Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act. This bill, of course, recognizes the changing needs of seniors and persons with disabilities and the growth and complexities of the supportive living sector in Alberta. Thoughtful discussion and dialogue has resulted in the drafting of a very good act. Where possible, this act is aligned with the complaint process in Bill 24, the Adult Guardianship and Trustee Act, which received royal assent last December. During second reading of Bill 10 some comments and concerns were raised, and I would like to now speak to these matters and describe how they are addressed in the bill.

One comment was that there appeared to be too much leeway in the regulation regarding what is exempt from the application of the act. Having the ability to exempt classes, types, or categories of supportive living accommodations will help keep the legislation current and enable quick responses to changes in types of supportive living accommodations. This also allows for the opportunity to test pilot projects and new ways of delivering supportive living accommodation that is not presently captured under this legislation without reopening the act. This type of exemption would allow and encourage innovation that could have a positive impact on the needs of residents and would cover areas in the rapidly changing supportive living sector that are not currently addressed in the legislation. An example would be a group home operator who has come up with new or better ways or has adapted their practices to meet or exceed existing accreditation requirements for accommodations that are better suited to meeting the needs of their residents.

Another concern that was raised is about the power a complaints

officer has in dealing with a complaint. The proposed act says in part that the complaints officer can accept the complaint but may not refer it to an investigator if the complaint is considered to be frivolous or vexatious such as a third-party complaint that cannot be verified or if the complaints officer has been able to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the person who made the complaint. While on the surface this seems to give the complaints officer a lot of flexibility, there is a safeguard also built in, which is that when the complaints officer decides not to refer a complaint, it is subject to appeal to the director.

The final question raised during second reading relates to the use of the words peace officer instead of police officer. The reason peace officer was used is because it is a more inclusive term than police officer and is commonly used throughout legislation. As outlined in section 2 of the Criminal Code, the term peace officer is defined as "a police officer, police constable, bailiff, constable, or other person employed for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace or for the service or execution of civil process."

Overall, this legislation is needed to help ensure compliance with provincial standards of accommodation and accommodation services in supportive living facilities and to place additional emphasis on areas that impact residents' security and safety. The new act gives the Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports the authority to carry out a full range of activities associated with supportive living facilities, to monitor compliance to accommodation standards, and to investigate complaints of noncompliance with the legislation.

Bill 10 replaces existing legislation that needs to be updated to reflect the changing needs of Albertans. It addresses the licensing needs of today, it provides the flexibility to address the evolving nature of the supportive living sector, it reflects the changing needs of residents, and it will help ensure the safety and security of residents in supportive living facilities. This also allows them to stay close to family and friends, their support systems.

Bill 10 also supports the province's continuing care strategy, aging in the right place, which provides more options for seniors and persons with disabilities to remain in their communities when they can no longer live independently due to increased personal care needs. The Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act is an important part of this province's commitment to assist those in need today while we prepare to support those in need in the future. It's about having legislation that reflects this government's priorities to promote strong and vibrant communities and to be there for our most vulnerable citizens.

I strongly urge you to support the passing of this important piece of legislation, Bill 10, the Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act. Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much, Mr. Chairman. I have to say that I am overall at this point glad to see the introduction of this legislation, the Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act.

Mr. MacDonald: Are you going to support it?

Ms Blakeman: Well, mostly I'm going to support it. I know my colleague is going to bring forward some amendments, and I will look forward to speaking to them.

We have a continuum of living facilities and care facilities for older and frail Albertans, but we have not necessarily, in my opinion, covered them adequately through legislation, and that includes legislation that would have monitoring and enforcement built in. When I was the seniors critic for the Official Opposition, I raised a number of those situations in the House.

One of the major concerns that we have continued to raise over the years is that not all kinds of accommodation were in fact covered by legislation, and with the legislation come standards and, one would hope, monitoring and enforcement. So I'm pleased to see that we are going to get more coverage, if I can put it that way. For example, the Social Care Facilities Licensing Act, around which this act is clearly intended to fill in some of the gaps, did not deal with seniors' lodges. I think my memory is that it also didn't cover things like group homes and sometimes what are called day homes for seniors. So we have come to the point where there are a number of possibilities, options, and even choices for older seniors and medically frail individuals for their accommodations.

4:10

Now, the dividing point here is always the difference between a housing or an accommodation set-up and care. I think that line has been quite blurred in the past. As I say, there were a number of gaps where certain kinds of accommodation just simply weren't licensed or, in the case of group homes, for example, licensed like crazy by the municipalities but not covered under the legislation that was offered by the province.

This particular act, Bill 10, the Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act, is picking up quite a bit of what I think was missing before. I have some very good privately operated and owned supportive living opportunities in my constituency. I also have some group homes, and I think there are a variety of other ways for, you know, seniors that are living independently in their own rental apartments or condominiums but also those that are in care.

I know that the government has really had a push, a direction, to move away from automatically assuming that anyone that can't live in their own home anymore or doesn't want to is going to end up in long-term care. I think for some people that's true, but I have to admit that the Minister of Health and Wellness has scared the bejesus out of me on a couple of occasions when he has talked about this attitude of: well, almost no one needs to go into long-term care; almost everybody can be looked after through some sort of supportive living accommodation. As the adult child of someone who is in long-term care and is quite frail, the thought that there could be a new regime in place in which that individual in my family is – what's the phrase they use? – recoded or redesignated to be in a facility that offered any less care than what they are receiving today really is quite scary to me as an individual who is responsible, ultimately, legally for a family member's care because I don't know where I would find the time. I just honestly do not know how I could possibly offer any kind of reasonable additional care to my family member. Not possible.

I think what we're witnessing here is a struggle in this province over: how do we offer some choices that are reasonably priced to aging individuals and medically frail people? Also, I think it's important to reassure that care facilities will still be available. Of course, for the government the care facilities have a health care component in them. Therefore, we talk about copayments. We talk about residents who are copayers in their care, and they are assessed a fee for accommodation, room and board, essentially. Then the government is also putting money into the facility that is covering their medical care, so the nurses that dispense medication, et cetera.

You say: okay; well, if we looked at supportive living, then, how is that health care component covered? Does the individual now have to pay for this? Dispensing of medication: do they pay a fee of \$2 a day to have the nurse dispense the medication to them at the appropriate times in the appropriate dosages? I don't know, but it's the kind of thing that I would like to know both as an adult child of aging parents in this province but also as a legislator. I want to be able to reassure the number of seniors that live in my constituency,

one, that there will be options for them that are affordable but, two, that if they need care, they will be able to get it, and it won't be at a cost to their dignity.

What do I mean when I say that? Well, I think one of the hardest things to deal with when you have somebody that goes into a long-term care situation is that the first thing that happens is that it's made pretty clear to you that your family member or friend is going to end up being diapered because there simply is not time for staff, especially for people that are frail, to move them onto the toilet, stay there with them so they don't get hurt, move them back off the toilet. So it's made pretty clear as soon as you get into a care facility that they are going to end up wearing diapers, which is, as you can imagine for any of us in here, not a very pleasant experience to look forward to. None of us can imagine ourselves being in that situation.

It's a pretty fast comeuppance when you see people in care facilities who were important civil servants, who were school principals, who were professionals that are well respected and award recipients coming to terms with the fact that they're going to end up being diapered, not because they're incontinent but because there isn't enough staff time to, as they put it, toilet them appropriately. In fact, that's exactly what happens. That, I would argue, is not a medical component but because they're in a long-term care facility. That's what happens. I wish it didn't, but it certainly does.

I have not had as much time as I'd like to spend reviewing the back and forth of legislation and reviewing what groups in the stakeholder community have had to say about legislation. We are in Committee of the Whole. When I have finished my comments today, I'm going to recommend that we adjourn the debate so that we can return to it and spend some more time on it.

I think there's great possibility in this, but I also think that there are a number of concerns that need to be aired and discussed around what's being considered in this. Essentially, it's meant to cover the environmental aspects of what's in these supportive living accommodations, so food standards and building codes and requirements. It's more with the environmental part of it and not with the care standards so much, so it's really about the building and the services therein.

The one thing I have noticed is some concern from those that work in this sector that they be included in any future development of like legislation or, in fact, in the development of regulations and the implementation of this act. The one that I've dealt with in the past was the Alberta Senior Citizens' Housing Association. There's expertise there about, you know, how things work well and what things don't work so well.

I have concerns about the way this government is going around consultation. What I'm seeing is a very, very, very general, broad consultation before legislation, when people don't really understand the specifics. In fact, they don't have a bill to look at, so they really don't have the specifics of what they're discussing. It's being discussed on a much more broad, general basis. Then the legislation comes in, it's passed, and that's it. There's no more consultation on the specifics because, well, they were consulted broadly before, and that's it. That's all the consultation that's going to take place.

Having made those comments, I will move adjournment of Bill 10 and look forward to continued debate on this bill at another time. Thank you.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

Bill 14

Carbon Capture and Storage Funding Act

The Deputy Chair: Are there any comments, questions, or amend

ments to be offered with respect to this bill? The hon. Minister of Energy.

Mr. Knight: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to be able to rise today and speak briefly with respect to Bill 14. Certainly, there have been a number of comments that are duly recorded in *Hansard* relative to this piece of legislation. Of course, I think the object is that CCS will at the end of the day transform our environment in Alberta and, certainly, have the added benefit of also transforming our economy to a degree.

The real question, I think, given the importance of energy to Alberta's future, is: what's next? I think what's next is addressed in carbon capture and storage. I think that we need to consider here a very delicate balance that we'll need to work with on a go-forward basis to continue developing our resources in the province of Alberta, and that is the balance between energy, environment, and the economy. It is quite a delicate balance.

4:20

The \$2 billion commitment that we've set out in Bill 14 would allow, we believe, for three to five fairly large projects that have a potential to sequester about 5 million tonnes of CO₂, and we would want to see that commencing by 2015. Just out of interest, that would be equivalent to removing something in the neighbourhood of a million cars off Alberta roads. I think that the Minister of Transportation, of course, would be quite pleased. We'd probably nearly put him out of work. [interjection] I see I have some attention there now.

Mr. Chairman, the coal-fired electricity potential with respect to CCS is probably a major win for the province of Alberta and an opportunity for us to market some of this technology globally. Certainly, we think that this has an opportunity to make a tremendous and significant impact on global emissions. I think it's fair to say that globally coal-fired generation is most certainly not just being stabilized, but it's on the increase in many developing countries, and an opportunity to find ways to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in those regions would certainly be welcome.

To look at what we're doing here at home and the opportunity that we see, the geography of Alberta is very, very well suited for carbon capture and storage. I think that from both the point of view of getting involved with enhanced oil recovery and the possibilities of enhanced gas recovery, we're very ideally situated with respect to carbon capture.

The other thing that I think is important is that the legislation, Bill 14, is a very good indicator that we are very motivated in the

province of Alberta to make this happen. There have been a lot of suggestions that carbon capture and storage is unproven and so on, but I have to tell you that we know from experience both in Canada, some in Alberta, and other places around the world that carbon capture and storage is a technology that is being used, that has been to quite a degree, I think, developed. What we're looking at here, of course, Mr. Chairman, is an opportunity to take that technology and move it up a level to major opportunities for CO₂ sequestration and make sure, again, that we can prove that on a larger scale, on a go-forward these types of projects are beneficial.

CO₂ emissions, of course, come from a variety of sources. There's been a lot of talk in coffee shops and some indication in the media that this whole thing is, you know, not going to come to anything because there's such a focus on oil sands relative to CCS. Again, I think that focus has been a bit misleading, Mr. Chairman. We think that there are other opportunities, and we know that at the end of the day what we have to recognize is that the consumption of hydrocarbons is where the largest emissions are.

So we'll work with this front-end piece, with CO₂, with the carbon capture and storage. We think that there's a great opportunity here for Alberta to move forward with respect to this particular piece of legislation.

The Deputy Chair: Hon. members, according to Standing Order 4(3) the committee will now rise and report.

[Mr. Mitzel in the chair]

Dr. Brown: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has had under consideration certain bills. The committee reports progress on the following bills: Bill 10 and Bill 14.

The Acting Speaker: Does the Assembly concur with the report?

Hon. Members: Concur.

The Acting Speaker: Opposed? So ordered.

The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Hancock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of the hour I would move that we adjourn until 1:30 p.m. on Monday.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:26 p.m. to Monday at 1:30 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 27th Legislature - 2nd Session (2009)

Activity to April 30, 2009

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 200 or higher are Private Members' Public Bills. Bills with lower numbers are Government Bills. Bills numbered Pr1, etc., 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 it comes into force "on proclamation," "with exceptions," or "on various dates," please contact Legislative Counsel 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 a chapter number until the conclusion of the fall sittings.

1 Employment Standards (Reservist Leave) Amendment Act, 2009 (Stelmach)

First Reading -- 6 (Feb. 10 aft.)
Second Reading -- 90-93 (Feb. 17 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 503-4 (Mar. 19 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 583-84 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c4]

2 Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2009 (Redford)

First Reading -- 9 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 93-94 (Feb. 17 aft.), 121-23 (Feb. 18 aft.), 212-14 (Mar. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 575-79 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 609 (Apr. 9 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c5]

3 Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (Berger)

First Reading -- 17 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 123-24 (Feb. 18 aft.), 202-03 (Mar. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 579-80 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 609-10 (Apr. 9 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 1, 2009; SA 2009 c3]

4 Post-secondary Learning Amendment Act, 2009 (Bhullar)

First Reading -- 17 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 124 (Feb. 18 aft.), 353-56 (Mar. 11 aft.), 585-86 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 680-83 (Apr. 16 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 912-15 (Apr. 30 aft., passed)

5 Marketing of Agricultural Products Amendment Act, 2009 (Griffiths)

First Reading -- 17 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 125 (Feb. 18 aft.), 214-15 (Mar. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 506-07 (Mar. 19 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 585 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c6]

6 Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Amendment Act, 2009 (Forsyth)

First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 356-60 (Mar. 11 aft.), 586 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 633-38 (Apr. 14 aft.), 861-65 (Apr. 28 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 899-900 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)

7 Public Health Amendment Act, 2009 (Liepert)

First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 437-38 (Mar. 17 aft.), 439-40 (Mar. 17 aft.), 586-87 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 865-70 (Apr. 28 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 900 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)

- 8 Feeder Associations Guarantee Act (\$) (Groeneveld)**
First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 203-08 (Mar. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 580-83 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 610 (Apr. 9 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 cF-11.1]
- 9 Government Organization Amendment Act, 2009 (Campbell)**
First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 360-61 (Mar. 11 aft.), 587-88 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 895-97 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 915-17 (Apr. 30 aft., passed)
- 10 Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act (Dallas)**
First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 361-62 (Mar. 11 aft.), 588 (Apr. 8 aft.), 889-91 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 920-21 (Apr. 30 aft., adjourned)
- 11 Fisheries (Alberta) Amendment Act, 2009 (VanderBurg)**
First Reading -- 19 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 362-63 (Mar. 11 aft.), 891-92 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
- 12 Surface Rights Amendment Act, 2009 (Berger)**
First Reading -- 19 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 383-85 (Mar. 12 aft.), 892-95 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
- 13 Justice of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009 (Redford)**
First Reading -- 19 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 385 (Mar. 12 aft.), 895 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
- 14 Carbon Capture and Storage Funding Act (\$) (Knight)**
First Reading -- 138 (Feb. 19 aft.)
Second Reading -- 208-10 (Mar. 3 aft.), 884-89 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 921-22 (Apr. 30 aft., adjourned)
- 15 Dunvegan Hydro Development Act (Oberle)**
First Reading -- 105-06 (Feb. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 210-11 (Mar. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 504-06 (Mar. 19 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 584-85 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 20, 2009; SA 2009 cD-18]
- 16 Peace Officer Amendment Act, 2009 (Lindsay)**
First Reading -- 106 (Feb. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 385-86 (Mar. 12 aft.), 919-20 (Apr. 30 aft., passed)
- 17 Securities Amendment Act, 2009 (Fawcett)**
First Reading -- 106 (Feb. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 386-87 (Mar. 12 aft.), 622-26 (Apr. 14 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 737 (Apr. 21 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 917-19 (Apr. 30 aft., passed)
- 18* Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement Implementation Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (Stevens)**
First Reading -- 161 (Mar. 2 aft.)
Second Reading -- 211-12 (Mar. 3 aft.), 349-52 (Mar. 11 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 381-83 (Mar. 12 aft.), 446-54 (Mar. 17 aft., amendments agreed to), 472--81 (Mar. 18 aft.), 482-83 (Mar. 18 aft.), 574-75 (Apr. 8 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 604-09 (Apr. 9 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 20, 2009; SA 2009 c7]

- 19*** **Land Assembly Project Area Act (Hayden)**
First Reading -- 161 (Mar. 2 aft.)
Second Reading -- 438-39 (Mar. 17 aft.), 626-33 (Apr. 14 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 683-90 (Apr. 16 aft.), 737-53 (Apr. 21 aft., amendments agreed to), 770-84 (Apr. 22 aft.), 797-806 (Apr. 23 aft.), 857-61 (Apr. 28 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 897-99 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
- 20** **Civil Enforcement Amendment Act, 2009 (Denis)**
First Reading -- 161 (Mar. 2 aft.)
Second Reading -- 767 (Apr. 22 aft., adjourned)
- 21** **Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2009 (\$) (Snelgrove)**
First Reading -- 283 (Mar. 9 aft.)
Second Reading -- 377-80 (Mar. 12 aft.), 386 (Mar. 12 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 440-43, 454 (Mar. 17 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 468-71 (Mar. 18 aft.), 481 (Mar. 18 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Mar. 23 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 23, 2009; SA 2009 c2]
- 22** **Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2009 (\$) (Snelgrove)**
First Reading -- 344 (Mar. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 380-81 (Mar. 12 aft.), 386 (Mar. 12 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 443-46, 454 (Mar. 17 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 471-72 (Mar. 18 aft.), 481-82 (Mar. 18 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Mar. 23 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 23, 2009; SA 2009 c1]
- 23** **Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2009 (Danyluk)**
First Reading -- 401 (Mar. 16 aft.)
Second Reading -- 735 (Apr. 21 aft., adjourned)
- 24** **Animal Health Amendment Act, 2009 (Griffiths)**
First Reading -- 303 (Mar. 10 aft.)
Second Reading -- 735-36 (Apr. 21 aft., adjourned)
- 25** **Teachers' Pension Plans Amendment Act, 2009 (\$) (Evans)**
First Reading -- 283 (Mar. 9 aft.)
Second Reading -- 767 (Apr. 22 aft., adjourned)
- 26** **Wildlife Amendment Act, 2009 (Mitzel)**
First Reading -- 303 (Mar. 10 aft.)
Second Reading -- 736 (Apr. 21 aft., adjourned)
- 27** **Alberta Research and Innovation Act (\$) (Horner)**
First Reading -- 466 (Mar. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 767-69 (Apr. 22 aft., adjourned)
- 28** **Energy Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (McFarland)**
First Reading -- 467 (Mar. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 769-70 (Apr. 22 aft., adjourned)
- 29** **Family Law Amendment Act, 2009 (Denis)**
First Reading -- 401 (Mar. 16 aft.)
Second Reading -- 851-52 (Apr. 28 aft., adjourned)
- 30** **Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2009 (Drysdale)**
First Reading -- 401 (Mar. 16 aft.)
Second Reading -- 736-37 (Apr. 21 aft., adjourned)
- 31** **Rules of Court Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (Denis)**
First Reading -- 402 (Mar. 16 aft.)
Second Reading -- 852-53 (Apr. 28 aft., adjourned)
- 32** **Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act (Horne)**
First Reading -- 467 (Mar. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 853 (Apr. 28 aft., adjourned)

- 33 Fiscal Responsibility Act (Evans)**
First Reading -- 545 (Apr. 7 aft.)
Second Reading -- 853-54 (Apr. 28 aft., adjourned)
- 34 Drug Program Act (\$) (Liepert)**
First Reading -- 882 (Apr. 29 aft.)
- 35 Gas Utilities Amendment Act, 2009 (McFarland)**
First Reading -- 591 (Apr. 9 aft.)
Second Reading -- 854 (Apr. 28 aft., adjourned)
- 36 Alberta Land Stewardship Act (\$) (Morton)**
First Reading -- 818-19 (Apr. 27 aft.)
Second Reading -- 882 (Apr. 29 aft., adjourned)
- 37 Alberta Corporate Tax Amendment Act, 2009 (\$) (Evans)**
First Reading -- 701 (Apr. 20 aft.)
Second Reading -- 854-55 (Apr. 28 aft., adjourned)
- 38 Tourism Levy Amendment Act, 2009 (Evans)**
First Reading -- 702 (Apr. 20 aft.)
Second Reading -- 855 (Apr. 28 aft., adjourned)
- 39 Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2009 (Evans)**
First Reading -- 702 (Apr. 20 aft.)
Second Reading -- 855-56 (Apr. 28 aft., adjourned)
- 40 Alberta Personal Income Tax Amendment Act, 2009 (Brown)**
First Reading -- 702 (Apr. 20 aft.)
Second Reading -- 856 (Apr. 28 aft., adjourned)
- 41 Protection for Persons in Care Act (Brown)**
First Reading -- 766 (Apr. 22 aft.)
Second Reading -- 856 (Apr. 28 aft., adjourned)
- 42 Gaming and Liquor Amendment Act, 2009 (Anderson)**
First Reading -- 734 (Apr. 21 aft.)
Second Reading -- 857 (Apr. 28 aft., adjourned)
- 43 Marketing of Agricultural Products Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2) (Griffiths)**
First Reading -- 850 (Apr. 28 aft.)
Second Reading -- 883 (Apr. 29 aft., adjourned)
- 44 Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act, 2009 (Blackett)**
First Reading -- 850 (Apr. 28 aft.)
Second Reading -- 883-84 (Apr. 29 aft., adjourned)
- 52 Health Information Amendment Act, 2009 (Rogers)**
First Reading -- 436 (Mar. 17 aft.)
Second Reading -- 436 (Mar. 17 aft., reinstated), 437 (Mar. 17 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Health)
- 201 Traffic Safety (Vehicles with Unlawfully Possessed Firearms) Amendment Act, 2009 (Hehr)**
First Reading -- 106 (Feb. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 165-76 (Mar. 2 aft.), 284-86 (Mar. 9 aft., defeated on division)
- 202 Municipal Government (Municipal Auditor General) Amendment Act, 2009 (Johnston)**
First Reading -- 138 (Feb. 19 aft.)
Second Reading -- 286-96 (Mar. 9 aft.), 406-08 (Mar. 16 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Community Services)
- 203 Local Authorities Election (Finance and Contribution Disclosure) Amendment Act, 2009 (Johnson)**
First Reading -- 251-52 (Mar. 5 aft.)
Second Reading -- 408-16 (Mar. 16 aft.), 829-31 (Apr. 27 aft., passed)

- 204 Provincial-Municipal Tax Sharing Act (Blakeman)**
First Reading -- 498 (Mar. 19 aft.)
Second Reading -- 831-32 (Apr. 27 aft., adjourned)
- 205 Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure (Third Party Advertising) Amendment Act, 2009 (Anderson)**
First Reading -- 649-50 (Apr. 15 aft.)
- 206 School (Enhanced Protection of Students and Teachers) Amendment Act, 2009 (Forsyth)**
First Reading -- 621 (Apr. 14 aft.)
- Pr1 Beverly Anne Cormier Adoption Termination Act (Anderson)**
First Reading -- 376 (Mar. 12 aft.)
- Pr2 Caritas Health Group Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (Elniski)**
First Reading -- 376 (Mar. 12 aft.)
- Pr3 Les Filles de la Sagesse Act Repeal Act (Dallas)**
First Reading -- 376 (Mar. 12 aft.)

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